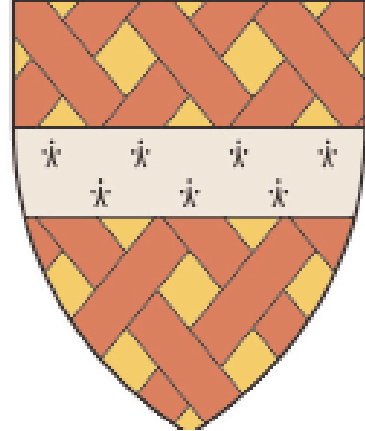


Edition 24, February 2011

# *Carswell Connection*



## **Carswell Farm**

In edition 17, October 2009 of the newsletter there is a sketch of the Carswell Farm, drawn in 1946. Bob Carswell in Toronto was kind enough to send along some photos of the farm as it appears today.



## Duncarnock Farm

The lineage of the family has been traced back to a Robert Carswell marrying a Janet Wylie at Stewarton in North Ayrshire on 22nd June 1793. Robert is a farmer by occupation. We next come across him when he is an old man of 85 years living with his son Robert Jun. and his daughter-in-law Isabella Harvie. The family has tenancy of the 46 acre farm of Duncarnock. This farm is situated on the parish boundary of Mearns with adjoining Neilston parish.

By 1851 Old Robert has gone and young Robert with his wife Isabella have a family consisting of son Robert (aged 8), John (aged 6), Isabella (aged 4), Janet (aged 2) and 2 months old William. By 1861 the family is as above only 10 years older with the addition of more children, viz Elizabeth (aged 8), Jane (aged 5), James (aged 3) and Annie (7 months).

Robert sadly does not survive long after this dying of liver and heart disease on 23rd December 1861. His death was reported by his brother William who resided in Eaglesham. After no doubt a miserable Xmas of 1861 this large family continued to live at Duncarnock with mother Isabella running the farm.

By 1871 the eldest son Robert had already left home and trained in accountancy and bookkeeping. Son John still residing at home is not into farming either as he is working as a draper. The farming gene seems to have passed to son William who was to take over the farm by 1881. William and his siblings John, Janet, Jane and Annie are all still unmarried and residing at Duncarnock with mother Isabella still about.

The family appears to have left Duncarnock sometime between 1881 and 1891 and take up residence in the nearby farm of West Craigton. The family by now consists of William (aged 40) his wife Jessie, daughter Janet (aged 6), son Robert (aged 3), son William (aged 2) and daughter Isabella (aged 3 months). Isabella the mother and grandmother are no longer either alive or they are living elsewhere by this time.

By 1901 there is no trace of the family on any of the farms in the parishes of Mearns or Eaglesham. It should be noted that there was a family of Carswells farming in the adjoining parish of Eaglesham between 1841 and 1871. This farm was called Holehouse and was farmed by a James Carswell. James was about the same age as Robert Carswell junior, so may have been a brother or cousin. As earlier stated Robert's brother William lived in Eaglesham although there is no trace of him as a farmer.





# Duncarnock Farm Census

## 1851 Census

Robert Carswell, Duncarnock Farm, Head of family, Married, 44, Farmer of 46 acres, born Mearns Parish

Isabela Carswell Wife, 33, born Mearns.

Robert Carswell Son, 8 born Mearns.

John Carswell Son, 6 born Mearns.

Isabela Carswell, 4, born Mearns.

Janet Carswell, 2, born Mearns.

William Carswell, 2 months born Mearns.

## 1861 census

Robert Carswell, Duncarnock Farm. Head, married, 57, Farmer of 45 acres employing 2 labourers, Born Mearns Renfrewshire.

Isabella, Carswell, Wife, 42, Farmers Wife, born Mearns.

Robert Carswell son 18, unmarried,

John, 16 Farmers son,

Isabella 14 Farmers daughter

Janet 12 scholar

William 10 scholar

Elizabeth 8, scholar

Jane 5 Farmers daughter

James 3 farmers son

Annie 7 months, farmers daughter

All born Mearns Parish.

Hugh Livingston, Unmarried, 27, Ploughman, born Mouren Argyllshire.

Christina Cowan, Unmarried, 26, Domestic Servant, born Mouren Argyllshire.

## 1871 Census

Isabella Carswell, Head, Widow, 52, Farmer of 50 acres, 40 acres arable, born Mearns.

John Carswell, son, unmarried, 26, Draper,

Janet Carswell, 22 farmers daughter.

William Carswell, 20 Farmers son.

Elizabeth Carswell, Daug. 18, farmers daug.

Jane Carswell, 15, farmers daug.

James Carswell, scholar, 13,

Annie, Daughter, 10.

All born Mearns Parish.

## 1881 Census

Dwelling: Duncarnock (Farm) Census Place: Mearns, Renfrew, Scotland

Source: FHL Film 0203578 GRO Ref Volume 571 EnumDist 8 Page 8

Marr Age Sex Birthplace

William CARSWELL U 30 M Mearns, Renfrew, Scotland Rel: Head Occ: Farmer 60 Acres

Isabella CARSWELL W 62 F Mearns, Renfrew, Scotland Rel: Mother Occ: Annuitant

John CARSWELL U 36 M Mearns, Renfrew, Scotland Rel: Brother Occ: Farmers Brother

Janet CARSWELL U 32 F Mearns, Renfrew, Scotland Rel: Sister Occ: Farmers Sister

Jane CARSWELL U 25 F Mearns, Renfrew, Scotland Rel: Sister Occ: Farmers Sister

James CARSWELL U 23 M Mearns, Renfrew, Scotland Rel: Brother Occ: Bank Clerk

Annie CARSWELL U 20 F Mearns, Renfrew, Scotland Rel: Sister Occ: Farmers Sister

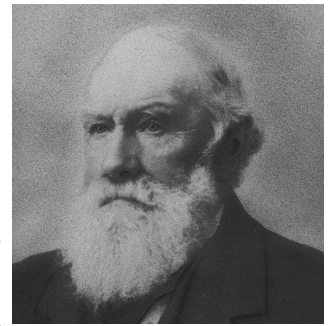
# Scottish Wills - Carswell

1513 - 1901

## Various Details from Scottish Wills – Part Six (126 - 150)

126	Carswell,	John Salesman, 11 Rosehall Street, Glasgow, d. 23/07/1883
127	Carswell,	David Farmer, Hillend, Parish of Shotts, d. 08/04/1875 at Hillend
128	Carswell,	William cabinet maker in Glasgow, spouse of Marion Fife or Carswell, died in Glasgow. age 88 in 1852
129	Carswell,	William residing in Cardross, spouse of Jane Sheperd or Carswell; documents processed 01/12/1869
130	Carswell,	James residing at Dairsiemuir, parish of Dairsie c.1820s (?) as documents processed 03/03/1832
131	Carswell,	Andrew Grocer, Athole Terrace, Maryfield, Dundee, d. 17/09/1881 at Dundee
132	Carswell,	Janeor Fisher, Storie Street, Paisley, d. 05/02/1886 at Paisley
133	Carswell,	Elizabeth or Sharp, Bridgend, Ceres, d. 20/01/1894 at Ceres
134	Carswell,	Robert writer in Glasgow, spouse of Janet Stirrat or Carswell; Trust Disposition and Settlement, 23/10/1867 Glasgow
135	Carswell,	John Carnock Cottage, Overlea, Clarkston, Busby, d. 08/06/1901 at Clarkston aforesaid
136	Carswell,	James Joint Tenant, Hillend Farm, Parish of Shotts, d. 29/08/1881 at Hillend Farm
137	Carswell,	William Joint Tenant, Hillend Farm, Parish of Shotts, d. 16/07/1877 at Hillend Farm
138	Carswell,	Barbara 21 Lansdowne Crescent, Glasgow, d.10/01/1894 at Glasgow
139	Carswell,	William Farmer, Craig of Neilston, near Neilston, d. 29/01/1878 at Craig of Neilston aforesaid
140	Carswell,	William wright and builder at Glasgow; first documents processed 05/04/1852
141	Carswell,	James Engineer to N.B. Railway Coy., 4 Princes Street, Edinburgh; d. 20/01/1897 at 7 Western Terrace, Murrayfield there
142	Carswell,	Robert Saint Colmac, Parish of North Bute, Island and County of Bute, d. 01/01/1879 at Saint Colmac aforesaid
143	Carswell,	Malcolm Macfarlane Timber Broker and Merchant, Glasgow, d. 01/05/1892 at Greenock
144	Carswell,	Robert residing at Paisley, after in Stafford Place, New City Road, Glasgow; documents processed 07/06/1858
145	Carswell,	James Joint Tenant, Hillend Farm, Parish of Shotts, d. 29/08/1881 at Hillend Farm,: more docs processed 29/11/1881
146	Carswell,	John Manufacturer in Paisley; docs processed 24/05/1833
147	Carswell,	William Provision Merchant, Eglinton Street, Glasgow, d. 09/05/1881 at Glasgow
148	Carswell,	James residing at Rathkillet, Parish of Kilmany; docs processed 29/12/1857
149	Carswell,	Janet Miss, residing in Cupar, sister of Miss Barbara Carswell; docs processed 09/11/1847, Mutual Disposition wirh sister
150	Carswell,	William Provision Merchant, Eglinton Street, Glasgow, d. 09/05/1881

# James Carswell's diary, 1866



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

## June

- 1 Friday. Still some very slight showers, but will do very little good. Got the bones all out tonight. We started a Draughts Club last night. 9 members.
- 2 Saturday. Some little rain this morning. Scarcely darkened the earth. Still grinding bones, and going away as fast as they are ground.
- 3 Sunday. Still dry and bask. No place from home.
- 4 Monday. Still dry. Wind from the south east. There has been some heavy showers in the neighborhood lately, but little or none has come here.
- 5 Tuesday. Dry and warm and often threatened rain but no quantity ever comes. The country would be much the better of a good wet day. Commenced to lead bones from Palnackie today. The vessel can't get up. Dr McKnight is in Dalbeattie just now. Our election day comes up on Thursday first.
- 6 Wednesday. Still fresh looking but little rain has fallen. The weather glass still low. Thomas at Dumfries. The bones still going away as they are ground. 4 carts leading from Palnackie today.
- 7 Thursday. Soft morning and very wet till midday. This is our election day in Dalbeattie. I have not heard the returns of No. 1 and No. 2 wards. Dr Lewis was elected in No. 2 Ward in place of Kim. I have since heard that Murdock in the first ward is returned again – and my Father is (winner) in the 3 Ward in place of Glendinning, who retired. This has been a rare day for the country. Still leading bones from Palnackie. I think we have now got master and will now load all as they come.
- 8 Friday. Mild and dry but has had some showers through the night. Fine weather for the country. Still leading bones from Palnackie. The vessel will get up on Monday. Mr Caldow of Caldow and Mc Keand died yesterday morning of a short illness. Nothing fresh going on.
- 9 Saturday. Mild and warm and a fine day for the country. Still leading bones from Palnackie, and still going away nearly as fast as they are ground. There was a meeting of the Gas Shareholders last night when a dividend of 5 per cent was declared payable on the 2nd July. Several extreme failures still reporting in the papers, and a great war on the eve of commencing in the center of Europe.
- 10 Sunday. Dry and mild. Wet yesterday afternoon. I bought 4 pigs last night from Halliday (Banks) at 22/- each. Nothing fresh going on. The Reform Bill is going in favourably as far as it has gone.
- 11 Monday. Dry and mild, but fresh looking. The vessel has got up to the Port yesterday and is leading today. Still a few bones going away. This is the day of Mr Caldow's funeral and likewise the day of Miss Corrie's marriage to a man of the name of Dodds, and has four of a family, which is not a first-rate start. Thomas at Castle Douglas. Still a few bones wanting.
- 12 Tuesday. Mild and dry but has been some little rain through the night. Still leading bones but we will get them mostly out tonight. Still going away as fast as ground. . James Ritchie has given in his resignation as a Commissioner of Police. By the Act we can take no notice of it for three weeks. Came on wet in the afternoon. Got the bones all out.
- 13 Wednesday. Dry this morning and mild through the (day). Wind from about the north. I had a letter from the "Express" at Horton, 30 miles below Dramen. Our cow calved this morning. Thomas at Dumfries. Bones still going away as ground. There were 61 tons, some odds, in the vessel – and it will take us all next week to grind them.
- 14 Thursday. Mild and dry. Thomas putting in his turnips today. There were a meeting of Road Trustees for this district today and nothing of importance has taken place. The assessment for the keeping of roads is 3\_d instead of 4d last year. All the other items are the same except \_ for obtaining of the Act. Only some of the bones going away, but still grinding.
- 15 Friday. Dull and rather soft this morning. Some few bones going away. There is three men belonging to Dalbeattie getting married tonight. One is Joseph Ferguson to some woman about Dumfries, John Hannah, son of George Hannah, to some woman about Crossmichael , and Thomas Crosbie to a daughter of William Conchies. about Dumfries,

16 Saturday. Mild and dry in the morning but showery through the day. Thomas got in his turnips yesterday and is putting in his head today. Still a few bones going away.

17 Sunday. Dry but rather cold wind from the north west. No place from home. No pay from the Old Lawn Company last night, and 5/- was kept off each of the workers pay before.

18 Monday. Cold and rather bask. Thomas at Castle Douglas. All the apprentices at Old Lawn quarries have stopped work on account of no pay on Saturday night and many of the men likewise. Still a few bones going away.

19 Tuesday. Mild and dry. Still grinding bones. This is the day of Kathrine Aitkin's marriage, but I forget the man's name. He is farm manager about Gribtae. The government side was beat last night by 11 votes on the Franchise Bill, and are to give tonight what they intend to do, and likewise war has commenced between the Austrians and Prussians, and when it may end no one can tell.

20 Wednesday. Mild and dry in the morning. Some little rain about midday. Got my potatoes drill harrowed today. Thomas at Dumfries. John Elliot and my son is going off to Isle of Man tonight.

21 Thursday. Mild and dry this morning, but has been a heavy rain last night. Turnips growing but very slowly. The weather still rather cold. Still grinding bones and some few going away. Caigton got 120 bushels today. Our Cabinet has got beat on the Reform Bill by 11 votes and is going to resign, and whether the Tories can form a cabinet or not time will tell. Our member voted against the Crown.

22 Friday. Mild and dry. Nothing fresh going on. Our bones getting far through. I think two days in the beginning of the week will finish them. The "Express" got load(ed) at Dramen on Thursday, and now on her road for Dumfries. Still a few bones going away. Measles is very prevalent about Dalbeattie and several young ones has died from the results. My Father getting their kitchen and shop? partly laid with flooring tiles.

23 Saturday. Dry and mild and warm through the day. Sent our cart with 50 \_\_ of bones to Caigton today, but very few going away now. Old Samuel McCaw died yesterday. He was four times married. John Elliot and John came home this morning from their Isle of Man trip. John was sick going away but not coming home. We have the offer of bones delivered here just now at £4 17/6 from Dublin which is cheap, and has sent an offer for them at £4-12-6.

24 Sunday. Dry and warm and very warm through the day. No place from home. A great deal of people going down to sea bathing, and fine weather for it. This day will help to make the turnips good. They have grown very slowly this season.

25 Monday. Still dry and very warm. The water but very light. We are still grinding bones but not more than one half our time. Thomas at Castle Douglas. Nothing fresh there. Appears to have been a great battle fought between the Austrians & Prussians, but not a very full report yet.

26 Tuesday. Still dry and warm. I have some women weeding my potatoes. They are looking very well. Likewise my turnips. Will soon be ready for hoeing.

27 Wednesday. Still dry and very warm. Thomas at Dumfries. I see by the papers today that we are to have a change of ministry. The Queen has accepted the resignation of Lord John Russell & Gladstone, and Lord Derby has taken it on hand to form a cabinet – but I don't think it will stand long as the Torys are losing power. We have got all our bones ground for the season although we have bought another cargo at £4-12-6 from Kearney, Dublin. I has three swarms of bees today; two of Elliot's and one of my own. All good swarms.

28 Thursday. Still dry and warm. I have two women cutting up some skins. We will have about 1000 bushels bones and about 2 tons dissolved bones. There are reports in the papers of great battles being fought between the Italians and Austrians and between the Austrians and Prussians.

29 Friday. Still dry and warm. I went up the lade(mill race) to hang Geds ( Pike) but came badly on the day being rather hazy and the Burn hazy. John Carswell came home from Liverpool last night for three weeks play? days.

30 Saturday. Dry and mild but rather fresh looking. Wind from the south and not so warm. Has still two women cleaning up about the mill, but will about finish today. Came on rain about one o'clock and soft the most of the afternoon.