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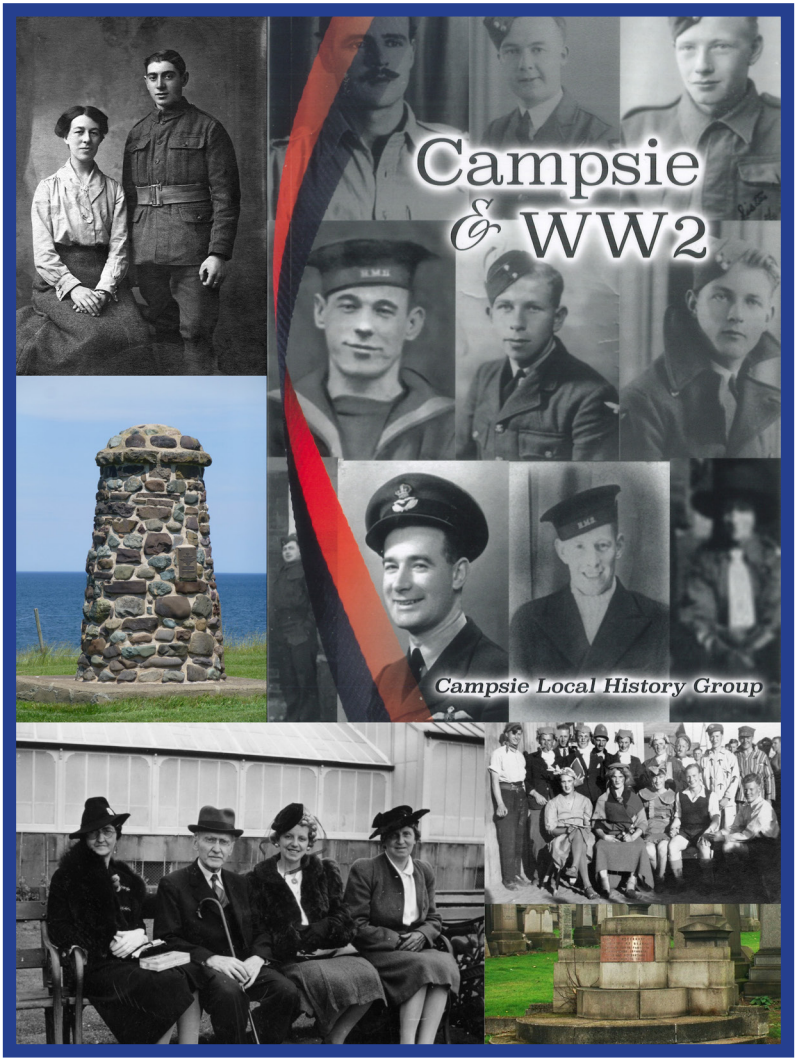

The impact of war on our families

Glasgow & West of Scotland Family History Society Journal

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The Journal

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

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Welcome to Journal 131

As ever, there is plenty to read in this edition of the Journal. Some of the articles link in with our theme of the impact of war on our families. These include a story of being a German in Glasgow during both World Wars; the horrors of being a POW; and memories of life in Scotland during WW2 through the eyes of an eight year old. We have also included some books that might be of interest for those wanting to learn more about Glasgow in wartime. There is even an offer from one of our members to help others in their research for relatives who may have been POWs.

And there is more! You can find out about projects Scott and Murray have been involved in, as they attempt to unpick some challenges discovered when researching some local burying grounds; how lives can sometimes be intertwined with 'a celebrity' in various ways; and, linking back to our last edition, a story of family connections with India and Burma.

The Society is looking for a Publications Secretary - please read the item on page 41 and consider if you might be able to help so we can make our resources even more accessible to our membership and others.

Karen Hunter, Editor

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James Oakes	7179	Christine Ferguson	10832

Chair's Blog

Through the middle of the year the weather in Glasgow has not been very summery, but that has not stopped a steady stream of visitors to the research centre in Partick. The assistants and volunteers have been able to help many researchers. However much more can be achieved if visitors come with something on paper to show what they seek and give a starting point with names, dates and places.

In July Strathclyde University held a prestigious conference Advancing Genetic Genealogy which I attended, with a wide range of speakers covering topics from basic techniques to advanced science. This was an interesting two days and a great opportunity to meet face to face. A visit to the genetic sequencing lab was most interesting and gave a great insight into how testing is carried out.

We have recently become aware that some of the burial indexes, which were done by the society many years ago, were incomplete, and have been investigating how to move forward to perfection. James at the research centre has implemented a large effort to index the missing years of the Southern Necropolis (West) index. This is starting to involve online members in indexing pages from the register. In the process of understanding the register it was realised the multiple sets of lairs had used the same numbering, and were only distinguished by price. A further discovery has made available plans of cemeteries which had not previously been available to us. Along with our increasing understanding of the content of FamilySearch resources, this is greatly increasing the resources at the research centre. Members watching the datasets will appreciate the sterling work by Murray in uploading, now more than 5000 images and transcripts of stones in Glasgow Necropolis.

The Website is an important resource, allowing online members to share in the society resources, Journals exchanged with other societies had previously only been available in the library, and are now online. Diana often uploads interesting articles to the website as well as contributing to the Society's Facebook and Instagram sites. Managing your membership online at the website is also a benefit to members and the Society as it allows subscriptions to be taken automatically, which prevents you from getting locked out if you forget or are late in renewing. All new members now join via the website and this makes handling subscriptions much easier for the treasurer. If you are still paying by cheque or standing order and would like to change over let the treasurer know. It is likely that you will get instructions with the reminder when you renewal is due.

Remember that our Journal depends on your submissions and we can all get something out of articles, even if they are not on our particular favourite subjects. From the stories of others you can always learn something, and it can be particularly interesting to see where they found information and their researching method. Karen uses her magic to create a great Journal for us to read, but she needs to have articles to work with, so consider sending her an illustrated submission large or small to build up her store for the next journals.

Scott Fairie, Chair, 30

The Other Side of the Door

This is the story of a mixed German/Scottish family living in Glasgow during both World Wars.

Growing up in Manchester in the 1950s, I remember seeing a framed photograph in my home of four people sitting on a bench. I was told that the picture was taken in Queens Park, Glasgow in the 1930s. I was fascinated by the elderly gentleman who was sitting with his daughter and my mother and grandmother.

So, who was this man and was anything known about him?

Wilhelm Stein and Family

He was Wilhelm Andreas Peter Stein or 'Grandpa Stein' as he was known to my mother. He was my maternal step great-grandfather. He was a German subject who came to England in 1886. He was born in Saxony in 1865. He trained as a violoncellist under the famous cellist, Julius Klengel, at the Leipzig Conservatoire [*Who's Who in Music, edited by Sir Landon Ronald) Shaw Publishing Company Limited 1935*]. He subsequently played in the Scottish Orchestra (now the RSNO). Because it was a nine-week winter season in Glasgow at that time, he played during the summer season in the Pavilion Gardens Orchestra in Buxton, Derbyshire (as was the practice in those days). I have always been interested in music and really wanted to know more about his life and career.

Wilhelm came to live in Manchester in 1886 and eventually lived in apartments run by my maternal great-grandmother, Frances Collins, whom he later married. Their daughter, Frances Wilhelmina Stein, born in 1901, in Manchester, was my Godmother. Wilhelm's wife, Frances, died in 1912 leaving him with his young daughter, Frances, aged just twelve. At this time, Wilhelm was working in Glasgow and Buxton.

Whilst working in Glasgow, Wilhelm subsequently lived at various addresses until his death there in 1945. When I spent some time in Glasgow, several years ago, to embark on my research, I visited the tenement block at 336 Langside Road, in the Queens Park area, where I knew that he had lived during his final years. Fortunately, someone came out of the entrance door of the tenement block and asked if I needed any help. I briefly told him about my research, and I was invited into the communal hallway to look round. I had never been in a tenement house before and, following this, I decided to visit the historic Tenement House in Buccleuch Street, Garnethill, to learn more about tenement life in the relevant era. My Mother had mentioned a few details about once staying in Glasgow, at Langside Road, in the 1930s, especially her memory of a bed in the kitchen hidden by a curtain across it. This must have been something which really stuck in her mind.

My Mother knew little about the man whom she had visited in Glasgow in the

1930s, so I embarked on further research to find out more about him. I spent a week in the Mitchell Library in Glasgow, which is a wonderful resource for family historians, and visited the RSNO to try to find records of Wilhelm's time as a Cellist there from 1893 until 1914. With the advent of the First World War, there was a gap in his service to the Scottish Orchestra when concerts were reduced, and Germans were not allowed to play in the orchestra. He later resumed his position in the Orchestra in 1925 until 1933 when he retired at the age of sixty-eight.

Barbirolli and WAPS Scottish Orchestra 1933 [Alamy Image ID ERFDXG- Purchased 24 Jan 2019 for Presentation or Newsletters. A section of the image used and captioned by David L Jones]

This war period has been difficult to back-up with official records, but I do know from Orchestral Concert Programmes, in Buxton, that he is accounted for there until 1912 when his wife died. Following on with the Scottish Orchestra programmes, he gave continuous service until 1914 when German musicians left the Orchestra for understandable reasons. By her first marriage, my great grandmother, Frances, had a son, George Leonard Collins, born in 1884. George died in 1918 in the 3rd Battle of the Aisne whilst serving as a Lewis Gunner with the 2nd Battalion East Lancashire Regiment. Wilhelm was his German stepfather.

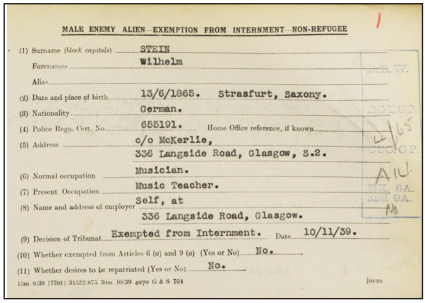
There was a close bond between Wilhelm, his daughter, Frances, and my mother and grandmother. Florence Collins, my grandmother, had not known what had happened to her husband, George Collins, when he was killed in France on 27 May 1918. Using the Red Cross records of the reported missing, and remembering what my mother had told me, she was eventually informed by a Priest and German Doctor, that he had been accounted for in the Mont Notre Dame Military Cemetery in the Aisne region. In 1923, he was transferred to Vailly British Cemetery. In the 1960s, my mother and I visited his grave for the first time. [*27 May 1918 : Pte George Leonard Collins - Western Front Association*]

Thinking about the impact of both wars on our families, I thought it might be interesting to see how the Germans living in Scotland fared during both wars and how they lived in close proximity to their neighbours, in tenements and communal housing, if they were not interned for the duration of the war.

The Aliens Restrictions Act was passed the day after war was declared on 4 August 1914. This meant that all Germans and foreign nationals were asked to register with the Police so that they could be interned or deported. If they were allowed their liberty, after careful scrutiny, they were subject to restrictions. They could not own firearms, ammunition, or explosives. They could not own any means of communication such as signalling apparatus, carrier or homing pigeons. Photographic equipment

was not allowed, nor were military or naval maps, charts, or handbooks. They could not own a car, motorcycle, or Aircraft. Unfortunately, there are no surviving records of Germans who were allowed their liberty in Scotland. But severe restrictions were placed on them including travel restrictions. There were designated prohibited areas which were forbidden to enemy aliens. During 1914 and 1915, various disturbances broke out against many people known to be Germans who owned businesses. Then on Friday, 7 May 1915, a German submarine was responsible for the sinking of the liner Lusitania with the loss of over 1,000 lives. After this, there was a serious threat to public order and further restrictions were placed upon Germans at liberty. We do know that Wilhelm was not interned for the duration of the war. However, there was a growing suspicion of Germans acting as secret agents and a feeling that they were not to be trusted and could be spies. [*The Enemy in our Midst – Germans in Britain during the First World War by Panikos Panayi Published by Berg Publishers Ltd Oxford 1991. P. 52]*

From the family history point of view, I have found sourcing records of Germans in this country throughout both wars difficult. However, a few years ago, the National Archives released a set of records which revealed information about individuals who were subject to scrutiny at the beginning of World War Two in 1939. In the case of Wilhelm, it proved a treasure trove of information about his status and personal history. At the age of seventy-four, he appealed against the first decision, thus revealing more personal information.

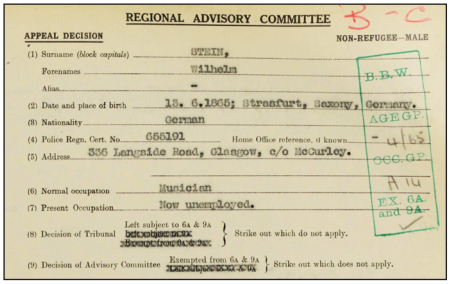


MALE ENEMY ALIEN—EXEMPTION FROM INTERNMENT—NON-REFUGEE

(1) Surname (*block capitals*) STEIN
Forenames Wilhelm
Alias
(2) Date and place of birth 13/6/1865. Strasfurt, Saxony.
(3) Nationality German.
(4) Police Regn. Cert. No. 655191. Home Office reference, if known
(5) Address c/o McKerlie, 336 Langside Road, Glasgow, S.2.
(6) Normal occupation Musician.
(7) Present Occupation Music Teacher.
(8) Name and address of employer Self, at 336 Langside Road, Glasgow.
(9) Decision of Tribunal Exempted from Internment. Date 10/11/39.
(10) Whether exempted from Articles 6 (a) and 9 (a) (Yes or No) No.
(11) Whether desires to be repatriated (Yes or No) No.

B.B.W. OCC.GP 4 65 OCC.GP A 14 EX 6A and 9A

Wilhelm Stein - National Archives - Alien Registration Card1



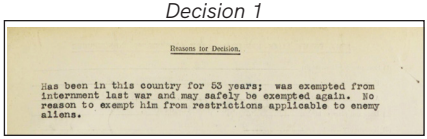
REGIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

APPEAL DECISION — NON-REFUGEE—MALE

(1) Surname (*block capitals*) STEIN,
Forenames Wilhelm
Alias -
(2) Date and place of birth 13. 6.1865; Strasfurt, Saxony, Germany.
(3) Nationality German
(4) Police Regn. Cert. No. 655191 Home Office reference, if known
(5) Address 336 Langside Road, Glasgow, c/o McCurley.
(6) Normal occupation Musician
(7) Present Occupation Now unemployed.
(8) Decision of Tribunal Left subject to 6A & 9A / Exempt from 6A & 9A } Strike out which do not apply.
(9) Decision of Advisory Committee Exempted from 6A & 9A / Left subject to 6A & 9A } Strike out which does not apply.

B-C B.B.W. AGE GP 4 65 OCC.GP A 14 EX 6A and 9A

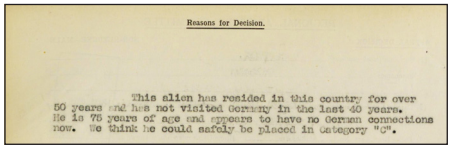
Wilhelm Stein - National Archives - Appeal Decision 1



Reasons for Decision.

Has been in this country for 53 years; was exempted from internment last war and may safely be exempted again. No reason to exempt him from restrictions applicable to enemy aliens.

Wilhelm Stein - National Archives - Alien Registration Card 2



Reasons for Decision.

This alien has resided in this country for over 50 years and has not visited Germany in the last 40 years. He is 75 years of age and appears to have no German connections now. We think he could safely be placed in Category "C".

Wilhelm Stein - National Archives - Appeal Decision 2

I have recently consulted the Scotland 1921 census and have found Wilhelm, aged fifty-six, and his daughter, Frances, living next to another German family. The Head of that family, Christian Witt, was a bootmaker living at 150 Holland Street in Central Glasgow. It was quite sad to see that, at this time, Wilhelm was playing, as a musician, at a Picture House in

Shawlands - a far cry from his playing at the St. Andrews Hall Scottish Orchestra concerts, but because of hostile feelings in the community towards Germans, he had to take what work he could.

Later on, in 1928, his daughter, Frances, married Irving Edgar McKerlie, a Chemist Assistant, of 414 Victoria Road, Glasgow, at St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral. Edgar subsequently worked for W & R Hatrick and Co., Glasgow - Pharmaceutical Chemists and Wholesale and Export Druggists.

Prior to her marriage, Frances lived with her father at 36 Albert Road. After that Wilhelm, Frances and Edgar came to live together at 336 Langside Road in the Queens Park district in Southern Glasgow.

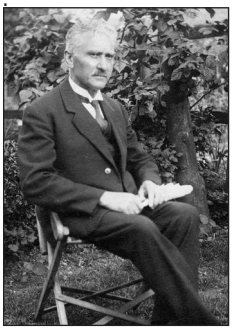
Wilhelm Stein – Florence Collins – Edgar McKerlie – Empire Exhibition

1938 was the year of the Empire Exhibition - held from May to October in Bellahouston Park, Glasgow. Wilhelm, his daughter, and her husband invited my grandmother and mother to stay with them so that they could all witness this wonderful exhibition - another example of their hospitality. However, the storm clouds of war were gathering once again. The Glasgow Clydebank Shipyards were bombed on 13- 15 March, 1941 and there was terrible destruction and loss of life.

On 23 March, 1943, the Luftwaffe bombed Glasgow again. An incendiary bomb hit the Queens Park United Presbyterian Church designed by Alexander 'Greek' Thomson. It was just a few doors down from where Wilhelm lived.

The church was a great loss as it was regarded as one of the finest examples of Thomson's work. It had an Egyptian style interior. Although it was not initially destroyed, it was eventually demolished. This event alone must have compounded Wilhelm's feeling of isolation and helped to increase his anxiety.

My admiration and respect for Wilhelm Stein has grown over the years. It seems that he contributed a great deal to music in his troubled life. In terms of how we treat each other, in good times and bad, he has been an inspiration to me. The love and kindness that was given to my grandmother and mother (over many years before and during two world wars) by Wilhelm and his daughter has been a revelation.



Wilhelm Stein in my mother's garden in Manchester

In World War One, so many lives were lost (including my own grandfather) and that loss affected my family greatly. The

suffering that Wilhelm endured is clear to see throughout both wars. I wanted to record his particular story to illustrate that although wars divide friends and families, in fact it is possible for family relationships to endure against all the odds. It is especially poignant that Wilhelm's stepson, my grandfather, was killed in France and yet there never appeared to be any animosity between them.

I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute a slightly different angle to the debate of how war affected our families. It was an important moment for me when, a few years ago, I visited the grave of Wilhelm Stein and his daughter in Glasgow's Eastwood Cemetery. I vowed then to tell their story so that it would not be forgotten.

Why have I entitled this article *'The Other Side of the Door'*? During both World Wars, Wilhelm Stein, who remained a German subject, was living in Glasgow tenement blocks (with his Scottish family members) in close proximity to his Scottish friends and neighbours. Presumably, he must have experienced conflicting feelings and divided loyalties to his native fatherland and his now-established family, friends, neighbours, and professional colleagues in his adopted homeland. Imagine therefore, his feelings, when in 1943, the German Luftwaffe bombed, and left in ruins, the magnificent Alexander 'Greek' Thomson Church - just a few doors away from where he lived. One can only imagine the feelings of the people in the block who were living on - *The Other Side of the Door*.

Fae J Jones, 3897

Scotland's People

Change at Scotland's People

On 3 September Scotland's People launched a redesigned website, with the stated aim of making access to Scotland's records easier, with quick, simple searching of their birth, marriage, death and census records. https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/

They also indicate they have added more record sets from their collections, including:

- Church Records
- Taxation records
- Employment records
- Prison records
- Wills and testaments
- Maps and Plans

Have you tried it out yet? I have not had much chance to explore the new site for myself as yet but have read a number of reviews from those who use it regularly and it is fair to say these have been mixed.

If you have tested it out it would interesting to hear your views.

They also publish a Newsletter if you want to keep up-to-date with news, articles and the latest records releases. You can sign up for this on the front page of their website.

Karen Hunter, Editor

A Wartime Tale

When Syd Neilson signed up for the Territorial Army in Glasgow in February 1939, little did he know that he would spend ninety percent of his enlisted time in Poland!

Sydney Findlay Neilson was born in 1918 to a family living and working in Glasgow. His father Robert Neilson (1875-1942) was from a line of blacksmiths, and later, weaving and sewing machine engineers, originating in Bishopston and Erskine, in Renfrewshire. In the 1850s, as the cotton and weaving industries expanded in Glasgow, the family moved into the City. Robert Neilson was a wholesale textile warehouseman, and his son was expected to follow in the family tradition of the weaving trade.

His mother Grace Findlay (1887-1939) was from the Kirriemuir area, the daughter of agricultural labourers, and from a family of ten, who were born in various farms and cottages around Forfarshire. She had moved to Glasgow in about 1910 to work in hotels.

Robert and Grace married in 1915. It was Robert's second marriage; his first to Evelyn Helena Malcolm (1877-1913) ending with her early death. Sydney had an older half-brother from his father's first marriage, also called Robert.

The family were fairly prosperous in the 1920s, living in Clarkston with a maid, according to 1921 census. However the family, like many, fell on harder times in the 1930s. Syd left school at 14 and began a variety of junior jobs. In February 1939 he joined the Territorial Army 57th (City of Glasgow) Search Light Regiment. He had not told his parents. The TA provided the young man with social and outdoor opportunity. Throughout the summer of 1939 he attended camp drills, exercises and training on the large, unwieldy searchlights. These were associated with Anti-Aircraft batteries. On 24 August 1939, Syd received the ominous call at work – *"report within 24 hours to Regimental Barracks"*. His unit was stationed to guard various key sites: bridges and power stations in Central Scotland.

Syd with his mother, Waverley Gardens, Glasgow, Summer 1939

War with Germany was declared on 3 September 1939, and Syd and his comrades spent the rest of the year on Home defence.

In February 1940 they were on training in Wales and in March they embarked for France as part of the British Expeditionary Force. During March and April they moved through France and Belgium, trailing their huge searchlights and generators. In late May 1940 they were back in France, at Calais, when the order came *"Defend Calais to the last man!"*. This was to cover Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk. But there was no evacuation for Syd and his unit.

On 26 May 1940 they were taken prisoner by German forces and marched across France, then taken by train through Germany to what had been East Prussia, then Poland. Exhausted, they finally arrived on 9 June in Toruń. They settled in to the dull routine of a Prisoner of War.

1941-01: At Stalag XXA, Torun, with comrades – Syd is in back row, 8th from right

From his diary, 12 August 1940.

> *"We are engaged by Richard Rickman, railroad constructors and rise at 4.30 am. Wash, coffee (no sugar or milk), march off 5.30. Commence digging 6 am. Bread, coffee (cold) at 8.30 am, bread and coffee at 12.30 pm. Finish work at 5.30 pm back in camp 6 pm Bowl of soup, draw next days rations, chop wood etc. Bed 8.30 pm. Lights out 9 pm. On Saturdays we work till 3 pm. Sunday off all day, but camp inspected by officers".*

1942-06: A very rare photo of British POWs at work, near Bydgoszcz, Poland. Syd is second from left. The guard's face has been scratched out.

At Stalag XXA the work was mostly manual labour, building railways and roads in support of a huge explosives works, south of the town of Bydgoszcz. Such work was just on the right side of the Geneva Convention, as POWs were not permitted to work directly for the German war effort. The POWs entertained themselves as best they could with reading, sport, music and dramatics. They found the local Poles to be helpful in supplying some little extras such as tobacco and the odd bit of better food.

1942-07: A Concert Party at Stalag XXA – the POWs entertained themselves as best they could. Syd seated, far right

After two years in Stalag XXA, Syd and many others were relocated to Stalag XXB in Malbork about 100km closer to Gdansk. Here, the work was agricultural, working in farms that had lost their local workers to the war effort. Although hard, life on farms was better than behind the wire. On a farm, there was often good food to be had, and the POWs had some degree of freedom in their lives. They were much sustained by letters and parcels from home, particularly the Red Cross supplies, which, although erratically delivered, provided some necessary supplies.

Syd's mother and father had both died after the outbreak of WW2, and his main family contact was with his

mother's family, Forfarshire-in-laws, to whom he wrote, and sent the occasional photograph (when approved by the German censors).

In January 1945 all could see that the end of the War was coming, From the West, US, British and Commonwealth groups were consolidating on the D Day invasion. More importantly for the POWs in Poland, the Russian forces were approaching rapidly from the East. This was much feared by the Germans, who enacted plans to evacuate the Camps, and march the POWs west. This was a hard march, through a very hard winter, from February – April 1945. The men were marched some 25km per day, with little in the way of food or shelter. It is thought that some 10% died on this march.

First Letter Home, from Brunswick, Germany, Sunday 15 April 1945

> *"My Dear Folks, This is my first letter to you all to let you know that I am free again after many hectic experiences. Our camp was considerably damaged but no one hurt. That was the start of a terrible forced march to the West. We walked 1400 kilometres for nine weeks. So we arrived this month at Brunswick and nearly starved to death, but we knew it was only a matter of hanging on till the Allied Armies reached us. On the 11th, we ran slap into the American 9th Army.*
>
> *It is likely I will be home this month, perhaps very soon. Write to everyone for me. Compared with many I am very well, just a bit thin but fast putting on weight.*
>
> *Best of luck from your affectionate nephew, Syd."*

And so Syd finally returned to the UK in May 1945, to a very changed Britain. Incredibly, he was home in time to celebrate VE day in London with his half-brother and family. He returned to Glasgow in June 1945 and visited the graves of his parents. The house was gone, its goods and papers dispersed, and he had to rebuild his life.

Still technically a soldier, he was given a couple of months leave to reconnect with his family, mostly Aunts and Uncles in Forfarshire. He was then posted to a British POW Camp in Staffordshire! This is known as "Army Humour". Here, he oversaw German prisoners – and hated the job. He was finally demobilised in January 1946.

His private life restarted in Glasgow with close family gone. Given some post-war incentives, he was able to restart his education, and now at 27, able to study the weaving trade. Married in 1948, and he settled down to family life in Uddingston as a weaving tenter. Later, in Glasgow, he became Secretary of a small Union with a big name – The Glasgow and West of Scotland Power Loom Tenters Association. Like many POWs, he did not talk much about his experiences or time in Poland. He had two sons with his wife, Evelyn Brown and died relatively young in 1972.

In April 2015 I was able to travel to Poland to view some of the sites mentioned in Syd's diary. The town of Malbork is thriving, and I saw the main site of Stalag XXB. There are no remaining buildings and it is gradually being encroached on by the municipal cemetery. There is

a memorial to the camp, and there are other, small local memorials in the area. Near the camp site is the Commonwealth Cemetery, with some fifty graves of those who died in captivity or in air raids over Gdansk. I also visited the area of Stalag XXA in Toruń which was a very dispersed site with many small camps. The explosive factories may now be visited as a WW2 museum, "The Exploseum". Again, there are memorials and some remaining buildings to see. Russian forces had overrun the sites of Stalag XXB in February 1945. In 2009, a mass grave of two thousand people was found during building work in Malbork. This was assumed to be German nationals who had been massacred in early 1945.

Syd's parents were buried in Glasgow Southern Necropolis. Owing to the disruption in wartime, neither of their names had been added to the monument at the time. The monument was originally erected by Robert Neilson, for his first wife Evelyn Helena. In 2020 I contacted Friends of Southern Necropolis, led by Colin Mackie, who advised me in getting the names and dates of my grandparents added to the memorial, which I recently visited.

Doug Neilson, 10359

References

For those wishing to research POW relatives, the first place to look is at The National Archives in Kew. Recently, a new record set (WO416) has come online – these are the German POW record cards and may contain much useful information. I was able to visit and actually hold the record card for Syd Neilson (which he probably never saw). There may also be records of questionnaires that many POWs completed on their return to UK. See https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/r/C14541141 The MOD holds the full service record for WW2 combatants. These records are gradually being transferred to the National Archives, and may be requested by relations. For POWs they may not show much, if they had little active service in war.

See https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/british-prisoners-second-world-war-korean-war/

The On-Line Memorial and Museum of Prisoners of War website contains much information on Camps and Prisoners and is being expanded greatly in the run-up to the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2 in 2025. www.prisonersofwarmuseum.com

Friends of Southern Necropolis can be found at www.southernnecropolis.co.uk

There are also very active pages on Facebook, for both Stalag XXA and XXB, including many photographs and where relatives and students exchange information and photographs.

Editor: Photographs in this article are all from Doug's own collection. He explains that some of these photos were carried back across Germany in 1945 in the big march West. The POW ones were taken on stolen cameras, and developed by friendly Poles.

Although not an expert, the author is happy to hear from other members who are researching their POW relatives, and offer research advice. Email to Douglas.Neilson@btinternet.com

Thomsons in Burma and India

Frank Greer Thomson

Frank Greer Thomson departed from Liverpool in December 1925 on the *Chindwin*, a passenger and cargo steamer, bound for Rangoon, Burma, where he served as an engineer. He was acquainted with Eric Blair (George Orwell), at that time a colonial policeman, who was not popular with the other members of the 'Club'.

Frank Thomson also had an interest in journalism and wrote several articles for the Glasgow Evening News: *'Apple Swamy finds a Sunspot'*; *'A Barrow in Burma'*; *'Apana and his Visions'*; *'The Opportunist'* and *'Workmen in the East'*.

In later years, Frank G Thomson continued to write about Burma and his experience of suspected intelligence gathering by the Japanese.

Fifth Column Activity

'Referring to the remarks and opinions expressed during the programme on the disaster in Burma, I do not accept that the Japanese did not include Burma as part of their plan to rule the East. The fifth column was present and quietly active when I was in Burma 1925-1931. Some of them managed to get a 9-hole golf course set up some 400 yards from Mingaladon Airport, about ten miles from Rangoon. As a cover, they had a few European members who were keen on the game but couldn't get into the already "established" clubs by reason of their occupation and the European "Caste System". Tennis court parties were also an attraction, their purpose being more than a social activity. The parties took place at two large bungalows in Halpin Road (Rangoon), lived in by a "Chummery" of some 15 young Japanese "business" men working in banks and trading establishments.'

Military Information

'In Dhayra Street the Japanese had the most up to date barber shop with all the latest equipment - 6 modern, almost dentist chairs, an array of mirrors and wash hand basins and spotlessly dressed young Japanese behind each chair. I remember being in one day when two young officers from the 2nd Manchester Regiment were gabbing away about the movement of their own and the Indian Regiment. They were moving from the old cantonment located headquarters to a newly built training base, barracks and headquarters some 5 miles out of Rangoon. I think Rawlinsir was the name of their new quarters.'

Shipping Repairs

'Japanese ships had fortnightly sailings between Europe and Japan, calling at Rangoon. One of their ships, the Hakodate Mara had some repair jobs involving foundry work, machining and drilling, carried out by the company I was with in Rangoon. For about a week the job was in our workshops and night and day, one of the Japanese engineers was present. Surprised and not a little suspicious of the Japanese, I remembered the stories my grandfather told me about

his working days in Clydebank before WW1. At that time, ships were built on the Clyde for the Japanese and even then, they sent observers to make notes on all our machine tools, foundry equipment, language and songs. Therefore, in the workshop in Rangoon, I allocated two Sikh foremen to keep an eye on the Japanese, night and day.'

Return to the UK

In 1933 Frank G Thomson returned to the UK on board the *Narkunda*, arriving at Tilbury, London on 2 February. He had left Rangoon a mere six stone and suffering from Typhoid. There was expectation that he would not survive the voyage. He had shared accommodation with a fellow Scot, Gavin Nelson Scott.

Gavin Nelson Scott had been in Burma since 1923, having departed from Liverpool on board the *Martaban*. He was an engineer and on return to the UK he was a foreman fitter with Aitchison Blair, Clydebank. He had served with the Royal Field Artillery as a Bombardier before being wounded in July 1915. He was best man at Frank's wedding in 1934 before his death in 1936. Gavin had an old war injury with a bullet impacted in his right lung, which caused his death when he developed Pneumonia. He is buried with the Scotts of Auchentorlie, Bowling.

Journey to India

In 1945 Frank left his family in Vereeniging, Transvaal, South Africa to travel to Durban. He then travelled by flying boat up the East coast, taking eight days to reach India and eventually Asansol, Bengal. His wife Irene left the UK at the end of December 1946 to join him. On board the *Stirling Castle*, nearing Port Said she reported that the voyage had been very rough. Despite living in a bungalow and tending chickens and turkeys, her stay was short as the climate was too oppressive. Frank continued to work at the Burnpur plant of the Indian Iron and Steel Corporation until the unrest over independence saw his return to the UK, arriving at Tilbury in October 1948.

Finally, in 1960, Frank Thomson disembarked at Plymouth, having travelled back from Bengal where he was the inspecting engineer for the International Construction Company, working at the completion of the Durgapur Steel Plant.

Frank Greer Thomson followed his uncles to Rangoon and Burma.

James Thomson

James Thomson travelled to Rangoon, Burma from Liverpool in 1892 on the *Pegu*. He was an engineer with Burmah Oil.

In 1894, when he was twenty-eight, he married Ellen Pyne in Burma. She was thirty-three, and her family, the Pynes and Pascals had been in India from1800 at Moulmein, Bengal. The two families combined in 1851 when Lydia Pascal married George Edwin Pyne at Moulmein.

James and Ellen had three children who were born in Rangoon.

- Margaret Ellen Thomson was born in 1896. She married Arthur Charles Batchelor in 1915 in Rangoon.
- George Edwin Thomson was born in 1897 and educated at Hermitage

School, Helensburgh and Allan Glen's School, Glasgow. He was commissioned into the King's Own Scottish Borderers before transferring to the Royal Flying Corps. During service in France, he brought down 21 German machines and was awarded the Military Cross and the Distinguished Service Order. He was a Captain in the RAF and while flying a plane to the West Midlands, he landed to refuel with petrol at Wolvercote, near Oxford. On taking off again, his machine was observed to crash to the ground, and he was killed instantly.

- Lydia Isa Thomson was born in 1901. She married in Scotland in 1924 and raised a family in Glasgow.

All the family except James were in the Scottish 1911 Census living at Rhu, Dunbartonshire.

Ellen and the two girls left Liverpool on 20 December 1912 on board the *Tenasserim*. They were described as residents of Burma on the passenger list.

James left Liverpool for Rangoon in March 1920 on the *Martaban*, aged fifty-two.

George Thomson

George Thomson served his apprenticeship with Wm. Denny of Dumbarton. He embarked on the *Mandalay* at Liverpool destined for Rangoon in 1901 to serve with Denny's subsidiary, the Irrawaddy Flotilla Company. He was in Dumbarton on 14 March,1906 for his marriage to Jane (Jeannie) Muir McPhail before he sailed from Liverpool for Rangoon on the *Amarpura* on 26 July. Having returned from Burma, he left the UK from Birkenhead in October 1911 on board the *Bhamo* to return to Burma. Again, he sailed on the *Bhamo* from Liverpool in September 1915 as an engineer, now aged 44. He did not appear to travel with his family until his wife Jeannie and daughter, Margaret Alexander Thomson aged 9, departed from Liverpool in November 1921. In 1923 Jeannie left home in Rangoon and died aboard the *Amarpura* off Colombo (on the west side of Sri Lanka). George was living in Scotland in 1924 and died in 1945 in Dumbarton.

David Thomson

George Thomson, a marine engineer, based in Dundee, uncle of the above, had a son David Thomson born in 1860. He was a Marine Engineer when he married Jessie Dick in 1888. Indian Deaths and Burials record his death, aged 38, at Calcutta, Bengal, India on 14 November 1898, with his burial the following day. He is remembered with his father in Dundee Western Cemetery.

Leslie Thomson, 4228

Scottish Indexes Conference

The next Scottish Indexes Conference is on Saturday 23 November 2024. More details, and to register, go to https://www.scottishindexes.com/conference.aspx

Discovering Family Associations with Dr. William Barclay

When I entered the University of Glasgow in 1960 as a graduate student in the Faculty of Divinity, the best known and most extensively published faculty member was Dr. William Barclay, Lecturer in New Testament Language and Literature. His New Testament Commentaries, designed primarily for laypeople, sold millions of copies and are still widely read today. He identified with common people and strove to present Christian theology in understandable terms to laypeople. His weekly radio and subsequent television programs attracted large audiences and gave him a celebrity status rarely attained by university academics.

A gregarious, warm-hearted Scotsman with an easygoing sense of humour, Barclay maintained his thick Glasgow brogue and his sense of humour rather than adopting a more refined and sophisticated academic accent. Trinity College students referred to him as 'Willie Barclay' as did his friends and readers. Though plagued with acute hearing loss, Barclay loved music and directed the Trinity College men's chorus and incorporated their music live into his radio and television programmes.

Although Barclay was born in 1907 in Wick, near John o' Groats, he spent his formative and adult years in Lanarkshire. Barclay was five years old when the family moved to Motherwell where his father served as a bank manager. He went from the local Dalziel High School to the University of Glasgow where he graduated with a degree in classical languages and later became an ordained minister and served in a parish church before joining the Trinity College faculty.

As a first generation American, I was interested in learning about my Lanarkshire ancestral roots. My parents, John and Azile Townson Brackenridge, immigrated to the United States in 1925. Much to my surprise, during family history research and conversations with Scottish relatives, I discovered Barclay family associations with my maternal Townson relatives that occurred during Barclay's youth in Motherwell.

Julia Townson and brother George Townson 1915

My Aunt Julia Townson (1889-1977) had the closest ties with the Barclay family. During the First World War, she served as the Barclay family's postwoman at their home on Airbles Road. She found the experience to be very stressful, especially when she delivered letters from the government informing families of soldiers killed, wounded, or missing in action. On numerous occasions I volunteered to bring Julia to Trinity College for a conversation with Barclay.

Although Barclay was willing to meet Julia, she declined the invitations, deeming herself unworthy to encroach on the time of such a prominent person.

Azile Townson, 3rd row middle with black bow. Dalziel School c.1912

I found two other Barclay-Townson connections. My mother, Azile Brackenridge Townson (1898-1972), graduated from Dalziel Elementary School in 1908 when Barclay was a younger elementary student. There is no indication that the two ever met, but they shared the benefits of a quality education provided by the Dalziel School.

Certificate of Merit.

(Article 29 of the Scotch Code.)

THE LORDS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL ON EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND have been pleased to sanction the award of this Certificate of Merit, in terms of Article 29 of the Scotch Code, by the Managers of High Public School Dalziel to Azile Townson a pupil over fourteen years of age in that School.

It is certified (a) that the holder was shown to the satisfaction of His Majesty's Inspector to have been of good proficiency in the ordinary subjects of an elementary education before enrolment in a Supplementary Course, (b) that she has been under instruction in a Supplementary Course for not less than one complete school year, (c) that her general progress in the work of the Course was Very Good.

The holder's character and conduct are divided to us by the Headmaster, and the marks which, in the opinion of the Headmaster and Class Teacher, represent her attainments in the various subjects of instruction are shown on the back of this Certificate.

J. Strathes
Secretary.

Azile Townson Dalziel graduation certificate 1912

Azile earned a Certificate of Merit for 'proficiency in the ordinary elements of elementary education' and for an extra year of supplementary courses that included English, Arithmetic, The Institutions of Government, The Empire and its Growth, and Science. Common in working class families, however, university education was not an option.

After graduation, Azile was employed in a local silk factory and later as a clerk in the local grocery cooperative. My Uncle Hylton Townson and Barclay had a common interest. Both were avid Motherwell Football supporters who remained faithful to the team despite many losing seasons.

I first met Barclay in the foyer of Trinity College in 1960 during my first semester as a graduate student. After introducing myself, I told him about our Motherwell connections, and he expressed great interest in the story. '*Well, Douglas*,' he said, '*I guess that makes you a Lanarkshire Laddie. Lanarkshire will be home to you then*.' He encouraged me to contact him if I needed any assistance and offered to alert me to any preaching opportunities that he could pass my way. Subsequently he asked me to preach at his home church and recommended me for pulpit supplies when he received requests that he could not personally fill.

Trinity College faculty c.1960
Barclay first row far left

My most memorable Barclay preaching assignment was at Christmas in 1961 in the town of Dunoon located on the

shores of the Holy Loch in Argyllshire. Barclay had recommended me as pulpit supply because the townspeople were anticipating the installation of a refueling station for American nuclear submarines at the nearby Holy Loch. Residents had ambivalent feelings regarding the proximity of nuclear materials and the influx of American servicemen into their small community. Barclay did not ask me to defend or oppose the nuclear presence, but to bring a Christmas message of hope to a troubled populace. He also arranged for me to bring my family and to enjoy a holiday weekend in Dunoon.

We stayed in a small hotel that was owned and operated by an elder who was a member of the church in which I was to preach. Our warm and comfortable surroundings were complimented with excellent cuisine including delicious fish and chips and roast beef with all the trimmings. On Christmas Eve my wife and I went carolling with a group of church members and visited nursing homes and hospitals before returning to the town centre for a brief prayer service on the steps of city hall. Altogether, the visit was a moving experience that is forever seared in our memories.

Family in Dunoon, 1961

During the spring of 1962, we made a return visit to Dunoon. By that time, the American nuclear submarine *USS Proteus* was based at the Holy Loch refueling station. Although periodic protests by anti-war groups captured national and international headlines, the citizens of Dunoon had become accustomed to the presence of Americans in their midst. Apart from the obvious economic benefits, they found American sailors to be generally good citizens and respectful of their way of life.

Author on pulpit supply date c.1960

Contacts with Barclay continued following my graduation from the University of Glasgow in 1962 with a Ph.D. in Ecclesiastical History. With a fellow Glasgow University graduate, Dr. Ralph Graham, we conducted several tours of England, Ireland, and Scotland. In Scotland, we invited Barclay to engage in conversations with tour members and autograph books. Participants remembered Barclay's visits as exceptional experiences with an engaging personality.

Barclay died on 24 January 1978, at the age of 70. While his legacy lives on, he is no longer a celebrity. His photograph in the University of Glasgow archives, identifies him thusly: '*Elderly man wearing spectacles, a suit, and a hearing aid*.' Fame can be fleeting.

R Douglas Brackenridge, 3095

A Tale of Two Rivers

James McClure (1912-1981), my grandfather, was born in Clydebank, where his father, James Thomson McClure (1881-1939) was employed as a carpenter and joiner at John Browns Shipyard. James Snr. had learnt his craft in Glasgow and at the Belfast shipyard of Harland and Wolff. In 1909, he married Isabella Black McKerrow (1888-1917), Clerk to the Clyde Navigation Trust in Govan. The couple settled in Clydebank where their daughter, Helen Pettigrew (Ella) (1910-1944) and son, James (1912-1981) were born. Isabella died in 1917, an early victim of Spanish flu. James Snr. responded to this tragedy by making a fresh start. He married his housekeeper, Janet (Jenny) Hay (-1974) of Harecraigs. They all moved to Wallsend when James Snr. took up a post in Swann Hunter and where their son, Andrew Hay was born (1922-1951). James Jr. completed his schooling in Wallsend and followed his father into the joinery trade. He started his apprenticeship in Newcastle but in 1928, his father was offered the post of head foreman joiner on a passenger liner 534 which John Browns were to build for Cunard in the Clydebank yard. The family moved to Clydebank. James Jr. was apprenticed to McCalls and went on to be a journeyman with the firm. The Stock Market Crash in 1929 delayed return to the Cunard contract which eventually proceeded with Government support as RMS Queen Mary, launched in 1935. John Browns had faith in the contract and retained staff, including James McClure Snr., to carry out research and public relations, to seek funding and to maintain links with education.

When McCalls ran out of work for James Jnr., his father was in a position to put him in contact with possible sources of employment and this led to his appointment as a joinery instructor at the Royal Technical College, Glasgow 1933-38, and at Stowe College of Building and Allied Trades (1937-38). One of the joinery appointments at the Royal Tech involved constructing the mock-up of an auto gyro being developed in Glasgow for De Cierva under license by Weir Pumps. His college appointments provided the opportunity to join the Glasgow University Officers Training Corps and this led to a commission in 1936 as Second Lieutenant in the 52nd Lowland Division. He worked hard and in 1938 he joined the Ministry of Public Building and Works in London and transferred his military career to London TA where he was attached to 1st London Division RASC (TA) Supply Column 515, Oil Workshops Motorcycle School and 513 Ammunition Column.

He was promoted to Lieutenant in May 1939 and acting Captain on the outbreak of War 1939. His father died the same day. After a brief period of compassionate leave, he joined his unit in London and by December 1939 he was in France and Belgium as the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) Nr 3 GHQ Artillery Company. This was the period known as the phoney war with both armies remaining behind strong defensive positions during the winter of 1939-40. In the spring, the Germans invaded Holland and Belgium. The BEF moved into Belgium to meet this attack. As an officer in the Royal Army Service Corps, James was providing the logistics, transport, and services. The Germans, using the combination of aircraft and

tanks, known as Blitzkrieg, trapped the British Army in the area around Dunkirk. In a dramatic evacuation, ships were found to take most of the army back to England. Captain McClure was involved in the disablement of the vehicles and finally made his escape by swimming a mile from the beach out to a rescue ship. For someone who held two Royal Society Lifesaving Awards for rescuing two people from the River Clyde on separate occasions, this was not a problem.

On his return from Dunkirk, he had various postings in the south of England to provide RASC support to the troops preparing to repel the expected invasion. By the end of 1940, this threat had receded, and Captain McClure was sent on a company commanders' course which he completed successfully. In the Spring of 1941, Acting Major James McClure took charge of Number 13 Coach Company, RASC Wadhurst. On 13 March, a German Air Raid destroyed much of Clydebank. Amongst the houses destroyed was the McClure's old home in Braemar Terrace, the birthplace of Jim and Ella, although by now their home was in Clifford Street in Ibrox. Rumours of an overseas posting began to circulate in the Officers' Mess. One possibility was the Eastern Front in support of Britain's new ally, Russia. Another was the Middle East where the British and Empire troops were fighting to protect the Suez Canal from the Axis Forces commanded by General Rommel. A friend on the Staff made some enquiries and reported that the news was very good *"Pack your golf clubs Jim, you are going to a sunny peace time station – Singapore"*.

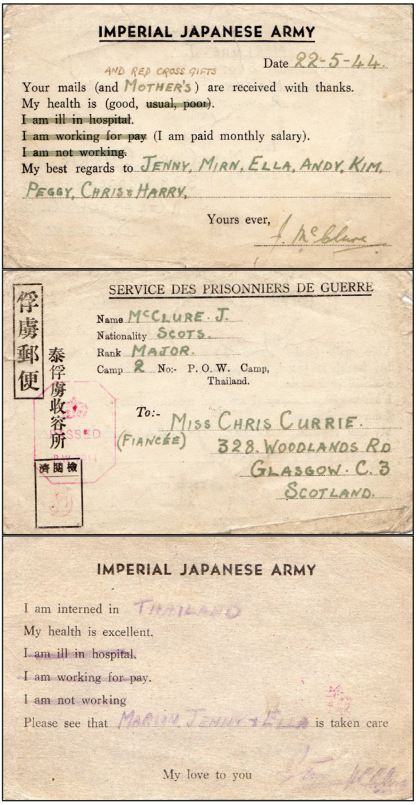
On the 2 June 1941 Major McClure received the orders to proceed to Liverpool to embark for Singapore, arriving 29 September 1941. There he reverted to his substantive rank of Captain and was sent to Kuala Lumpur as Officer Commanding MT Driving School and Second in Command RASC Line of Communications, Malaya. Before travelling north, he spent a few days in Singapore, a city as yet untouched by war. He found many Scots involved in the commercial and administrative life of the colony. Most of the expatriate Scots Civilians served in the Malay Volunteers – the equivalent of the Territorials – and in civilian life were the estate managers and businessmen who ran the colony. Far from the battlefield, social life continued as usual and military thinking was influenced by overconfidence in the defences of Singapore. These were designed to resist an attack from the sea as the landward side was protected by impenetrable tropical rainforest. As Intelligence Reports showed the threat from Japan developing in 1941, Malay Command prepared alternative defence plans to counter an attack through the Rainforest down the length of the Malay Peninsula. Land, sea, and air forces were strengthened. Empire troops, mainly Indian and Australian, were deployed without training or equipment to match the Japanese. The land forces had no tanks, whilst only the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders were trained in jungle warfare. The RAF began to replace their Buffalo fighters with Hurricanes, but Spitfires which could have gained control of the air were reserved for Home defence and the Middle East. Two battleships which were sent to Singapore without aircover were sunk. To fight a mobile war involved the RASC requisition of four hundred trucks. Drivers had to

be recruited and trained. Before it was completed, the Japanese attacked on 7 December 1941, landing in the North of, Malaya. On 27 December 1941, Jim McClure was promoted to Major and given command of 47th Reserve Chinese, M.T. Company RASC at Trolak on the Slim River, where an attempt was being made to stop the Japanese advance.

The British had been reluctant to accept Chinese into the MVF before the war and some Malayan Chinese joined the Chinese Nationalists and served on the Burma Road. When the Japanese attacked Malaya in December 1941, and the British and Chinese became allies, the Kuomintang transferred their Malayan Units to the British Army. These experienced drivers were formed into Chinese MT units in the RASC under the command of British Officers. Annoyed that their own officers were not given command and that the British were recruiting convicted criminals to serve in their units they were in a state of mutiny when Jim took charge. He restored discipline with the help of Australian troops and his unit made a valuable contribution to the withdrawal to Singapore, where it was disbanded. This allowed the Chinese to escape certain death at the hands of the Japanese. British Forces carried out a fighting withdrawal down the peninsula crossing the causeway into Singapore prepared to make a last stand. However, when the Japanese gained control of the water supply, General Percival with the reluctant agreement of the British Government, surrendered on 15 February 1942. The Fall of Singapore was Britain's worst military defeat. 130,000 British and Empire Troops were taken prisoner. Major McClure was held at Changi Prison on Singapore Island.

In the autumn of 1942, the Japanese began work on a railway to supply their Army in Burma from their depot in Thailand using slave labour provided by the local south east Asia and the POWs. Most nations involved in World War II had signed the Geneva Convention, in 1929, which set out Rules for the conduct of war. The convention accepted that in certain limits, prisoners could be used as labour but not their officers. The Japanese, who had not signed the Convention, expected officers to prefer death to capture. They despised the British who surrendered especially the officers who had deprived those under their command of an honourable death in battle. They expected such officers to work alongside their men. Most British Officers were unaccustomed to physical labour and this, combined with the lack of medical supplies and the brutal treatment they received from the Japanese meant that few survived. As a skilled tradesman used to working at heights, Jim was better equipped than most officers, but he described the next three years as purgatory. He was involved in the full length of the railway and was, for a few months, senior British Officer in Camp 245 K. He rarely spoke of his time as POW and when he did it was with a touch of grim humour. One incident he recalled was when he was working with a Japanese Guard who asked him if he was a joiner to trade - *"You hold tools like tradesman"*. Jim replied that he was a Civil Servant, which was an accurate description of his employment at the outbreak of war. *"Ah so, back home in London you sweep streets"*. His curiosity

satisfied, the guard moved on and Jim did his best to hold the tools as awkwardly as he could.



IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY

Date 22-5-44.

Your mails (and AND RED CROSS GIFTS MOTHER'S) are received with thanks.
My health is (good, ~~usual, poor~~).
~~I am ill in hospital.~~
~~I am working for pay~~ (I am paid monthly salary).
~~I am not working.~~
My best regards to JENNY, MIRN, ELLA, ANDY, KIM, PEGGY, CHRIS & HARRY.

Yours ever,
J. McClure

俘虜郵便

泰俘虜收容所

SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

Name McCLURE. J.
Nationality SCOTS.
Rank MAJOR.
Camp 2 Noc. P. O. W. Camp, Thailand.

To:- MISS CHRIS CURRIE.
(FIANCÉE) 328. WOODLANDS RD
GLASGOW. C.3
SCOTLAND.

済 検閲

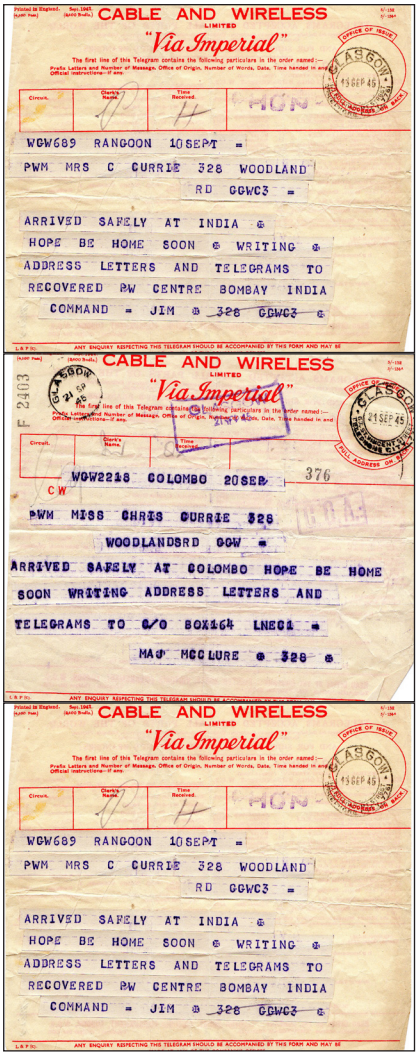
IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY

I am interned in THAILAND
My health is excellent.
~~I am ill in hospital.~~
~~I am working for pay.~~
I am not working
Please see that MARIN, JENNY & ELLA is taken care

My love to you

The 'postcards' received from James during the time of his imprisonment

Jim reached Ban Pong in early November 1942 from where he moved to Tamarkan where he was involved in the construction of two bridges over the River Mae Khlong. He would say that this was the second most significant river in his life. The bridges were completed in April 1943 and subsequently destroyed by RAF bombing in 1945, by which time, Japan was facing defeat in all theatres of war. More than 16,000 POWs and 100,000 Asian labourers died in the construction and maintenance of the line.



CABLE AND WIRELESS LIMITED
"Via Imperial"

WCW689 RANGOON 10SEPT =
PWM MRS C CURRIE 328 WOODLAND
RD GGWC3 =
ARRIVED SAFELY AT INDIA &
HOPE BE HOME SOON & WRITING &
ADDRESS LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS TO
RECOVERED PW CENTRE BOMBAY INDIA
COMMAND = JIM & 328 GGWC3 &

CABLE AND WIRELESS LIMITED
"Via Imperial"

WCW2218 COLOMBO 20SEP
PWM MISS CHRIS CURRIE 328
WOODLANDSRD GGW =
ARRIVED SAFELY AT COLOMBO HOPE BE HOME
SOON WRITING ADDRESS LETTERS AND
TELEGRAMS TO C/O BOX164 LNEC1 =
MAJ MCCLURE & 328 &

CABLE AND WIRELESS LIMITED
"Via Imperial"

WCW689 RANGOON 10SEPT =
PWM MRS C CURRIE 328 WOODLAND
RD GGWC3 =
ARRIVED SAFELY AT INDIA &
HOPE BE HOME SOON & WRITING &
ADDRESS LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS TO
RECOVERED PW CENTRE BOMBAY INDIA
COMMAND = JIM & 328 GGWC3 &

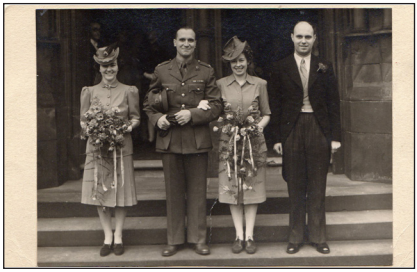
The cables tracking James' return to the UK

When the Japanese surrendered in August 1945, Jim was in Kanchanaburi Officers Camp. He was in reasonable health and gaining weight as he began the journey home although he was to suffer recurrences of Amoebic Dysentery and Malaria for many years afterwards. The ex-prisoners were flown by Douglas Dakota to Rangoon where, on the 15 September, Jim embarked on *SS Corfu*

which reached Southampton on 7 October 1945.

Before leaving for Malaya, he had become engaged to Christina (Chris) Currie, a Glasgow girl whom he had met in 1936. Their only contact in three years had been the exchange of two official postcards. Chris knew that her fiancé was alive and a prisoner of war in 1942 but, from then until the Japanese Surrender in 1945, she had no further information. The POWs had little news of the world outside the camps nor news of their families. At great personal risk, clandestine radio contact was established sufficient to give them hope that the Japanese were facing defeat. It is worth noting that in his debriefing form Jim drew attention to this courage. When the POWs were released, they found that the Japanese had kept letters and parcels sent by relatives, letters friends, and the Red Cross, in store. Jim now received some fifty letters addressed to him including from his sister, Ella, who had died in 1944. He did not learn of her death until he reached Glasgow. His bride to be and her cousin, Margo Mathers, were at the station to meet him and were surprised to find him accompanied by his batman Mak Ming Foon of the 47th Perak Chinese who had volunteered to continue in the service of his commanding officer as a means of getting to Britain and its post war opportunities. After Jim's release from military service, he found work through contacts in the Midlands.

The wedding was arranged to take place on 2 November in Glasgow, where Chris owned a flat inherited from her mother. In February 1946, Jim resumed employment with the Ministry of Works. He had been based in London in 1939 and his initial post war appointment was to Leeds but the advantages of returning to Glasgow were clear. His request was given sympathetic consideration and he was told that a posting to a town near Glasgow had been arranged. He was astonished to find that this was Aberdeen! To the London based bureaucrats, it was near enough! From 1946-1961 Jim McClure lived in Aberdeen working for the Ministry of Works (later the Ministry of Public Building and Works, MPBW).



James and Chris's wedding on 2 November 1945

His work involved travelling in the Highlands and Islands including Orkney and Shetland. He found that the landscape and people of the north was helpful in the aftermath of his wartime experiences. His daughter, Marion (b1947) and son, Gordon (b1948) were born and grew up in the city.

In 1957 the film entitled *Bridge Over the River Kwai* was released. Starring William Holden, Alec Guinness, Jack Hawkins, James Donald, Sessue Hayakwa and directed by David Lean, it was widely regarded as one of the best British war films, winner of seven Oscars, including best actor, Alec Guinness and 4 Brit Awards. The film, which was clearly based on the building of the Burma Siam railway by POWs of the Japanese, focused on a bridge and conflicts of duty

and honour in the brutal context of war and is recognizable, but only just. The concern of the American filmmakers was to develop the story to include the usual box office ingredients such as sex, attractive looking people, lovely scenery and an ending that would leave the audience with a lovely warm glow. Jim and the other ex POWs found little merit in the film which ignored the reality they had experienced. Whilst Jim took his family to see it, he made it clear that it bore no relation to the reality. Nevertheless, it was important in raising the profile of the second river in his life.

Jim continued to serve with the T.A. and in 1949 he was confirmed with the rank of Substantive Major to form and command 549 (525) company 51st Highland Infantry Division Column RASC (TA). Major James McClure retired from TA service in 1959. In the Queen's Birthday Honours, June 1960, he was awarded the MBE (Military Division) for service in the TA.

In 1961, he was posted to the War Department, Colchester, Essex. From 1964 to 1969 he was posted to West Germany giving him an opportunity to work in first Krefeld then Dortmund where the Ministry of Public Building and Works were responsible for the buildings required by the British Army on the Rhine (BAOR).

Jim and Chris returned to the home which they had retained in Colchester whilst he worked first out of London then at Martlesham Heath, the Government Communication Centre, from where he retired in 1974. He died in 1981, a proud grandfather.

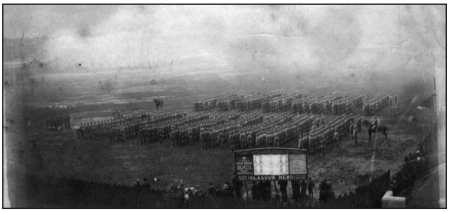
Christina Jane Thorne, 10633

Volunteer event

Editor: Back in June there was a social evening held at the Research Centre as a thank you to our volunteers, and here are a few images of that event.

Mackin boys fighting for their country

My grandfather, Stephen James Mackin was born in Maryhill, Glasgow in 1880. When WW1 broke out, Steve enlisted in the HLI in September 1914 and was sent to a local training camp .



Partick Cricket Ground Glasgow 1914

He showed leadership qualities and was commissioned into the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (A&SH) as a 2nd Lieutenant.

In September 1916 he joined the 6th Battalion of the A&SH in France, in the Festubert area. By March 1917 he had been promoted to Lieutenant and the division moved to the Ypres area. The third battle of Ypres had begun on 31st July and the whole area was now a wilderness of mud and waterlogged shell holes. Steve had become the 5th Division Water Officer the day before, responsible for ensuring water reached all areas of the field. Conditions were dire.

Steve wrote a letter to Ethel Wilson, his fiancée.

I returned to the dugout at midnight weary frozen and wet.

And the thought of the Huns and the sound of the guns;

vainly I tried to forget.

As I sat in the glim of the candle, thinking and musing, alone;

The shadows around, sadly danced up and down and life seemed as cold as a stone.

But my thoughts slowly changed in their outlook: Hopeful, happy and bright and my physical pain was forgotten again;

Gloomy thoughts were transferred to the night.

The light seemed to fill the whole dugout: Larger and brighter, intense;

and a feeling there stole into body and soul; that excited my every sense.

Then memory painted a picture: Delightful, enchanting, divine

For there in the flame, I saw once again; the girl whom I knew to be mine.

You stood there serene in your beauty: Charming stately and slim,

and the look of surprise, in your merry wee eyes; made my own glow suddenly dim

'Twas the dimming of sweet recollection loving strong and sincere,

For I thought with a sigh of sweet days now gone bye;

Can you wonder my eyes were not clear?

But Memory continued its painting in a beautiful rosy tone

and I gazed on your charms your sweet form in my arms

and your dear lips pressed close to my own.

One again I stood in the Homeland, again by your side once more,

and I thought, why be sad? Look with eyes gay and glad to that happiness still yet in store.

Thus I sat calm and still and contented alone in my world of dreams;

But the vision so strong sweetly beckoned me on, and I moved to obey so it seems.

I closed my eyes for a moment my arms outstretched with delight:

Then I looked once again, but my efforts were in vain:

You'd vanished out into the night.

So I sat in my dugout at midnight weary, half frozen and wet,

but my vision so sweet made life seem complete:

And I won't, in fact cannot forget.

And now, wee darling I must leave you. The hour is very late and I must snatch an hour or twos rest. Give mother my love and wee kiss. Did she get my letter, by the way?

At the end of 1917 the Division moved to Italy. The situation in France was bleak and in April 1918 the Battalion returned to France where Steve became the 5th Divisions Burial Officer before the Second Battle of Bapaume which was the last major campaign of the First World War. The 5th Division suffered over 4,200 casualties.

Queens Cemetery Bucquoy Pas de Calais France.

This cemetery was begun in March 1917, when 23 men of the 2nd Queen's were buried in what is now Plot II, Row A. Thirteen graves of April-August 1918 were added (Plot II, Row B) in September 1918 by the 5th Division Burial Officer. The remainder of the cemetery was made after the Armistice.

The duties of a Divisional Burial Officer. May 1917 is detailed as follows.

- To supervise and co-ordinate the work of Regimental Burial Officers.
- To assist O. in C. Burial Parties when necessary by:-

a. Arranging for additional working parties for burial of dead and marking of graves.

b. Relieving them of the Personal Effects of deceased soldiers, and arranging for their despatch to the Base.

c. Obtaining for them all information forms and materials required in connection with burials and marking of graves.

- To co-operate with the Corps Burial Officers and the Graves Registration Unit operating in the Area.

Orders had been given that we were to take from their pockets pay books and personal effects, such as money, watches, rings, photos, letters and so on, one identification disk had also to be removed, the other being left on the body. Boots were supposed to be removed, if possible, as salvage was the order of the day. A small white bag was provided for each man's effects, the neck of which was to be securely tied and his identity disc attached thereto. It was a gruesome job!

Steve enjoyed writing and had a few pieces published in the Co-op Magazine where he was the manager of the Co-op china department.

He wrote poetry to Ethel. This one written from the Trenches in France on 30 January 1917

Little Girl

Let me see you smile, Little Girl!
Let me hear your gentle voice
Our parting is just for a while, Little Girl!
Very soon we shall rejoice.

The days may be sad and dull, Little Girl!
The nights may be long and drear
But a heart beats strong and full, Little Girl!
Beats alone for you, out Here.

Midst the voom of guns, if you knew, Little Girl!
And carnage of shot and shell,
There's a soul ever calling to you, Little Girl!
You, whom I love so well.

Look to the bright happy day, Little Girl!
When war and its hours depart,
I shall kiss all your troubles away, LittleGirl!
So smile, once again, Sweetheart.

The couple had planned to marry and Ethel had a gold ring engraved for Steve *'EW to SJM 13/5/1916'*. Everyone had believed the war would be over soon. Although it wasn't, they waited until near the end when Steve gave Ethel her engagement ring inscribed *'SJM to EW 23/7/1918'*. They were married on Christmas Day 1918 at Dowanhill Church manse, Partick, Glasgow, while Steve was home on leave from France. The witnesses were her mother and the

minister's wife. Steve then returned to France and was eventually demobbed in April 1919. They made their home in Prestwick and Steve is buried in Prestwick Cemetery.

Stephen Mackin 1904-1942

Stephen Mackin, my grandfather's nephew, was born on 20 March 1904 in Hunslet Leeds. He became a Gunner in the Royal Artillery serving in the Far East in WW2. The troops surrendered at Java and became prisoners of war. On 16 November 1942 he died at sea on board *Singapore Maru*, hellship on route to Japan.

On 30 January 1942 a convoy of small ships left Singapore carrying six HAA Regiment (less 3 Battery) and 78 Battery of 35 LAA Regiment RA reinforced by two troops of 89 Battery. They arrived at Palembang in Southern Sumatra on 2 February 1942.

By 9 March 1942, the Dutch had laid down their arms. It was clear to General Sitwell that there was no possibility of any long term guerrilla-type resistance and by noon on 9 March 1942 all British personnel had laid down their arms and capitulated.

Gradually over the next few weeks the POWs were concentrated in large camps, mainly in the Batavia area, where from about October 1942 regular drafts of 'slave labour' were sent either to Japan to work in the coal mines or to Thailand, via Singapore, to work on the infamous 'Burma' Railway.

The ship *Singapore Maru* left Singapore for Takao Moji, Japan on 10 October 1942 with 1100 prisoners, arriving on 25 November. 108 died on the journey, including Stephen, or as a direct result from the deplorable conditions the prisoners endured.

Stephen Mackin

Country: United Kingdom

Java Number: 2634

Date Died: 1942/11/16

Time Died: 23:00

Illness: Diarrhoea and exhaustion

Age: 38

Place Died: east of Ma-Kung Port

Burial: Lat 23.34N Long 119.46E

Date of Burial: 1942/11/18

Time of Burial: 18:30

There was a typhoon so they could not bury the bodies until later that day, so they were left on deck until they could be sent overboard. There were seven buried that evening.

His name is commemorated on the Singapore Memorial.

Heather Bain, 3122

A child's memories of war

This is an excerpt from my aunt Flora's journal. She wrote the journal as a legacy for her grandsons. My grandfather, Harry, was married to Sarah. Sarah and Harry had six children. Sadly, Sarah died in childbirth with their sixth child, son Joseph. Baby Joe died three months later from pneumonia. Harry and Sarah's children were: Hugh, Peggy, Agnes, May and Jean.

Harry later married my grandmother, Dora. Dora and Harry had 15 living children. All lived to adulthood. Flora was the eldest daughter of Harry and Dora. She was doted on by her elder siblings. Flora was eight when war broke out. In addition to the five children of Harry and Sarah, she had several other siblings by the time war was declared: elder brother Henry, and younger siblings Tommy, Dot (my mum), Dod and baby Betty. During the war, three other siblings joined the ever expanding family: Billy, Linda and then Hamish. Here is the excerpt from her journal that recalls what it was like to live during the war as a young child.

The war was declared on Sept 3, 1939, and nine days later, we had another brother, Billy. On the Sunday that war was declared, we had my mother's relatives from Carlisle staying with us. I remember listening to the King - or maybe Prime Minister - or maybe both. All I know is that it was scary. Then we went outside and watched the barrage of balloons being raised over Edinburgh airport and Forth Bridges.

It would be within the following week that we'd see the German planes and have to run indoors at school. Or the sirens would go off and we'd have to don our gas masks and get to the shelter. There was a German plane shot down close to our school so Agnes and May took me by the hand to walk out to see the place where it had landed. But by then the plane was gone.

Eccles Tofts Dairy Barns ©Christine Woodcock

Eccles Tofts provided us with some very good experiences although we may not have understood that then. The farm lay amidst an airfield (Charterhall) built soon after we arrived at Eccles Tofts. Land was appropriated by the air ministry and a large war time air base was constructed. A Polish camp at Purves Hall and a German prison camp at Greenlaw. Also in Greenlaw was an Italian prison camp. Some of the Germans and Italians worked as farm labourers. The Italians, who by now had capitulated, were allowed out and around a bit more freely. They had brown battle suits with round yellow patches on sleeves and back of jackets. German lads had a dark green uniform. We had two favourites, Hans and Luigi who were able to communicate in English. In time, many of the others did too. We spent a bit of time at the Polish camp

and would come home with lots of treats - apples, from the Purves Hall orchards. Tins of bully beef - this was after a meal. How we loved the chips and brown sauce that the cook would give to us.

Charterhall Airfield: permission to publish given by Historic Environment Scotland

The air base, of course, had lots of personnel WAAFs, Airmen: many of the airmen were Czechs and Poles. We knew them by their uniforms. There were also Australians and New Zealanders, who would bring in the big Wellington Bombers and also bring lots of chocolate and fruit cake. There were Yanks and Canadians who also brought planes in. We had Lancasters and Spitfires that we, as kids, were very familiar with. We got so astute at recognizing the sounds of planes. We knew the Germans were overhead when we'd count the Spitfires going after them. Or we'd count the bomber going out. We could tell a Lancaster from a Wellington and we'd count them on their return in. We could tell our teachers every morning how many pilots and crew were missing.

The air ministry insisted we all sleep in Morrison shelter beds. These were steel boxes, really, with a front that could be closed once we were inside. Linda, our then baby, slept in a Moses basket as it was called. She would be placed inside and air would be pumped in. I used to be afraid she'd die from lack of air. I was in my forties before I stopped having the odd dream that Linda was a baby and we were burying her in one of those baskets.

The airbase was a great source of entertainment for us and our family. Our mother, father and older sisters were allowed on the base for dances. And we all enjoyed the ENSA concerts. We had a pilot who visited frequently, Jimmy Hamil from Milngavie near Glasgow. His wife, Jessie, would stay with us during school holidays. She was a teacher in Glasgow. Jimmy was a great guest. He would bring the older girls stockings that the Yankee pilots brought over. And he always had American gum and chocolate for us. The first time we tasted peanut butter was when the Canadians brought it over. They also had salted peanuts and red licorice.

We also, of course, helped on the farm. Women and children provided much of the workforce on a farm during the war. We'd plant potatoes, hoe turnips and pick potatoes. During the year, the school would adjust the year so that children would be available to assist with planting and harvesting. Although hard, cold work, I look back on those days as a good time. The adults liked having us in the fields. They would finish their patch fast in order to help us. We felt protected and we just loved break time when we'd listen to them chat about the war and how it was going. We started work about 7:00 or 7:30 and got our first break at 9:00. Our dad or our cousin Henry, who was living with us, doing "essential farm work" so was able to avoid army service, would appear with hot porridge and cream, scones and hot

tea. It was a different breakfast than many of the other children, some of whom were evacuees from Glasgow. It seemed they were always hoping there would be some porridge or scones left over. However, the two Henrys and myself had hearty appetites so there was little left over. One of the German soldiers asked our mum for scones and she happily supplied them for him to take back to his camp.

Christine Woodcock, 10008

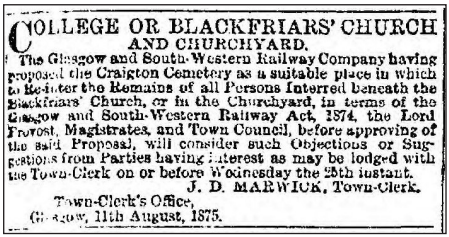
Blackfriars or College Burying Ground – a puzzle

While working on the inscriptions at the Glasgow Necropolis we noted a large memorial (EPS452) '*In memory of Professors of the University and their families whose bodies were interred in Blackfriars Churchyard and removed here in 1876*'. There are no names mentioned on the inscription.

Looking at the lair records, which were indistinct, the lair had been bought by the Railway Company, and transferred to the University in 1879, it is a large 22 square yard plot, where 6 or 4½ are common sizes; but no interments have been found in the burial registers. [image-EPS452]

By 1875 the City of Glasgow Union Railway and the Glasgow and South Western Railway companies had purchased the site of the old University and the College Church on High street, to develop their High Street Goods Yard. There are several Local Acts of Parliament relating to the development of the railway, in the 1874 act there is a commitment to relocate the burials in the College Burial Ground, but only after a replacement Church has been built. The Friends of Glasgow Necropolis had done a lot of work in the past to try and identify when, and who had been moved from the re-developed site at the old College, without success.

Trawling the newspapers Murray Archer found an announcement, from the Glasgow Herald, relating to the proposed re-location of the remains, and this gave a clue for us to follow up.



COLLEGE OR BLACKFRIARS' CHURCH AND CHURCHYARD.

The Glasgow and South-Western Railway Company having proposed the Craigton Cemetery as a suitable place in which to re-inter the Remains of all Persons Interred beneath the Blackfriars' Church, or in the Churchyard, in terms of the Glasgow and South-Western Railway Act, 1874, the Lord Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council, before approving of the said Proposal, will consider such Objections or Suggestions from Parties having interest as may be lodged with the Town-Clerk on or before Wednesday the 25th instant.

J. D. MARWICK, Town-Clerk.

Town-Clerk's Office,
Glasgow, 11th August, 1875.

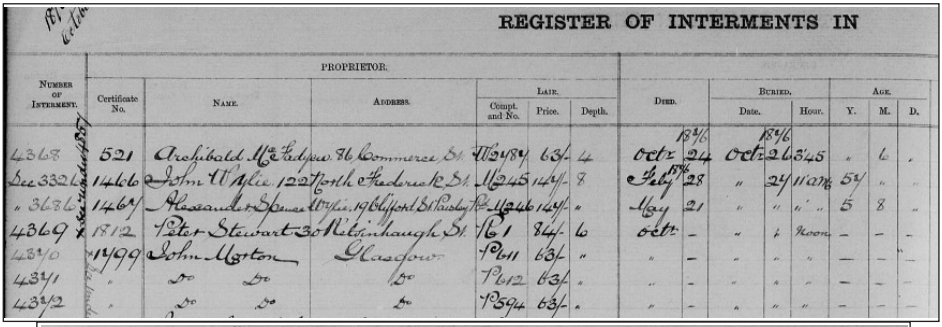
Glasgow Herald, 19 August 1875
https://www.findmypast.co.uk/image-share/44c1015b-641c-48bf-b0ac-2f5206de085c

The records of most of the Glasgow Cemeteries are available to consult on FamilySearch.org. With a free login, using Search/Catalog, by entering *Glasgow* into the Place field and picking the *United Kingdom, Scotland, Glasgow* from the drop down list, you find 52 online Cemetery records listed; the first half of the list is viewable from home, and the second, mainly duplicates, are locked

and only viewable at our affiliate library. A check of Craigton Cemetery interments from the date of the newspaper notice up to 1877 found dozens of entries for 're-interments from College'. [image-4,5] All of the re-interments mention a number. These numbers, where identified, tie up with the lair numbers on the walls collected by McUre in the book *Glasghu Facies* pp 328-337; these inscriptions were noted some time after 1868, the last date mentioned. Only lairs on walls seem to be mentioned, so one can assume that he noted no stones in other areas of the burying ground. Murray has reminded me of a drawing of the College which does appear to show some recumbent stones.

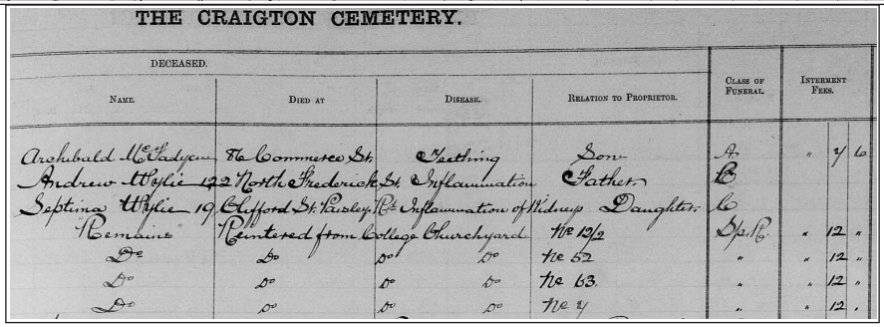
Each entry in the Craigton burial register lists the proprietor, certificate number, and lair number, normally along with the name of the deceased. In the example clip you can see that the fourth entry has a personal proprietor, and the next three are held by John Morton, who may be agent for the contractor, there are a number of entries which share the same certificate number, some mention family name, but mainly they only mention re-interment of remains. Looking at the register of certificates you see that certificate 1799 has an anonymous owner and is linked to a block of 30 lair numbers, perhaps a search for a cash book may confirm who bought the lairs – many certificates mention John Morton as proprietor – he was the secretary of the Railway company.

Matching the lair numbers mentioned in the entry, with the early McUre transcripts, confirms many of the family surnames. There are also many numbers with /2 suffix, which seem to be lairs two out from the wall, and McUre does not mention any stones in the body of the burying ground. One of the first to



REGISTER OF INTERMENTS IN

Number of Interment.	Proprietor: Certificate No.	Name.	Address.	Lair. Compt. and No.	Price.	Depth.	Died.	Buried. Date.	Hour.	Age. Y.	M.	D.
4368	521	Archibald McFadyen	86 Commerce St.	U 24/84	63/-	4	1846 Octr 24	1846 Octr 26	8/45	"	6	"
Dec 3326	1466	John Ulylie	122 North Frederick St.	U 245	14/-	8	1846 Febr 28	"	24/	11 a.m.	5	"
" 3636	1467	Alexander Spence	Ulylie, 19 Clifford St Paisley	R 246	14/-	"	May 21	"	"	"	5	8
4369	1812	Peter Stewart	30 Nelsinhaugh St.	R 1	84/-	6	Octr –	"	4	Noon	–	–
4370	1799	John Morton	Glasgow	P 611	63/-	"	" –	"	"	"	—	—
4371	"	Do	Do	Do	P 612	63/-	"	" –	"	"	—	—
4372	"	Do	Do	Do	P 594	63/-	"	" –	"	"	—	—



THE CRAIGTON CEMETERY.

Deceased. Name.	Died at	Disease.	Relation to Proprietor.	Class of Funeral.	Interment Fees.
Archibald McFadyen	86 Commerce St.	Teething	Son	A	" 4/ 6
Andrew Ulylie	122 North Frederick St.	Inflammation	Father	B	
Septima Ulylie	19 Clifford St. Paisley	R. Inflammation of Windpipe	Daughter	C	
Remains	Reinterred from College Churchyard	Ne 12/2		Sp. R.	" 12 "
Do	Do	Do	Ne 52		" 12 "
Do	Do	Do	Do	Ne 63.	" 12 "
Do	Do	Do	Do	Ne 4	" 12 .

be re-located was from lair 64, is listed as Dr Cleghorn and family, who are all specifically named. Checking his name on Wikipedia shows that he was Lecturer in Medicine and Professor of Chemistry, the entry shows an image of his impressive memorial in Craigton Cemetery. One of the mentioned numbers, 28, is simply entered as re-interment, is the lair ascribed by McUre to Robert Simson, a Professor of Mathematics. Lairs for two other professors mentioned by McUre are not mentioned in those found from Craigton list, so we can't verify if the big memorial in the Necropolis was used to accommodate them. Finding the re-interments in Craigton has answered some questions, and it seems to show that some care was taken to clear the cemetery, over more than seven months. However, only re-interments from about 115 lair numbers are mentioned, and considering thousands of interments mentioned in the burial registers, ignoring medieval Blackfriars, it is difficult to know what percentage of all interments were re-located. It appears from McUre's list that the lairs mentioned were at the walls, so any stones would likely be built into the wall, so it is unlikely that any would have been re-located, but that is another mini-project for someone to investigate the lairs in Craigton to see if there are any old stones evident, or mention of re-interments.

Many years ago the Society indexed the Glasgow Burial registers 1699-1854 and also the Ramshorn and Blackfriars Burial register 1776-1854. Both, the early Glasgow Register and the combined R&B registers, specify the specific burying ground for each burial, but unfortunately we captured only the names and dates, not the specific burying ground, so that's another potential project to annotate our index.

This study has not answered the question of whether any of the professors was re-interred to the Necropolis, but it has gone some way to understanding how re-development was handled in the Victorian period. This has been a quick survey, and is an open project which would benefit from someone to follow up and check this quick scan of the cemetery register (a spreadsheet of the entries found exists at the research centre), following up with a cross reference to lair and certificate numbers would be useful. If anyone with an interest in this subject would like to follow up the project at the research centre, it is waiting in the potential projects folder.

Scott Fairie. 30

Editor: The next article follows up with an on-site investigation of re-located remains by Murray Archer, which leads into some research about one of those re-interred.

George Salmond c.1784-1857

We are researching the clearance of the Blackfriars or College Churchyard when the Glasgow and South Western Railway Company bought the land for part of the site of their new goods station on the High Street.

This burying ground dates back prior to the Reformation when it was used by the Dominican priory (Blackfriars) on the east side of the High Street. After the Reformation, there were a series of churches on the site. There was still an

active congregation when the site was sold in the mid-1870s. There was a close association with the adjacent University College. The church and burial ground were known alternately as Blackfriars' or College.

I found an advertisement in the Glasgow Herald of 19 August 1875 advising interested parties of their plan to "re-inter the remains of all persons interred beneath the Blackfriars' Church, or in the Churchyard" in Craigton Cemetery. We had not known that the remains were re-interred in Craigton Cemetery. We knew of a monument in the Glasgow Necropolis to Professors of the University re-interred there.

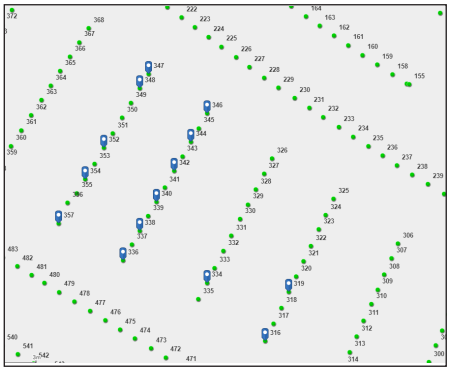
Scott Fairie searched the Register of Certificates in the Cemetery records for Craigton Cemetery, Glasgow 1873-2003 at FamilySearch. Anyone signed into FamilySearch can view these records. Scott found 62 certificates which appear to be related to the re-interment. There might be more certificates that he didn't recognise as being related.

Scott created a spreadsheet noting the certificate number, lair number, the image number on the film, the proprietor, the persons or remains relocated, and the lair number in the former burying ground. Many of the lairs were purchased by John Morton, whom we assume to have been an agent for the railway company. Unfortunately, often the details of the remains were only the word "remains".

Craigton Cemetery is a large cemetery in the south west of Glasgow. There is a crematorium adjacent to the cemetery. Glasgow Council publishes a Heritage Trail leaflet, available from their website. There is a Wikipedia page for the cemetery [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Craigton_Cemetery]. Thirty six notable interments are listed, often with links to their own pages.

Unfortunately, many of the headstones are broken, missing, fallen or overgrown. The compartments on the hill, particularly, are overgrown with self-seeded trees and brambles. It appears that in recent years Glasgow Council has reduced their maintenance of the grounds and growth since then has been rampant. Many photographs on Find a Grave™ or billiongraves™ show monuments that are now illegible due to ivy or obstructed by trees and shrubs.

I annotated the map of the Craigton Cemetery at the Glasgow Council's Cemetery Data Finder and Interactive Maps website, marking each of the lairs in the spreadsheet. Many of the extant monuments have the compartment and lair number inscribed at the base of the stone. However, it can be difficult to read these inscriptions down in the overgrowth.



Fortunately, a volunteer or volunteers extracted details of the lair purchases from the cemetery records, creating over 45,000 memorials in Find a Grave™.

Most of these memorials do not have an associated photograph but most of them have the compartment and lair number.

The annotated map showed me the spatial relationships between the purchased lairs. As I navigated around the cemetery, I used the Find a Grave™ website on my mobile phone to search their database using names from nearby monuments to find the lair number. I found four monuments to persons relocated from the Blackfriars or College Churchyard.

Fourteen of the lairs found by Scott are in compartment 'C'. This compartment is on rising ground near the original main entrance off Paisley Road West. I found a large monument at lairs C338 and C339 with the inscription:

Edward Collins, Paper Maker
Remains of Relatives
Transferred Here
From Greyfriars Church
1876

Note the mistake in the inscription!

George Salmon headstone

I looked in dismay at the condition of most the other stones in the compartment. I stood beside one fallen stone covered in moss. I could see that it had fallen on its back, and so I casually used my boot to wipe the moss to one side. I read the inscription:

GEORGE SALMOND
Procurator Fiscal
of Lanarkshire
died 4th February 1857
and his wife & children
MARY GEORGE WILLIAM
and JOHN

I thought that the condition of this stone was disrespectful to a man who once had a prominent position in Victorian Glasgow. I noted that he died 15 years before Craigton Cemetery opened. I took a photograph of it; in case his remains were re-interred from the College Churchyard.

At home, I researched George Salmond. He had no memorial at Find a Grave™ and so I created one. I found his death notice published in numerous newspapers. His death notice stated that he died on 3 February 1857, one day earlier than the date on his headstone.

DIED,
At 34, Great King Street, Edinburgh, on the 3d inst., George Salmond, Esq., late Procurator-Fiscal of Lanarkshire.

Glasgow_Courier_05_February_1857_0003_ Clip, courtesy of Find my Past

I wondered if his burial is in our Glasgow Ramshorn Burials 1774-1854 data set (some of the burials in the Ramshorn register were in the College Churchyard). However, of course, he died in 1857, in the third year of civil registration in Scotland, and after the period of our data set. I found the registration of his death

at ScotlandsPeople and I purchased an image of the registration. [see image below.]

Fortunately, between 1855 and 1860 (inclusive), death registrations in Scotland recorded the place of burial. His death registration states that he was buried in '*Blackfriars Burying Ground, Glasgow*'.

I searched our Glasgow Ramshorn Burials 1774-1854 data set and I found records for his wife Mary Hamilton and his daughter Mary. I did not find records for George, William or John.

His wife Mary died on 15th November 1851. '*Age. 69, Wife of Geo. Salmond, Procurator Fiscal, Cause of Death: old age. Formerly residing in Newton Pl.*'. I searched the 1851 Census and found her husband George and their adult family at Newton Place.

His daughter Mary died on 27 May 1850. Our extract states '*Age., Daughter of George Salmond, Cause of Death: writer. Formerly residing at Newton Place*'. So, no age was given. Given that her father was Procurator Fiscal, his original occupation would have been a Writer to His Majesty's Signet (abbreviated "writer", now known as solicitors) and so it appears that we extracted his occupation into her cause of death.

I searched the Public Trees at Ancestry™ and I found six trees. Some of these trees publish an incorrect date of death and burial place for George Salmond of Kensal Green Cemetery in London. Ancestry™ has a link to a Find a Grave™ memorial for George in this cemetery. He appears because his daughter Elizabeth Richardson Salmond is buried there.

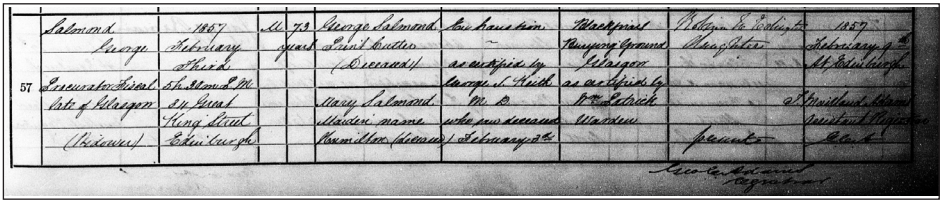
Scott searched the Ramshorn Register of burials 1855-72 at FamilySearch and he found the entry for the burial of George Salmond in the College Churchyard.

We have a potential project to annotate the records in our Glasgow Ramshorn Burials 1774-1854 data set to indicate whether the burial was in the Ramshorn burying ground or the College burying ground. Also, we could extract the burials for the period 1855-72.

During our investigation, we used a variety of sources, all available online. The only source not available online was the Glasgow and South Western Railway Act, 1874 (the legislation.gov.uk website has an incomplete collection of Acts, not including this one) which was supplied by the University of Glasgow Library.

Murray Archer, 4316

Editor: These articles illustrate some of the challenges our family history research can throw up and also some of the successes we can have with a bit of perseverance and digging.



Death 1857 George Salmond, 1857, 685/7, 57, Heriot and Warriston, courtesy of the National Records of Scotland. Crown copyright]

Glasgow Necropolis

In March 2024, Scott Fairie (our Chair) and I met in person with representatives from the Friends of Glasgow Necropolis (FoGN); Ruth Johnston (Chairperson), Annette Mullen (Deputy Chair) and Morag Fyfe (Researcher, via Zoom). The purpose of our meeting was to refresh communication between our societies and to advise FoGN of our plan to republish our Necropolis monumental photographs and transcriptions online in the members' area of our website.

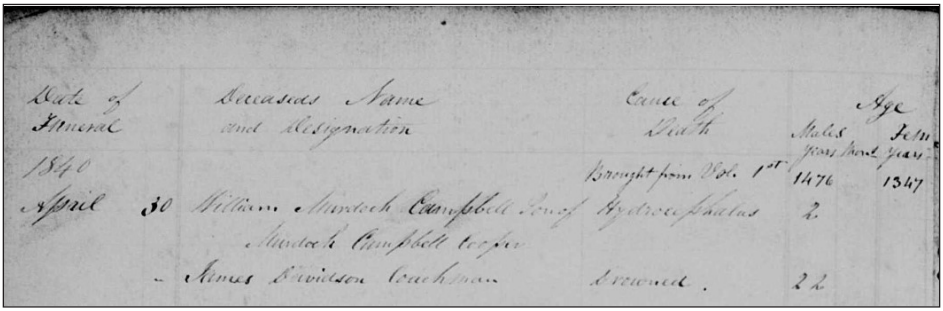
The Merchants' House formed the Glasgow Necropolis cemetery, inspired by Pere la Chaise in Paris. The cemetery is interdenominational. The first burial was in 1832. In 1966, the Merchants' House gave the cemetery to the Glasgow City Council.

The FoGN is an active society, although they want more volunteers. They lost their founding Chairperson, Nigel Willis in 2021. Their volunteers guide visitors on scores of public and private walking tours each year. They publish a regular newsletter, Grave Matters, on their website. Each Grave Matters newsletter has several pages of interesting research notes about selected persons interred in the Necropolis, including persons interred in common ground.

On their website there is a Roll of Honour for soldiers who fell in WWI. Many of these entries are linked to a longer more detailed profile in their Profiles section. The Profiles section has profiles of many notable persons interred in the Necropolis. The FoGN welcomes profile contributions from family members and persons with a connection to someone interred in the cemetery.

The FoGN published three books; *Glasgow Necropolis Afterlives: Tales of Interment* (revised edition, 2020) and *Glasgow Necropolis: An Easy to follow Guide* with full colour photographs of the memorable monuments, and *The Glasgow Necropolis: Omega guide*. The first two of these books are for sale through their website at https://www.glasgownecropolis.org/books-guides/

In 2017, Morag Fyfe, Researcher, initiated a project to index the Burial Registers of the Glasgow Necropolis. In February 2024, the indexers recorded the last burial in common ground. Between 1833 and 1872, 21,856 burials took place in common ground. See https://www.glasgownecropolis.org/the-unmarked-graves-in-the-glasgow-necropolis/


Date of Funeral | Deceased's Name and Designation | Cause of Death | Age Years Months Days | Years
1840 April 30 | William Murdoch Campbell Son of Murdoch Campbell Cooper | Brought from Dol. 1st Hydrocephalus | 1476 2 | 1347
– James Davidson Coachman | Drowned | 22

An example of the Glasgow Necropolis burial register

The Genealogical Society of Utah filmed the Glasgow Necropolis registers and the images of these films are available for you to view at FamilySearch. The entries in these registers have details of great genealogical value, including the date of interment, full name, occupation, relationship with the lair owner, cause of death, gender and age at death. These details are particularly useful for deaths prior to the statutory registration of deaths in Scotland in 1855. See https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/1325344#

Our project to upload our monumental photographs and transcriptions to our members' area is underway. Firstly, we had to search our computers and the published DVD to gather together the photographs and the transcriptions. Unfortunately, often we could find only images of the photographs reduced in resolution for the DVD.

Then we read each of our transcriptions extracting the forename(s), middle name(s) and surname of each person mentioned. We created separate records for each married woman by her maiden and married surname(s). Often, we had to search the indexes at ScotlandsPeople and other websites to know whether a name was a middle name or a surname. Sometimes these checks found errors in our transcription.

Then, I created the data set at our website. I uploaded the documents that we included with the DVD, including the compartment maps, annotated with our photograph numbers.

Now, I am working, compartment by compartment, to load into the data set, a record for each person mentioned in a transcription (two for married women). Initially, I loaded only one photograph per record, but now I load all photographs of the lair. For many lairs, our photographers photographed the whole monument and then they took a separate close-up photograph of each face with an inscription.

An example of one of the monumental photographs Murray has taken

I chose to begin with the compartments at the bottom of the hill that have lairs that were less expensive than the lairs higher up the hill or on the top of the hill. Researchers looking for information about the persons mentioned on the massive monuments or mausoleums are more likely to find information published already on other websites, than information about the persons of more modest means buried in these compartments. However, we must not forget that most of the deceased are not commemorated on any monument.

I tracked my progress using the photograph numbers annotated on our compartment maps. Working on compartment Eta, I came to the end of our photographs and transcriptions at photograph Eta157 – but our map had photograph numbers up to and including

Eta 232! I checked the DVD; compartment Eta ended at Eta157. I found that our DVD was missing photographs and transcriptions for 75 stones.

Fortunately, Morag Fyfe at FoGN had given me a copy of the transcriptions that we shared with the Friends many years ago, including transcriptions for these 75 stones. However, we could not find photographs of these stones. I visited the Necropolis several times. I photographed these stones. Sometimes, I had to uncover stones that are leaning against the wall between the Necropolis and the brewery. I completed the data load for compartment Eta.

Sometimes, when I load a photograph and a transcription, I notice a discrepancy between them. I check the indexes at ScotlandsPeople and other websites, such as Findmypast. Frequently, I find public trees published by descendants of the deceased, and sometimes these trees are accurate and fully referenced! These trees remind me that there are relatives of the deceased around the world, interested in their ancestors who lived here in Glasgow.

The data load is an on-going project that will take many months to complete. Please check our website to see the status of the load. If you could not find your ancestor on the DVD, perhaps their stone is one of the 75 stones that were omitted?

Note that our maps and most of the records in our data set do not include the lair numbers. The FoGN has deduced the lair number for many of the lairs with monuments.

If you are in Glasgow, or you plan to visit Glasgow, I recommend a visit to the Glasgow Necropolis. Even if you have no ancestor buried there, you can browse the interesting inscriptions and admire the architecture of the large monuments. At the top of the hill you will see a view of the city from the Cathedral and beyond, giving you a perspective of the growth of the city from its medieval heart.

Murray Archer, 4316

Glasgow Cathedral from the Necropolis cc-by-sa/2.0 ©Euan Nelson - geograph.org.uk/p/4859898

Publications Secretary – Vacancy

The office of Publications Secretary is vacant. John Wotherspoon held the office but he resigned at the end of the 2022-23 Session due to his other commitments. John has continued to work on new publications.

We have a backlog of new publications that need to be reviewed, edited, laid out and published. Some of our members sent draft books to us but we cannot publish them without checking that they do not breach the copyright rights of other authors, particularly relating to photographs, images of documents and drawings. We are embarrassed that their books, the result of many hours of effort, are delayed with us.

Council decided to publish our data through several channels, to make it more accessible to members of our Society, many of whom cannot visit our premises in person, and to raise revenue for our continuing operations. These channels are: the members' area of our website; booklets sold through our website as PDF documents for immediate download; printed booklets sold in our premises or through our website; and data licenced to Findmypast.

Sales of PDF booklets exceeded our expectations; we now sell more booklets electronically than in paper form. However, there is still a demand for hard copy booklets. Some of our more recent booklets are only available electronically; we need to print paper copies too. We need a cost-effective printer of short-run publications. Many of our paper booklets are out of stock and we are losing sales.

We have a legal obligation to deposit our paper and electronic publications with the legal deposit libraries. I manage our account with Digital Deposit Scotland. I want to pass this task to our new Publications Secretary.

The Publications Secretary is an ex-officio member of the Council of our Society. All members serving on Council are Charity Trustees.

If you would like to volunteer to be our new Publications Secretary, or you would just like to help, please contact our Secretary at secretary@gwsfhs.org.uk.

Murray Archer, 4316

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 or sent by post to the address on the back page.

Editor: Ishbel is researching the family history of Robert Brown and Susan Crookston who were both born in Ireland, leaving there prior to 1841 and settling in Lanarkshire. However she is struggling to find anything about two of their children so is asking for help in this search, as detailed below. If you do have any suggestions or information please send them to editor@gwsfhs.org.uk and I will forward them on.

I would like to make an enquiry regarding SUSAN BROWN and her brother JAMES BROWN who went to New South Wales, Australia prior to 1886.

Susan was born circa 1835 and James circa 1841 both near Carfin/Bothwell in the county of Lanark. They were the children of Robert Brown and his wife Susan nee Crooks who were both born in Ireland.

Robert Brown (born 1849 in Carfin, Bothwell) who was their younger brother married Isabella Watson in Glasgow, 1883.

He and Isabella went to Australia as Assisted Immigrants arriving in July, 1886. Robert stated on the form that he had "B & S in Newcastle" a brother and sister in Newcastle who are believed to have been Susan and James.

It is not known if Susan or James married either in Scotland or Australia as no records can be found.

They had two siblings who remained in Scotland: Margaret Brown (born 1844) who married John Hamilton in 1864 and Mary Brown (born 1851) who married Thomas McCracken in 1872.

Information is sought on both Susan and James and their descendants.

Ishbel Blair 833

Editor: I am always happy to include queries in the Journal but just to remind you that if you use Facebook, our Glasgow and West of Scotland FHS Group offers the opportunity to post queries, and through this it is likely you will get a quicker response.

Reading Scottish Handwriting

Have you ever struggled to read 'old' handwriting when undertaking your research using old documents? If so, and you are looking to improve your palaeographical skills help is available.

The Scotland's People site have a section all about Scottish handwriting: https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/scottish-handwriting The resource is maintained by the National Records of Scotland and offers online tuition in palaeography for historians, genealogists and other researchers who are looking for guidance reading manuscript historical records written in Scotland in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries.

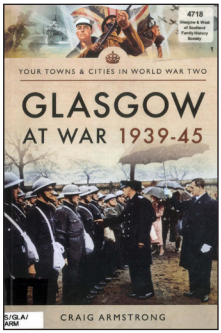
There is a coaching manual, interactive tutorials, posers to test your knowledge and links to other sources of help and information.

There is also an online introductory course available, *Early Modern Scottish Palaeography: Reading Scotland's Records,* developed by The University of Glasgow, and offered through Future Learn, and accessible via https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/ems-palaeography

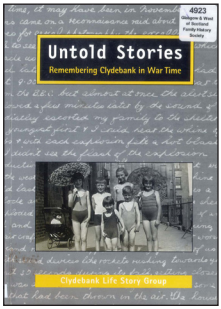
They also offer two programmes through the University of Strathclyde. Genealogy: Researching Your Family Tree (https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/genealogy) and Genetic Genealogy: Researching your Family Tree using DNA (https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/genetic-genealogy-researching-your-family-tree-using-dna)

Resources in the Library

ARMSTRONG, Craig *Glasgow at war 1939-45*
Pen and Sword, 2019
ISBN: 9781473879676
Shelf Loc: S/GLA/ARM

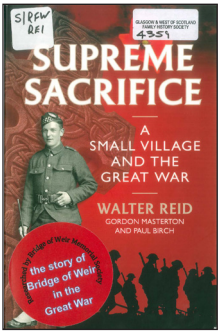


CLYDEBANK LIFE STORY GROUP *Untold stories: remembering Clydebank in war time*
Clydebank Life Story Group, 1999
ISBN: 0953517209
Shelf Loc: S/DNB/CLY

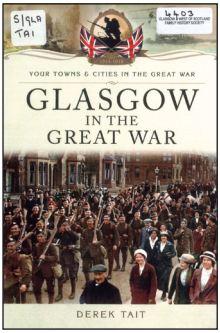


SMITH, James Meikle *Buddies' war, 1939-1945*
Paslet Publications, 2013
ISBN: 97809539921
Shelf Loc: S/RFW/SMI

REID, Walter, MASTERTON, Gordon and BIRCH, Paul *Supreme sacrifice: a small village and the Great War (Bridge of Weir)*
Birlinn, 2016
ISBN: 9781780273501
Shelf Loc: S/RFW/REI



TAIT, Derek *Glasgow in the Great War*
Pen and Sword, 2016
ISBN: 9781473828087
Shelf Loc: S/GLA/TAI

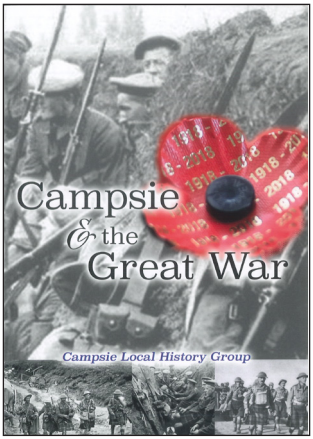


Book Review

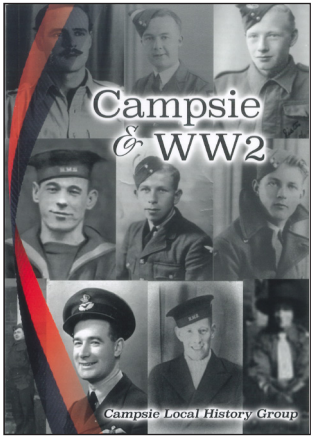
Campsie Local History Group
Campsie & the Great War (2018)
Campsie & WW2 (2024)
(£8.00 each or £15.00 for both.
Available from: campsielhg@gmail.com)

The production of these two publications by the Campsie Local History Group is a valuable contribution to the commemoration of

the casualties of both world wars. War memorial plaques record the list of names of the fallen but these books provide biographical details of the listed names and the range of memorials where they are displayed. The focus of these books is on the Campsie Parish to the north of Glasgow which comprises of the towns of Lennoxtown (1921 estimated population 5335), Milton of Campsie, Torrance and the surrounding countryside.



The earlier published book on the Great War uses a range of mainly online resources and local newspapers to investigate the background details of the names listed in the 1925 Campsie War Memorial in Lennoxtown. After a brief Foreword giving some insight into the research methods, the Contents pages outline, in alphabetical order, the names of the fallen with some additional information on aspects of local history. Each entry covers a range of biographical data such as date of birth, family background, service record, regiment, place of burial, if any, and where commemorated. The range of the latter extends from the local cemetery to the Menin Gate. The depth and scale of each record do vary in detail and are enhanced using photographs, newspaper extracts, letters and poems.



The research for the WW2 book was delayed by the difficulties caused by the COVID pandemic. The biographical list is based on the three main local memorials erected *"after the end of the war to commemorate those who died during WW2"* but also *"a few who are buried in Campsie Cemetery who are not on any local war memorial"*.

The structure of the Contents is different from the earlier book because the range of names is listed under each locality's war memorial and then alphabetically. Also there are additional categories such as service number, Merchant Navy status and recording the impact of war in the air, RAF casualties with crew lists which are useful for the family historian.

There is also an illuminating section on the stories behind the creation of the post 1945 memorials well worth looking at on their own. Despite these efforts, there are six WW2 war graves in Campsie Cemetery of which three do not appear

in the war memorials. One is a German airman called Gerd Hansmann*.

Towards the end of the book, there is a summary list of casualties and a more extensive Bibliography.

These publications are a tribute to the casualties of the two World Wars who are now no longer a list of names on the memorials but were people who had an existence separate from the impact of war. They are also a recognition of the hard work and dedication of the volunteers whose determination to produce these biographical details connect the practice of local history to bigger historical background.

Finally, there is a poignant entry to illustrate this connectivity in the story of WREN Agnes Carlyle. She is the only servicewoman (40911) on the memorials. She was on the 1944 convoy KR8 sailing from Mombasa to Burma when her ship, *SS Khedive Ismail*, was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine with the loss of 1297 casualties out of 1324 passengers.

https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/women-in-the-second-world-war-the-sinking-of-ss-khedive-ismail/

James Emery

*Gerd Hansmann. After the above review was submitted, further information on this German airman and the fate of his crew was published in the new issue of *Scottish Local History*.

L. McIntosh *Note 2: German Air Crash at Lennoxtown, 7 May 1941*
Scottish Local History, issue 119, Autumn 2024 pp 41-44
A copy is available in the GWSFHS Library.

From the Editor

A holiday pastime

I am sure that many of you, when you go on holiday, find some reason to check out a kirk yard or two, even if you don't have any ancestors linked to it! I am no different and when on holiday in Eastern Canada in June my husband and I visited a few, all offering something of interest.

The first was an Amish cemetery at Winterbourne Old Order Meeting House in Ontario. All very simple, with identical memorials for each person, and no adornments. We would never have found this on our own, so thanks to Christine Woodcock who helped us explore some the lesser visited places in the Province.

The most quirky part of this Church and cemetery was the 'car park' - a series of spaces with fences to which the families are able to hitch their horses and traps when they come to worship.

We then visited the Titanic memorial on the outskirts of Halifax in Nova Scotia. The bodies of the dead rescued from the sea were taken to Halifax, with many buried without names. Some were identified and a few have been identified over the years, including Sidney Leslie Goodwin, thought to be the youngest person to lose his life in this tragedy. And in the same cemetery there

was a simple memorial to commemorate the massive explosion in Halifax Harbour on 6 December 1917 when at least 1,782 people were killed.

Nova Scotia has strong links with Scotland with many shared place names but we were not quite expecting to come across a memorial to the Battle of Culloden - a stunning, peaceful and beautiful site set back from the road, overlooking the sea.

And then, in the little fishing village, of Larry's River, we came across a cemetery with traditional grave stones alongside some large boulders on which were set some engraved plaques listing those who were buried, and when - essentially a public parish register available to all. The image gives an idea of the size of these boulders but unfortunately the images of the plaques themselves didn't come out very clearly. If only more places did that over here it might make some of our searching a little easier.

To theme or not to theme: that is the question!

Bringing together each edition of the Journal is quite a task, as I am sure many of you will appreciate. And it can't happen unless I have enough articles to include. We are lucky to have a few people who are always willing to make contributions, and that is appreciated but it is also good to hear diffferent 'voices'

Over the last couple of years we have set a theme for the Journal - not to exclude anyone, but to give would-be contributors a 'peg' on which to hang potential articles. This approach has generated plenty of informative and interesting articles. I appreciate we can't please all of you all the time but I am pleased to say that I have had good feedback on this approach. I was particularly delighted to get a significant endorsement from the Families in British India Society trustees to our last edition 'Scots in India', with them approaching me for permssion to print and gift a copy to each of their delegates at their Conference in September. Needless to say, our Society was delighted to say yes!

The Journals have also included a range of other articles across a number of topics, book reviews, and snippets of general FH information, and there is always an opportunity for members to send in any research queries they might have to see if anyone else can help them out.

At the start of this year the Editorial team took the decision that, for 2025, we would publish the Journals without a suggested theme, giving our members free rein when contributing articles. So we now need you all to put your thinking caps on, warm up the laptops, (or quill pens if you prefer) and get writing! If you need some suggestions on possible topics perhaps take a look at my first editorial in Journal 123, March 2022 edition. Remember, without your contributions the Journal won't have many pages!

Karen Hunter, Editor 10206

Programme of Meetings

21 October	***Glasgow Witch Trials*** *Inverclyde archivist Lorraine Murray will talk about the history of the Glasgow Witch Trials, a time when people became victims of an hysteria which was fuelled by fear of the occult and the devil. She will also talk about the people who were denounced during these witch-hunts*	*Lorraine Murray*
18 November	***Researching British POWs in WWI*** *In this talk, family historian Chris Paton will look at the fascinating story of those 5500 POWs, including over a thousand merchant seamen, whose only crime was to be in the wrong place at the wrong time.*	*Chris Paton*
16 December	***Tales from the West of Scotland*** *Sit back and enjoy some fascinating tales from the West of Scotland, shared by Scotland's Storyteller, Graeme Johncock.*	*Graeme Johncock*
20 January	***Glasgow Trades House Digital Library*** *The Trades House Digital Library holds a vast amount of information that may be of interest to genealogists. The talk in January will cover strategies that can be involved in researching people who may have been members of an Incorporation.*	*Craig R Bryce*
17 February	***Irish Workhouse & Finding Your Poor Irish Ancestors*** *We will look at the brutal regime in the workhouses and why going into them was a last resort. The webinar will cover the range of records that were produced by the workhouses and they cover inmates and staff.*	*Natalie Bodle*
17 March	***Historic Town Trust*** *John Moore is currently working on a major research project to list all the pre-Ordnance Survey estate plans in Scotland. In this talk, he will share the most important early maps (Pont's surveys, the Military Survey, county maps and the Ordnance Survey) as well as maps from early street directories and estate plans and the complexities of how to find these.*	*John Moore*

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By Phone: +44 (0) 141 339 8303

Please note that the phone 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: **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/
The e-News editor welcomes contributions which can be sent via the email above.

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