

Carswell Connection

Carswell twists & turns

I became interested in family history by chance in 2001 when Australia was celebrating its centenary of Federation and a request was put out for anyone and everyone to lodge the name and arrival date of the 'first Australian' in each family regardless of when they arrived, be it on the First Fleet or in 2001 on a website (now defunct) called 'First Families 2001).

Something about this caught my imagination and, of course, the rest is history or rather, family history! My trip through history had me discovering that both my husband's and my ancestors had come to Australia in the years between 1840 and 1890 with our 'first' Australians coming from Scotland and Denmark with their children marrying immigrants from Italy, England and Germany. I was quite delighted to discover that my Scottish grandfather is buried here in Brisbane (along with his English wife), my Scottish great grandparents are buried in Scotland, my Scottish great great grandparents are buried in Invercargill (New Zealand) and my Scottish great great great grandmother is buried in Dummer, Ontario, Canada (along with her third husband - her first, my ggggrandfather is, I presume, buried in Scotland).

I have now acquired two sons in law and a clutter of grandchildren so decided that I should discover their 'first Australians' as well, knowing full well that for one son-in-law there was no challenge as he was born in Sweden and came to Australia as a teenager with his family in the 1990s. However a trip back through his family history took me also to

Malaysia, Burma, India, England and Germany!

I'm finally getting to somewhere relevant! The other son-in-law is a Carswell and his 'first Australians' were John Forbes CARSWELL, his wife Mary Aikman KIDD and their children who, rather wonderfully for me, came to Australia on the same ship and sailing as my grandfather - all, of course, coming from Scotland. The CARSWELLS came from Fife and my SWANs from the eastern lowlands of Berwickshire.

As I went down through the descendants, one of the above CARSWELL couple married a German lady and their son (my son-in-law's grandfather) married an English lady with the surname of GOMERSALL. I was absolutely astounded when my research on this line took me once again to Ontario, Canada. A very rapid linkup with a family historian in Ontario from this family soon gave me all the details of the GOMERSALLs and HALEY family of the Lanark area of Ontario. Maybe it is not strange but this double connection with my son-in-law though quite vague (the two families on the same immigrant ship, the two connections with Ontario) has given an extra strength to our relationship. About two weeks ago I started researching his mother's HARDY side of the family tree and rather incredibly discovered on Australia Day - that his first Australian goes back to 1801 when his ggggrandparents arrived in Australia on a convict ship but as free settlers. The daughter of this family then married, in 1818, a man who had arrived in Australia in 1815 as a convict. To some this would be 'disgrace' and for many years in

Australia it was but as our history lengthens my goodness it's more than 200 years now there is a sense of pride in claiming descendency from a convict, particularly one from the First Fleet which is almost akin to royalty. I was particularly pleased that this news struck a chord with my son in law who went about researching the population of Australia in 1801 and discovered that it was about 7000. He said that that information made him feel like a very special Australian. I am delighted that three of our grandchildren can claim an Australian heritage of this length. In researching another line

of this son-in-law's history I found one of his ancestors was born in Malta, sent for his birth certificate and found out that his father was in the 80th Regiment, which was serving in Malta at the time. Subsequently the Regiment was sent to Ireland to help transport convicts to Australia so that is how this line of the family arrived here. When the Regiment got here, they had the choice of staying if they wished to while others went on to serve in India. I still don't have the exact date of their arrival.

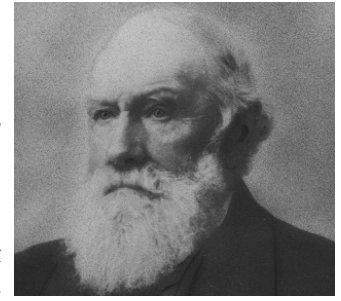
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Scottish Wills - Carswell - 1513 - 1901

Various Details from Scottish Wills – Part Two (26 - 50)

26. Carswell, Walter, manufacturer at Paisley, died at Newark upon Trent, document in court 28/07/1812
27. Carswell, William, maltman in Paisley
28. Carswell, William, Farmer at Newlands, Parish of Dunlop, document in court 27/06/1850
29. Carswell, William, Farmer, Glenshalloch, Parish of Minnigaff, d. 10/09/1887 at Glenshalloch
30. Carswell, William, Rev., Minister, Eaglesham, d. 24/01/1877 at Eaglesham
31. Carswell, William, wright and builder in Glasgow, died 1852, document in court 02/11/1863
32. Carswell, Adam, in Glassall, parish of Colmonell, Document in court 13/04/1637
33. Carswell, Agnes, spouse to Gilbert McIlwrick in Mains of Kildonnand, parish of Colmonell, document in court 14/01/1675
34. Carswell, Alex[ande]r, in Wodmilne, document in court 17/06/1592
35. Carswell, Agnes, relict of Gavine Rauff, merchant burghess of Glasgow, document in court 24/12/1610
36. Carswell, Alexander, Wine and Spirit Merchant, Travellers' Rest, Neilston, d.05/9/1891 at Rothesay, document in court 17/02/1892,
37. Carswell, Alexander, Farmer, Kirkton, Neilston, d. 29/11/1900 at Kirkton
38. Carswell, Allan, sr, residing at 14 Sandyford Place in Glasgow, document in court 01/03/1871
39. Carswell, Allan, 17 Shamrock Street, Glasgow, d. 10/04/1895 at Glasgow
40. Carswell, Andrew, brassfounder in Glasgow, died there at 29 Braid Street, documents in court 02/01/1875
41. Carswell, Andrew, brassfounder in Glasgow, Inventory pg. in court 02/01/1875,
42. Carswell, Andro, in Horsmuir, document in court 03/07/1606
43. Carswell, Ann, Mrs, residing at Sandyford Street, Glasgow, document in court 15/01/1874
44. Carswell, Archibald, in Holehouse, document in court 26/02/1750
45. Carswell, Jane, Mrs, alias Shepherd, residing at Cardros, widow of William Carswell, document in court 01/12/1869
46. Carswell, Bessie, relict of Thomas Man in Blakhous, document in court 18/02/1604
47. Carswell, Eliza, Mrs, alias Buchanan, residing at Glasgow, widow of John Fell Carswell, manufacturer in Paisley, document in court 15/09/1848
48. Carswell, Elizabeth, Alias Rodger, Residing at Greenock, Scotland, document in court 14/06/1872
49. Carswell, Elizabeth, Mrs, alias Marshall, residing at Garngad Road of Glasgow, widow of Thomas Carswell, carter at Glasgow, document in court 21/02/1860
50. Carswell, Esther, Residing at Paisley, document in court 15/01/1870

James Carswell's diary, 1866



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

February, 1866

- 1 Thursday. Soft wet morning and has been showery all night. I was at Robt Clerk's last night and had a game of cards. Pork at Dumfries market yesterday was 7/2d to 7/3 (for) the best, and there were likewise a dull sale of sheep and cattle.
- 2 Friday. Dull and rather soft looking in the morning but turned out a good day. Thomas went away to Maryport yesterday to attend a sale of bones from a cargo that was wrecked near Maryport. There are two trucks of bones come in from Dumfries today which are leading up.
- 3 Saturday. Showery wild morning and very wet looking. There are two more trucks of bones come in today which we are leading up. Thomas came home from Maryport tonight but has bought no bones. The bones were dear, but the bone ash was cheap enough. All well at Maryport.
- 4 Sunday. Showery and wild, and there were a tremendous blow with wind and rain about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. There were a woman of the name of Elizabeth Ridday drowned at Dalbeattie Port last night. She was supposed to be going on board some vessel and fell in the water between the harbour and the vessel. She was got about 12 o'clock. I suppose she was the worse of drink.
- 5 Monday. Still wild with some slight showers. Still leading bones from the Station. There were two more trucks came in in Saturday night. The "Heart of Oak" dragged her anchor last night and got in the beach at Kipp Road, and I have not heard today whether she is got off or not. I likewise hear today that the vessel coming from Waterford with bones for us was on Kirkcudbright bar yesterday, but whether she has got much damage or not I have not heard.
- 6 Tuesday. Very wild morning again and has been a very wild night – it will have damage in the sea. My wife and I was at Little Richorn last night amongst with a few others, and (we) enjoyed a very happy night. The vessel with the bones at Kirkcudbright has received but little damage. Has (taken) up the shelling stones today. Not very throug in the mill. Has got the most of the corn made for the season. Moor (Valleyfield) got 200 bushels bones today.
- 7 Wednesday. Still wild and some slight showers through the day. Valleyfield here today again for bones. Thomas at Dumfries.
- 8 Thursday. Still very wild and some slight showers. Too wild for thrashing today. I hear today that Adam Cairn's father died today. Parliament has met and there is nothing unusual in the Queen's speech. The cattle disease has occupied their attention mostly since they opened.
- 9 Friday. Wet morning and continued so until near midday and turned out a fine afternoon. Thrashed a rick for ourselves today. I have Hugh Thomson in the afternoon ploughing.
- 10 Saturday. Mild in the morning but showery through the day. Nothing fresh going on.
- 11 Sunday. Mild and dry all day. No place from home.
- 12 Monday. Some little frost this morning. This is Castle Douglas Candlemas Horse Fair. There were a pretty fair turnout of horses and sales not so brisk as was expected. Many brought them home again. McDowall, Dalbeattie, had 13 and sold them all.
- 13 Tuesday. Frosty this morning. I killed my pigs yesterday and Elliot killed one of his. They were all one lot and are all good. Our horse went away today. Sold at £28, so we have none at present. Thrashing for Kirk White Hill today. Some snow showers in the afternoon and the ground white.
- 14 Wednesday. Some slight showers through the night and came on snow this morning again, and snowed till midday. Ground covered about 3 inches deep. Thawing in the afternoon.
- 15 Thursday. Mild and soft this morning, and the snow nearly all gone. Pork at Dumfries yesterday 7/8 per stone the highest quoted. Rather dull horse fair, the day being very unfavourable.
- 16 Friday. Dull and mild and rather cold in the afternoon. This is the day of old Mr Hannays's funeral that was in Three Merklands. Snow nearly all gone.

17 Saturday. Frosty this morning and cold. The masons still at work at Elliot's and getting on pretty well at the season of the year. Robt Clerk has his house nearly ready for the plasterers. It is going to be a pretty good house. There are many houses going up just now. Our bone vessel has not come round from Kirkcudbright.

18 Sunday. Frosty this morning, but very mild through the day. No place from home. Our bone vessel has got round but not got up yet.

19 Monday. Some little frost this morning and the snow nearly all gone. Came on rather soft in the afternoon but mild. Our bone vessel has got up today and has commenced to discharge. They are very raw as yet.

20 Tuesday. Dull but rather cold this morning. Some little snow about 9 o'clock. Down with party getting out the bones. They are a pretty fair cargo now. The "Express" got to Belfast on Saturday and has sold her coals there. Has about 4/0 freight.

21 Wednesday. Hard frost this morning but mild through the day. We have 4 carts from Barclosh today leading bones. They are coming out pretty quick and are a fair quality. None of us at Dumfries today. Robt Clerk is laying tiles for floors today in his new home.

22 Thursday. Showery this morning and has been a wild night with wind and rain. Leading bones today again. Has four carts from Barclosh. This day they are placing a Robert Wright in the Free Church. He comes or rather belongs to Tinwald Parish. I have not seen him yet. They say he is but a little fellow. Pork was rather better in Dumfries yesterday - 7/9 was got. The government has suspended the Habeus Corpus act in regard to Ireland and Fenianism and has arrested I should say 300 since last Saturday, and it can be kept in force till March 1st 1867. There will many a one get good shelter for a time. Our government has likewise proposed a Rindepest Act compelling all property to support the farmers in the cattle plague question. One of the most absurd laws that ever was put in force in the 19th century.

23 Friday. Wild showery morning and continued wild all day with wind and some slight showers. Got the bones all out last night. Somewhere about 65 tons. My Father away at the Fiers Court today at Kirkcudbright.

24 Saturday. Wild and cold this morning and some snow on the hill tops. I had a visit of Mr Gordon & wife of Douganhill last night. Mr Gordon was saying that his father was going to get married in the course of a week to a Miss McConchie (Glenlochan), and she is no more than pleased about it. The plasterer has commenced to plaster R Clerk's house today. Yesterday was Copeland's rent day here. I suppose there were several applications for ground to build on. John Elliot is away at a funeral of one of James Jardine's family today.

25 Sunday. Dry morning and mild, but cold through the day. No place from home. Came on rain at night. I see by the papers that they are still picking up a few Fenians in different parts of the country.

26 Monday. Mild this morning but got rather cold in the afternoon. Wind from the noreast. None of us at Castle Douglas. I hear that Superintendent Johnstone has resigned his situation as Chief Constable and is not at Castle Douglas. Blue Diveled.

27 Tuesday. Some little snow this morning and some little frost. There is another vessel come in with bones from Dublin. We are leading from the Station today - from Murphy at £5-17-6 delivered here. Cold all day.

28 Wednesday. Hard frost this morning and cold. Some snow showers. I was at Dumfries, but very little doing. Pork very dear - 8/2 to 8/3 was got. No bullocks for sale. Sheep very dear - and all the talk is about Rindepest.