



Carswell Connection

Australian Archives

Digital on Demand--The National Archives of Australia

Digital on Demand has made TV-viewing experience much better. It has also made researching in the National Archives of Australia better too.

For those of you who are unaware, the National Archives of Australia has what they call an on-demand digitization program. You find the records you want; then you order a digital copy for a small fee (\$16.50 for files less than 100 pages). The digitized copy is made available on their Records Search page; anyone can view it from then on. The record you request should be online within twenty working days.

The archives also have an ongoing initiative to digitize important record collections, and you can nominate collections you think should be digitized next.

Another great feature on their site is the online World War I Service Records. You can find service records that are available for any man or woman that served in World War I from Australia, for free. There are 376,000 service records available in the collection and digitizing them took three years. The archives call it their "Gift to the Nation."

To read more about the National Archives of Australia on-demand digitization program, visit:

http://www.naa.gov.au/the_collection/digitisation-service.html

Previously published in RootsWeb Review: 18 April 2007, Vol. 10, No. 16.

John Carswell

From 'History of the Parish of Neilston' by Dr. Pride in 1910. It is a story of John Carswell who was the church officer at Neilston for many years. He had 10 children.

'Sometime gravedigger, minister's man, church officer, postman and registrar, was a type of man found in many old towns some fifty or sixty years ago. (The book was published in 1910) His family, by his maternal relatives by the name of Gemmell, had been church officers and gravediggers for over 700 years as proved by church records. John, or Johnny as he was known, was about 17 stone weight, and not by any manner a teatotaler. To a blustering manner he added a natural shrewdness and wit, a straight out and honourable man.

He had been in contact with many ministers of most of the parishes around, through the occasional exchange of pulpits. On one occasion, when the minister of Neilston the Rev Dr Fleming was preaching at Eaglesham, he had his man Johnny with him as coachman. (about 8 miles away.) Johnny then went to the service with his brother beadle, and sat with him. The home beadle, as the sermon got well under way, offered his snuffbox to the visitor, which was gratefully accepted and returned after partaking of the snuff. The beadle also took a quantity and the pair sat back, satisfied. Dr Fleming, being a strict disciplinarian, stopped his sermon and glared at the pair. Leaning over the pulpit, he said 'Some of you are more interested in their noses than the salvation of your souls!'

Needless to say, the beadle was more careful in his behaviour after such a criticism'

Keith's Castle

As a follow up from the story in the previous issue about Carnasserie Castle, Keith from Australia sends along the following newspaper clipping:

7 June 2005

EXTRA SPECIAL EDITION

KILMARTIN NEWS



A huge crowd assembled around the Carnasserie Castle to listen to another idiot from Australia claim ownership of the ancient building. Mr. And Mrs. Keith Carswell, looked surprised at the crowd who were in fits of uncontrollable laughter. Having announced that he had shown much generosity, in giving the day off to staff who he said, - they wouldn't really need, until he could get back one weekend to do the place up a bit.

"yea", shouted one old local, - "Like the last Australian idiots - John and Christine Carswell from the city of Hannam Vale some 100 miles up some Stewarts River, (or Creek), only 3 weeks ago on the 31st of May. They reckoned they were the ones entitled to the Castle.

Mr. Keith Carswell, said he new of them, "Totally unsubstantiated claim" he continued "Some people will claim all sorts of things, and there can naturally be, only one genuine claim, and I have a picture of me and my Castle". He invited all assembled to join him in the local pub and pay for the celebration drinks, for their new Laird. Our reporter believes, they had to buy their own drinks.

Margaret Carswell

Agnes from Largs has written the life story of her Great Great Grandmother Margaret Jane McKay (nee Carswell). The story is told as her grandmother may have written it.

A short excerpt follows. The full story can be read at -

<http://freepages.family.rootsweb.com/~renfrewshire/index.html>

My name is Margaret Jane Carswell, I was born on 15 January 1826, at Loanfoot, Neilston, Renfrewshire. I had four older brothers and two older sisters. Before long I had two younger brothers and a wee sister too. I don't have many recollections of living at Loanfoot. It wasn't a big farmhouse, and with a big family to look after my father took over the tenancy of another farm, Thorterburn. It was still in Neilston, but it was nestled way up in the Fereneze Braes. We moved there about 1829. My wee sister, Janet was born there on 21 February of that year, then my brother Thomas was born in 1831 and in July of 1833 my youngest brother, Alexander, or Sandy as we called him, was born. At the very end of December in that year, when I was only seven years old my father died, how awful that was. It was just as well my mother was from farming stock, and could take over the running of the farm, otherwise I don't know what would have happened to us. And we were lucky that my oldest brother, Allan was nearly twenty and could share the burden of running the farm with my mother. In fact, all my older brothers and sisters did their share at that time.

Tragedy struck again on 7 February 1836 when wee Janet died, just before her seventh birthday. In many ways we were fortunate that the rest of us enjoyed good health. I don't really remember the funeral, but I am sure it would have been in the parish church, and all my aunts and uncles would have been there. There's a family lair there, and a headstone with my Granny and Grandfather Carswell's name on it. I see it every time I go to the church. They died when I was just an infant, and I don't remember my Granny or Grandfather Stevenson either.

The Forth/Wilsonsontown, Lanarkshire, Scotland Carswell Family

This picture portrait of my Joseph Carswell and Marion Kerr ancestors was posed, probably in a Lanark, Scotland studio c1917-18. From left to right they are: William Kerr Carswell (Wullie) (1906-1954), Elizabeth Kerr Stark Carswell (Lizzie) (1893-1963), Marion Craig Kerr (my paternal great grandmother) (1872-1927), John Carswell (1901-1925), Janet Griffin Carswell (Jennie) (1915-c1998), Annie Stark Carswell ((Adamson) my paternal grandmother) (1895-1970), Joseph Carswell (my paternal great grandfather) (1872-1941), Marion Craig Kerr Carswell (Maisie) (1909-c1985). The family was living on Main Street, Forth, Lanarkshire at the time this picture was taken.
Hugh Carswell Adamson
Belfast, GA, USA.

OPR - PAISLEY LOW MARRIAGES

January 19, 1788 Robert Carswell & Jean (Birkonyre)

November 1, 1790 Robert Carswell, manufacturer & Joanna Houston in town of Fulbartire

MONUMENTAL INSCRIPTIONS - PAISLEY LOW PARISH

Gouroch, Chapel St.
185) Margaret Carswell Died Age
 2.10.1823 70
 (Finlayson)

Mearns Churchyard
1) Rev. Wm. Carswell 4.1.1877 77
 V.P. Church
 w. Mary Cuthertson 8.5.1848 48

Wm. Carswell 13.9.1895 45
 with Jessie Stevens

Neilson Churchyard
29) Allan Carswell Died Age
 at Craig of Neilson 19.1.1829 79
 w. Agnes Howie 9.5.1828 70

76) Margt Carswell 19.6.1813 75
 with farmer Muirhead

Paisley Gaelic Churchyard
32) Matthew Sim
 w. Mary Carswell
 chn. 1837

123) John Fell Carswell,
 manufacturer 25.9.1836 50
 w. Eliza Buchanan 26.8.1836 60
 by. s. John Lohead

Paisley High Churchyard
89) Robert Carswell
 of Shortroods 18.6.1836 69
 s. Robert d. London 16.9.1819 24
 s. Walter drowned 10.11.1810 11
 Anne 25.10.1822 20
 John, Agnes, George & John (wf)

The following article appeared in The Buchan Observer.

World interest predicted with opening of genealogy centre in the Blue Toon.

HISTORIANS from all over Scotland, the UK and the world, with Aberdeenshire lineage, will soon be able to trace their family history when the region's first genealogy centre opens in Peterhead.

The centre is being established by the Peterhead Tourism Initiative (PTI) which has been working hard to secure funding for the project.

It will be hosted in a room at the Arbuthnot Museum at Peterhead's St Peter Street where a wealth of documentation can already be found.

It is believed the project will attract new visitors to the North-east and will tie in with the Scottish Executive's Homecoming project scheduled for 2009.

Anne Allan of the PTI said: "There isn't such a thing in Aberdeenshire and with Peterhead being the biggest town it is the obvious place to have it. There is a lot of work to be done getting the room ready to move into but there are already a lot of books and records in the library downstairs."

"We will start off in a small way and built it up, and I was hearing recently that genealogy and family history is one of the fastest growing sectors in the tourism industry."

The PTI hopes to use tax records dating back to the 1690s, burial records from 1841 and registrars' births, deaths and marriage records from 1855 onwards to build up clear family histories.

The centre is to be run on a voluntary basis though, and before any tracing can take place all the available records must be indexed and arranged in a manageable database.

"We will also use newspapers because as well as having public notices they also have interesting things like court cases and people are often fascinated to find out what their ancestors were up to."

Queries Corner

Betty Faye Lawton

is researching the following names:

Maternal:
CLOUD, CHILDRESS,
ELLIOTT, and WHEELER

Paternal:
HOLT, LINDSEY, CARSWELL,
TUCKER, TURNER, MATHIS,
and RUTHERFORD

If you have any information
on the above names, please
contact Betty at -
fuzdawg@metrocast.net

Leslie in Canada is looking for
Carswell/Cerswell family
links.

My Carswell family somehow
got the new name of Cerswell
after arriving in Upper Canada
in the early 1800's, however
one kept the Carswell name,
and I am not sure where his
line goes.
Also researching-

Speers, McBeath, Sutherland,
and Heppleston

leslie.welfare@sympatico.ca

Favourite web sites

I'm sure many of us visit various
Genealogy web sites. What are
the three favourite sites you visit
regularly? Mine are:

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/carswell>

<http://www.familysearch.org>

<http://www.cyndislist.com>

or have you come across any
unusual genealogical web sites
that you would like to pass on?