

Carswell Connection

Bishop John Carswell and interesting web sites.

Bob Carswell in Toronto sends along the following articles and some very interesting web sites:

Two interesting references I found in connection with Bishop John Carswell and the second one also makes mention of his father.

The result of the reporting to the King is not told, and Sir Thomas drops out of sight. It is a full century before we meet with the name of Mactavish again in any documentary record connected with that period, when on March 18, 1564, Queen Mary confirmed several charters given by the Earl of Argyll to M. Johanni Carswell, rector of Kilmartyne and his heirs, etc. of a large amount of land in different parts of Knapdale and Lorne together with the Keepership of Carnassary Castle, on certain rent payable partly in money and partly in produce and also of maintaining six soldiers, while all these lands should be protected from all scattis, 107 soirning and obligation for the food of dogs and horses." In this same year Duncan McCaws of Dun-ArdRigh is on record as giving lands to John Carswell of Carnassary Castle, an important but now ruined Castle near the village of Kilmartin - probably some of those named in the Argyll Charters. 108 In 1592 (Great Seal) there is mention of a Duncan McCaws and of his brother Alexander, but we do not know their family connection.

Carswell's father had been Constable or Keeper of Carnassary Castle, within which in 1520, John Carswell had been born. A student at St. Andrews, he took his degree in 1544. After a somewhat troubled early manhood, he went to Iona, and in 1553 became rector of Kilmartin, and was appointed by Parliament Superintendent of Argyll and of the Isles. The pasture seems to have been very lean so that in 1564, he accepted from Queen Mary the appointment of "Bishop of the Isles," holding it till he died though under censure of the Assembly for accepting that appointment. Carswell showed a remarkable zeal in furnishing not merely his own Diocese but the Reformed Church, with evangelical truth, in the number of his translations of such into Gaelic. He translated the Genevan "Book of Order" and thus laid the foundations of Evangelical Presbyterianism in Western Argyll. He may have occupied Carnasserie for a time, but certainly he neither built or owned it. Carswell died in 1575.

Sweyne Castle seems to have been to some extent still habitable, for so late as 1685, its keepership was given to the Campbells from whom it had previously been taken away. In 1678, Inventory of Donald or Dougall MacT. "lawful son of the deceased John" - who had died in April 1677 - gave up the Inventory of Donald given by his brother Hew or Hugh.

You might want to make mention of this excellent site for CARSWELL research in Scotland.

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

It deals with almost anything (except wills) that went through the courts that contains reference to whatever name was entered. Whether the Carswell was a name of a company, a plaintiff or the lawyer handling the case, the name will turn up. However, do not get fooled into thinking the order of dates is important as they do not have a significance and only by going through all of the entries will you find earlier ones going back even to the 1500s.

Here is another interesting one to circulate:

<http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/FH25&CISOPTR=25622&REC=12>

It is the story of the Kirkcudbright Carswells that immigrated to Quebec and might interest some of your readers. It is a private publication written up in 2002 and published in Deep River, Ontario.

Enjoy,

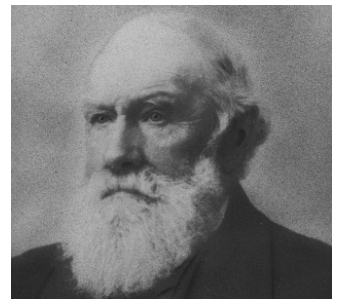
Bob

James Carswell's diary, December 1847

Following is the twelfth of monthly entries from the diary of James Carswell, Miller, at Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire.

December, 1847

- 1 Wednesday. I went up to Corra last night again, but the burn being too heavy, we saw nothing.
- 2 Thursday. Wild weather. Through in the mill grinding.
- 3 Friday. Dry but very wild looking. Lowered the oatmeal one penny yesterday – 21s per stone.
- 4 Saturday. Dry morning, but very wild afternoon with wind and rain. I hear that Mr Crosbie minister of Buittle died last night, and likewise old Mrs Hair in Dalbeattie.
- 5 Sunday. Dry but very cold. There is no sermon today. Mr Arthur is gone to Edinburgh with his petition for more money to live on.
- 6 Monday. Wet morning. Dull markets. Grain a little cheaper, oat meal 21p per stone.
- 7 Tuesday. Dry day. Thomas went to Castle Douglas for a chest of drawers for Margaret.
- 8 Wednesday. Dry. Ground white with snow this morning, and several heavy showers through the day, and freezing towards evening, but at 10 o'clock it began to rain.
- 9 Thursday. Snow all away this morning, and the burn rising rapidly. Dreping the millstones. This is the day of Mr Crosbie's funeral.
- 10 Friday. Still soft weather, and very mild today. Through grinding in the mill.
- 11 Saturday. Soft in the morning, but dry all day. Indian corn turning a little cheaper in Liverpool.
- 12 Sunday. Dry morning. I went and heard Mr Arthur preach – still on the great benefit of faith.
- 13 Monday. Wild day. Through in the mill. My Father was at Castle Douglas, bought one cast (non-lactating) of cow.
- 14 Tuesday. Very wild day. Drying and working in the mill. We are getting rapidly through with our Indian corn.
- 15 Wednesday. Still very wild and wet in the afternoon. Thomas was at Dumfries with a load of Indian meal.





a sketch of the mill drawn in 1946 showing the old granite quarry in the background. The old wooden shed would be one of the originals. The building on the right was for Oatmeal production this was built circa 1940. The building on the left with the odd roof was the corn dryer.

16 Thursday. Finished the millstones and will work for a month now without any more repairs. I hear that our new publican T. McKnight is going off for England to be clerk to his wife's uncle. Gets £2.0 per week and a free house.

17 Friday. Wild day. Thomas McKnight went off this morning, and has sold all off.

18 Saturday. Wet nearly all day. Miss Colthard came here yesterday. Aucheninies the farmer at Aucheninies was away at New Abbey with a cart load of meal, 60 stone of it ours.

19 Sunday. Dry morning and the wind from the north. I was not at sermon today, but was there at night. Mr Arthur preached a sermon for the benefit of the Sunday School.

20 Monday. Dry with a little frost. Through in the mill.

21 Tuesday. Hard frost this morning. Dry and _____. [?not sure]

22 Wednesday. Cold and frosty. I here there is a letter come from Greenock that John Douly is dead. He wrought his (passage) home from America and died in the hospital at Greenock.

23 Thursday. Cold and frosty and the wind still high. Through in the mill.

24 Friday. Cold and frosty. I found our fly wheel cracked last night and must have it repaired. I went off this morning to search for a millwright. I went to the racks of Torthorwald (farm) and there was none there. I got them at the sandbed of Kirkmahoe and brought them out of there with me. I went up the burn to Newfield bridge and got one salmon 18 lbs weight.

25 (Saturday). Still cold but little frost last night. The millwright got the mill repaired. I had a game of cards being Christmas night. I won £6.0 off Mr Knight. I likewise got an invitation to John Carswell's wedding at Palnackie.

26 Sunday. Cold but little frost, the wind still chilling. I was not at church today – took the lazy.

27 Monday. Cold and a little frost. Through at the mill. 28 Tuesday. Still a little frost but appearance of a change. I was at John Carswell's marriage at Palnackie. There was somewhere about 50 present.

29 Wednesday. Very wild day with sleet and snow all day, the ground all white. Thomas has one of our swine at Dumfries. Got 6/6 per stone. 30 Thursday. Frosty morning with slippery roads. Grinding oat meal and drying.

31 Friday. Cold frosty day. I was at John Donaldson's (target) shooting. Andrew Dixon won first prize. Thomas was second...I was 5th. There was 17s 4d (prize money) shot for, and the third of _____. [??] I had a game at cards at night at Mr Knights and lost 6s. Thomas lost 10s. H Martang 7s, Mr Hebinton 11s, H Knight 9s L Nicholson 3s, the winners paid for whisky and ale.

Erica Johnson has provided the following additional information that relates to the above James.

Reference the entry of 21st November 1847 in James Carswells dairy - the child that died was Robert Carsewell, born in 1838 in Buittle, son of James Carswell and Helen McLeod. James was at different times a Sailor and a Farmer. He was the oldest son of James Heron Carswell and Violet Alexander, born in 1816 at Tarkirrow in Kirkgunzeon. James Heron Carswell was the younger brother of John Carswell, the Miller in Dalbeattie. So the dead boy was the son of James Carswell, the diary writer's full cousin, another James Carswell.

Hope this makes sense and that you can pass it on. I am descended from Janet Carswell, the oldest daughter of James Heron Carswell and Violet Alexander. The new information that Robert died of Scarlet Fever is great to have for my family tree!

The December entry completes the year of James' 1847 diary. Hard copies of the diary are available at the following locations: Dumfries & Galloway Family History Society Library, Dumfries: Dalbeattie Museum: Mitchell Library, Glasgow: National Library, Edinburgh: Dumfries Council Library, Kirkcudbright Stewartry Museum: Paisley Museum: National Library of Canada, Ottawa: Quebec Literary & Historical Society Library, Quebec: Library of the Ontario Genealogical Society, Toronto: Library of the Australian Society of Genealogists, Sydney.

Betty Taylor (nee Carswell)

I am trying to discover more about my Mom's step-brother, James Carswell (known as Jim) who emigrated first to Rhodesia (as it was then known) and later moved to Australia. I would also like to find out more about my Mom's Uncle Fred (Alfred) who emigrated to Ontario, Canada and whom came back to the UK for a long stay in 1984, aged 87 years. I believe he was married to Rose Nicholls.

To help anyone who might know ANY information, here's some information on my Mom's family. If anyone knows anything and can help me on my "Voyage of Carswell Discovery", then please get in contact. My email address is: dawn@spearheaddesign.co.uk

Betty was born to Joseph and Elizabeth Carswell of 18 Croft Street, Carters Green, West Bromwich on 24 December 1939.

Joseph was previously married to Ruth (nee Friar) whom died in childbirth giving birth to John Michael. They had previously lived with Ruth's parents at 18 Croft Street and during their marriage they had the following children:

- 1) James (Jim) lived in Island Road, Handsworth at some time before emigrating to Rhodesia and had two children, Diane and Jimmy (could have been christened James). Not known whom Jim was married to so if someone does know, please let me know.
- 2) Kenneth Joseph married Rita (surname?) (died aged 41 years; buried in Heath Lane Cemetery). They had children: Lorraine, Maureen, Kenneth, James, Anita, Christopher and Sharon
- 3) Joan – married a man called Tom Woodhall and lived in Kempson Avenue, West Bromwich. They had two daughters, Sheila and Christine.
- 4) Leslie William – married Mona and had no children; thought to be still living in the Lyng area of West Bromwich.
- 5) Allan married Betty Lawley and lived in Greets Green Road, Carters Green, West Bromwich; they had two daughters, Denise and Sandra: re-married to Doreen and living in Wolverhampton.

6) John Michael known as Johnny who married Rosalie (Rosie). They had Jaqueline, Robert Michael, Ian Jonathan and Darren John

Joseph married again following Ruth's death; he and Elizabeth (nee Jones of Williams Street, Greet Green, West Bromwich) had:

7) Betty – My Mom – who married Ernest Taylor and has three children: Dawn, Janine and Jason.

8) Margaret Ann – married Dennis Proctor and lives in Walsall Road, Stone Cross, West Bromwich. They have two children: Lynne and Tony.

Elizabeth had a daughter by her first marriage to Frank Billingham who is thought to either have died or whom Elizabeth divorced; Elizabeth had, at some time, been in service in Surrey for some years. Elizabeth's daughter was Violet Billingham. I know nothing more about Violet so if anyone does know anything, please get in contact.

Joseph Carswell was born in Lambert Street, West Bromwich to James and Kathleen Ellen Carswell (nee Knowles) who had the following children:

1) Joseph was born in 1892 and died on 4 September 1964; he is buried in Heath Lane Cemetery, West Bromwich.

2) Thomas Maurice (Tom) never married and is believed to have died near Paris in WW1.

3) James Henry was married to Annie Mulloy; he was born 20 June 1895 and died 26 January 1959. Alfred married Rose Nicholls; he was born 19 May 1897. Fred emigrated to Ontario, Canada (not known what date) and whom I'm trying to find out more: why did he decide to leave England, who his family were in Canada as I know he lived with Carswells there and what did he do when he lived there?

Nellie was married to Frank Dicken; she was born in December 1901 and died 3 June 1973.

William Edgar was married to Ada Smith; he was born July 1904 and died 2 December 1981.

Isaac never married; he was born 1907 and died 24 June 1978

Ezekiel (Ike) was married to Margaret Harris; he was born in 1907 and died 4 February 1978.

Harry married Sarah Ann Jones; he was born 18 January 1909 and died 12 June 1982.

James Carswell was born on 29 August 1869 and died March 1950.

Kathleen Ellen Carswell (Knowles) was born October 1869 and died December 1951. Their marriage took place on 26 June 1892.

I can go back further than 1869 and should anyone want this information, then please get in contact.

Thank you for reading this and no matter how small or large the information you may have, please **DO** get in contact. Fingers crossed – someone, somewhere may have extra information!

Warmest best wishes, Dawn Taylor

Scottish Wills – Carswell (1513 – 1901)

Bob Carswell from Toronto sent a file with Carswell Wills information. Unfortunately I am not able to insert it in the Newsletter. If you would like to see the list I can send it by email to those interested. (email address below).

Additional information on wills can be found at: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

Jack