



# The Lothians Family History Society

WINTER 2024 (Nov-Jan 2025)

## Quarterly Newsletter

### Chairman's Welcome:

**Christmas Closing: 9pm on Wed 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024**  
**New Year Opening: 6.30pm on Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025**

A warm welcome to our existing members and our new members. It is great to see so many each Wed and at the *Loanhead Library* the third Thurs of the month.

Your amazing committee have been working very hard as always and have superb speakers planned. *It is important as always that we continue to support our speaker evenings with good attendance.*

### Contact Us:

EMAIL: [lothiansfhs@hotmail.com](mailto:lothiansfhs@hotmail.com)

### Your Committee:

<b>Chairman:</b>	Lorna Kinnaird
<b>Deputy Chairman:</b>	Gordon Stevens
<b>Secretary:</b>	Christine Hannan
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Anne Wood
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Sheila Petrie
<b>Enquiry Coordinator:</b>	Sheila Petrie
<b>Speaker Coordinator:</b>	Vacant
<b>Committee:</b>	May Wilkins Roy Murray

### Speaker Evenings:

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> Nov: Lorna Kinnaird: *Military Service Appeal Tribunals WW1: What can they tell us?*  
Wed 11<sup>th</sup> Dec: Social Evening (refreshments)

### Loanhead Library:

NOV – 21<sup>st</sup> from 10.30am-2.30pm  
DEC – Not running

### Members Help:

If you have a problem in your research that you think other members might be able to help you with – let us know and we can pop it into the Newsletter. Send to [lothiansfhs@hotmail.com](mailto:lothiansfhs@hotmail.com).

### Members Donations:

Penny Duce has donated books for the Society. Please ask to see what has been donated on various topics, and if you would like any, please take them.

### Website

The LFHS website remains frozen as we do not have a webmaster in place. The Committee are in the process of looking at options. All enquiries should be forwarded continue to be sent to our Membership Secretary and Enquiry Co-ordinator Sheila Petrie at [lothiansfhs@hotmail.com](mailto:lothiansfhs@hotmail.com).

### Lasswade Centre Room

If you would like to do some research within our own LFHS library on a Wednesday, please write this down on the Attendance Register and details of what you would like to look at and a Committee Member will then look out this material for you the following week. We have a change to our hours. The *Research Room* is available from 6.30pm (by appointment please) to 9pm each Wed to members to allow them to carry out

research within our collections. Minutes of the Committee Meetings can now be viewed in the Green Folder which is kept on top of the Filing Cabinet.

### Interviewing Guide:

*The Lothians Family History Society* received an email from Sarah Moore, Marketing Specialist of [OurPublicRecords](https://ourpublicrecords.org) relating to a guide to help people interview their elderly family members for genealogical research, and how to get the best experience and understanding from those interviews. You can view the Guide and other good pieces of information: <https://ourpublicrecords.org/interview-elderly-relatives/>

### ScotlandsPeople Centre

The ScotlandsPeople Centre have updated their online computer system was launched on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. At this time, nobody knows what the difference will be in terms of access, but if you experience any problems please report any problems direct to them. It is expected that there will be some issues in the initial few weeks. The National Records of Scotland and ScotlandsPeople Centre have gone ahead and cut the opening hours to 9am to 4pm. Instead of making the archives more accessible to the public they have reduced the number of hours. This is not a wise decision as they have one ahead and made it a 'pilot scheme' which we all know means they have made their decision already. The Society urges everyone who uses the ScotlandsPeople Centre whether that is in person or online to complete the online survey and plead the case to keep the hours at 9am-4.30pm. Rather than reduce the hours we are urging them to increase them! Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.

### Our Public Records:

<https://ourpublicrecords.org/europe-family-records/>

Joe Laurel, Marketing Specialist of *Our Public Records*, has created an excellent guide to help people who are getting started in tracing their European roots, with resources for each country to help with the search. The *Lothians Family History Society* are going to add their website to this list for Scotland.

<https://ourpublicrecords.org>

### The Lord Lyon Society:

<https://lordlyonsociety.org.uk/>

The Lord Lyon Society was set up by the present Lord Lyon, Dr Joe Morrow CBE QC FRSE, to support the Court of the Lord Lyon and to further enliven the promotion of Scottish Heraldry.

- *To promote Scottish heraldry, genealogy and related arts, heritage, and culture.*
- *To advance heraldic, genealogical, and Scottish heritage through education and engagement with young people.*
- *To aid and support the protection and preservation of the records, archives and collections of the Court and Office of the Lord Lyon.*
- *To aid and support the digitisation of those records and to make them accessible to the public at no cost.*
- *To support and promote the contribution by the Scottish diaspora, especially within the Commonwealth, to heraldic, genealogical, and cultural education.*

A great opportunity to learn all about Scottish Heraldry from the experts. Please consider supporting the Society.

### Family Tree Maker 2024 Demo

#### Family Tree Maker

This was a superbly attended event with over 60 people to hear the demonstration on the new 2024 edition of *Family Tree Maker*. Irene and John Howie (new members) attended the event and stated:

*Although we use Family Tree Maker (FTM) to produce our combined Family Tree(s) we found this event to be a very interesting and enjoyable session. Learned quite a few 'tips', which enhanced our use of FTM and also gave some clear explanations of some items which we previously didn't understand. As a result of this introduction we decided to become members of the Lothians Family History Society (LFHS) to further enhance our knowledge and understanding of Family History research, and to get 'one to one' training from the more knowledgeable members of LFHS.*

*As an extra bonus John won a free copy of FTM2024. So glad we attended the event, and joined the Society.*



## Rediscovering a Borthwick Family

By Clare McGuinness  
(Australia)

The beginning of this story is my Scottish Nan, Elsie Buchan. While my parents bickered over the supremacy of the Irish versus the English, Nan would say something like “I’m Scottish, and don’t forget that”. More

accurately **her grandparents** were Scottish, who arrived in Australia separately in 1852 and 1858.

When they married in 1860, her grandfather Robert Buchan declared that his parents were **Robert Buchan, Tile Brick Maker** and Janet ‘McCray’ and that he was from Edinburgh. I have looked for this couple in *ScotlandsPeople* since 1992 without success.

There were two possible families on the 1841 census; one with a Robert, Janet and Robert in Edinburgh – but the child was too young, and there was a Robert with son Robert in Borthwick Parish – but no Janet. I could have followed either boy to see who was gone by 1852, but I didn’t. Indeed, I felt powerless to determine which boy was my Robert.

I took a DNA test in 2016 and fiddled pointlessly till I took a course in 2022. But a very important lucky break was also testing my father’s first cousin, Pat, in 2017. She was thus a generation closer to Robert’s parents than I was, so that the course requirements of only using DNA to look for x2 great grandparents was fulfillable using her DNA, compared to mine. There are strategies to isolate only people who were related to Pat through Robert Buchan, and it was only three weeks before I could be certain that the Borthwick family were mine. It came about by finding that Pat matched descendants of two siblings, George and Isabella Buchan. Could they have a brother called Robert? The informant on George’s death certificate was “his brother Robert”. Later I found the two censuses where he was recorded as a Brick Tile Maker. His parents were *George Buchan and Jean Johnson*, according to his death certificate in 1887.

I found that George Buchan was a forester for the Vogrie Estate and that his wife Jean had nine children. There is no marriage record for them on *ScotlandsPeople*. Their three eldest children born from 1799-1802 were baptised in Dewarton, a town built for workers of the Vogrie Estate, owned by the Dewar family, implying they came from elsewhere. No baptism record exists for their next six children who were born 1805-1818 although censuses confirm that all were born in Borthwick Parish. Their unnamed child Buchan from Newlandrig in Borthwick parish was buried in 1808, in the neighbouring parish of Newbattle. The Buchans lived in Newlandrig for over 100 years, and I visited it in May this year. It was magical to walk that one street, knowing that my family had lived in several of those 30-odd houses. But I was coming down with Covid.

George died in 1818, on the same day that his ninth child was born! [She was baptised in 1854 giving her date of birth]. Neither Borthwick or Newbattle cemetery records include his age at death or the cause of his death. Yet **every other entry** on each page has an age recorded. Why was this so frustrating? Because just across the border in Newbattle Parish was a Buchan family who might have been his, but they had four children baptised in the Church of Scotland, and there was no George. I remain focused on this possibility because George named his first son James (as was the name of the father in Newbattle) and because George and Jean, as well as their infant son, were buried there. I am sure you all feel the same keen need, as I felt, to know where each ancestor came from. Understandably, I wanted to know everything about this family. Probably because it took so long to find them! I was blown away by the value of census data and the ability to download certificates from *ScotlandsPeople* instantly. Neither of these resources exist in Australia. Not only did I scour every online tree, and *ScotlandsPeople* to complete a tree to the present day, I tried to find every Buchan descendant in every DNA database. So, my study to document this family consists of:

1. A complete tree, as far as possible, to the present day
2. A complete gathering of anyone across the world having the DNA of George Buchan and Jean Johnston
3. A review of all Buchans in the Old Parish registers, focusing on Midlothian and Edinburgh, and then slowly the Civil Registers as well
4. Plotting their emigration paths

5. Looking at family patterns, child mortality and general mortality comparisons.

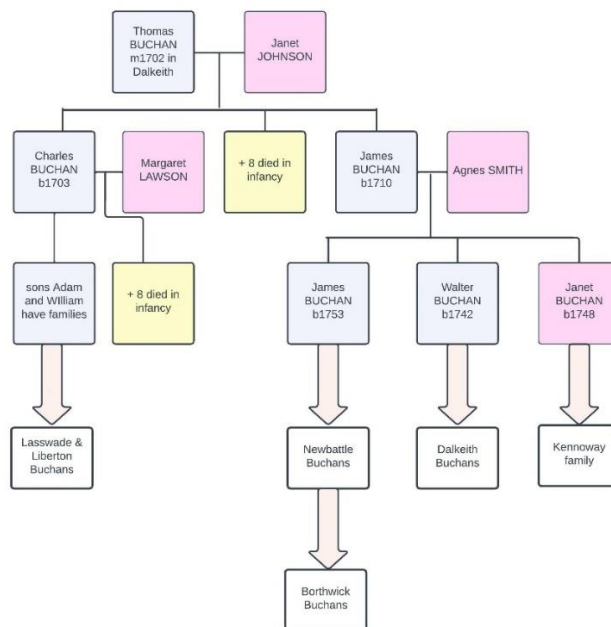
After starting with Pat's DNA match list, and adding my own and three siblings, I gathered the lists of three other Australian born Buchans and eleven people from Scotland, England, USA and Canada who shared their match lists. This has allowed me to gather over 500 people who have DNA in common with these 19 known descendants of George and Jean. I have written about this work on a blog called "[BuchansofBorthwick.blogspot.com](http://BuchansofBorthwick.blogspot.com)"

The Old Parish Registers were fascinating. Charting the baptisms of all Buchans showed a clear transition from the expected origin in Aberdeenshire, through the central counties of Angus, Perthshire and Stirlingshire and into Midlothian.

I might infer from George's occupation as a forester that he was more likely from a rural background. Amazingly, Buchans in Midlothian (rural) counties all connect to a couple marrying in Dalkeith in 1703.

There were no Buchans in Borthwick parish until George and Jean arrived. In the OPR Buchans are found in just seven rural parishes.

Baptism		Timespan	
Edinburgh	140	1620-1854	
Leith	90	1617-1854	
St Cuthberts	82	1675-1854	
Canongate	37	1673-1826	
Inveresk	17	1643-1808	
Duddingston	5	1696-1748	n=371
<b>Borthwick</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1799-1853</b>	
<b>Dalkeith</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1703-1814</b>	
<b>Liberton</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1660-1801</b>	
<b>Newbattle</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1777-1854</b>	
<b>Glencorse</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1824-1854</b>	
<b>Lasswade</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1727-1841</b>	
Colinton	4	1664*-1849	
Newton	3	1734-1738	
Penicuik	2	1749-1752	
Ratho	1	1741	
<b>Cockpen</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1820</b>	n=131



I have two main goals – to find the parents of George and Jean (who are my x4 great grandparents), and to find the parents of Janet McCray (who is my x3 great grandmother, and Pat's x2 great grandmother). I found Robert Buchan in a straight-forward manner through DNA, but I have not found his partner/wife in the subsequent two and a half years. I have never found a baptism for their son Robert - the man who emigrated to Australia during the Victorian gold rush. He is on the 1841 census with his father who had returned from Leith to live in his parent's home in Newlandrig; he was there with his grandmother, two uncles and an aunt. He is on the 1851 census with the same uncle and aunt, and a different uncle now widowed with two daughters. His grandmother died in 1849, and his father married in 1847 and was living in another home in Newlandrig. The next year he emigrated and possibly was forgotten over the generations that followed in Scotland.

Y-DNA might help me connect George to the Newbattle Buchans. I would need at least two men named Buchan who are descendants of George to establish his DNA **haplogroup**. If I could find a male descendant of the Newbattle Buchans and convince them to take a Y-DNA test, AND they match, then I will have proved that George is from the Newbattle family. This is the gold standard method, but it does require



me to test at least three men (at \$500US a pop), IF I can find them.

The other data I have are the **shared matches** of my Buchan descendants. To date I have placed 200 people on the George+Jean tree, from approximately 2,500 descendants. I have another 500+ people who are related to these 200 descendants. They MUST be related to George's parents or Jean's parents. Finding these links is my task for 2025. Although I have one match who is a Newbattle descendant, many more are needed.

In May 2024 I spent five days in Edinburgh, with accommodation in Dalkeith. At the local studies section of Dalkeith Library, I found the Recording Angels book on Monuments of Newbattle Churchyard. Therein I found adjacent plot records for my x3 great grandfather Robert, his siblings James and Helen, his last wife, a daughter and a nephew. This was hugely comforting to me to know Robert lies in, albeit unmarked graves with his closest family. I am tempted to assume that his parents and brother George, who died at the same colliery that he did, are all co-located in death.

Robert Buchan, the emigrant, became a gold miner in Victoria. With highland-born wife Margaret Bain, they had ten children. The first son was called James, the next named Robert – who is my x2 great grandfather. He died in his own gold mine, working with his son James, who raised the alarm. He was only 48 when he died, five years before his father would die in a coal mine accident. Robert was the only member of his family to emigrate to Australia in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. His widow was left with eight children to raise, although luckily, she did have siblings who emigrated with her. It is no surprise that knowledge of Robert's origins was forgotten in Australia as well.

An Australian cousin had toured her relatives looking for photographs. Someone had a photograph taken in Leith of two women and a child, and written on the back was "sister Jane ... George Ireland's wife". Who were these people? We now know that Robert had two sisters named Jane, one an illegitimate half-sister born in Leith in 1835, perhaps a year or so older than Robert, and a later legitimate half-sister called Jane to his stepmother Margaret Ireland. George Ireland was her brother. I take from this that Robert's family in

Scotland did keep in touch with him, and photographs were exchanged.

I plan to return in 2025, newly retired, to further gather data on Buchan descendants, to look for Vogrie estate records, to pursue the leads on Janet 'McCray' and meet more of my very distant cousins. My family history interests have previously been Irish, and holding a McGuinness reunion, and English through several maternal lines. This has been the first in-depth look at Scottish research. Ancestry says I am 48% Scottish, but this does include my mother's Cumbrian lines. 'Hooked' is too mild a word.

Related families include *Inglis, Veitch, Smart, Skirving, Farquharson, Scott, Prentice, Veitch, Kyle, Dickson, Richardson, Anderson, Galloway, Black*. I would love to hear from anyone who recognises these names and Buchan, or if you know anyone living in Newlandrig now.

## **Patriotism and how the myth Of Bonnie Prince Charlie was busted!**

**By Gordon Stevens**



I recently re-watched a Rugby match between Scotland and England at Murrayfield, playing for the Calcutta Cup, and witnessed the pre-match singing of the Rugby National anthems of both England and Scotland. I also fondly remember being at a similar match in Edinburgh in 1993 where the 'Flower of Scotland' was being sung informally before the match. This song was penned by musician Roy Williamson of 'The Corries' fame and was adopted as the Scottish 'National Anthem' by the fans. (It was later adopted in 1997 as the recognised 'official' anthem of the Scottish Rugby team).

Scottish Patriotism is always inspired when this song is sung but who would immediately identify it as

recalling the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314 where Robert the Bruce defeated Edward the Second's army and put them to flight.

My upbringing as a boy, living in Prestonpans, always intrigued me to delve a little deeper and enquire as to the background of the famous *Battle of Prestonpans*, on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1745, and throughout my youth I proudly held the thought that all Scots were behind the 'Young Pretender', Charles Edward Stuart, following his famous victories at the 'Battle of Prestonpans', in Sept 1745, and at the 'Battle of Falkirk Muir' in Jan 1746, - only to be defeated at the subsequent 'Battle of Culloden' in April 1746.  
*Oh, how wrong I was!*

It was a dark, grim day on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1745 that Prince Charles Edward Stuart arrived in the Outer Hebrides and first set foot on Scottish soil in an attempt to regain the throne of Great Britain on behalf of his father 'The Old Chevalier' - James Stuart. Many historians have written a litany of his rise to fame and his exploits from his landing in Scotland to his return to France on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1746, but I would like to focus on the period of his life when he was being hunted in the Western Isles and the intrigue on both the side of the Scottish and the English in both 'hiding' him and the 'hunting' of him.

It was when researching this period in time that my beliefs of 'Bonnie Prince Charlie' being a truly Scottish hero descended into tatters, as not all were siding with this Scottish Prince.

Following the defeat at Culloden, Charles hid in the moors of the Highlands, aided by some loyal Highlanders, and managed to escape to the Western Isles despite having a reward of £30,000 pounds on his head. He travelled throughout the Western Isles for many months and managed to avoid capture. It was when his boat came round the Northern tip of Skye, on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June 1746, seeking sanctuary, two MacLeod of Dunvegan sentries tried to blow it out of the water. Fifteen more MacLeod militia-men, shouting with glee at the thought of splitting the reward, ran out of a nearby blockhouse and began shooting at the boat. A far cry from the poetic vision given in the famous 'Skye Boat Song', written by an Englishman, Sir Harold Bolton, where he was supposedly '*speeding like a bird on the wing*'. In reality

he was sitting in the stern of the boat, dressed in a white calico woman's dress, with Flora MacDonald, sitting on the bottom boards between his knees, and under fire from the shore. He was disguised as Flora's maid "Betty Burke". This was probably the closest the couple ever got romantically - despite what later propagandists invented to make her more of a public heroine.

My heroic vision of Bonnie Prince Charlie and Flora MacDonald were slowly diminishing as my research went on, and I was slowly staring into a black hole of British history which later spawned the propaganda lie that "*no one of high and low birth would ever have betrayed Prince Charles Edward Stuart for the £30,000 of English gold on his head.*"

When the MacLeod militia had gone back to their billets the prince's boat sidled across the mouth of Loch Snizort and made landfall about a mile from the home of the MacDonald chief, Sir Alexander. Flora went up to the big house to seek shelter from Lady Margaret, the chief's wife, who had secretly sent the prince six of her husband's best shirts, brandy and newspapers when he was in hiding in South Uist. *They thought they could trust her.* Instead, she went into a hysterical rage and ordered Flora into the house to chat up her dinner guest - Lieut. Alexander McLeod, who commanded the local Skye militia, dressed in the hated Redcoats and Campbell tartan kilts in the hunt for the prince. It seemed to her to be right and fitting to send goods and chattels for the prince in hiding, but outraged when he landed on her doorstep!

Whilst Flora was fooling the Lieutenant with polite conversation, the prince was being smuggled down the road to the house of the MacDonald's factor, a man called Kingsburgh, who was secretly in on the plan. Lady MacDonald could then swear an oath that she never met the prince, which would have ruined her husband, the MacDonald chief who was "absent" on business elsewhere. I'll say he was absent - he and his own militiamen were down at Fort Augustus, burning and pillaging on behalf of Butcher Cumberland, and also conspiring in how to entrap the prince.

Despite many attempts to discover the whereabouts of the prince, none were successful and on 30<sup>th</sup> June

the prince arrived in Portree with his bodyguard, and it was there that he and Flora said their goodbyes and parted company. (Despite the poetic 'romantic links well-meaning writers would have us believe - there is little evidence anything took place between them.)

For a further 36 hours he was concealed on the small island of Raasay and then taken back to Skye where he was hidden in a cow byre for the night. He travelled on further under the guise of a surgeon's son from Crieff, named Lewie Caw, and was bodyguarded down to the loyal MacKinnon country and to a close relation, John MacKinnon, then aged 70. On the night of 4<sup>th</sup> July, the prince was whisked away from Skye and to safety on the mainland, where he was never betrayed again.

The MacKinnons paid for their loyalty, as did the Princes personal bodyguard. So did Flora MacDonald. So did Kingsburgh, the factor who gave the prince a bed for the night. So did the islanders of Raasay, who suffered most of all. All this came about when the MacDonald chief, Sir Alexander came back to Skye, foaming with rage, and informed on all of them in a personal letter to his hero, Butcher Cumberland, possibly to get his hysterical wife and himself off the hook.

The MacKinnons were arrested and put onboard the British navy prison ship, HMS Furnace Bomb, on which suspects were tortured. The prince's bodyguards met the same fate. Flora was tricked into going to a house on Skye by a senior McLeod captain, was arrested by the militia and thrust on board the prison ship where she was apparently threatened with torture on the rack, to reveal the prince's escape route, but was ironically spared by a Campbell, who later became the Duke of Argyll.

The notorious McLeod of Dunvegan, who was so treacherous even his tenants called him "The Wicked Man" wrote a blackmailing letter to Kingsburgh trying to force him into betraying the prince for the £30,000 of "English gold", but he refused. He was taken to Edinburgh Castle in chains and kept in solitary confinement for a year, then released without trial. The McLeod of Dunvegan militia, in their hunt for the prince on Raasay – he had already escaped – burned down all the houses, shot all the horses for sport, stove in all the boats, flogged and raped, drove off all

the cattle, sheep and goats, and left the islanders to starve.

With the aid of a few loyal servants and local supporters, Charles hid from Government forces in the Western Grampian mountains for several weeks. He ultimately evaded capture and on 19<sup>th</sup> September, he left Scotland aboard the French frigate *L'Heureux*, commanded by Captain Richard Warren. Charles landed back in France on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1746 where he became at once a popular hero and idol of many Parisians on account of his exploits in Scotland.

I apologise if I have shattered a few myths and sullied the names of some clan members, but in conclusion – *It seems not all heroes wear capes and not all villains wear masks.*

I will certainly now look deeper into other periods in Scottish history with an open mind, and question as to MY beliefs being truly factual and not some fantasy spun around many of my other heroes - just for poetic license.

[ *The majority of the findings above have been researched from a collection of sources and are my interpretation of the said facts.*]

### **Members Interests:**

Members are encouraged to submit to the society *any Lothians surnames* that they would like help with. Log into the Members Area and look at who is researching what surname and in what area. It is a great opportunity to share information too between members.

### **Membership of the Lothians Family History Society:**

Members can join through the LFHS website or leaflets found at the Lasswade Centre or the Loanhead Library. The Society has publications for sale on Burial Indexes, Monumental Inscriptions, Books etc.

Link: <https://genfair.co.uk/supplier/lothians-family-history-society-1129/> for a full list of available items.

For access to the Members Area on the LFHS website - members need a username and password for entry. If a reminder is required for these formalities, members

should contact the Society via email on [lothiansfhs@hotmail.com](mailto:lothiansfhs@hotmail.com) and these will be forwarded.

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Lothians-Fhs/100009903970976>

**Research Enquiries**  
**Send your request direct to:**  
**[lothiansfhs@hotmail.com](mailto:lothiansfhs@hotmail.com)**

Once your request has been received and logged, one of our volunteers will be in touch with you about how best to proceed.

Limitations to research requests:

- *Volunteers are restricted to answering requests within 1-hour free research*
- *Enquiries deemed to be in excess of 1 hour may require assistance from a genealogist who will be a member of the society (additional costs or expenses may apply)*
- *As a non-profit society, all donations from research enquiries will be gratefully appreciated.*
- *Donations can be arranged through the Secretary via [lothiansfhs@hotmail.com](mailto:lothiansfhs@hotmail.com).*



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