



# Carswell Connection

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## Scotlands Family

Scotlands Family, a Scottish genealogy web site to help you explore your Scottish family ancestors. The purpose is to point you to **free on-line data** and information in Scotland family history records, wherever you live in the world.

Today there is growing internet access available to many original Scottish genealogy records of births, baptisms, marriage, deaths and burials without requiring pay-to-view. There is also a significant amount of 19th century Census data being published. Monumental inscriptions on gravestones are also appearing online, and a variety of local directories and lists, such as trade directories, militia lists, and Parish tax records in Scotland.

[www.scotlandsfamily.com](http://www.scotlandsfamily.com)

## RESOURCES IN SCOTLANDS FAMILY

- Births and baptisms data
- Marriages data
- Deaths and Burials data
- Censuses
- Directories & Lists
- Poorhouses
- Ships & Passenger lists
- Occupations
- Diseases & Medical terms
- DNA Testing
- Map of Scotland
- County map
- Parish maps
- Gazetteer
- Books
- Photographs & Film
- Surname origins and histories
- Statistical Accounts of Scotland
- Scots Dictionary

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## Thomas Carswell's letter

Johan from Largs, Ayrshire submitted the following extract from a 1924 letter to a Scottish cousin, written by Thomas Carswell, b.1848 in Cheshire. With thanks to Jim Carswell from Kirkcudbright, who kindly provided the original letter.

Thomas succeeded his father Allan as the Highway Surveyor for the Prestbury Highway Board, Cheshire.

"Referring back to family matters ^ was Sir Archibald (Craig) our cousin to father and was he a son of fathers sister Jean who married Thomas Craig.

Where Harry & Janet (Thomas's children, Capt. Harry Carswell was killed in the last fortnight of the war. He fought also in Gallipoli) were before the war at Dunoon a letter was handed to Harry addressed to Joseph Carswell. Harry handed the letter back to the waiter who said he was the only Carswell in the hotel. On opening it Harry said it was for someone else so the owner turned up a little later, who was the son of the firm R Carswell & Sons Printers Belfast. He called later at Prestbury and I saw him for a minute and (sic I observed) he was a Carswell. *continued on page 2*

I boast I can tell a Carswell a hundred yards off. & for proof can say the last day I was in Scotland I was going to Neilston high (street) early & met two young fellows going to the train ^ I spotted Carswells when 200 yards away and stopping opposite them asked if they were Carswells and they ruined (sic confirmed) it. John said they were Sandy Carswell's sons or grandsons of the Kirton?

I met a Fred Carswell of the Govt Ordnance Survey who said his family came from near Glasgow. When Will. Handford (John Stevenson's son ^ outside the Blanket) was in New Zealand Invercargill, he saw lots of Carswell names over shops and he went into the last one but only his son was in but he said he understood they came from the neighbourhood of Glasgow. The Old Carswells went in strong for numbers when you find the head of the Carswell Clan was always Allan and sure to add 10 to the population of the country. My brother Allan had 10 but they did not all live. His son had 8 the last I heard & young yet. So there is hope while life lasts and you will never want for relations!

PS. I enclose a tip for you. You can back it with confidence. Sure winner- the first man I gave it to was 83 when married second time & left 3 daughters, dying at 91. So wishing yourself & wife long life & happiness.

I remain your affectionate Cousin.  
Tom."

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## Barrhouse Archaeological Dig

An old Carswell Farmhouse from 1738 to 1823. Barrhouse farm house is situated to the east of the Neilston Pad, Renfrewshire, a little south of Barr Hill & a few hundred metres to the south of Snypes Dam. In 1998 it consisted of a rectangularly shaped stone rubble in a grassy field before a small group of Renfrewshire Local History Forum members began an archaeological dig. Over the years the old farmhouse has been excavated painstakingly by the volunteers until 2005/2006. Now comes the task of sorting the finds, obtaining specialists reports, further researching the site history and writing up & publishing the findings. The published paper will at some time be available for purchase from the website.

[www.RLHF.info/news.php](http://www.RLHF.info/news.php)

Barrhouse is still owned by Elderslie Estates, landlords of about a third of Renfrewshire for several centuries. Estate Papers show that in the Neilston side Estate crop of 1785 a John Carswell who commenced his tack( rental) in 1770 is the earliest recorded Carswell. In a bundle of documents was a scrap of paper noting that in 1769, John Carswell of Barrhouse paid £9:8:4 for rental. In the Estate Crop of 1790 Barrhouse is included in Allan Carswells Craig of Neilston farm.



*Barrhouse Dig with Snypes farm in background*

From these records it can be seen that Carswells have had a connection with Barrhouse from at least 1769 to 1823. In 2005 I was most fortunate to visit the site with two distant Scottish cousins & we were all shown around by the dig director Mr. Bruce Henry. He kindly showed us pieces of Spode china & green-glazed, late or post medieval pottery sherds. It was a real experience for an Australian to be with his relatives at an old family farmhouse.

John Carswell, Australia

# James Carswell's diary, January 1847



Following is one month from the diary of James Carswell, Miller, at Dalbeattie, Kircudbrightshire

**January, 1847** (note – The first page of the diary containing entries for January 1 to 9 is missing).

10 Sunday. Rather frosty morning, wind southeast. I hear that Thomas Rawline, son of Thomas Rawline, Draper (at) Dalbeattie, died this morning at 7 o'clock of croup. I was at church and heard Mr Arthur preach from Colossians 3rd Chap and 1st Verse "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above..."

11 Monday. Still frosty. My Father was at Castle Douglas. I was working in the mill.

12 Tuesday. Still frosty. Wind north and very cold. I was working in the mill. My Father has sent away an offer for bones to Glasgow. The price is @ £8/0 per Ton.

13 Wednesday. Still frosty. I was putting some meal into the meal house and R. G. (Robert Gilchrist) was working in the mill.

14 Thursday. Rather soft wind about south and no rain. I was working in the mill and R.G. was drying corn.

15 Friday. Still soft and very dull and foggy but no rain. I was working in the mill and R.G. was drying.

16 Saturday. Very dull and foggy and it has been a very wet night and rained a good part of this day. I hear that William Carmon is has come home from England and likes carrying the pack very badly. He had just 3d when he got home. Very dear times just now. Oat meal is selling at 2/8 d per stone. Barley at 2/2s. Fine wheat flour 3p to 3/4 d. Indian meal about 2/6 per stone

17 Sunday. Frosty and very cold. I was at church and heard Mr Arthur preach from Matthew 6 chap and 13 verse "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil," from the first clause only.

18 Monday. Working in the mill and still frosty.

19 Tuesday. Working in the mill and still frosty. I hear that Mr Paterson, Baker, Dalbeattie, has a child dead.

20 Wednesday. Very cold morning and frosty wind nor-east. I was at Dumfries (and have) heard nothing very strange, but great anxiety about Queen's speech as Parliament was to meet yesterday and very dear markets. Corn 40 bushel weight 5p, oat meal 2/10 and 3p per stone. Barley 5/8 per 52 bushel weight. I heard after I came home that William Irving Carter is dead of the rose in the neck.

21 Thursday. Still frosty. Working in the mill.

22 Friday. Has been some snow last night but more about the hills than what is here, but has been raining all day.

23 Saturday. Still raining but very cold working in the mill and Robert Gilchrist drying.

24 Sunday. Very wild day, and some showers. No sermon here today. Mr Arthur (gone away) from home.

25 Monday. Very wild still, nearly wet all day. My Father was at Castle Douglas but bought no corn. Working in the mill & drying.

26 Tuesday. Still very wild but dry, but came on very wet at night. Working in the mill & drying.

27 Wednesday. Wild and raining in the morning but dry in the afternoon. Working in the mill and drying. My brother was at Dumfries and my father at home.

28 Thursday. Weather mild and dry. Wind S.West. Working in the mill and drying.

29 Friday. Mild weather, wind about N-West. Working in the mill and drying.

30 Saturday. Mild – Wind N-West. Little Ellen is very poorly with the cold, but I think will soon get better. Working in the mill and drying. Oat meal no cheaper. I got a pair of new boots from Mr. Gowan, the price of £1.00

31 Sunday. Cold and rather frosty wind N-West. I was at church and heard Mr Arthur preach Matthew 6 chap. And 13 verse in the 2nd clause of the verse – but deliver us from evil. I hear that W Bell is come home from America but I have heard no other news about him.

# One Million More Canadian Names Online

Early vital records of Nova Scotia, Canada, are viewable over the Internet for the first time and for free, thanks to a joint project by the Genealogical Society of Utah, FamilySearch™, and the Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management (NSARM). The records include one million names found in birth records from 1864 to 1877, marriages from 1864 to 1930, and death records from 1864 to 1877 and 1908 to 1955. Users can search the database at [www.novascotiagenealogy.com](http://www.novascotiagenealogy.com)

Nova Scotia is the first province in Canada to digitize all of its historical vital statistics and make them available online. "This project provides key information to researchers on their ancestors," said Genealogical Society of Utah regional manager Alain Allard. "It involves the vital records—births, marriages, and deaths—which are a key record set to find, identify, and link ancestors into family units." The Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) first microfilmed most of Nova Scotia's vital records back in the 1980's. In 2005, GSU used FamilySearch Scanning to convert those microfilms to digital images, while at the same time capturing additional vital records with a specially designed digital camera. Volunteers for the Nova Scotia Archives then used the images to create the searchable electronic index, which was completed in 2006.

Anyone can now search names in the index and view a high quality digital copy of the original image online for free at NSARM's Web site, [www.novascotiagenealogy.com](http://www.novascotiagenealogy.com). In the near future, the index and images will also be available on FamilySearch.org. Researchers who want to obtain copies of a record can do so online through the Nova Scotia Archives. The cost will be CAN\$9.95 for an electronic file and CAN\$19.95, plus shipping and taxes, for archival-quality certified paper copies.

Nova Scotia Provincial Archivist, W. Brian Speirs, said the cooperation of GSU was crucial to this important project. "Without the Genealogical Society of Utah offering in the early days of the project to provide complimentary digitization of all the records as their contribution to the initiative, the proposed undertaking would have been dead in the water and gone nowhere," Speirs said.

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## Editor's Note

My thanks go to John Searle of the UK for providing the diary of James Carswell on page two. This is just one month from the year 1847. I will print subsequent months in the upcoming Newsletters.

In the course of producing this Newsletter, I have been pleasantly surprised by the many people who have contacted me to say hello and tell me a few details about themselves, and a few have attached photos. I thought I should do likewise to all of you.



I was born in Scotland. Fifty years ago my family immigrated to Montreal, Canada. I moved to Vancouver about 20 years ago. I retired four years ago from a long career in advertising.

I'm also curious to see if there is any kind of likeness between Ian, John and I, based on our DNA results.