

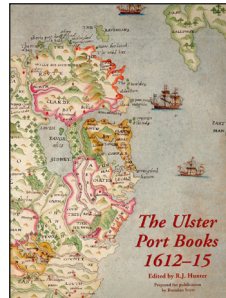


# GLASGOW & WEST OF SCOTLAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

June 2023

Issue 127

## Exploring our family links to Ireland





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## The Journal

is published three times a year in March, June and October.

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# Welcome to Journal 127

The evocative image of Ailsa Craig, or Paddy's Milestone as it is known by some, was taken from Larne at sunrise on 4 July 2018! It is a familiar sight for anyone looking out on a clear day across the water to Ireland, or from Ireland to Scotland and it is perhaps possible to imagine our ancestors looking out on exactly the same view. [Image ©Paul Evans, with permission to publish granted. <https://pgephotos.co.uk/>] The other images on the front cover are linked to articles in the Journal.

Many of us have links in our families between Scotland and Ireland, as the variety of articles in this edition clearly show. There is also a wealth of resources that can help us track down those elusive members of the family, even without the 'lost' census returns and some are highlighted across the articles included in this edition.

**Karen Hunter, Editor**

## Themes for Future Journals

### J128: October 2023

***Glasgow opens its doors: stories of immigrants who have made Glasgow their home***

Closing date for submitting articles: 30 July 2023

### J129: March 2024

***Using heirlooms, memorabilia and ephemera to tell our stories***

Closing date for submitting articles: 3 January 2024

# Contents

Exploring our family links to Ireland	1
Welcome to Journal 127	3
Chair's Blog	4
From Coylton to Culfeightrin	5
In Search of a Knockloughrim son in Bridgeton	9
The Clooty Tree	13
From Waterford to Whiterigg	14
Great Famine Voices 2022	16
Irish Immigration and the Industrial Revolution	18
Membership Subscription Increase	19
James Couper of Holmwood House and other Cathcart Characters	20
Keeping up-to-date	23
John Fleming Warnock	24
PDF Downloads	25
William Arnott Ross and Family	26
Peter Robinson Settlers	29
The Missing Inkerman Mining Village	31
Do you have ancestors born in Ireland?	32
The Scots in Seventeenth-Century Ulster	38
It really Mathers to me	40
Irish Family History Books in the Society Library	41
Letters and Queries	45
2023 Programme of Meetings	47
From the Editor	47

## Chair's Blog

The year is racing along, we have passed Easter, Passover and Ramadan; and the Coronation of King Charles III will have taken place before you read this. All the history books are out of date now, the lists of Kings and Queens of - Scotland, Australia, Canada, St Helena and England will have to be updated.

The AGM was held in April by Zoom and the report and accounts can found on the website within the Governance section (when logged in) [Home\Members' Area\Governance]. After 16 years with no increment in subscription, an increase has become necessary to cover costs, and these changes are detailed on page 19 of this edition of the Journal. Also watch for the insert with this Journal, and if you pay by standing order, please remember to change your instruction.

The office bearers were re-elected for another year, and we welcome Linda Emery, our librarian, to the Council. Unfortunately three Council members stepped down at the AGM because of pressure of other work. consequently, we have some vacancies on the Council, so, if you can contribute some time our Secretary would be pleased to hear from you. Our meetings are held by Zoom once a month on the first Monday, so distance is no object.

The Research Centre is becoming quite active on the three afternoons it is open, with members and walk in visitors. We have hosted a number of special sessions for local groups as well as an organised visit from Canada, and there is a DNA special interest group meeting every two

weeks on a Thursday morning. With the return of in-person fairs our outreach has become more active, thanks to members of who have represented the Society at recent events in Rutherglen, Glasgow, Dundee and East Kilbride. We have also attended two events by Zoom, taking questions from all over the world. With increasing members' involvement, and more projects starting, we are always looking for more volunteers and particularly someone with experience of project management. If you are local to the Research Centre, it is easier for you to visit and research in person, and perhaps you may also be interested in spending some time volunteering to share your knowledge with our visitors.

Submissions to the Society's Instagram and Twitter accounts are always interesting, and discussions on Facebook are always quickly picked up by members of the group. Contributing to these are another way to share your knowledge with the wider membership.

### Scott Fairie, Chair, 30



*Jean Mackenzie (our Vice-Chair) talking with David Dobson at the Tay Valley Family History Fair on 15 April 2023*



## From Coylton to Culfeightrin

I was born just across the water in Larne, County Antrim. My paternal family is located in the Glens of Antrim area. As the crow flies the Glens are closer to the Scottish coast than to Belfast. With the geography, and the history of the plantation of Ulster, I was fairly certain that I would find some trace of Scottish ancestry in my family tree. On taking a DNA test I was very surprised that the results showed me to be 81% Scottish. On quizzing older members of my family, they were of the view that both sides originated in Scotland, but no one could point me to any ancestor who had actually lived there.

Census records for Ireland are few compared with those of Scotland, due to their destruction in the Irish Civil war. For example, there is no remaining complete census for Ireland prior to 1901. I therefore started with the 1901 census of Ireland which showed that my 2x great grandmother was born in Scotland.

Civil registration records were not affected by the 1922 Civil War as they were not housed in the Four Courts building in Dublin, which was destroyed at that time. Civil Registration of births, marriages and deaths began for all of Ireland on 1 January 1864. Protestant marriages (more properly non-Catholic marriages, as they contain groups such as Jewish) are also available from 1 April 1845.

On obtaining a marriage certificate from GRONI (General Registry Office Northern Ireland) I discovered that on 21 November

1872 my 2x great grandfather, Archibald McCollam (also spelt McCollum) married Jeannie Hutton in Ballycastle. At the time of the marriage Jeannie is living in Dunmakelter, a townland in North Antrim near Fair Head (Dragonstone to Game of Thrones fans).

Her father is named as John Hutton, farmer. Further research has revealed that John Hutton was born in Sorn, Ayrshire on 22 January 1821. The 1841 shows him as an agricultural labourer on a farm in Broadhead, Coylton, Ayrshire. In 1848 he married Janet Hunter also born in Coylton.

Jeannie (Jane) was born on 2 August 1849 in Coylton. She was the eldest of seven children. The 1851 census shows that her father John then had his own farm of 35 acres in Craighall and employed two men. By 1861 the farm has expanded to 85 acres and John is employing two men and two women. Jeannie is 11 years old and at school. In the 1871 census the farm address is given as Newlands, Monkton and the acreage has increase to 100, however Jeannie is no longer part of the family. As she married in Ireland the following year it seems reasonable to assume that by April 1871 she is living in the Glens of Antrim.



*Ramoan Presbyterian Church  
cc-by-sa/2.0 - © Willie Duffin - geograph.org.  
uk/p/852476*

The marriage took place in the Presbyterian Church in Ramoan, Ballycastle, County Antrim [as illustrated in the image on the previous page]. Archibald McCollam is recorded as a farmer residing at Ballypatrick. His father, James McCollam, is also a farmer.

I have yet to find out what may have taken Jeannie from Ayrshire to Antrim, particularly to the tiny and remote Dunmakelter, which is less than half a mile square. However, there may be a hint in Griffiths Valuation. Anyone researching family history in Ireland will find this record indispensable. It is a property tax survey carried out in the mid-nineteenth century under the supervision of Sir Richard Griffith. The survey involved the detailed valuation of every taxable piece of agricultural or built property in Ireland and was published between the years 1847 and 1864. County Antrim was surveyed in 1861 and 1862. At that time there were seven residents in Drumakelter, one of whom is Catherine Hunter; possibly a relative of Jeannie's mother? There are no Huttons recorded in the area, but Hunter is a common surname. Griffiths Valuation is widely available for free online.

Jeannie would have had to adapt to her new life married life in Ireland which would have differed in some ways to the Hutton dairy farm and family she had left behind.

Firstly, there is religion. Jeannie was baptised in Coylton Parish Church on 6 August 1849. The established Church of Scotland was Presbyterian. She married Archie McCollam in the Presbyterian Church in Ballycastle, however the census for 1901 and 1911 record her and

her family as being Church of Ireland, which is Anglican. I presume that they followed the tradition of being married in the bride's religion but she would then be expected to convert to her husband's religion. The difficulty with hypothesis however is that the census shows that Jeannie's mother-in-law lived with Jeannie and Archie in their household and she was Roman Catholic.

In 1876 Jeannie's branch of the McCollam family came into some money when Archie's uncle (also named Archibald) died and left some of his estate to her in-laws. Wills for Northern Ireland can be searched for free on the Public Records Office for Northern Ireland (PRONI) website. Uncle Archibald McCollam was a commission agent (broker), and at the time of his death owned three properties in the City of Belfast, including Culfeightrin House, (later named College Green House) in the salubrious College Green which adjoins Queens University. This large imposing house is still standing and included a coach house and stables, which are now a restaurant.



*Culfeightrin House c1900 :Published with permission of the Hearth Historical Buildings Trust and Jennifer Fitzgerald*

Fortunately, the PRONI Wills Calendar contains a link to the handwritten copy

of Archie's will which gives a great insight into McCollam family politics:

*I leave and bequeath of my wife Sarah McCollam otherwise Sarah Thompson the sum of one shilling sterling as ample and complete satisfaction in lieu of the treatment I received from her, her relatives and friends since I have had the misfortune of being acquainted with all or any of them. I leave a similar sum of one shilling to my brother Alexander McCollam who repeatedly vexed and annoyed me.*

Once the two shillings were deducted the estate was left in equal shares to his parents and to his brother James McCollam and wife Mary Ann of Drumnakeel. Unfortunately, I have not been able to identify any improvement in the standard of living for the McCollam family in Drumnakeel following this inheritance.

Jeannie and Archie went on to have eight children and parts of their lives are captured in the book *"Placenames and Fieldnames of Culfeighton"* published by Carey Historical Society and Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Museum Services 2019.

This book also included reproductions of advertisements from local newspapers showing a sale of acreage, stock and implements in August 1882 by James McCollam of Ballypatrick. A further advertisement from 1897 shows the entire farmland belonging to the late James McCollam of Ballypatrick as being up for sale. The image following is of the McCollam family home, reproduced here with the kind permission of the Carey Historical Society.



Newspaper records are also a useful source for researching Irish families and in my case provided a great family story about Archie. In 1896 Archie was charged with stealing a gold watch from a fellow customer in a local pub. His trial took place five months later and he was found not guilty. The trial was covered widely by the press in the Coleraine Chronicle, The Northern Constitution, and the Irish News and Belfast Morning News. Archie was later exonerated when the gold watch was found in the possession of the only witness to testify against him at the trial. Court records are available at the PRONI premises in Belfast but are not available online.

The newspaper accounts reveal that Archie seemed to enjoy *"playing to galley"* during his trial and the offence itself appears to have taken place following a degree of drunkenness at the Ould Lammas Fair - a great event which takes place to this day in Ballycastle on the last weekend in August.

The 1901 census of Ireland shows Archie and Jeannie living in the townland of Drumnakeel, still in the Glens of Antrim area. His occupation is recorded as agricultural labourer. In 1911 the couple are still living in Drumnakeel, but in a

smaller house. Archie is 69 years old and is working as a farm labourer.

The online Irish census includes various forms. In addition to the Household Return (Form A) there is a breakdown of the religion of the persons living in the townland or street (Form N), the house and building return which gives physical details of the property and the landowner, and finally the out-houses and farm steadings return (Form B2). Form B2 lists all manner of outbuildings from coach houses to potato sheds.

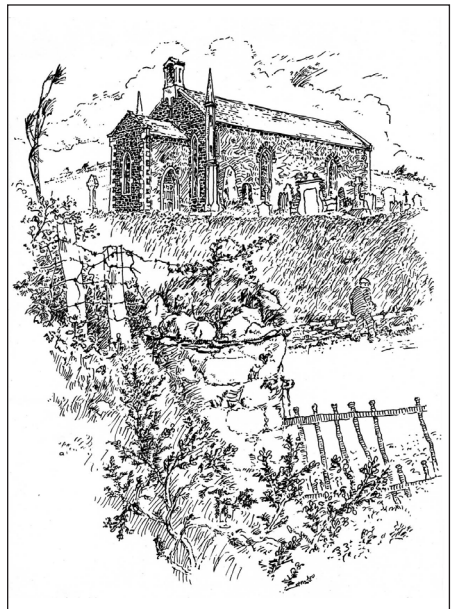
In 1901 Archie and Jeannie are living in House 12 Drumnakeel, which has a thatched roof, two rooms and three windows. Also in the house are three children and Archie's 82-year-old mother Mary Ann. The house is on the land of "Mary Jolly of Scotland", who is the landowner for several other houses in the townland.

In 1911 the couple are in House 6 Drumnakeel, which in 1901 had been a grocer's shop run by Archie's sister Jane. It is now a butcher's, the butcher being Archie and Jeannie's son. The premises contains only two rooms and has a thatched roof, but the number of windows has increased to five. There is also a fowl house and a piggery - but no coach house for this branch of the family, despite the inheritance. On the night the census was taken their seven year-old grandson is also present in the house. The land on which House 6 is built is also owned by the Jolly family from Scotland.

What of Jeannie's home in Ayrshire? The farm at Braehead, Kingcase in Monkton and Prestwick passed to Jeannie's sister Janet in 1913 on the death of her brother William. William had inherited the farm

following the death of their father, John Hutton, in 1896. The records from Ayr Sheriff Court show that Janet appeared before the Justices of the Peace and gave evidence on oath that she was the next of kin and entitled to take over the farm.

Archie died in 1921 and Jeannie in 1936, so Jeannie would have met her great-grandson, my father, who was born in Ballycastle in 1934. Archie and Jeannie are buried together in Culfeightrin Parish Church.



*Culfeightrin Parish Church, 1896*

©Marcus Patton

*Published with permission from the artist*

I have very much enjoyed the challenge of matching up Scottish and Irish records in exploring this part of my family history and hope this article encourages others to do likewise.

[Glynn Craig, 10772](#)

# In search of a Knockloughrim son in Bridgeton

Of the many ancestors I have traced so far, the one that I have found most difficult to connect with emotionally is my great grandfather, Robert Currie. When I started my research in 2000, my father told me he knew very little about him, except that he was said to have been the grand master of a Royal Black Preceptory (RBP) lodge in Glasgow, one of the so-called 'loyal institutions', similar to the Orange Order. Every July, I was told, a horse and trap would arrive for him at his home in Bridgeton to take him to the annual Orange marches. Although from a Presbyterian community in Northern Ireland, I found little to be enthused by on this front, Orangeism having been abandoned by my family a couple of generations ago. Nevertheless, as the father of my grandmother Jean Paton (m.s. Currie), he was definitely worthy of research.



*Jean Paton (m.s. Currie) - September 1965*

I was very fond of my gran, who was born in Bridgeton in 1904. She moved to Belfast with my grandfather Charles Paton in the 1930s, and later to Carrickfergus, where she remained as Scottish as haggis until her dying days in 1979. Being from Glasgow, I assumed that my great

grandfather Robert was Scottish also. His marriage record to Lizzie Morrow on 29 October 1899 in Camlachie noted the ceremony was according to the forms of the Free Church of England, an English episcopal denomination with a former presence in Scotland (see [www.fcofend.org.uk/history.html](http://www.fcofend.org.uk/history.html)), and stated his parents to be Robert Currie, gamekeeper (deceased), and Eliza Henderson. The 1901 and 1911 censuses, however, soon confirmed that Robert and Lizzie were, in fact, both Irish. They had three children in Bridgeton, my gran Jean (1904-1978), her brother Robert Currie (1902-1929), and her sister, Elizabeth Margaret Morrow Victoria Currie (1909-1975), known as 'Vicky'. Robert was employed by Glasgow Corporation, the forerunner to today's city council, and eventually died at his home at 187 1/2 Dalmarnock Road on 17 July 1940. Sadly, I have no photo of him or his wife Lizzie.

About twenty years ago I contacted the council in Glasgow to try to locate where Robert was buried, and was informed he had been interred at the Eastern Necropolis. At the lair I found no headstone, although I noted with amusement that he had been buried close to the Celtic football stadium! What I did not know at this stage, however, was that the council was completely wrong – I was in the wrong cemetery.

Not knowing where Robert was from in Ireland, I was at an impasse, until the release online of the Ulster Covenant by the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland ([www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-ulster-covenant](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-ulster-covenant)). This was signed in September 1912 by half a million Protestant unionists, mainly from Ireland's north, voicing their anger at the proposed



implementation of Irish devolution. To them, 'Home Rule' meant 'Rome rule', the majority of Ireland's inhabitants being Roman Catholic. Although most signed it in Ireland, some also did so in Scotland, including my great grandfather, at 100 Wellington Street, Glasgow. Helpfully, beside his name, Robert noted his former residence in Ulster before coming to Scotland - the parish of Knockloughrim, County Londonderry. I was soon able to determine that he was born on 30 July 1867, at Cabragh townland in the parish of Termoneeny in Derry, adjacent to Knockloughrim, and recorded under the surname variant of 'Curry'.

By targetting local newspapers, I found a mention of Robert in the Belfast Newsletter of 1 November 1888, identifying him with two cousins (Jackson Curry and John Curry) amongst a crowd being prosecuted at Magherafelt Petty Sessions. My heart sank when I discovered that they were part of a mob trying to intimidate a Catholic blacksmith in the town, with Robert fined £10 for his breach of the peace. "Come on fella", I thought, "you're not doing much to endear yourself to me here!", and I parked my research into him for a few years.

The next discovery was a complete fluke. I work as a genealogist, and whilst at Glasgow City Archives one day researching the City of Glasgow Police records (SR 22/56/16) on behalf of a client, I found the entry for the person I was looking for, only to do a double take at the next name on the list - Robert Currie! It transpired that Robert had crossed the Irish Sea to Scotland in 1891, at some stage between April (when the census was taken) and October. On 28

October he joined the City of Glasgow Police Force as a probationer constable, initially serving in A district (the current city centre). He was noted as being a labourer, 5 feet eleven inches tall, born in Bellaghy, County Londonderry on 30 July 1867, aged 24, and as being resident at 6 Cubie Street, Glasgow.

I wasn't initially sure this was the same person, until I made another astonishing discovery in the civil registration records - Robert was not the first member of his family to arrive in Scotland. His brother, Jackson Currie, married on 20 December 1878 to Eliza Jane Armstrong, in Loughgilly, County Armagh, with the record noting him to be a millworker in Glasgow. In the 1891 census, Jackson and his family were found at 6 Cubie Street, Glasgow. Shortly after, Robert had arrived in the city, and stayed with his brother, finding work with the police of all people, just three years after his prosecution for sectarian behaviour in Ireland.

**SERIOUS ACCIDENT IN ANNFIELD POTTERY.**  
**ENGINEMAN'S ARM TORN OFF.**  
Jackson Currie, an engineer, residing at 6 Cubie Street, while at work in the Annfield Pottery at 275 Gallowgate, to-day, got his right arm torn off at the shoulder. He is supposed to have been oiling the machinery in the sunk floor of the works at the time of the accident. He managed to extricate himself and walk upstairs and out into the yard, but was unable to give any explanation of how the mishap occurred. The injured man was conveyed to the Royal Infirmary. The arm was afterwards found beneath the engine.

*Glasgow Evening Post, 26 November 1891:  
Report on accident to Jackson Currie*

Tragedy struck within a few months of his arrival, when Jackson died on 25 November 1891 following an industrial accident in Annfield Pottery, at 275 Gallowgate. Whilst oiling the machinery in the sunken floor of the works, Jackson's arm was caught up and torn off at the shoulder. He was taken to the



Glasgow Infirmary, but died shortly after. Robert was listed as the informant to the registrar.

Still a probationer policeman, Robert was transferred on 25 January 1892 to St. Rollox, and on 28 June was appointed full time on a conditional basis. It wasn't all plain sailing though, he getting into trouble on three occasions for being 'worse of liquor and neglect'. On 1 January 1892 he was fined, on 25 April he was admonished, and on 9 July he was again fined. Robert remained as a constable until 22 September 1894, at which point he resigned. When he married Lizzie Morrow just five years later in 1899, he was noted as a sawmill labourer, residing at 35 Dunn Street, Dalmarnock.

From the British Newspaper Archive ([www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)) I discovered that the Belfast Weekly News carried Orange Order and Royal Black Preceptory (RBP) lodge reports from Scotland, and I was now able to find more about this side of his background. He started off as a member of 'Cooke's Invincible' Loyal Orange Lodge (LOL) No. 288, in Candleriggs, and in 1905 became a 'substitute master' in the lodge. He soon transferred to 'The Lily' LOL 67 in Bridgeton, and on 21 December 1905, he received his degree at a meeting of the RBP No. 288.

Robert soon became the RBP lodge's treasurer, whilst on 8 March 1906 he became chief marshal at LOL 67. In March 1907 he then became a standard bearer for the RBP District Chapter, and Deputy Chief Marshal of the Glasgow Orange and Purple District No. 3. In the same newspaper, on 7 July 1906, Robert

is stated to have attended a parade of over a thousand Orangemen in Glasgow:

*The long line of coloured sashes was indeed a treat to see, and not one word could be heard against the respectability or neat appearance of the processionists. Br. A. S. Millar, Grand Marshal; and Br. Robert Currie, L.O.L. 67, Bridgeton, deserve every praise for the manner in which the large gathering was marshalled.*

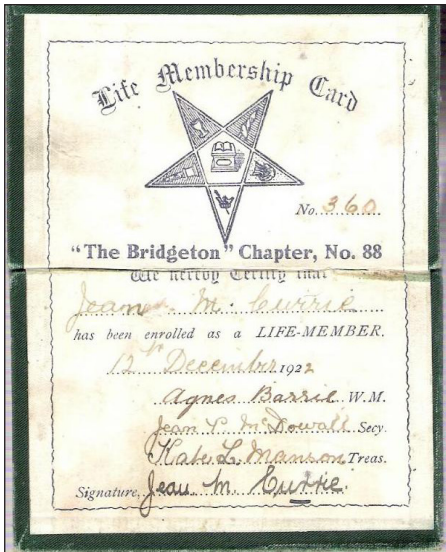
In another article in the paper, just a week later on 14 July 1906, Robert was listed as an attendee from LOL 67 at a service on 3 July to mark the unfurling of a new flag for the 'Bridgeton Rising Star' LOL 61, at the Masonic Hall on James Street. Robert was noted as singing three songs at the event: "The Banks of the Boyne in the Morning", "Derry Walls", and "The Sprigs of Kilrea". Shortly after, he transferred his membership to LOL 61.

By 1909 Robert was noted as Right Worshipful Master of RBP 288, continuing in the role for at least five years. I have so far managed to pursue Robert's membership of the RBP until 1914, at which point the online newspaper coverage stops, but I intend in the near future to look at further editions of the Belfast Weekly News at the Newspaper Library at Belfast Central Library ([www.librariesni.org.uk/resources/cultural-heritage/newspaper-library](http://www.librariesni.org.uk/resources/cultural-heritage/newspaper-library)). Unfortunately, efforts to seek information from the RBP in Scotland about him in recent years, particularly in the hope of finding a photo of him, have so far been unsuccessful.

In the 1921 census, Robert was found with his family at 187 1/2 Dalmarnock

Road, Bridgeton, confirmed to be from Knockloughrim in Derry, and as a general labourer for the Glasgow Corporation's Electricity Department. I had still to find anything about him that resonated with me, but in the Scotsman newspaper of 24 February 1922, I discovered that Robert was given a bravery award, an honorary certificate and a sum of £10, for having "on 9th September last, received injuries in attempting to stop a runaway horse". Fair play to him, I thought, he stepped up in a moment of crisis.

In November 1922, my grandmother Jean joined the Order of the Eastern Star in Bridgeton. It is believed that Robert was also a Mason, not least because when his son Robert tragically died of nephritis in February 1929, he thanked Lodge 245, Masonic V (Masonic Veterans) Association for their help with the funeral. But another document of sorts has also suggested a masonic connection - his gravestone.



Eastern Star Membership Card for Jean Currie, 12 December 1922

During the Covid lockdown, I received a message from MyHeritage (www.myheritage.com), stating that my great grandfather's burial spot had been located at Riddrie Park Cemetery. Having already been told by the council in Glasgow that he had been buried in the Eastern Necropolis, I was initially dubious, until I clicked on the link - it was indeed a headstone for my family, beside lairs E2700 and E2701.

With the easing of lockdown restrictions, I finally drove out to the cemetery in April 2022 and located the plot. [See the image on the next page.] The following inscription is carved into the headstone, underneath a masonic symbol:

Erected by  
 ROBERT CURRIE  
 AND HIS WIFE  
 ELIZABETH MORROW  
 IN MEMORY OF  
 THEIR BELOVED SON  
 ROBERT  
 DIED 10TH FEB. 1929, AGED 26 YEARS  
 ALSO THE ABOVE  
 ROBERT CURRIE  
 DIED 17TH JULY 1940, AGED 72  
 YEARS  
 "A LOVED ONE AT REST"

From the Glasgow cemetery records for [Riddrie Park](#) available on FamilySearch I discovered that Robert's niece Ellen Morrow, his wife Elizabeth (Lizzie), and my nan's sister, Vicky, were also interred in the same plot. Sadly all of this information was too late to pass on to my Kilwinning based father, Colin Paton, who passed away in February 2021.

Researching Robert has been a personal challenge for me. As genealogists we should not judge our ancestors in

the past, they lived in a different era, and responded to events in their own contemporary ways. Robert was a Glasgow based leader within the loyal orders at the outset of the First World War, and I have often wondered if he encouraged volunteers to sign up, who may never have returned home subsequently. But he was also a husband and father of three, including my wonderful gran, and was not afraid to put himself in the path of a runaway horse. I'm glad I have persevered with my research, and the hunt for an image of him continues.



Robert Currie grave - Riddrie Park Cemetery

**Chris Paton, 10860**

*Editor: If anyone can help Chris in tracking down an image of his great grandfather please let us know.*

## The Clouty Tree

This Clouty Tree is just outside the door to the St Mungo's Museum of Religious Life in Glasgow. Clouty trees are a tradition that goes back to Celtic times, before the arrival of Christianity. Small strips of cloth (clout) or ribbons were tied to the branches and twigs of the tree as part of a healing ritual. Usually these were left by someone who had a chronic illness, or by someone afflicted by a disability or sudden illness and prayers were said in hopes of healing. It was believed that as the clout rotted and faded away so would the illness or disability.

In addition to clouty trees, there were cloutie wells. One such well on the Black Isle, at Munloch, still remains, as do others in the south of England. Water was believed to have healing powers. At the wells, people would soak the clout in the water, then wash the part of their bodies that were in need of healing. They would then tie the cloths on any trees, shrubs or large vegetation near the healing waters, say a prayer and wait for their prayers to be answered by having their health restored.

**Christine Woodcock, 10008**



# From Waterford to Whiterigg

Patrick Colbert (c.1845-29 December1901)

**B**unmahon is a quiet village in Co. Waterford, Ireland, lying in an area still called the Copper Coast. Copper was discovered there in the 1820s, transforming the former holiday resort into a major industrial region for much of the nineteenth century. However, a series of crises - deterioration in the quality of the ore and its increasing inaccessibility, famine, transatlantic migration and strikes - led to the decline and ultimate closure of the mine in 1877.

Against this backdrop were two families, the Colberts and the Hurleys. Patrick Colbert was born to James Colbert, foreman at the mine, and his wife, Catherine Flynn, around 1854. Mary Hurley was born to Timothy Hurley, the mine's paymaster, and his wife, Julia O'Sullivan, around 1856. Patrick and Mary married in 1875 and their first child, Bridget Mary, was born in Bunmahon in 1877.

The conditions in Bunmahon following the mine closure had become appalling. At the 1877 half year AGM of the Mining Company of Ireland, it was reported

*It was as if an angel of death had swept over Bunmahon... [The mining area is] now deserted and the misery and wretchedness of the people who survived painful almost beyond description... They are in a state of destitution to amount almost to starvation.*

The Colberts were one of the last families to leave, along with the Wheatley family whose eldest son, John, went on to become Minister for Health in the first Labour Government in 1924. Both families headed for industrial Lanarkshire in Scotland. Although the reason behind their choice of destination is not clear, it is likely that recruiting agents for the Scottish coal and ironstone companies had come over to Ireland.

The Colberts moved into Airdrie Hill Square, Whiterigg, a custom-built village erected in 1874 by United Collieries Ltd. 49 single storey, brick houses were laid out in rows to form a square. The walls were damp, there were no sinks in the homes and sanitation took the form of open privy middens in front of the rows. The Colberts had seven more children. Their only son, James, died aged seven after a building had collapsed on his leg and necrosis developed.



Great Grandfather Colbert at Whiterigg

The remaining children grew to adulthood, and Bridget Mary married William Burns, my husband's grandfather. William reportedly served in the Black Watch. He was a Pioneer Socialist and ambivalent about WW1. In 1915, he obtained compassionate leave to go the funeral of Keir Hardie where he was an honorary pall-bearer. When he returned, his colonel sent for him and said that "*Keir Hardie was a Socialist who should have been shot, and we won't miss you!*" Reputedly, this reached Ramsay McDonald, who was to become the first Labour Prime Minister in 1924. McDonald was a pacifist in WW1 and the Government was anxious to keep the Labour Party and the British trade union movement onside during the war. He intervened, with the result that William was shipped out to India instead of to the Western Front and almost certain death. William went on to become John Wheatley's election agent in Lanarkshire East in the 1920s.

In the spring of 1901, two of the seven girls were bringing in a wage. The family also had a boarder, in a house that probably had three rooms at the most. On 29 December 1901, Patrick Colbert died aged 47 from acute pneumonia. The conditions under which he worked almost certainly led to his death - damp, poor ventilation and the constant inhalation of coal dust. I cannot imagine how his widow managed to raise seven children aged between three and eighteen, but I have found no evidence of her applying for poor relief.

Little remains of Whiterigg now, at least on the surface. All the houses have long been cleared from the site. Only the old

school remains, and it is not long for this world.

I visited the area last February, a very unforgiving time of the year to view a lost village, and was left with a deep impression of the bleakness of the landscape and the bitterly cold wind blowing across the deserted moorland.



*Diana Burns by the Whiterigg Signpost on a bleak February day*

**Diana Burns, 7039**

## Sources

**Des Cowman** *The Making and Breaking of a Mining community: The Copper Coast, County Waterford 1825-1875+*  
GK Print, Grannagh, Waterford

*Editor: Please note it appears that this book is not available to purchase but you may find it in a library.*



# Great Famine Voices 2022

## The Famine Irish In Glasgow

**T**he Famine Irish in Glasgow features Sir Tom Devine, Emeritus Professor of Scottish History and Palaeography at the University of Edinburgh. Sir Tom looks at the Irish emigrants who arrived in Scotland's largest city and explains how they were viewed and treated by the authorities, and by other important institutions and organisations.

Sir Tom's four grandparents emigrated to Scotland from Ulster in the 1890s and in the video he discusses this and his upbringing in the industrial town of Motherwell in the county of Lanarkshire.

Professor Sir Tom Devine is Scotland's pre-eminent historian and is a leading expert on the Irish and the Famine Irish in Scotland. Refugees from the Famine in Ireland first arrived in Scotland in significant numbers in late 1846 and from then until 1851 around 80,000 Irish settled in the country. Most of the impoverished Irish landed at Glasgow - in 1847 alone over 50,000 entered the city. The Glasgow authorities, and the middle class in general, were extremely alarmed by this influx, as it coincided with high levels of unemployment in the city and with the arrival of a smaller number of paupers escaping the potato blight in the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland. The Famine Irish were mostly responsible for the increase in begging and overcrowding in Glasgow and were blamed for the typhus epidemic in the

city in 1847 in which thousands of the new arrivals died.

The authorities in Glasgow adopted a number of measures to deal with a crisis which threatened to overwhelm the city. At the beginning of 1847 a soup kitchen was established, and this was soon feeding between 4,000 and 5,000 people a week. Temporary poor relief was given to the destitute Irish, and temporary fever hospitals were eventually opened. Thousands were sent back to Ireland by the civic authorities. Indeed, between 1847 and 1852, 41,275 destitute Irish were shipped back to Ireland from Scotland - the overwhelming majority from in and around Glasgow.

The response of the local authorities and of other agencies and institutions to the Famine Irish in Glasgow during 1847 and into 1848 helped the city to avoid the devastation that many had feared during the first half of 1847. An improvement in the economy also helped matters.

By the early 1850s, the number of destitute Irish arriving in Glasgow had declined significantly. Most of the Famine Irish who settled in Scotland found employment in Glasgow and in other manufacturing and industrial towns in the western lowlands.

Famine Irish immigrants attracted considerable hostility from sections of Scottish society and this contributed to an increase in both anti-Catholic and anti-Irish sentiment in the country.

One of the most remarkable legacies of the Famine Irish influx to Glasgow was the establishment of Celtic Football Club. Celtic was founded in November 1887 by members of the Catholic Irish



community in the east end of Glasgow primarily to raise funds to pay for meals for poor Catholic Irish children in the area, many of them descendants of Famine emigrants. The driving force behind the establishment of the club was Brother Walfrid, a member of the Marist Brothers. Born Andrew Kerins in Ballymote, County Sligo in 1840, Walfrid lived through the Famine years in Ireland before moving to Glasgow in 1855.

Celtic soon became one of Scotland's most successful football clubs and was supported by the Catholic Irish in Glasgow, and elsewhere in the west of Scotland. Every year since 2009, Celtic FC, a club founded by and for the Irish Glasgow, honours Ireland's National Famine Commemoration Day with special crests on the players' jerseys that are then auctioned to raise funds for charity. It is a fitting tribute to the Famine Irish in Scotland in carrying out the club's charitable mission today.

There is an accompanying video on YouTube, *The Famine Irish in Glasgow* which features our President, Professor Sir Tom Devine, the leading historian on the Irish in Scotland. He reflects on the impact and legacy of the Famine Irish migration to Glasgow in 1847 as well as his own grandparents' story of relocation from Ulster to Scotland in the later nineteenth century. The film also explores how Celtic Football Club was established to help alleviate the poverty of Famine Irish emigrants and their descendants.

The link to the YouTube video is <https://youtu.be/fnxEFOeR7y0>

**Dr Martin Mitchell, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow**

## Did you know?

Some branches of the North of Ireland Family History Society are setting up local DNA Projects and will be using Wikitree to build the family trees of their Projects' participants.

These local DNA Projects are broadly similar to the Ballycarry and Islandmagee DNA Projects:

[www.wikitree.com/wiki/Space:Ballycarry\\_DNA\\_Group\\_Project?fbclid=IwAR0K7h-xgM1trWVoev2vYcz1DMHzjJISSAUIXEISe0S Qdq-Q5WxdZDrkRYQ](http://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Space:Ballycarry_DNA_Group_Project?fbclid=IwAR0K7h-xgM1trWVoev2vYcz1DMHzjJISSAUIXEISe0S Qdq-Q5WxdZDrkRYQ)  
[www.wikitree.com/wiki/Space:Islandmagee\\_DNA\\_Group\\_Project?fbclid=IwAR08qb3\\_aMAuiTENmPA7osQsZ918hoEC0KQcRXiSEHAM0DtFPKJU-800HeU](http://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Space:Islandmagee_DNA_Group_Project?fbclid=IwAR08qb3_aMAuiTENmPA7osQsZ918hoEC0KQcRXiSEHAM0DtFPKJU-800HeU)

The aim of the projects, which are managed by the North of Ireland Family History Society, is to explore the connections between people who are the descendants of those who lived in these geographical areas which have strong Scottish (and some English connections) and a number of families that have lived in the districts for generations.

They hope that by testing people with known connections to the original families they will be able to confirm connections going back many generations, in many instances going beyond paper records.

Anyone can freely access the profiles of people (not living) on Wikitree but there are many more reasons why it is the ideal site to host their Society's DNA Projects.

# Irish Immigration and the Industrial Revolution

The Industrial Revolution in Scotland was the transition to new manufacturing processes and economic expansion between the mid-eighteenth and late nineteenth century. At first, the leading industry in the west was the spinning and weaving of cotton. In 1861, the American Civil War cut off supplies of raw cotton, but at that time, Scotland had developed heavy industries based on its coal and iron resources.

In the 1830s and 1840s, large numbers of workers came from Ireland to work in the factories and mines of Scotland. The arrivals intensified with the Irish Potato Famine of 1845. A million people emigrated from Ireland between 1846 and 1851. By the Census of 1841, 4.6 per cent of Scotland's population had been born in Ireland and many more were of Irish descent. Most were concentrated in the West of Scotland, and in Glasgow there were 44,000 people who were born in Ireland, 16 per cent of the city's population. Most Irish immigrants were Catholic, leading to a major cultural and religious change in Scotland.

On my maternal side, I can trace two Irish great great great grandparents and three Irish great great grandparents who all settled in Glasgow between 1833 and 1865.

Two of my maternal great great grandparents, Philip Hynds and Ann Devitt were Irish, Catholic and met and married in Glasgow in 1863. They lived in the Hutchesontown or Gorbals area and

Philip worked as a quay or dock labourer. He and Ann were both illiterate, signing marriage and birth certificates with their mark or cross.

On tracing Philip Hynds's death certificate, I came upon other information which I found intriguing and which required further research. All three names on the death certificate were for people who had been under the care of Govan Parish. The address of the place of death was given as 167 Renfrew Road, which I thought could be the old address for the Southern General Hospital. The cause of my great, great grandfather's death, at the age of 65, was given as bronchitis and cardiac problems and the certificate, dated twenty third of April 1909, had been signed by a female doctor, named Mary F Liston MB ChB.

## Dr Mary Forbes Liston

A search of the University of Glasgow Archive Services, revealed a very interesting biographical history of Dr Mary Forbes Liston. She was born in 1876 in Bangalore, India. She matriculated into the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Glasgow in 1895. In 1903, she was appointed as a junior medical assistant to the Govan Parochial Hospital, now the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow. In those days, this was a Poor Law hospital that dealt with a daily average of 2,000 patients, 600 of whom were inpatients suffering from a wide variety of mental and physical diseases. Her duties included not only the clinical care of these patients but also work in the pathology and bacteriology departments, in addition to numerous necropsies. During the First World War, while her chief was in the Army, she acted as the chief medical

officer at the hospital, part of which was taken over as a military wing. Though she had no previous experience of the subject, she voluntarily set up an efficient x-ray unit. Dr Liston also worked as a clinical assistant in the VD department of Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. In 1919, she was appointed OBE for her contribution to medicine. Mary Liston retired in 1936, and died at the age of 101 in 1977.

Although my great great grandfather led a humble existence, he was in contact at the end of his life with a pioneering lady doctor who no doubt made a difference to people's lives and who left behind a historical legacy.

[Christine Ferguson 10832](#)

## Membership Subscription Increase

If you were able to join online for the Annual General Meeting of the Society you will know that Council proposed an increase to the membership subscription from 1 July 2023 and this was agreed by the membership. The Society has managed to keep subscriptions at the same rate for the last fifteen years however future plans for the Society require additional annual income. Over the last few years we have set up a new website which gives members access to various data sets, past talks, guidance, articles and various other interesting items on genealogy. We do not have the inhouse expertise to maintain and update our website and require a commercial firm to do this on our behalf. Our website is now at its maximum capacity and

we need to look at how to expand that capacity to make our website attractive to old and new members. Our current level of income will not allow us to carry out this work, therefore Council proposed the subscription increase.

The concession rate for long standing members has been abolished and all UK members will now pay £20 per annum for their membership which includes three paper journals each year. The existing joint memberships will be £30 per annum for three paper journals to one address.

The cost of printing and posting our journals is based on volume and to give every member the option of an electronic journal would adversely affect these costs. The postage element for overseas members has increased considerably therefore those members are being offered two types of membership. Overseas members can opt to receive their three journals electronically for an annual subscription of £20 sterling per annum. Alternatively, for those who prefer to read a paper journal (like me) their subscription will be £25 sterling per annum for three paper journals per year. The Council hope you will understand and continue to support the Society by renewing your membership.

[Liz Anderson \(Treasurer\) 4062](#)

*Editor: All members who are due to renew their annual membership on 1 July 2023 will receive an email reminder. If we don't know your email address you will find an extra sheet in with your Journal. This details the various ways you can renew your membership so please take action! If you pay by Standing Order, please advise your bank today of the increased amount.*

# James Couper of Holmwood House and other Cathcart Characters

**A**s a guide for the National Trust for Scotland at Holmwood House I became interested in uncovering the people involved around the property. The house itself was designed by Alexander "Greek" Thomson and has been carefully restored by the National Trust for Scotland. Rather than it just becoming a museum I wanted to place all the people from Cathcart who were associated with Holmwood and James Couper its original owner.



*Holmwood House*

In the early 1800s James Couper and his older brother Robert were the sons of a tenant farmer in Braehead Farm that lay just across the road at the top of Netherlee Road. Tragedy struck early as their father died at the age of about 32 and the family had to move from the tenancy. Their mother, Jennet Hamilton, who had five children to support, seems to have been a strong woman who with the help of family opened a grocery shop in Braehead. She made sure that all her children were educated and this allowed

Robert and James a good start in life. Robert started work at Millholm Paper Mill and, being ambitious, made his way to a position where in about 1841, and at great risk, borrowed monies to take on the lease of the mill. His younger brother James joined the enterprise as the salesman and was successful in obtaining a large government contract for their product and expanding the mill to include new machinery. But what were they like? According to local opinion 'men of sterling quality', certainly no Scrooges there. They were also reported as being 'tall handsome good looking men.' So far so good but perhaps their deeds would reflect their characters. I discovered that far from being the grasping mill owners of that period they paid their workers when they were off sick and set up education and welfare funds for the poorer people of Cathcart.

## The Crimean War

At this period 1853-57, the Crimean War was raging and the regular army was therefore abroad and the country was unguarded. Thus in 1859 the Westminster government issued a decree that all parishes raise a Rifle Brigade. This task was placed in the hands of the local ministers so the Rev Dr Smith of Cathcart convened a meeting to raise recruits. The Rev Smith had a connection with the paper mill as his daughter was married to Robert Couper. It is interesting to note that in 1881 Dr Smith became Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, so a character of some authority and much respected in Cathcart. It was noted that his son-in-law attended this meeting and indeed enlisted, not just to please his father-in-law I would suggest, as both he and

James became Captains in what was eventually the 4th Lanarkshire rifles; their commissions signed by the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Lanark as recorded in the London Gazette.

To add colour to this information I was delighted to discover a charming reference to Robert's commission in the Glasgow Herald of 1862. The company met to present their Captain with a sword that was buckled on by the Chairman Dr Smith with the comment "should circumstances require their Captain to draw the sword the company would find his honour to be as bright as the blade".

## The Couper Legacies

Although both brothers married there appeared to be no issue. James's first wife Marion having died of consumption (TB) and his second marriage to Catherine Peebles was also without issue. I wonder what moving to Holmwood must have meant to Marion as she came from quite humble stock whereas Catherine was the daughter of the Scottish representative of paper manufacture in London so I expect she was a more sophisticated lady. One cannot but include in this story the scandal that touched Holmwood. Who doesn't love a bit of scandal? Mrs Catherine Couper and Alfred Hambley-Rowe figured in an action against the "Glasgow Citizen" reported in the Glasgow Herald on Saturday 19 November 1887. It was as follows:

*Mr Hambley-Rowe had decamped from his violent wife taking with him his daughter. They spent time as guests of Mrs Couper.*

*Rowe's wife eventually ran him to earth, where, disguised as an old*

*woman, she had discovered that her husband was to depart on the London train. Mrs Rowe turned up at the station and challenged her husband as he walked down the platform arm-in-arm with Mrs Couper and proceeded to beat him about the head with an umbrella. She also struck Mrs Couper twice in the face - which was better than using the revolver that she had brought with her.*

*Meanwhile Mrs Couper beat a prudent retreat.*



*Couper Institute*

Catherine Couper remained at Holmwood until her death in 1908 and she is buried beside her husband in the cemetery by the old church. That seemed to be the end of the Couper brothers' story but of course they left two legacies: The Couper Institute, that is still a free library



and the Victoria Infirmary, monies being set aside to assist the initial build. The original building still stands at the top of the hill near the monument.

So where could I go from there? Many people had lived in Holmwood House so that was where I investigated next.

## The Continuing Story

When the property was put up for sale it was purchased by Mrs Anne Smith or Simpson in 1909, the widow of a Glasgow merchant.

By 1919 the house had passed into the hands of the Grays. James Gray owned Gray's Ferro Concrete and was somewhat of a Methodist lay preacher. He also stood for parliament as a Liberal but was unsuccessful despite the support of Lloyd George.



*James Gray and Lloyd George*

An article in the Scottish Express described James Gray as being the man who looked like Lloyd George and indeed the likeness is uncanny as seen in photos taken at Holmwood House (as

above). James was described as *'far from the sanctimonious preacher as he had a charming sense of humour and a liberality of belief'*.

Holmwood was, by 1931, the residence of the Pattersons. Thomas Patterson CBE, OStJ was a prominent Glasgow businessman who along with his wife Margaret Forrester formed a business in the drapery trade, Forrester's (Outfitters) Ltd. Their son, Dr James Patterson was a hero of WW2 winning the Military Cross and Bar for distinguished service in North Africa and Italy.

I was fortunate to meet Katherine Anderson Fletcher who was the much younger sister of Lizzie Anderson. In 1926 Lizzie was employed as a tweenie maid to Mr and Mrs Thomas Patterson. By 1933 Lizzie had risen to the position of housekeeper. However, in 1939 with the advent of the Second World War Lizzie left Holmwood House to work in the Albion Motors factory where they manufactured Enfield No 2 Mk I revolvers to aid the war effort.

Lizzie was not the only member of the family to work at Holmwood. Her brother Robert was Mrs Patterson's chauffeur until 1939 when he joined the army. I also learned that the Pattersons had a yacht named for their children that took part in the Dunkirk evacuation.

After the Pattersons the next owners of Holmwood were the McElhones from 1955-58. Mr McElhone was the local vet and there were boarding kennels situated in the grounds. I have nothing to report about the resident canines.

By 1958, one hundred years after it had been built, the house was no longer a



family home but became part of the convent school run by the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions. The dining room was used as their chapel and additional building were erected in the grounds as the school expanded.

The school eventually outgrew the demand and the house then became a refuge for victims of domestic violence.

In 1994 the National Trust for Scotland bought the property and has since then been recovering its extraordinary original decoration along with all the colourful characters associated with its history.



*Holmwood dining room*

Having come to the point where I could not dig up any more information I was at a loss as to where to go next. But, true to the detective instinct or pure curiosity, I realised that there was a whole new avenue to explore - the servants - but that is another story.

### **Jean MacDonald 2023**

Illustrations are published by kind permission of the National Trust for Scotland, Holmwood and David Bentley for the colour image.

For more information and to visit Homwood see <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/holmwood>

## **Did you know?**

The University of Strathclyde Glasgow, Centre for Lifelong Learning has established 'The Strathclyde Institute for Genealogical Studies (SIGS)', with the aim of developing new courses, supporting innovative genetic genealogy research, and working alongside a growing network of partners and organisations.

More information about what it is all about can be found through their website at:

<https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/centreforlifelonglearning/genealogy/>

## **Keeping up-to-date**

Have you moved? Have you changed your email address?

In order for the Society to keep you informed of our activities and to make sure you receive your Journal regularly please make sure you inform us of any changes in either your address or email.

It is easy to do through the '*my account*' link on the Society website.

However, if you are not signed up on the website please send any updates, (and include your membership number so we can match up the information), to Elizabeth Smith, our Membership Secretary, at [membership@gwsfhs.org.uk](mailto:membership@gwsfhs.org.uk) or by post to the address on the back page of the Journal.

Thank you.

# John Fleming Warnock

## The search for my Great Uncle

On the death of my mother's sister, Ethel Brown (one of the founder members of GWFHS), I inherited a large volume of her handwritten research notes. Last year, I began to search through these notes for family photographs for a collage I was preparing for my mother's 100th birthday. I could not find any photograph of my mother's uncle, John Fleming Warnock but did find this short life story written by my aunt Ethel Brown.

*John Fleming Warnock, my father's older brother born 1887, was a marine engineer. He served in the Royal Navy during World War 1, and was torpedoed at the Battle of Jutland in 1916 resulting in him being shipped home with pneumonia. However, instead of going home to Glasgow, he chose to go to Burnley, the home of his girlfriend, Ethel Turner and they married in 1917. In the early 1930s, when shipping fell off a bit, John took a job on a ship running the blockade in Spain during the Spanish Civil War. Later he joined the Royal Research Ship "William Scoresby" as Engineer Lieutenant, sailing on three occasions to the Antarctic to mark whales. At the beginning of 1940, he was back in the Royal Navy, attached to the Canadian Navy and based in Quebec when he had an accident and fell between the quayside and the ship and was killed. He is buried in Canada.*

Curiosity whetted, I searched on the internet for a photograph. No photograph - but Wikipedia informed me that the Warnock Islands at the north end of the William Scoresby Archipelago in Antarctica are named after him! Oh, how my aunt would have loved to have known that.

A search on Findmypast revealed a transcript of his medal awards and his death record and by registering with The National Archives, I was able to obtain a copy of his naval records. He was presented with the British War Medal, and, posthumously, the British Polar Medal, bronze class.



*John Fleming Warnock, image taken from the family's collection*

Wikipedia also revealed that Burnley Central Research Library held a copy of an article written in 2006 by a Burnley historian, Ken Spencer, and also a copy of a talk given to local schoolchildren

by John Fleming Warnock's widow. The Library very kindly sent me copies of both. Mr Spencer's interest in John Fleming Warnock was sparked by an enquiry from a Mr Barry Gregson of Worsley who had "*recently acquired medals for J F Warnock together with a file of biographical information*". I would love to make contact with Mr Gregson to find out more.

Through FamilySearch, I have made contact with my second cousin who has confirmed that his grandfather was, in fact, a member of the Canadian Merchant Navy at the time of his death. We have been unable to verify the blockade running part of the story. However, I have been provided with a photograph of John Fleming Warnock in uniform, completing my quest.

[Olive A Allardyce, 241](#)

## PDF Downloads

We sell many of our publications in our online shop in PDF format, downloadable directly over the Internet to your computer. You don't have to pay the ever-increasing cost of postage for a paper booklet and we don't need to pay to stock a print run on paper. If you want a printed copy, you may print the PDF yourself, for your own personal use.

One other advantage of the PDF format is that you can use the search function in Adobe Acrobat to search the document. This is useful for monumental inscriptions because historically we indexed them by surname only.

Over the past year or two our volunteers have been working to reproduce our

publications in PDF format, rebranding them into our current house style and logo. More publications will follow.

We have increased our sales due to this new channel, which in turn has increased our revenue, which helps us to maintain all the services of the Society. It has also reduced our work to package and post printed booklets.

However, we have received some reports from members of technical problems downloading the PDF files. Our webmaster, Jean Mackenzie, investigated one incident and found that if you are logged in when you purchase the PDF, then you must be logged in when you download it. This, apparently, is a security feature of our e-commerce system.

Most people haven't noticed this restriction, because they download their purchase as soon as they receive the download link, without logging off the website in the meanwhile.

We also sell PDF booklets to non-members, and they would not experience this problem as they wouldn't be logged into the site.

To see a list of our publications available in PDF format, see <https://www.gwsfhs.org.uk/shop/> and search for the tag "pdf".

[Murray Archer, 4316](#)

### Did you know?

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland has a *flickr* site with a wide range of images from their collection available to view online at <https://www.flickr.com/people/proni/>

# William Arnott Ross and Family

**M**y essay relates to the travels of my great-great-grandfather, William Arnott ROSS with multiple records for William across Scotland, England, New Zealand, and South Australia.

According to the 1861 Scotland Census, William was born in Glasgow, Scotland c1839. The eldest of seven children born to William and Jennett [Janet] Ross. At the time of the census, he was residing at Clippens Square, Kilbarchan, Scotland, with his parents and siblings. His occupation was listed as a stone mason.

On 28 December 1863, William married Mary-Ann HANNAH, in Liverpool, England. Mary-Ann passed away in 1866 a few days after giving birth to their second child recorded for Jan-March, 1866 in West Derby, Liverpool.

Soon after his wife's death, William returned to Scotland with his two young children. Their names were Margaret (Maggie) born 17 October 1864 in Liverpool, England, and William Jr. born 18 March 1866 in Liverpool, England.

On 12 June 1868, in Perth Scotland, William married Agnes LOWE, my Great-great-grandmother. Agnes was the daughter of Peter Lowe and his wife Agnes [nee DUNCAN] on 21 December 1841, at Larbert, Stirling, Scotland.

Within a year of marrying, Agnes gave birth to their first child, also named Agnes Lowe Ross, in 1869 in Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland.

Peter Lowe Ross came after on 3 January 1871 and then Alexander Ross on 14 November 1872, both births were both registered in Milton, Glasgow.

The 1871 Scottish Census has William Arnott Ross, Agnes, William Jr. and Peter all residing at 96 Burnside Street, Milton, Glasgow. There is no mention of his daughter Agnes: I can only assume that she died soon after being born but I have not been able to find any information regarding this. His first daughter Margaret [Maggie] is also not mentioned in the census: in this case I make an assumption that she has been sent to live with a relative, maybe on her mother's side [?], as her name does pop up again in 1882.

Six years into the marriage, William and Agnes applied for free passage to New Zealand as part of a scheme launched in 1870 by the New Zealand Colonial Treasurer, Julius Vogel. Vogel believed that by offering free passage to skilled British workers this would increase population growth and economic development in the Colony. As William was an experienced stone mason it is likely that this was why a decision to leave Scotland and travel to the other side of the world was made.

In November 1874 William, Agnes and three children, William, Peter and Alexander, are listed along with 308 other immigrants in the Gareloch Passenger List. Others onboard included Captain Greenwood and his wife, the crew, Surgeon-Superintendent, Dr Van Hemeart his wife and nine children. As the Surgeon-Superintendent he was responsible for the health and wellbeing of all during the voyage.

Six days into the voyage, the crew and passengers were involved in the rescue of fifteen survivors from the steam ship La Plata. The survivors were soon transferred to the Antenor which returned them to London, enabling the Gareloch to continue its voyage.

A week later the first case of Scarlet Fever was diagnosed onboard the Gareloch on 6/11/1874. The pro-active measures taken by Doctor Van Hemeart and others the spread of infection was restricted to only eight young children. By the time Gareloch reached the New Zealand South Island there were still five active cases, necessitating the need for all to remain in quarantine offshore from port.

Before arriving in New Zealand, Agnes gave birth to a baby girl who they named Janet. She was one of three babies born on the journey. The births of the children were also registered on 15 March 1876 in England. Three years later, Agnes gave birth to another girl named Lillias. Lillias was my Great Grandmother.

As an owner of a freehold property in New Zealand, William was eligible to vote and is listed on the 1880-1881, Electoral Roll for the District of Rosalyn. However, it is unlikely that he participated in an election as William had listed the property for sale in the Evening Star, on 19 June 1880.

The family had arrived in South Australia just in time for the birth of another child a daughter, Elizabeth on 4 November 1880.

Unfortunately, whatever plans William had for his family's future they did not come to fruition as he passed away soon

after arriving in South Australia on 28 November 1881. It was suspected that William died of Tuberculosis, but as medicine and science has progressed since those times, it is possible that William contracted Silicosis, also known as the Stone-Masons Disease.

He left behind Agnes a widow to raise her six children aged between one and fifteen. Agnes never remarried and died in South Australia in 1914. It is quite likely that Agnes struggled with money as her children left home at early ages. Her daughters had relationships quite young.

Among the newspapers memorials for William ten years later, was one from his daughter Maggie, inserted by all of his children in Express and Telegraph (Adelaide, SA: 1867-1922), Friday 28 November 1890, page 2

#### In Memoriam

*ROSS.—In loving memory of our dear father, William A. Ross, who died at Prospect, South Australia, on the 18th November, 1881.—Inserted by his loving daughters, Lily and Lizzie, Adelaide, South Australia.*

*ROSS.—In loving memory of our dear father, William A. Ross, who died at Prospect, South Australia, on the 28th November, 1881.—Inserted by his loving daughter and sons, Janet, Alex, and Peter, Broken Hill, New South Wales.*

*ROSS.—In loving memory of my dear father, William A. Ross, who died at Prospect, South Australia, on the 28th November, 1881.—Inserted by his loving daughter, Maggie, Carrick Castle, Lochgoil, Scotland.*

ROSS.—*In loving memory of my dear father, William A. Ross, who died at Prospect, South Australia, on the 28th November, 1881.—Inserted by his loving son, William.*

Alexander was the first of William and Agnes children to pass away in Australia after he had migrated to Western Australia. His mother Agnes put the following in Advertiser (Adelaide, SA: 1889-1931), Wednesday 2 January 1901, page 3

ROSS.—*On the 16th December, at Perth, W.A., Alex. youngest son of Mrs A. Ross, Stepney-street, St. Peters, aged 38 years.*

*I loved him in life,  
He is dear to me still,  
But I must submit  
To God's holy will.*

Their daughter Elizabeth Ross passed away aged twenty-two years old on 2 February 1902 in Exeter, Port Adelaide.

Lillias (my great grandmother) died at the age of forty-one in Blackforest, Adelaide on 14 August 1919.

Her first known relationship was with Walter Alfred MURRAY c.1895; the couple had possibly three children together. Lillias gave birth to her first child when she was seventeen and does not have a father recorded. I have not found a marriage for the couple and for the birth of her second child she was registered as Lillian Lowe (her mother's maiden name).

Her first registered marriage was to Henry Mollseet RUTHERFORD which took place on 18 September 1907 in Broken Hill at her sister's home. Together they had six children. Her death was registered after

giving birth to her last child Lillian, (my grandmother).

Soon after becoming a widower Henry left the children into care of friends and neighbours with the understanding that he would send them money towards the upkeep of his children.

According to a number of editions of the South Australia Police Gazette he was being sought by the Police because of non-payment of promised monies. What happened to Henry is not known; no trace of a person of that name has been found at this time. It is quite likely that he changed his name and possibly remarried.

Janet Aitken Ross married Frederick FOX in Broken Hill, NSW in 1891 at the age of sixteen. Janet and Fredrick had nine children together. The couple lived in Broken Hill until they died, which for Janet was in 1935.

Peter Lowe Ross married 'Ettie' HUMPHRIES in Broken Hill, New South Wales. They migrated to Western Australia where they had eight children. Peter worked in the railways and passed away on 10 October 1939 at Subiaco a suburb of Perth, Western Australia.

William Arnott Ross Jnr. died 16 October 1947 in Channon, NSW. There is no indication that he ever married.

### **Anita Tsamtsikas, 10770**

*Editor: That is a lot of marriages/relationships and children to track down!*

*How helpful to find notices and In Memoriam through local newspapers, especially where they give information about what happened to some of the children.*



## Peter Robinson Settlers

Following the Revolutionary War, the Crown was eager to populate Canada with as many British subjects as possible. The first group of settlers were soldiers who had remained loyal to the Crown during the War. As a reward, they were given grants of land. The amount of land depended upon their ranks within the army. Privates were granted 100 acres, Sergeants 200 acres, Sergeants-Major 300 acres, Subalterns 500 acres, Captains 800 acres, Majors 1000 acres, higher ranks 1200 acres. All of these settlements were strategically placed along the St Lawrence Seaway, which ran akin to the border with the United States. The idea behind their placement was that should America try to invade Canada, the men in these "military settlements" could be counted on to keep the invasion at bay.

Following the War of 1812, there was an even greater push to settle the colony and again, the plan was to settle as many Brits as possible to keep the Colony under British control. Land began being granted and sold at a thunderous rate, particularly in the vastness of Upper Canada (now the province of Ontario).

Politics were at play in Upper Canada and a sort of "old boys club" had emerged, known colloquially as "The Family Compact". One of the leading men in this group was John Beverley Robinson, who served as Solicitor General following the War of 1812. This powerful group of men had a stronghold on politics and finance in Upper Canada. In order to belong to the group, you had to know

or be related to other members. John's two brothers were a shoe in. Older brother Peter (Robinson) was appointed Superintendent of Immigration. He was also the Commissioner of Crown Lands and was the man in charge of granting land for settlers.

Back in England, we have Robert John Wilmot-Horton who was a member of Parliament from 1818-1830. Wilmot-Horton served as Under Secretary of State for War and the Colonies from 1821-1827. He was a well-known supporter of both free trade and of Catholic emancipation. Wilmot-Horton began advocating that poor families from Britain and Ireland should be allowed to emigrate to the colonies where they could be granted land. He was able to secure parliamentary grants in both 1823 and again in 1825 to fund the emigration of poor Irish families to settle in Canada. Horton-Wilmot was introduced to Peter Robinson who was to act as the superintendent for these settlers once they arrived in Canada.

The parts of Ireland specifically targeted were the "disturbed baronies" of North Cork. This region was specifically picked to remove the agitators who were residing there and who, for some years, had been under the Insurrection Act of 1796. Robinson visited Ireland for three successive summers and found himself inundated with applications. He had received in excess of 50,000 applications for the 2000 lots available for settlers. All male heads of households looking to settle needed to be under the age of 45. In addition, the Irish paupers were asked to give up their rights to parish maintenance. In return for doing so, they would be granted land in Upper Canada.



Source: Wikipedia Commons, public domain: Credit: By David William Smith

Beginning in 1823, Robinson sailed from Cobh with 568 individuals. These emigrants were given free passage and free supplies for a year, all at the expense of the government. These emigrants were settled in the Bathurst district of Upper Canada, being given land in the townships of Ramsay, Huntley, Pakenham, and Goulbourn. In 1825, another nine ships sailed from Cork, bringing a further 2024 emigrants into Upper Canada. Of these, 1314 were children. This group of settlers were bound for Newcastle. [See image above.]

In both instances, the emigrants left Cobh and sailed to Quebec. From Quebec they sailed by small boats along the inland waterways to Prescott or Kingston and from these points, the settlers carried on overland to their new settlements. The 1825 groups were taken to Coburg and once roads were constructed, they were given land in and around what is now known as Peterborough (named in honour

of Robinson) including the townships of Ennismore, Ottonabee, Emily, Marmora and Duoro. Their new homes were simple log cabins built on their 100 acre lots. Robinson found work for as many settlers as he could, seeing them employed at his mill, or in road construction.

It is estimated that some 50,000 people can claim descendency from the Peter Robinson Settlers. If you have Irish ancestors who were part of this settlement scheme, there are a number of resources to assist you in finding out more about the lives of your ancestors.

## Relevant Resources

The Ontario Archives holds the Peter Robinson Fonds. This is an extensive collection, on microfilm. They consist primarily of letters to his wife, Mary stating the issues he is facing. In addition, there are a number of letters between Robinson and Wilmot-Horton and others in England as well as with other politicians

in Upper Canada. Not to be overlooked are the letters from several of the settlers. The index can be found at [aims.archives.gov.on.ca](http://aims.archives.gov.on.ca) Using the AIMS database, click the "archives repository only" button on the menu of the homepage. Then enter "Peter Robinson Fonds" into the search field. Click search. On the next page, scroll through until you see a blue bar/button that says "Description Hierarchy" and click that to populate the full list of holdings.

*Peter Robinson's Settlers 1823-1825* by **Carol Bennett** from Global Genealogy is available in a paid-for PDF download so you can avoid shipping charges. It can be found here: [globalgenealogy.com/countries/canada/ontario/general/resources/101251.htm](http://globalgenealogy.com/countries/canada/ontario/general/resources/101251.htm)

FamilySearch has a booklet on the settlement scheme: [www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/264150-the-peter-robinson-settlement-of-1825-the-story-of-the-irish-immigration-to-the-city-and-county-of-peterborough-ontario?offset=](http://www.familysearch.org/library/books/records/item/264150-the-peter-robinson-settlement-of-1825-the-story-of-the-irish-immigration-to-the-city-and-county-of-peterborough-ontario?offset=)

The Peterborough Public Library has manuscript materials: [www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/319763?availability=Family%20History%20Library](http://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/319763?availability=Family%20History%20Library)

And the Trent Valley Archives has an online listing of the ships and their passengers: [trentvalleyarchives.com/peter-robinson-ships-list/](http://trentvalleyarchives.com/peter-robinson-ships-list/)

The List of Irish Immigrants with Peter Robinson Scheme 1825 is also available on Internet Archive: [archive.org/details/localhistory\\_2eg](http://archive.org/details/localhistory_2eg)

**Christine Woodcock, 10008**

## The Missing Inkerman Mining Village

One of our members, John D. McCreadie has published a new book: *The Missing Inkerman Mining Village Renfrewshire: It's miners, staff & their families.*

Close to White's Bridge, Candren Road, on the outskirts of Ferguslie Park was the site of the ironstone mining community of Inkerman. Built during the 1850s by the Merry and Cunninghame Ironmaster's Company, the village consisted of five rows of houses, known locally as "raws", a school and a grocer's shop. The single-story houses were illuminated with candles and paraffin lamps and heated with coal fires. Merry and Cunninghame went into liquidation just before the second world war, due to the decline of the ironstone industry. The village was put up for sale, but there were no buyers, and the buildings were demolished. The occupants were rehoused in Linwood and Elderslie.

The village was named after the indecisive battle in the Crimean War, fought on 5th November 1854. Many of the British soldiers who fought there were from the Paisley area.

This paperback book, with six colour and five B/W photographs, includes an account of the history of the village, extracts from directories for Paisley, school attendance records for Inkerman School, and transcriptions from the decennial census records for the years 1851 to 1911. It can be purchased from our shop, price £10.00 plus P&P.

# Do you have ancestors born in Ireland?

When you find your ancestor in the census for Scotland, born in "Ireland", you might assume that you have found your "brick wall" and that it will be impossible to find earlier generations of this line of your family. This is not necessarily the case.

Sometimes members ask us where to look for passenger lists for migrants from Ireland to Scotland. The whole of Ireland was within the United Kingdom from 1801 until the Irish Free State officially seceded in December 1922; the six counties in Northern Ireland are still in the United Kingdom. Migration from Ireland to Great Britain was undocumented domestic travel. Irish citizens are still not subject to UK immigration controls.

Many of the migrants from Ireland spoke English as a second language, or not at all. Many of them were unable to sign their own name, making a mark witnessed by the clerk. The Scottish registrars and census enumerators recording their family events and census details were unfamiliar with many Irish accents, particularly those of people from the west of Ireland. For the purposes of the census, surname spelling was not important. Many Irish surnames are of Irish Gaelic origin. Therefore, it is likely that you will find many variations in the spelling of the names of your Irish ancestors in Scottish records.

One advantage of Scottish marriage registrations is that they name both parents of the couple. This can help

you to confirm that the Patrick Kelly you found in Ireland is your Patrick Kelly.

Migration is easier if the migrant can stay with family in the new country. Emigrants in Scotland wrote to their family in Ireland, advising them of conditions in Scotland and encouraging them to migrate. This caused immediate and wider family members to migrate, and so you might find siblings and cousins of your ancestor also resident in Scotland. Research them too - information recorded about them might help you to find the origin of your ancestor. For example, younger siblings might have married in Scotland after civil registration began in 1855.

## Poor Relief

A significant proportion of those applying for help, were originally from Ireland. Because full details were taken of birth and parentage by the authorities, it is therefore sometimes the only clue you will get about the origins of your Irish ancestor.

Before the foundation of the National Health Service in 1948, health care was private or provided by charities. It was common for working class people to apply for poor relief to access basic medical care. Don't be too proud to look in the poor law registers for your ancestors.

Church of Scotland parishes held funds for the relief of the poor of the parish. These funds were administered by the Kirk Session in each parish. The migration of people due to agricultural modernisation, the Irish and Highland potato famines, the Industrial Revolution, and the 1843 Disruption of the Church

of Scotland, put this system under great stress.

Gradually, after the enactment of the Poor Law (Scotland) Act 1845, the state took over the provision of Poor Law relief, organised geographically by civil parishes based upon the existing Church of Scotland parishes. Applicants were entitled to relief chargeable to their parish of "settlement". By default, their parish of birth was their parish of "settlement" and responsible for their relief. Therefore, the administrators of the system asked applicants to state their place of birth, and the places of birth of their spouse (if any) and children.

The most useful information for family historians is found in the Applications for Poor Relief. The Registers of the Poor are the next most useful source. These are nominal rolls of the poor, sometimes

stating their place of birth, application date(s) and date of death. The accounts and heritor's records usually don't mention applicants by name.

The example in the previous column not only shows that John Graham was born in Raphoe in County Donegal, but that his wife was from Newry, Armagh and one of his children had been born there, giving an indication of when the family had emigrated to the West of Scotland.

## Where to look

Although many Poor Law documents don't survive, we are fortunate that several significant collections of these documents do survive and are held here in the west of Scotland.

Ian Brown's A Guide to Genealogical Sources in the West of Scotland, published by our Society, lists Poor Law collections for Argyll and Bute, Ayrshire, Dunbartonshire, Glasgow, Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire.

The National Records of Scotland (NRS) catalogue lists record collections within their care.

Heritors Records - reference HR  
Kirk Session Records - reference CH2  
See <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/>

Scottish Archive Network (SCAN) online catalogue

<https://catalogue.nrscotland.gov.uk/scancatalogue/welcome.aspx>

[This is an old website and some of the catalogue links are broken]

FamilySearch catalogue

FamilySearch microfilmed Poor Law records in the National Records of Scotland, the Glasgow City Archives, Ayrshire Archives and elsewhere. You

**APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.**

No. *674082*. Date and Date of Application. *5-15 PM. 17<sup>th</sup> March 1855.*

Name of Applicant. *John Graham.*

Residence. *53. Midlane Street, back, 3 up, left.*

Place of Birth. *Raphoe, County Donegal, Ireland.*

Hour and Date of Applicant's Visit to Applicant's Home. *5-30 PM. 15<sup>th</sup> March 1855.*

Condition. *Married.* Age. *33 years.* Occupation. *Labourer.*

Average Value of Weekly Earnings, if any.

Wholly or Partly Enabled. *Wholly.* Religious Denomination. *Protestant.*

Disability. *Severe sprain of foot.* *Dr. Park.*

Name and Age of Dependents. *Wife, Anne Murphy, 35 years, born in Newry, County Armagh, Ireland, Housewife.*

*Elizabeth, 7 1/2 years, born in Newry, County Armagh, Ireland, 1848.*

*Anne, 11 months, 53. Midlane Street, on 15<sup>th</sup> April 1855.*

Other information to enable Parochial Board to decide Case. Names of Children, and Dependents, Earnings, &c.

*Son of John Graham, a Labourer, dead; and Elizabeth, 16 years, in Raphoe.*

*Daughter of John Murphy, a Surfactman, in Newry; and Henry Holland, dead.*

*His brother, Robert, single, a Labourer, in Raphoe.*

*Wife's brother, Michael, married, 54, a Labourer, in Newry.*

*Sister, Susan, 27, in Henry B. Hoop, Labourer, in Newry.*

*Parish, 29 - Patrick, 1848 - in England.*

No. of previous application, if any. *First* Residence. *Ireland.*

Remarks. *Married on 16<sup>th</sup> March 1817 in Belfast Road, Govan, by Rev. John Graham.*

*Applicant had his foot injured on 16<sup>th</sup> inst. by a box of Agason falling on it when he was working at Quay. He says he was only earning from 1s to 1s 1/2 weekly.*

*House is a single apartment which is very poor. They sleep on a bed on floor with scarcely any covering. Rent 7s monthly. No lodgers. Is in no Society.*

Signature of Assistant Inspector. *John Burns.*

may view some of these images from your home; you may view some of them in a FamilySearch Affiliate Library; some of them, notably those filmed in the Glasgow City Archives, are not available to view online.

The custodians of the Poor Law Records permit public access to these records subject to closure periods for privacy. The indexing and publication of these records varies by custodian, as indicated in the table below.

## Glasgow City Archives Mitchell Library

Collections held by the Glasgow City Archives have SCAN Repository Code 243.

Glasgow City Archives hold registers for the following areas:

- Glasgow City 1851-1948
- Barony 1861-1898 (part of Glasgow from 1899)
- Govan 1876-1930 (part of Glasgow from 1930)
- Bute
- Parishes in the West Dunbartonshire Council area
- Parishes in the South Lanarkshire Council area
- Parishes in the historic County of Renfrewshire (not Paisley).

[Gorbals was absorbed by Govan in 1873]

Some parishes in the old county of Renfrewshire were incorporated into Glasgow when the boundaries of the city were expanded.

Our Society started indexing these applications in the 1970's and we have an index for the period to 1910 on our computers in our research centre. The full index is on computer in Glasgow City Archives, covering the period from when the Poor Law boards were established around 1845 and ceasing in 1930, when it then became 'Public Assistance'. However, records up to 1948 exist, although some of the most recent ones, especially involving children, are covered by Data Protection and may be subjected to restricted viewing. For details of access information (FAQ download) see <https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/libraries/city-archives>

In 2021, Emma Maxwell of Scottish Indexes interviewed Sheila Duffy about our Society. Sheila described the discovery of these Poor Law records in the basement of Glasgow City Chambers. See <https://youtu.be/LIVeQFPJC50>

Custodian	Index	Images
Glasgow City Archives	Yes	No
North Lanarkshire Archives	Yes - Ancestry	Yes - Ancestry
East Dunbartonshire Archives	No	No
Renfrewshire Heritage Centre	Yes - Download	No
Ayrshire Archives	Some	Yes - FamilySearch
National Records of Scotland	No	Yes - FamilySearch Affiliates



## Ayrshire Archives

The main records for parishes in Ayrshire are held by Ayrshire Archives (SCAN Repository Code 244).

Ayrshire Archives has search rooms in three locations; Ayr, Kilmarnock and Irvine. Access to these search rooms is by appointment only. See <https://www.ayrshirearchives.org.uk/article/46884/Visiting-Us> for details.

The records concerning poor relief consist of board minutes, registers of applications for relief, inspectors' letter books and accounts (1845-1929). There are also records relating to Cunninghame Combination Poorhouse (1854-1930), Maybole Combination Poorhouse (1865-1910) and the Kyle Union Poorhouse (1860-1977) and include registers of inmates, minutes, letter books, plans and accounts.

FamilySearch photographed many of the Poor Law records and these images are available at their Family History Centres, Family History Affiliate Libraries (including GWSFHS) and the Dick and Baird Institutes. [I found many of these to be unlocked online.] A catalogue of these records with the film numbers are published here, [<https://www.ayrshireroots.co.uk/Genealogy/Records/Poor%20Relief/Poor%20Relief.htm>] and can be used to find them in the FamilySearch catalogue.

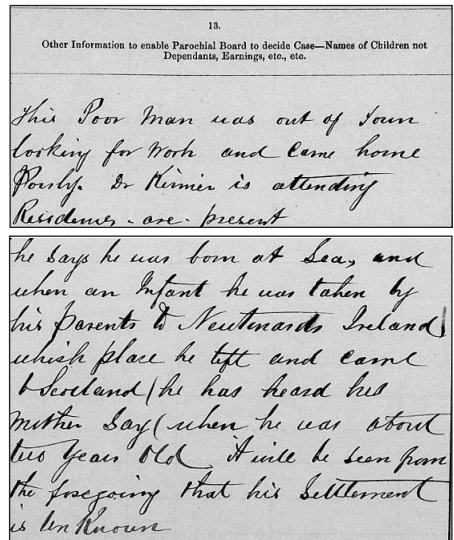
There are some published indexes:

- Kilmarnock Poor Applications Index 1847 - 1891 on 4 fiche Price £8 from the East Ayrshire FHS.
- The Poor Applications Index of Ardrossan on 4 Fiche Price £10 from the East Ayrshire FHS.

- Poor relief, index of five Ayrshire parishes: Ardrossan, Beith, Kilmarnock, Maybole & New Cumnock on CD [in our library, CD 136]

Examples of applications by individuals in Saltcoats are below.

John McLean in 1868:



This poor man was out of town looking for work and came home poorly. Dr Kinnier is attending...he says he was born at Sea, and when an infant he was taken by his parents to Newtownards Ireland which place he left and came to Scotland, he has heard his mother say (when he was about two years old). It will be seen from the foregoing that his Settlement is unknown.

Margaret Irvine, in Saltcoats in 1865

Applicant has one daughter named Sarah Irvine living with her aged 18 years a sewer and earns 2/- per week. Applicant was born in Ireland near Belfast she has no settlement in Scotland see record 354.

## East Dunbartonshire Archives

Archives & Local Studies, William Patrick Library, 2-4 West High Street, Kirkintilloch G66 1AD

You can view the records of poor law applications for parishes within the modern East Dunbartonshire Council area. See <https://www.edlc.co.uk/heritage-arts/archives> to download a PDF document listing their Poor Law collections.

To comply with Data Protection legislation, poor relief records relating to adults are normally closed for 75 years and for 100 years in respect of children.

## Renfrewshire Heritage Centre

Studio 907, Abbeymill Business Centre, 12 Seedhill Road, Paisley PA1 1JS

The Renfrewshire Heritage Centre hold the Poor Law records for the Parish of Paisley and for the Abbey Parish of Paisley. They publish an index on their website and there is an index on Findmypast. The Heritage Centre index includes more recent applications than the index on Findmypast. The Heritage Centre is continuing to index applications as they pass out of the 70-year closure period.

Images of these applications are not available online. If you want images you may visit the centre in person and photograph them yourself. You may order photographs from the centre for a fee of £5.00 per page. If you want someone to visit on your behalf, the centre will refer you to the Association of Scottish Genealogists & Researchers in Archives (ASGRA). Access to the original documents is subject to restrictions for privacy and document conservation.

## Indexes:

- Paisley Poor Law Indexes online, a 5,384 page PDF document download from <https://libcat.renfrewshire.gov.uk/iguana/uploads/file/Website%20version%202019.pdf>
- Scotland, Poor Law and Poor List, Findmypast, <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-records/scotland-poor-law-and-poor-lists> [Paisley and Abbey parishes]
- MURRAY, Marion, Register of poor: Abbey Parochial Board, 1858-1863 (B57 Vol 8-1) an index, Barrhead, 1997 [in our library]
- MURRAY, Marion, Poor's Roll Abbey Parish of Paisley 1823, Paisley, Renfrewshire FHS, 2002 [in our library]
- MURRAY, Marion, Paisley Burgh Sneddon Poorhouse or Town Hospital 1752-1764, Paisley, Renfrewshire FHS, 2001 [in our library]
- Smithston Poorhouse and Asylum Greenock, Asylum Warrants 1880-1931 on CD, Renfrewshire FHS, £10.00.
- MURRAY, Marion, Paisley Almshouse Book 1612 -1808, Renfrewshire FHS
- MURRAY, Marion, Paisley Burgh Sneddon Poorhouse Book, Renfrewshire FHS

## North Lanarkshire Archives

Many of the records for North Lanarkshire have been digitised and are available on Ancestry in the North Lanarkshire, Scotland, Poor Law Applications and Registers, 1849-1917 collection (index and images).

## References

National Records of Scotland Research Guide – Poor Relief Records

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/research-guides/research-guides-a-z/poor-relief-records>

Scottish Archive Network (SCAN)

Knowledgebase – Poor Relief

[https://www.scan.org.uk/knowledgebase/topics/poor\\_registers\\_topic.htm](https://www.scan.org.uk/knowledgebase/topics/poor_registers_topic.htm)

*Tracing the Irish in Scotland* by Chris

Paton of Scotland's Greatest Story, presented in the Scottish Indexes Conference XIII - 23 October 2021.

The handout is available at <http://www.scottishindexes.com/pdf/irishinScotland.pdf>

Scottish Indexes Learning Zone – Poor Relief Records in Scotland

<http://www.scottishindexes.com/learningpoor.aspx>

GenGuide – Poor Law Records (Scotland)

<https://www.genguide.co.uk/source/poor-law-records-scotland/>

Glasgow City Archives – Poor Law from 1845

<https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/libraries/family-history/research-guides/poor-law-from-1845>

East Dunbartonshire Archives – Poor Relief Records

<https://www.edlc.co.uk/sites/default/files/documents/heritage-arts/poorrelief2019.pdf>

Workhouses website

<https://www.workhouses.org.uk/Scotland/>

## Other Sources

### The Ulster Covenant

If your ancestor was a Protestant, try the Ulster Covenant from 1912 at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-ulster-covenant>. This site has an index and images. It includes the women who signed the corresponding women's declaration. Signatories in Scotland usually gave their Irish parish of origin and/or county, instead of their Scottish address.

### United States Naturalisation

Although your ancestor might have settled in Scotland, one or more of their siblings might have continued their migration onwards to the United States. If their sibling started the process to become a US citizen, their Declaration of Intention would state their date and place of birth. That would be a clue as to where your ancestor might have been born, particularly if their family stayed in the same place prior to their emigration from Ireland.

Irish Gleanings, a website created by Robin Bird, has extracted information from US records on the place of birth for thousands of people born in Ireland or with Irish parents. <https://sites.google.com/site/irishgleanings>

### Murray Archer, 4316

*Editor: Alongside this extensive selection of resources that can help with searching your Irish ancestors I have also found some helpful online links which are listed on the following page.*

*I'm sure members will know of others so if you'd like to share any sites you find helpful please let me know.*

## And some more online resources for tracing your Irish Ancestors

### Early Irish Marriage Index

<https://www.irishancestors.ie/about-the-igrs-marriages-index-18>

Published by the Irish Genealogical Research Society, this Index seeks to provide pointers to the many alternative sources beyond parish registers and civil registration records. The extant parish registers are, in any case, becoming more available through websites including <https://www.rootsireland.ie/>, and the government website <https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/>

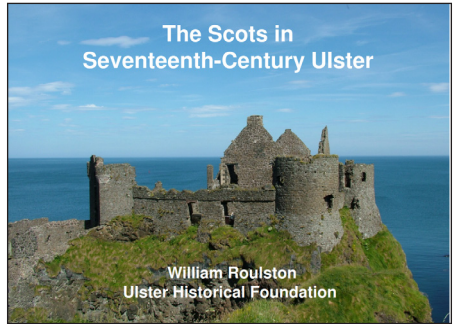
### Irish Ancestors

<https://www.johngrenham.com/>

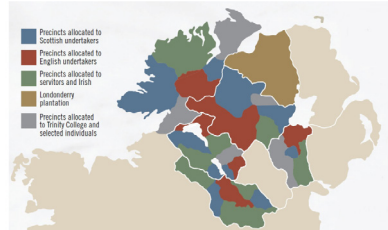
If, like me, you struggle with where places are in Ireland when tracing your Irish ancestors this site might help as, among the wealth of information, there are some interactive maps which give details of counties, civil parishes, Catholic parishes, poor law unions (1851) and institutions in the 1911 census. [Search under the browse tab for Interactive Maps.]

## The Chief Secretary's Office Registered Papers

This constitutes a collection of original source material for research into Ireland in the 19th and early 20th century, including incoming correspondence, petitions, memorials, affidavits, accounts, reports, and returns. Catalogues for 1818-1833 now available at: <https://csorp.nationalarchives.ie/index.html>



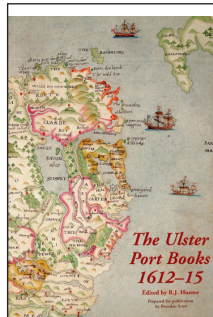
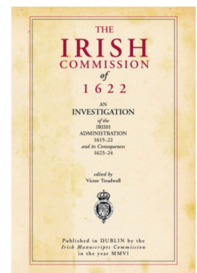
### Map showing the distribution of land as part of the 'official' Plantation of Ulster



© Ulster Historical Foundation 2021

## Plantation survey records

Four surveys of the Ulster Plantation carried out by government officials in 1611, 1613, 1619 and 1622. The most detailed was the 1622 survey, which has been published by the Irish Manuscripts Commission, which included the names of tenants on the English and Scottish estates in Cos Armagh and Tyrone.



## Ulster Port Books

Name captains of ships and merchants.

Cover the period 1612-15 and concern the ports of:

- Carrickfergus
- Coleraine
- Londonderry
- Lecale ports in Co. Down

Published by Ulster Historical Foundation in 2012.





## It really Mathers to me

I can't remember when I first found out that my father, Robert Nightingale (1919-2001) had the middle name of Mathers. When I did enquire I was told it was '*an old family name*' and it was left at that.

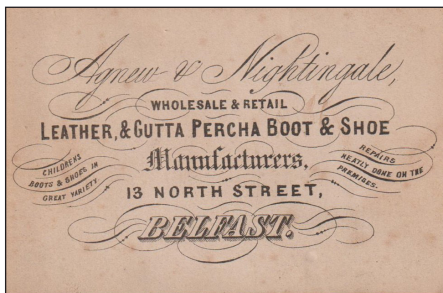
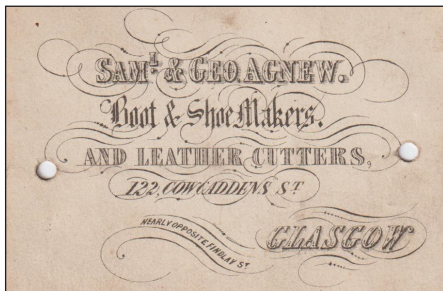
Years later and with the growth of internet resources I started trying to build my family tree and I found out where the '*old family name*' actually came from.

My father was raised on the family farm, Rose Park in Ballymiscaw, Dundonald, between the city of Belfast and the town of Newtownards in County Down. There were seven children in the family and though not the biggest farm in the country it was sufficient to give the family and their two employees a comfortable living. I still have the base of the oil lamp that was on the kitchen table, along with my father, as the local doctor removed my father's tonsils!

My grandfather was George Nightingale (1875-1935) and he also had the middle name of Mathers, and had married my grandmother, Mary Anne McDowell from Cherryvalley, Belfast, in December 1914.

My great-grandfather (1834-1879) was also called George and he married Matilda Mathers in St Annes, Belfast on 25 October 1864. This is the Mathers link in the family. George was variously described as a farmer in Ballymiscaw, Dundonald and also as a partner in the firm of Agnew and Nightingale - Boot and Shoe Makers of 13 North Street Belfast. In the 1851 Scottish Census George was recorded as living in Glasgow,

described as an errand boy, and a member of the household of his uncle Samuel Agnew, Master Bootmaker of 122 Cowcaddens St, Glasgow. There were three other 'shoemakers' living in the same household. [Coincidentally in c.1939 Timpsons opened a shoe shop in Glasgow - at 122 Cowcaddens Street!] I cannot find any record of the Agnew that might have been in partnership with George in the Business in North Street Belfast - perhaps Uncle Samuel sent the young George over to Belfast to start the partnership in both their names.



Matilda Mathers (1844-1907) was my great-grandmother and was born in Perth on 13 January 1844 and baptised in the Episcopal Church, Muthill, Perth on 14 January 1844. Not sure if such speed in arranging a baptism was normal in Scotland at that time but Matilda's older sister born 13 January 1843 (and confusingly also called Matilda) had died



in infancy in 1843 so this might have had some influence on the speedy baptism of the second Matilda.

Matilda's father was William, known as Ned, and was born in Bramley, Yorkshire on 17 November 1805. William married Mary Soutar, my great-great-grandmother, who was born on 17 October 1802 and baptised a week later in Brechin. Mary Soutar was the youngest of seven siblings. The marriage of William and Mary took place in Crieff, Perthshire on 8 March 1829. William is described as an Excise Officer and he may not have been alive at the time of Matilda's birth in 1844.

Mary Souter's father, my great-great-grandfather, was James who was born around August 1772 in Bendochy, Perth and was a weaver to trade. He married a Margaret Hastings who was born c.1774.

James Souter's parents were Alexander, born c.1750, and Marjory[?] Abernethy who was born about the same time.

As with so much family history the further back you go the less information you can find but I'll keep looking.

**Denis Nightingale, 6994**

## Did you know?

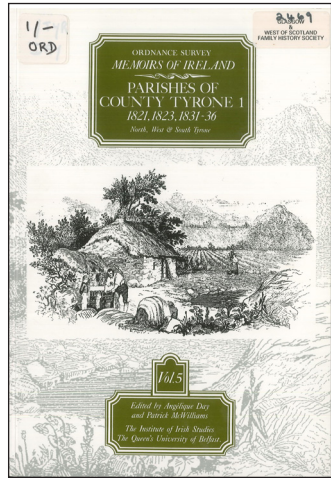
### Catholic Parish Registers at the National Library of Ireland

Scanned images of virtually all of Ireland's pre-1880 Catholic parish registers can be found on the website of the National Library of Ireland at <https://registers.nli.ie/>

# Irish Family History Books in the Society Library

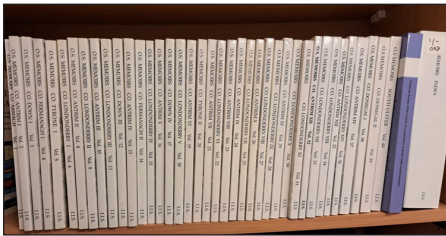
**Angelique Day and Patrick McWilliams, Editors**

*Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland.*  
Belfast, Institute of Irish Studies, Queen's University, 1990s  
Shelf Loc: I/-/ORD



The Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland is one of the gems of our Library. The Memoirs were intended to be a topography of Ireland to accompany the maps of the Ordnance Survey. Work began on the survey in 1830 and continued until 1839/40 when it was thought to be too expensive and was discontinued by the Peel government. The survey was carried out by the Royal Engineers with civil assistants. Only one memoir was ever published at the time and the original material was donated to the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin.

The survey covers Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland (Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo) and was published in stages during the 1990s by The Institute of Irish Studies, The Queen's University of Belfast. Coverage varies considerably from parish to parish with counties Londonderry and Antrim receiving the most detail and Armagh city never written up at all. As there are 14 volumes each for Counties Antrim and Londonderry the index of 747 pages is extremely useful in the search for parishes.



Each book is arranged by parish with maps and descriptions under the following headings:

- Natural State: locality
- Natural Features: hills, lakes, rivers, bogs
- Modern Topography: towns and villages, streets, public buildings and houses, churches, roads, gentlemen's seats, communications
- Productive Economy: trades and occupations, manufacturing, rural economy, churches
- Social Economy: schools, habits and occupations, poor

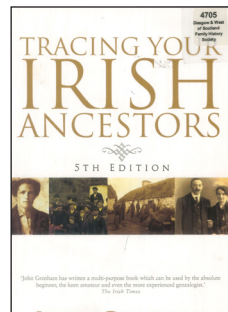
*The costume is much the same [as in] the remainder of the county. The men wear blue tail coats with bright buttons, corduroy trousers or drab, a showy waistcoat with glass buttons on Sundays, market days. They wear a*

*good hat but when working a very old one, round which there is generally a piece of cord. The young females dress well but absurdly. A boa is indispensable, frequently a muff, a small bonnet, shoes with sandals and either a white or very bright coloured gown. An umbrella appears to be a necessary appendage, both to males and females.*

Parishes of County Down 11 1832-4, 1837. Parish of Newtownards, p.107.

The introduction to the published memoirs describes them as a "nineteenth century Domesday book". They provide a fascinating glimpse into the lives of our Irish ancestors documenting in detail where they lived and worked in the first half of the nineteenth century before the Famine and should be an essential resource for family historians who have ancestors from the north of Ireland.

## Selection of other Irish books in the Library



**Grenham, John** *Tracing your Irish ancestors: 5th edition*

Dublin: Gill Books, 2019

ISBN: 9780717174652

Shelf Loc: 1/-/GRE

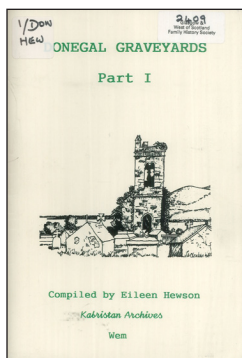
One of the best and comprehensive guides to research Irish genealogy.

**HEWSON, Eileen** *Donegal graveyards, parts 1-7*

Wem: Kabriston Archives, 2008

ISBN: 9781906276140

Shelf Loc: I/DON/HEW



These are part of a series of Monumental Inscriptions published 2005-2008. The others are: Cavan, Fermanagh, Leitrim, Meath, Monaghan, Sligo and Tyrone.

**Dobson, David** *Scots-Irish links, 1525-*

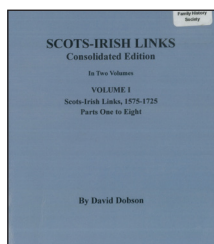
*1900: consolidated edition in 2 volumes*

Baltimore, Genealogical.com, 2022

*Volume 1: 1575-1725. Parts one to eight.*

ISBN: 9780806359373

Shelf Loc: I/-/DOB



*Volume 2: 1575-1725. Parts nine to eleven. Later Scots-Irish links. 1725-1825. Parts one to three. Scots-Irish links 1825-1900. Parts one to two*

ISBN: 9780806359380

Shelf Loc: I/-/DOB

**Paton, Chris** *Tracing your Irish family history on the internet: a guide for family historians. 2nd edition*

Barnsley: Pen and Sword, 2019

ISBN: 9781526757814

Shelf Loc: I/-/PAT

**Paton, Chris** *Tracing your Belfast ancestors: a guide for family historians*

Barnsley: Pen and Sword, 2023

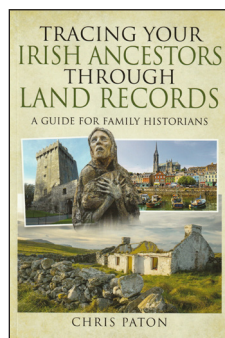
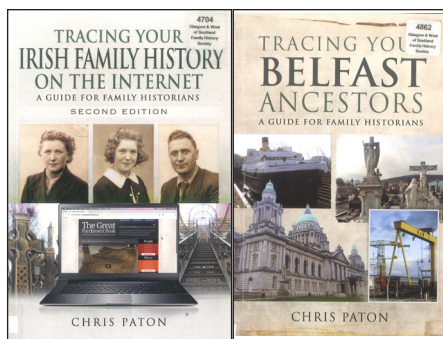
ISBN: 9781526780331

Shelf Loc: I/BEL/PAT

**Paton, Chris** *Tracing your Irish ancestors through land records: a guide for family historians*

Barnsley: Pen and Sword, 2021

ISBN: 9781526780218



Following Jane Bowen's talk in May, *The Paddle Steamer Pegasus and her People 1835-1843*, we have included a longer version of the review of the accompanying book that was first mentioned in J124.

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

From the outset, the *Pegasus* had a chequered career. In its eight year history, the ship was taken out of service twelve times, from causes ranging from routine maintenance through damage following accidents to the undefined "*great repair done the Pegasus at Hull*". I would have liked to know if this was an acceptable

record for a paddle steamer or was it a "*Friday vessel*"?

The second half of the book is dedicated to the events leading up to the sinking of the *Pegasus*, the attempts to raise the ship and recover the deceased, and the subsequent select committee inquiry and coroner's inquest. The accident had taken place on a clear still night. The steamer had taken a faster route option and had run on to a submerged rock off Holy Island, less than one mile from the Northumberland coast. The second mate failed to wake the first mate, the launch of the life boats was bungled and around seventy lives were lost in the worst merchant shipping disaster in British waters.

I had hoped (as had the relatives of the deceased) that the subsequent investigations would provide answers but although a number of recommendations were made regarding warning lights, separate bulkheads and adequate life-saving provisions, no firm conclusion was reached, either by the select committee and the coroner or by the author. Jane concludes that neither enquiry pursued the crucial question of the impact of the bungled crew change-over, when the ship was already off-course. The new watch would have had no time to identify and rectify the error.

**Diana Burns, 7039**



## 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.*

### Family Historian v Genealogist

In response to your note in the recent Journal (126) I am a retired chemical engineer and in the late 80s I decided to fill in the efforts of several distant uncles on my joint family histories. This naturally breaks down into four blocks and since two at least seemed well padded the remainder became a long term project. This meant writing lots of letters and later an equally heavy task using all the computer assets available. My scots ancestors were so scattered that I transcribed sections of the BMD for parts of Wigtownshire and built a data base for the family Milroy which was an unconfirmed ancestor for my name. Census transcriptions and the necessary film searches caused a deterioration in eyesight which forced me to retire from active research. My family is settled in Australia where it is well recorded, the Scots and English origins are now well documented and a great deal has been facilitated by the internet.

I call myself a family historian as a genealogist must have access to many more sources of info than I can enjoy in the Netherlands.

It's been fun.

**John Roy**

### Scotland's 1921 Census

I was hoping that the 1921 census would confirm a family story. One of my aunts told me that she and one of her sisters were taken by their cousins from Belfast to Lanarkshire to stay with their Uncle James Stevenson and family at Strath House to give my grandmother some rest when my mother was born. I was told that Uncle James was a pit manager. As my mother was born on 28th May, shortly before the census was taken, I hoped to find my two aunts at Strath House. I was disappointed but at least I was able to see the family at Strath House and confirm that James was a 'Colliery Manager'. I had imagined that Strath House was a large house but I have found a Strath House in Avonbridge which I assume is the one. It is a large house, but there were 12 there on census night even without the two little nieces!

This has encouraged me to try and find out as much as I can about my grandmother's (13 at least) siblings, the children of Alexander Stevenson and Agnes Gray. Thanks to DNA I am in touch with some of their descendants.

**Robert Bryce, 1558**

### A Family of Glasgow Brushmakers

I am researching my family history and would be interested to hear from anyone who might be related or who may be researching the family.

John James Smith was born in Gloucester in 1846, the son of James (1808-1891) Smith and Maria; John becoming a Brushmaker as his father.

The 1861 census shows John aged 15 an Apprentice Brushmaker living at Northgate Street, Gloucester.

By 1868 John had moved to Dublin Ireland where he was probably working as a Brushmaker living at 30 Cuffe Street, Dublin. It was in Dublin on the 5 October 1868 where he married Susan Green and their first child Emily was born in Dublin in 1869.

I am not sure how long the family lived in Dublin, however by 1871 the family had moved back to England living in Stoke on Trent.

The 1881 census shows the family living in the Dennistoun area of Glasgow where John is working as a Brushmaker. John and Susan now have seven children Emily, Clara, Charles, William, John, Henry and Fred. Agnes was the last of the eight children and was born in 1884. Five of the eight children were all born in Glasgow.

Emily married William Ross in 1894. Clara married James Aitken in 1899 and Fred married Mary McCabe in 1912. Several of the families lived in Rutherglen at one time.

I am keen to learn more about the family's Brushmaking business and it would be lovely to be able to find any living relatives who I could perhaps correspond with and possibly meet up with one day.

**Mike Lewis, 11133**

*If anyone has any suggestions for Mike or is perhaps linked to these families he can be contacted at:*

[mikelewis2376@gmail.com](mailto:mikelewis2376@gmail.com)

## Can anyone help with this brick wall?

Eric Loudon, 10877, is seeking help:

John Loudon of the parish of Eastwood married Agnes Johnston in 1823 at Kilmarnock, with proclamations at Eastwood and Kilmaurs. Their eldest son was born at Mossneuk in Eastwood in 1824, however their first child, Jean Johnstone Loudon was born six years before the marriage in Kilmarnock. She married John Strachan in 1837 in Kilmarnock and are the ancestors of Eric Liddle, the 'Chariots of Fire' runner. It is believed they then moved to Pembrokeshire in South Wales, but the family were back in Ayrshire in 1841, minus the husband, John.

There is a John Loudon on the passenger list of *HMS Cressy*, with a birthplace of Kilmaurs, aged 60, and the assumption this is the same person.

Eric can't find any Loudons in Eastwood although he found a reference to a marriage in 1891 between Daniel Thompson, cotton spinner and Isabel Loudon whose father was John, deceased of Barony. Her name in her own parish was spelt as Lowdon.

Many years ago Eric also found a marriage of a Loudon woman and a Campbell although this does not appear on ScotlandsPeople. Her father was a cotton merchant of Glasgow, deceased, with marriage around the same time as Isobel's.

*(Editor: ScotlandsPeople does have a marriage in 1893 in Eastwood [562/66] between Campbell, Robert Frazer and Lauder, Marion - could this be the same couple?)*



# 2023 Programme of Meetings

19 June	<i>Crimes of a Heinous Nature</i>	Margaret Fox
17 July	<i>Components of the British Army</i>	Paul Nixon
21 August	<i>Inverclyde Harbour Trust Records</i>	Lorraine Murray
18 September	<i>The Coats Family</i>	Stephen Clancy
16 October	<i>History of the Bank of Scotland and its predecessors</i>	Sian Yates
20 November	<i>Historic Environment Scotland in and around Glasgow</i>	Joe Waterfield
11 December	<i>Glasgow's ties to Covenanting</i>	Jimmy Fisher

These meetings will be held in the evening, (7.30pm BST/GMT) via Zoom. To register for any of these sessions please see the links on the GWSFHS website. The website also provides more information about the individual talks and the speakers.

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

If anyone has any suggestions for future talks please let Christine Woodcock know at [syllabus@gwsfhs.org.uk](mailto:syllabus@gwsfhs.org.uk)

Don't forget we are 'extending' the monthly meetings 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.

## From the Editor

The Editorial team hopes that setting a theme for each edition offers some pointers for possible articles but we are equally happy to receive contributions on other subjects related to family history/genealogy and there are some guidelines available on the members area of the website, under the Resources section.

### Editorial Team

Karen Hunter	10206	Murray Archer	4316
Diana Burns	7039	James Oakes	7179
Christine Woodcock	10008		

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**By Phone:** +44 (0) 141 339 8303

Please note that calls will only be answered when the Research Centre is open. If you want to contact us otherwise we suggest using the Contact Form on the Website and your query will be passed on to the relevant person: <https://www.gwsfhs.org.uk/contact/>

## Research Centre

The Research Centre is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 1-4pm. There is no need to book unless you want to ensure access to one of the computers.

## 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.

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