

Carswell Connection

Genealogical Research...thinking outside the box.

There are two types of family genealogists out there, those who collect names and dates for a family tree and those who want to know the individuals' stories. Research produces a lot of information but thinking outside of the box often provides new avenues toward building a story about an individual's lives. Here are a few tips that will help you dig out small bits of family history you did not know existed.

Birth, death and marriage certificates offer a lot of information if you can get a copy of the actual certificate. It will cost a few bucks but what hobby does not? Some of these certificates will give parent details, maiden names, father's employment situation, addresses, often at times between census dates and whether or not the parents were alive at that point in time. If a couple had numerous children, earlier or later certificates for the brothers and sisters often provide different details because of their timing. A marriage certificate in St. Albans, UK resulted from a wedding that took place during the early part of WWI between a soldier and his girlfriend from London, England. At the time the soldier was supposed to be somewhere in England at boot camp. His presence at St. Albans gave up where the boot camp was located and the street on which he was barracked at the time. A son's birth certificate indicated that the mother was illiterate as the surname was spelt incorrectly and she signed it with an X. A Finnish Swedish Church entry spoke of a husband as having no hands or feet but quite capable of having children. It is suspected that it was actually the minister's way of saying that he was a bit of a dimwit. The potential is endless as long as you think outside the box and remember that even the witnesses on the certificates will sometimes fill in an answer. Scottish central record-keeping began in 1855 while England began in 1837. Canadian records followed a bit later depending on the province.

Wills are another great source of extensive family information. In Scotland for example, Scottish Documents at <http://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk> , offer wills going back to the 1500s. Those wills go a long way to filling out the names of the next generation on a family tree, speak of family land holdings and give up personal snippets of information not otherwise available. One will indicated a child was informed and another talked about a child who was institutionalized. Wills will often give the order of birth of children as most parents would list their children in that order.

Museums will often have photographic collections that produce previously unknown portrait negative collections. McCord Museum in Montreal <http://www.mccord-museum.qc.ca/en/> held one family's early photographs in the Notman Collection while the same family found other members of the Ottawa branch of the same tree in the Topley collection at the National Archives. <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/topley/026004-4000-e.html>.

William Topley, the father, worked for William Notman in the 1850s in Montreal and opened the Ottawa office for Notman eventually going on his own. Most, if not all of his five or six sons also

became photographers. One his sons turned up married to a family member. Local town historical societies and central libraries can often generate information about local citizens. Microfilms of local newspapers will often turn up family gems like the Star in Parry Sound. One individual started a local cricket club, his father was the manager of the Segwun Hotel, and later started McKinley Hardware. Newspapers take time to read but often doing just that gives you a better feel for what it was like to live then. In Quebec and Ontario, there was a time in the late 1800s when it was considered a worthwhile thing to do to add your name, family details, farm details and drawings to a series of illustrated pages in the Canadian County Atlas. McGill University put together the Canadian County Atlas Digital Project available at <http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/countyatlas/> . The project, put together on a subscription basis was carried out between 1874 and 1881 and covered 40 counties in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes and for some is an excellent source of family history. If nothing else, it is worth a look. Beware though as some atlases are better illustrated than others.

Public school records, high school records and university records show academic achievement, awards and some direction of the interests of the student at the time. Chartered Accountant societies, Masonic temples, service clubs, University fraternal clubs and fraternal organizations like the Eastern Star and Odd fellows, and similar organizations give up details of involvement. Street directories are an excellent source of business addresses, commercial advertisements, residences and professions. Collections of ancient Scottish books, like those in the collection started in 1965 as part of the University of Guelph's McLaughlin Library rare books collection.

<http://www.sc.edu/library/spcoll/rarebook.html> can be most useful as can be the University of Toronto student clipping files which produce years of a students' history. These clippings were taken out of local newspapers after the student had graduated. The same was done by a few other universities here and there.

Military universities, military regiments and university collections are the oldest in the world and often give up lots of information about the young students and their later lives, just for the asking. Anyway you look at it, this is only the beginning of the kind of additional research you can do when you try to follow your ancestor's footprints. It is a long journey but worth every step.

Thanks to Bob in Toronto for the above article, and this fact: **Did you know?.....**that 532 people named Carswell appeared in the 1841 census for Scotland.

Carswells on facebook:

Thank you, to Jim Scaramuzza for sending along information of old Carswell photos on Facebook. There is a photo section of the facebook group Carswell of the world. There are a lot of unnamed Carswell pics submitted by Mark Carswell from a family album. The photographers' names on these images suggest links between the Dumfries, Durham and Glasgow Carswells could maybe be proven. Maybe a feature on the photographs could help to put names to the pictures?

Compare the men in this picture...

<http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?pid=1041264&op=6&o=global&view=global&subj=4834776258&id=678265710>

With the picture of James Carswell with his new tractor in

http://carswell.com.au/wp-content/documents/connection/edition_11.pdf

I think some of the photographs could be the family of James Carswell the diary writer featured in your magazine Carswell Connection

Scottish Wills - Carswell

1513 - 1901

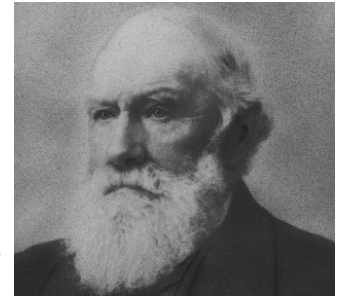
Various Details from Scottish Wills – Part One

Following are the first 25 of 187 entries of wills and related documents on file at Scottish Peoples.com Complete details are available over the Internet for those interested. The cost is five British pounds for the privilege and there is no guarantee of what you will find....sort of a Scottish gov't lottery.

- 1 Carswell Allan 17 Shamrock Street, Glasgow, d. 10/04/1895 at Glasgow
- 2 Carswell William Schoolmaster, d. 21/04/1898 at Canonbie, County of Dumfries
- 3 Carswell Robert Farmer, d. 29/10/1878 Chirmorrie, Barrhill, Colmonell Parish, Ayr
- 4 Carswell Robert sometime Farmer, Broadlie, Parish of Dalry, latterly residing in Ardrossan, d. 12/03/1878 at Ardrossan
- 5 Carswell Allan Farmer, East Spittal, Parish of Stewarton, d. 24/06/1884
- 6 Carswell Agnes 2 Bank Street, Hillhead, Glasgow, d. 12/07/1876 at Glasgow
- 7 Carswell Andrew brassfounder, residing at 29 Braid Street in Glasgow, wife is Margaret Kelly. Documents in courts 02/01/1875
- 8 Carswell William Jenkins, Chartered Accountant., Glasgow, d. 02/02/1885 at Busby
- 9 Carswell Helen Hillend Farm, Parish of Shotts, d. 23/11/1885 at Hillend Farm
- 10 Carswell Malcolm Macfarlane, Timber Broker and Merchant, Glasgow, d. 01/05/1892 at Greenock, Scotland
- 11 Carswell John Timber Measurer, Greenock, d. 24/01/1885 at Greenock, Scotland
- 12 Carswell James Shipowner, resided in Palnackie, Buite Parish, docs in courts 11/04/1871
- 13 Carswell Robert Farmer at Duncarnock, Mearns Parish, documents in courts 06/04/1863
- 14 Carswell Robert Surgeon and Druggist, Residing at Paisley, documents in court 13/07/1830
- 15 Carswell Robert retired Farer, 38 Russel Street, Falkirk, d. 02/02/1900 at Falkirk, spouse of Mrs Margaret Ewing Stewart or Carswell
- 16 Carswell Robert writer in Glasgow, residing at 6 Osborne Terrace on Copeland Road in Govan, documents in courts 23/10/1867
- 17 Carswell Robert Jr. manufacturer at Paisley, documents in courts 20/06/1820
- 18 Carswell Robert Grocer at Barrhead, documents in courts 07/10/1873
- 19 Carswell Robert Kirkwood, 10 Rothbury Terrace, Heaton, in City and County of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England Insurance Agent, d. 07/11/1891 at 10 Rothbury Terrace
- 20 Carswell Thomas Farmer, East St Colmac, Parish of North Bute, County of Bute, d. 20/06/1887 at North Bute
- 21 Carswell Thomas Writer in Lochwinnoch, documents in court 10/10/1837
- 22 Carswell Thomas Manufacturer and Accountant, residing at Paisley. Documents in court 13/05/1850
- 23 Carswell Thomas William Baird, son of the late William Carswell, Cardross, d. 29/01/1876 at The General Hospital, Guelph, Ontario Canada, intestate. documents in court 25/01/1883
- 24 Carswell Ursilla spouse to John Adam, in Stainlie, parish of Paisley documents in courts 13/05/1687
- 25 Carswell Walter manufacturer, Paisley, documents in court 01/08/1812

Thanks to Bob in Toronto for this will information.

James Carswell's diary, 1866



Following is the first of monthly entries from the 1866 diary of James Carswell, Miller, at Dalbeattie, Kircudbrightshire.

January, 1866

1 Monday. Mild and rather cold wind from the south west. The shops are mostly all shut today being New Year's Day. I am working the mill myself. My two lads went off on Saturday night and will not be back till tonight. John Samuel, G McMullin, I F Hornby are all away at Drumstinchall shooting rabbits. They have 3 guns and 3 ferrets and expect to do great work. Still no money for the Old Lawn workers today yet. It is a week past the usual time and it is very awkward for the workmen – has neither money nor tick (credit). Sherer, one of the firm came today and got their money about midday. There were about £900 to pay. There were two shootings here today - (at) Maxwell('s) (Kirkpatrick) and Peter Graham's. Ian Lindsay got 1st & 2nd at Kirkpatrick, and Robt Clerk got 1st & 2nd at Graham. Graham – his share came to about £2-1, and what Lindsay got, I have not heard. Some few drunk about night and some little noise. We had a supper party at Muir's at night treating old Muir to a supper. There were 10 of us, and had a game of cards.

2 Tuesday. Dull in the morning but soft looking. The boys yesterday at Drumstinchall. Got 20 rabbits, 2 hares, 2 partridge and one grouse. Came on a very wet afternoon and very wild.

3 Wednesday. Rather wild but dry. None at Dumfries. Throug in the mill. Robt Clerk getting pretty well on with his house. Has got little more than the chimney heads to put on.

4 Thursday. Dry in the morning but wild looking. Leading soil out of Adam Cairn's house foundation today. Wild and showery at night.

5 Friday. Mild with white frost this morning. Got rather cold through the day. Still leading earth out of the found.

6 Saturday. Soft this morning and wet looking. Has been wild with wind and rain through the night, but moderate through the day. Still leading some earth.

7 Sunday. Wild and rather showery the greater part of the day. No place from home. Had a goose for dinner which we got from Mrs Neilson (Porterbelly).

8 Monday. Wild and showery the greater part of the day. Thomas at Castle Douglas.

9 Tuesday. Still wild with wind and rain and the hill tops white with snow. There will be many wrecks with the wild weather. I hear that a small sloop on the Mersehead Bank.

10 Wednesday. Some little frost this morning and the hill tops in the distance very white with snow. Thomas at Dumfries. Robt Caven went away on Monday to run his greyhound near Stranraer, and the word that came home last night is that he still stands but not near run out. I hear at night that he came off second best – but his was the swiftest dog.

11 Thursday. Hard frost this morning but mild through the day. D Nish has nearly finished building R Clerk('s) house today.

12 Friday. Hard frosty morning and the ground white with snow, but not more than _ inch deep – and very frost looking. There were some bones went away today to Valleyfield, the first this season.

13 Saturday. Wet wild morning and the snow nearly all gone, and has continued wet the most of the day with wind. It will be heard off on sea after last night. The roads very slippery this morning but soon went off.

14 Sunday. Wild wet morning and has been very wild through the night. Moderate through the day. Wet at night again. No place from home.

15 Monday. Very wild through the night again. I see by the papers that there has been a very heavy fall of snow in England, and worst about London. The snow broke away many of the telegraph wires. Moderate through the day and like frost at night.

16 Tuesday. Wet morning again and soft looking. Moderate in the afternoon. All very quiet about Dalbeattie. Robt Clerk is building the roof for his house this afternoon.

17 Wednesday. Dull soft morning and soft looking. The Commissioners has got the money from Thorbarn for looking after the woods. It was paid away by the Commissioners four or five years ago. I think we have got all them old affairs settled up now.

18 Thursday. Wild but dry this morning, but came on soft in the afternoon and very wet at night. Robt Clerk has got the roof put on his house. I hear that Hugh Mulligan died this morning – he took some kind of shock on Monday and he never rallied.

19 Friday. Wild but dry this morning and has been a very wild night with wind and rain. I think I have never saw accounts of as many wrecks of large vessels as what is in the papers this few weeks. The storm has been very severe on the Atlantic. There was a steamer “London” from London to Melbourne with 270 passengers and crew. I suppose she foundered, and only 19 saved. She was only few days out.

20 Saturday. Dull and wet this morning and has been a wild night with wind and rain. I had a letter from _ Caven today and he is well. With no news of any consequence. This day is mild and dry and a good winter day. Hugh Milligan was buried today in the Cemetery.

21 Sunday. Dull wet morning and wet till near midday. Dry in the afternoon. No place from home.

22 Monday. Dry and mild this morning and dry all day. I have McGinn fitting up my drain. Still throug in the mill. I am drying myself. My lad went away home a week ago and has not come back yet.

23 Tuesday. Still mild and dry. My lad has come back today again. The Milligans has commenced to slate Robt Clerk’s house and the masons are building partitions.

24 Wednesday. Still dull but dry and the weather glass very high, but it rose very quick and will likely fall as quick. Thomas at Dumfries today.

25 Thursday. Still dull and dry but fine winter weather. Robt Caven away at Torthorwald today running his greyhound. McDowall has likewise two away, but I hear at night they all fell the first tye.

26 Friday. Still dull and dry. A Herris loading up a truck of cinders. Thrashing for Kirk (White Hea?).

27 Saturday. Dull but dry. I was at Drumstinchall today. Got but a poor day sport. Robt Clerk putting in the windows of his house.

28 Sunday. Dull and soft this morning and has been some rain last night. Nothing fresh going on about Dalbeattie except a great deal of houses going up in all directions. Several going up in South Road; 4 in John Street; 6 in Copeland Street; a few in High Street; some in Port Street; some in William Street; and some about Railway Street.

29 Monday. Some little frost this morning, and wild through the day with some snow showers. Thomas has sold our horse at £28 to Thos Corrie, Dumfries to go away at fair day.

30 Tuesday. Some little frost this morning but come on to rain in the afternoon and wet looking.

31 Wednesday. Dull soft morning and has been wet the great part of the night. The masons has commenced to build at Elliot’s, but got little done owing to it being wet. William Clerk went away to Liverpool on last Friday, but what he intends doing I have not heard. I see by the papers that the Liverpool cattle market is stopped owing to the Rinderpest. I see a good deal of rumours in the papers that the disease is supposed to be smallpox and they are now vaccinating them with the cow pox as a preventative.

Scottish Naming Patterns

Males

First born son :	Father’s father
Second born son :	Mother’s father
Third born son :	Father
Fourth born son:	Father’s eldest brother
Fifth born son :	Father’s 2nd oldest brother, or Mother’s oldest brother

Females

First born daughter:	Mother’s mother
Second born daughter:	Father’s mother
Third born daughter:	Mother
Fourth born daughter:	Mother’s eldest sister
Fifth born daughter:	Mother’s 2nd oldest sister, or Father’s oldest sister