

Carswell Connection

Allen Carswell of the Parish of Mearns, Scotland

Allen Carswell married Katherine Ferguson (b. July 26, 1725) on January 11, 1751 at Darnley in Eastwood Parish, Scotland.

Known children are:

Katherine Carswell b. April 26, 1752

Agnes Carswell b. March 16, 1760

William Carswell b. 1764 d. 1852 b. Symington, Scotland d. Glasgow

James Carswell b. 1771 d. 1856 b. Symington, Scotland d. Glasgow

The family used the Scottish naming patterns so I have to think that the names of the first 2 sons and first 2 daughters came from the grandparents. That means that Katherine born April 26th, 1752 was named after her mother's mother. They were married on January 11, 1751 Since Katherine was the first born in 1752, there were probably up to another three children born before Agnes came along on March 16, 1760. Then another child was born before William in 1764 and finally perhaps another two or three children by the time James was born in 1771. That would mean a family size of up to a dozen or more children but all this needs to be verified. From their mother's final will in the early 1800s, these are the only named surviving children. After their marriage in the Parish of Eastwood where Katherine Ferguson was born and raised at Darnley, they settled in Symington, Ayrshire where they farmed at Spittlehill Farm, Symington, Ayrshire, down the road from Kilmarnock. The two sons were apprenticed to Alexander Gulliland who was a trained Wright and builder and as a result they eventually set up for their own account in Glasgow in 1790, first working as joiners (site managers). Eventually, they bought tracts of land and began a life of building for their own account.

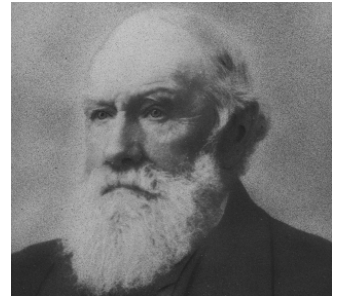
The above article was provided by John Carswell and forwarded to the Carswell Connection by Bob Carswell.

Bob has also provided the following interesting links: <http://www.scotcities.com/warehouses.htm>

for anyone interested in reading about Glasgow construction and the Carswell connection there.

and: <http://www.nas.gov.uk/onlineCatalogue/>

James Carswell's diary, November 1847



Following is the eleventh of monthly entries from the diary of James Carswell, Miller, at Dalbeattie, Kircudbrightshire.

November, 1847

- 1 Monday. Through grinding Indian corn. We ground rather more than 100 Quarters of Indian corn last month.
- 2 Tuesday. Good dry day and going to be frost.
- 3 Wednesday. White frost this morning and shrubs all covered with ice, the first I have seen this season. I was at Dumfries. Very dull sale for cattle. There is a rise in the price of grain in Liverpool. Barrel of flour about 29s and 30s. Indian corn from 32s to 35s.
- 4 Thursday. Mild day but dull. Through grinding Indian (corn).
- 5 Friday. Still dull looking, and appearance of rain. Thomas was at Palnackie with 3 bags of Indian meal.
- 6 Saturday. Still dull and came on rain about 11 o'clock. Thomas was at Dumfries with a cart load of Indian meal.
- 7 Sunday. Dull and wild looking morning. I went to Killymingan (farm near Kirkgunzeon) (with) my wife. Came on rain about mid-day, and (it) was a tremendous wild night with wind and rain.
- 8 Monday. Still wild in the morning, but in the afternoon it cleared up. It rained for nearly 24 hours, and it created a very large burn – as large as I ever saw it.
- 9 Tuesday. Good day. There was two shows came to Dalbeattie, the one a peep show and the other a Great Giant, and damn, the Giant was as large a man as I ever saw, but the dwarf was not so little.
- 10 Wednesday. Very wild looking morning. Thomas was at Dumfries with a cart load of Indian meal. The market is getting dearer in Liverpool. Indian corn is 38s, Barrel flour 30s.
- 11 Thursday. This is a fast day with us for the good harvest. It is a very dull sort of a day with rain.
- 12 Friday. Wet morning, but cleared up in the afternoon. Through grinding and drying.
- 13 Saturday. Dull morning with rain. I intended to have gone to Crochmore if it had been dry.
- 14 Sunday. Rather dull. I was at church. Heard Mr Arthur preach about regeneration. He made me little better, little worse.
- 15 Monday. Soft morning but dry towards night. Through working in the mill. My Father is at Castle Douglas.
- 16 Tuesday. Dry this morning and a little frosty. I hear that James Copeland died last night of apoplodlights (apoplexy?) – a young man about 22 years of age till within a short time.
- 17 Wednesday. Still dry and frosty. Thomas at Dumfries with Indian meal, at 16/ per stone. Markets still rather looking up.
- 18 Thursday. Hard frost this morning. Thomas is away at Corsock Bridge with a ton of Indian meal and is going on to New Galloway for a piano, that my father has bought for Margaret, price £ 5.
- 19 Friday. Fine day. Grinding Indian corn. It is selling at 16p/st. Thomas did not get the piano. The reason was the man's wife was very poorly and she would not let it go for a time. I had a letter from N. Craven on Tuesday. It came in 3 weeks. I was up at Edingham last night and had a game of drafts.
- 20 Saturday. Dull morning. Thomas is away at Dumfries with a ton of Indian meal. I hear that Theps Factory is failed.
- 21 Sunday. Soft morning with rain. I was not at church. I hear that one of James Carswell's (***) which James is this?????) children is dead on Friday night of scarlet fever, a boy of about nine years of age.
- 22 Monday. This is Martinmas day. There was some of the servants flitting in the afternoon, and it came on a very wild night with wind and rain.
- 23 Tuesday. Clear dry morning with gales of wind from the west and blowing all night.
- 24 Wednesday. Wild morning with showers of rain. It came on about 2 o'clock in the morning and very wild towards morning (daylight?). Thomas is away to Dumfries and got a very wild night coming home.

25 Thursday. Dry morning. Through in the mill. Drying and grinding meal.
26 Friday. Dry morning. Liverpool markets much about the same as last week. Through in the mill.
27 Saturday. Dry with frost in the morning, some appearance of frost...wind at east.
28 Sunday. Hard frost this morning. I was at sermon. Heard Mr Arthur preach on regeneration. R. Carswell was up in the afternoon. Nothing new. There is to be no sermon next Sabbath day.
29 Monday. Dry. Thomas away at Corsock with meal for Minnyhine.
30 Tuesday. Rather showery. I was up at Corra Bridge looking for salmon. I got 2 good fish, one was 22 lbs, the other 10 lbs, and likewise a small trout

Carswell DNA Project

I am writing to the 126 Carswells who receive the Carswell Connection to inform them of the latest news on the Carswell DNA Project.

DNA testing reveals specific mutations in the Y-chromosome which occur extremely rarely in populations and which are used to indicate branching of major human population groups over large time periods. Specific subgroups are referred to as a 'haplogroup', which is a genetic population group associated with early human migrations & which today can be associated with a geographic region.

To date there have been 13 Carswell males tested. All of these Carswell males come from lines previously not documented to be related.

There are 3 distinct haplogroups within these 13 results. This reveals that, like most family name groups, there are a number of founder males who are not related since early human migrations began.

Haplogroup I2b1a

Eight of the Carswells tested are Haplogroup I2b1a. Of these, 6 can trace their family history to tenant farming in Neilston Parish, East Renfrewshire, Scotland. The closest matches of this group from the database are to the names McGuiniss, McCartan, Diamond & the McCrackens of County Down & Antrim, Ireland. It is thought that these Carswells are related to that group of people known to history as the Dal n'Araidhe and the Ui Eachach Coba. In an area connected by the sea rather than separated by it, these people may have moved to Scotland from County Down before the taking of surnames became a common practice, but who likely considered themselves of the same tribal origin as the Damnoni of Strathclyde and perhaps also the Novantae and Selgovae of Galloway.

Haplogroup R1b1b2

Three of the tested are R1b1b2. Of these, two are able to document their family history to Argyll Scotland. It is possible that these two Carswells may be descendents of the same family as John Carswell, Bishop of Argyll & the Isles.

The other (the third) participant's forebears are from Shropshire, England, where the family has strong roots. This was the region where Walter Fitzalan, the Anglo-Norman Baron was located before his move to Renfrewshire in 1138 and his defeat of Somerled, Lord of the Isles at Inchinnan in 1164.

Haplogroup I2a

These 2 Carswells DNA results are from the descendents of Alexander Carswell & Isabella Brown (as many southern US Carswells are) who emigrated from Belfast to Georgia USA in 1772 with their 6 children.

This is most likely the haplotype I2a-P37.2*-West-Isles, however there will need to be more deep clade testing (determines which branch of their haplogroup they belong to) to determine/authenticate this result.

Some authorities suggest a link of this haplogroup to the megalithic culture which built Stonehenge and much later Newgrange (Ireland).

So you can see that the project is well under way & at an interesting stage . If you are at all interested, information on DNA testing can be found at <http://www.familytreedna.com/> including Frequently Asked Questions & Tutorials. The prices are :- 12 marker test US\$99, 25 marker US\$148, 37 marker US\$189, & the 67 marker US\$269. The 37 marker test is the standard test recommended for surname projects but the 12 marker will give very good indications also. The procedure is that once a mailing address is received the project co-ordinator Ian Carswell orders a test kit to be sent out from Family Tree DNA in Texas . Payment is made by credit card & you can choose your level of privacy before returning the kit.

You may well ask 'what could I possibly gain from participating in a DNA test'?. The goals of the Carswell DNA project are:-

1. To discover all the different Carswell family DNA Haplogroup variations & their locations.
2. To confirm relationships between Carswell families.
3. To discover which Carswell family you belong to & therefore their past geographical locations.
4. Contribute to the study of British and Irish clan history and population movements over time.

Personally I have learnt that it is confirmed that I am of the Neilston Carswell group, that they have been in this area for many many centuries & that there are Northern Irish connections possibly going back to the 5th C. The closeness of a shared common ancestor varies within my group. My closest match (36 out of 37) is with an Ontario Carswell family.

In comparing 37 markers, the probability that Ontario Carswell and Mr. John Carswell shared a common ancestor within the last...

4 generations is 57.45%	8 generations is 88.06%	12 generations is 97.1%
16 generations is 99.35%	20 generations is 99.86%	24 generations is 99.97%

More information on the Carswell DNA Project can be found at:

<http://www.familytreedna.com/public/carswell/default.aspx> there is also a Carswell website which may be of interest. <http://carswell.com.au/> from which you can view the past Carswell Connections newsletters & also the old Carswell Chronicles which were written by Judge Carswell in Florida 30 odd years ago & have been digitized by Ian Carswell of Sydney.

I invite any Carswell who may be interested in DNA testing to contact me at :

jccarswell@optusnet.com.au

John Carswell Australia