

Bonallo Connections

Brewers, Fishers and Teachers

Pam Griffiths

December 2020

Contents

	Page
Sheila Margaret Bonallo: Edinburgh and Darlington	3
The earliest Bonallos: Hill of Beath, Scoonie, Wemyss, Kennoway, Markinch	12
Dury, Michie, Laverock and Beans: Wemyss	18
Bonallo: Markinch	20
Stark and Dowie: around Markinch	29
Thomas Bonallo and family: Markinch to Edinburgh and beyond	34
Gordon and Turnbull: mainly Yarrow	55
John Charles Brodie Bonallo and family: mainly Edinburgh	61
Oversby and Turnbull: Yarrow	71
Oversby, Willan and Mason: Dent	81
Thomas Ernest Bonallo: Edinburgh	88
Isabella McKay: Tain and Edinburgh	93
The earlier McKays: Inver	99
Grant and McKenzie: Dornoch	109
Fraser and Ross: Tain	113
McNaughton and Gourley: Ross and Perthshire	115
Hugh McKay Bonallo's siblings: Edinburgh and further afield	123
Hugh Mackay Bonallo: Edinburgh and Darlington	129

Trees	Page
Tree 1 - Descendants of Robert Bonallo	15
Tree 2 - Descendants of James Durie and Isobell Michie	18
Tree 3 - Family of Henry Laverock and Elspeth Beans	19
Tree 4 - Descendants of David Bonallo and Betty Stark	21
Tree 5 - Probable family of Betty Stark	30
Tree 6 - Descendants of William Dowie and Grissel Pitbladdo	32
Tree 7 - Family of David Briggs or Bridges and Helen Robertson	34
Tree 8 - Family of Thomas Bonallo and Jane Gordon	35
Tree 9 - Family of William Bonallo	46
Tree 10 - Family of Thomas and Frances Mary Bonallo or Gordon	49
Tree 11 - Family of David James Bonallo and Alice Mary Connor	51
Tree 12 - Family of Lauder Miller Bonallo and Minnie Kirk	53
Tree 13 - Family of Robert Hume and Jane Helen Bonallo	54
Tree 14 - Descendants of ?Thomas Gordon	61
Tree 15 - Descendants of John Charles B Bonallo and Margaret Ann Oversby	63
Tree 16 - Descendants of Oliver Oversby	73
Tree 17 - Descendants of ?Robert Turnbull	76
Tree 18 - Descendants of John and Elizabeth Oversby	82
Tree 19 - Family of John and Cecily Willan	84
Tree 20 - Descendants of George and Jennet Oversby	85
Tree 21 - Descendants of Edward Wood	86
Tree 22 - Family of Hugh McKay and Ann Fraser	96
Tree 23 - Descendants of William McKay and Ann Ross	100
Tree 24 - Family of Alexander Grant and Joanna McKenzie	108
Tree 25 - Descendants of John Fraser and Ann Ross	112
Tree 26 - Family of Duncan McNaughton and Ann Gourlay	116
Tree 27 - Descendants of Thomas Ernest Bonallo and Ishbel McKay	124
Tree 28 - Family of Hugh McKay Bonallo and Susan Yeaman Boath Paton	141

Sheila Margaret Bonallo: Edinburgh and Darlington



Sheila Margaret Bonallo

My mother-in-law's antecedents hailed in the main from the eastern half of Scotland, although with a little Yorkshire thrown in. On the north-east coast, her ancestors lived mainly in Dornoch in Sutherland and Tain in Ross and Cromarty. Further south, a group was settled variously in the counties of Angus, Fife and Perthshire. In the borders, one known ancestor came from as far south as Dumfries, while the rest of this line was settled in Peeblesshire and Selkirkshire, with one incomer from Yorkshire. Inevitably, in time, all these lines coalesced in the capital city, Edinburgh. This account focuses on her paternal ancestors.

Sheila Margaret Bonallo was born at the Royal Maternity Hospital in Edinburgh in 1925, and the birth certificate gives far more detail than its English counterpart. General Registration began later in Scotland, but the bonus is that much more information can be gleaned from its records. So, the birth certificate gives not only the date but the time of the birth, and not only the parents' names but the time and place of their marriage. The registered entry reads as follows:

Sheila Margaret Bonallo, June 4th 1925, 11.55 pm,
Royal Maternity Hospital, Edinburgh, F
Hugh MacKay Bonallo, Brewer (Domicil: 17 Chambers St, Edinburgh)
Susan Bonallo m s Paton 1922 December 1st, Leith

Signed Hugh M Bonallo, father; registered 1925 June 16th at Edinburgh.

The proud parents also put an announcement in *The Scotsman*:¹

At Edinburgh, on 4th inst., to Mr and Mrs HUGH BONALLO of 17 Chambers Street, a daughter



Sheila with her father, Hugh Bonallo

She spent most of her childhood living at 17 Chambers Street, part of the site of the Campbell, Hope and King brewery where her father was Head Brewer, the third member of the family to work for this company. She attended James Gillespie's High School in Edinburgh, which was, and still is, considered one of the best schools in Edinburgh. It includes amongst its alumni writers Muriel Spark and Dorothy Dunnett, and actors Alistair Sim and Ronnie Corbett.

Muriel Spark wrote a piece about Edinburgh schools², which begins:

From the sixteenth century to the nineteenth century, the worthy and

¹ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> , *The Scotsman*, 6.6.1925

² <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/1991/03/25/the-school-on-the-links>



Sheila at school – top R 1st row; 4th L 3rd row; 5th R 3rd row

prosperous merchants and burghers of Edinburgh vied with each other to leave their fortunes for the founding of schools throughout the city. Education was held in awe, and the Scottish idea was that nobody should be denied this privilege. The schools, only a few of them having undergone change in nature and in buildings, still exist.

she goes on to cite, among others, Heriot's School, Fettes College and James Gillespie's, founded by a snuff merchant who died in 1797. This was the school, Spark says which:

fell to my happy lot to attend. Gillespie's endowment allowed for parents of high aspirations and slender means, like my own, to pay moderate fees in return for educational services far beyond what they were paying for.

Her book *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* was based on one of the teachers at Gillespie's. As the children of a Head Brewer, living in Edinburgh, both Sheila and her sister Moira benefitted from, if not entirely 'loved', that education of 'high aspirations and slender means'.



Sheila in the WAAF

War interrupted her secondary education, and not long after the beginning of World War II, Sheila and her younger sister Moira were evacuated out of Edinburgh to stay with her father's cousin, Florence Bonallo, in Markinch, in Fife. By the time she was 16 she was back at Gillespie's in Edinburgh taking her 'Lowers'. Then, as soon as she was 18 years old and before she took her 'Highers', she left to join the Women's Auxiliary Air Force as an Aircraftwoman. It was towards the end of the Second World War that she was posted to Aldergrove in Antrim where it is believed she worked in the radio and radar section. It was at Aldergrove that she met her



**Leonard Henry Griffiths and Sheila Margaret Bonallo
with sister Moira as bridesmaid**

future husband, Leonard Henry Griffiths, an RAF Pilot Navigator, who had been stationed there at the end of the war.

In March 1947, she and Len got engaged. Photos from this time show the couple in Dublin, visiting O'Connell Street, Dun Laoghaire, Nelson's Pillar – which they climbed. Four months later, they married and the Scottish Marriage Certificate provides a wealth of information:

1947 Marriages in the District of Canongate Portobello in the city of Edinburgh.
30th July at Abbey Church Edinburgh after banns according to the form of the Church of Scotland.

Leonard Henry Griffiths, Clerk, Ministry of Food, Bachelor, 23

Sheila Margaret Bonallo, Book-keeper (Aircraftwoman) WAAF, Spinster, 22

64, Etnam St, Leominster, Herefordshire

17, Chambers St, Edinburgh

Leonard Griffiths, Railway Signaller, Elsie Mary Griffiths, m s Hughes

Hugh McKay Bonallo, Brewer, Susan Yeaman Boath Bonallo, m s Paton

Signed: J Broadfoot, Minister of Abbey Church, Edinburgh

Witnesses: R. Jones, 25, Charnley St. Whitefield, Manchester

M. Bonallo, 17, Chambers St, Edinburgh

Registered 31st July, Edinburgh

The couple honeymooned in Dunbar between 30th July and 3rd August and then on Rothesay and Bute from 3rd – 10th August, but within a short time, Sheila found herself living in Etnam Street in Leominster and nursing her mother-in-law who was terminally ill with cancer.



Sheila, Len and Iain – Christening, Easter Sunday 1949

By 1948, Len was undergoing teacher training, first at Chester College, and then at Loughborough College. Although by 1949 Len and Sheila had a rented home of their own at 14, King Street in Chester, Len didn't finish his studies until 1950, by which time their first child, Iain David, had been born at the City Hospital in Chester (in February 1949). As a tiny baby, Iain apparently lost weight in the first days after his birth; once bottle-fed, he started to thrive. When Iain's and my daughter was born, proud Nana watched me breast-feeding her granddaughter and commented:

My mother would love to have seen that!

and then went on to tell me of the problems she had experienced in trying to breast-feed Iain. She used to cuddle her granddaughter and when she tried to nuzzle against her – as babies will – announced:

It's no good; that's a dry coo.

In September 1951, Len and Sheila were able to buy a home in Darlington, at 23, Langholm Crescent, a sturdy terraced house with plenty of space for a family. A note in the photo album comments:

A house at last

It was to be Sheila's home for the next eighteen years, and was where she brought up her three children, two of whom are still living, so not named in this account. They settled in Darlington as this was considered halfway between the grandparents' homes. It was a relatively straightforward train journey to her parents' home in Edinburgh, somewhat less so to visit Len's family. Nevertheless, the photo album shows regular visits to both sides of the family. It was in Darlington that Len was appointed to his first – and only – school as he became Head of P.E. and a Mathematics teacher at Darlington Queen Elizabeth Grammar School for boys from the outset of his career.



23, Langholm Crescent, Darlington

Sheila's family recall someone who was very practical, with a sharp wit, a quirky sense of humour and a level of intelligence that could work out complicated, cryptic crosswords very quickly. By the age of 27 she was bringing up three children under five years old, a full time job in itself. A teacher's salary in the 1950s and 1960s was not particularly generous and Sheila augmented it by bringing in a small income as a part-time officer for the Register of Electors for many years. Sheila became a dab hand at sewing and knitting on her machines, making clothes for herself and her children. She even made her own, very smart, outfit for our wedding. She was a more than competent cook and could always provide a hearty meal for whoever turned up at the house. She provided teas for the DGSOB {Darlington Grammar School Old Boys} cricket matches, and pies and peas for their teams at the rugby club. Social life revolved around the DGSOB rugby club, where Len, as a teacher and sportsman, and Sheila herself as a regular supporter and patron, were key figures.

As her parents got older, they decided to move nearer to her and their grandchildren, and bought a house at 100, Neville Road in Darlington. Her father died in 1965 and when her mother died in 1968, Sheila inherited the house and eventually moved into it. In the next few years the marriage underwent several, difficult challenges and in 1974 she and Len divorced. Sheila never reconciled to being divorced; however it did encourage her to find independence and a job. Her first full-time employment was as a clerk with Paton and Baldwins Wool Company in Darlington, but she soon abandoned this for the Civil Service, where she worked as a Clerical Officer. She enjoyed working in the Civil Service and was in line for promotion shortly before her death in 1981.

I first met her when I was a raw 18-year-old, and recall being terrified because I couldn't always understand the Edinburgh accent that she had kept despite years of living in England. She had a close relationship with all her children, who shared her quirky sense of humour. I can remember, on that first visit I made, a detailed comic conversation she had with Iain, who was on a 'black pants hunt' for a pair of trousers he wanted to pack. The other thing I recall is my astonishment that the front door of the house had a handle as well as a lock. It was my first introduction to the antithesis of southern reserve, the idea that people could pop in without knocking and be welcomed.

Over the years Sheila had suffered a number of health problems including asthma, diabetes and an underactive thyroid. On 25th November 1981, she died suddenly at home from a Cerebral Haemorrhage. The certificate recorded:

Spontaneous Subarachnoid Haemorrhage; Hypertensive Heart Disease

She was laid to rest in Darlington Crematorium. She left no will, not having expected such a sudden end, so Letters of Administration were granted to her two sons.



Sheila Margaret Griffiths née Bonallo

Moira and Sheila



The earliest Bonallos: Hill of Beath, Scoonie, Wemyss, Kennoway, Markinch

The name Bonallo appears in various guises in the records, and even the same person doesn't always follow a consistent spelling in the early years. So I have stuck mainly to the modern spelling. However, I have seen Bonallie, Bonaylay, Bonnaly, Bonally, Bonallow, Bonailo, Bonaillo, and several other variants.

My husband, Iain, told me of two possible origins for the name Bonallo, one that it was Spanish in origin, and that the first to bear the name in Scotland had come ashore from one of the ships of the Spanish Armada, blown north and shipwrecked after its defeat by Drake and Hawkins. The other was that it came from the Scots word 'Bonnaillie', itself derived from French 'Bon aller' – to go well, something you would say to someone about to go on a journey. Nevertheless, given that most early instances of the name, in various forms, occur in Fife, I had long supposed it more likely that it is a locative name, from a place marked Bonallé Beth on Blaeu's map of Fife³. On this map it lies to the south of Cowden beth (Cowdenbeath), between Steinsons beth and Nether beth. The 'beth' suffix which appears in numerous local place names supposedly means birch tree. However, I recently came across a website entitled 'Fife Place-name Data'⁴ which included an entry on the Hill of Beath, just to the west of Cowdenbeath. There were several references to Bonallos:

Hill Of Beath [BEA](#) [DFL](#) S NT150900 1 384 145m

Bonaleis-Becht 1557 x 1585 RMS v no. 898

Bonaylay Brae 1557 x 1585 *Dunf. Reg*⁵. p. 488 [*Brae* is for Beath; feued to William Bonally (*Bonaylay*)]

Baith-Bonalay 1580 RMS iv no. 2959 [feued to John Durie by commendator of Dunfermline Abbey]

Baithe under the hill 1627 *Retours* (Fife) no. 386 [to James Dewar of

Baithe-Banaley, half the vill and lands of *Baithe under the hill* called

Baithe-Banaley in the parish of Dunfermline]

(James Dewar of) *Baithe-Banaley* 1627 *Retours* (Fife) no. 386

Bonally Beth 1642 Gordon MS Fife

Bonalle Beth 1654 Blaeu (Gordon) Fife

Baith under the Hill 1671 *Retours* (Fife) no. 1089 [to James Dewar of

Bonalesbaithe half the vill and lands of *Baith-Bonaley* commonly called

Baith under the Hill in the parish of Dunfermline (although since 1643, in the parish of Beath: see BEA Introduction)]

(James Dewar of) *Bonalesbaithe* 1671 *Retours* (Fife) no. 1089

Today The Hill of Beath (always with the definite article) refers to the conspicuous hill (240 m) beside the M90 north-east of Dunfermline, while the settlement at the east end of that hill is called Hill of Beath (no definite

³ <https://maps.nls.uk/view/00000444> Blaeu's Map of Fife 1654

⁴ <https://fife-placenames.glasgow.ac.uk/placename/?id=207>

⁵ *Dunf. Reg* – Cartulary of Dunfermline Abbey

In 1533 David Bonnaly along with Mark Swynton raised an action in the regality court of Dunfermline against Master Andrew Stewart (*Andro Stwart*) and Thomas Keir (*Thom Keyr*) regarding the possession of 'ane moss'. Given that all these surnames appear as Beath proprietorial names, we can safely assume that the moss in question was somewhere in Beath near the estates containing these surnames, i.e near the Hill of Beath (*Dunf. Reg. Ct. Bk. 99*). We can also assume that the Bonally family was in half the lands of *Beath under the Hill by this time.

A historical map of the Morvin area in Scotland, showing various towns and landmarks. The map is oriented with North at the top. Key locations include Dunfermlin, Forthridge, Morvin, and several smaller settlements like Bonython and Bonython. The map also shows the River Forth and the Firth of Forth. The map is drawn in a simple, hand-drawn style with black ink on a light background. The names of the towns are written in a cursive script. The map is a reproduction of an old map, likely from the 18th or 19th century.

Although the names William and David do appear quite regularly in the Bonallo tree, and although there are fewer than 20 miles between the parishes of Beath and Scoonie – where the first confirmed Bonallo in this line pops up, there is no concrete evidence to link the Bonallos who appear above to Robert Bonallow or

Bonnallo, who married Jean Lesles at Scoonie on 20th June 1683, and fathered two children there. I believe that he is probably the first proven person in this Bonallo line, but evidence is scanty, and this first generation must be considered speculative. William and Jean's first child, John, was baptised eight months after the wedding, on 23rd February 1683, and the second, Thomas, on 13th April 1684. Presumably, Jean died shortly after this, although there are few burial records in Scotland at this time. It may have been son John who married Clara Naughton some time before 1713 and baptised four children in Markinch and a further three in St Andrews between 1713 and 1724. However, there was another John Bonallo who married first Margaret Ronaldsone and then Margaret Blyth in Markinch. Given that his first wife's children were named Robert, Elspet and Margaret, reflecting the names of father, step-mother and wife, this seems a more likely match, although he would have been an elderly spouse and father, siring children between 1723 and 36.

On 13th March 1685, Robert Bonallow married again at Scoonie, to Elizabeth Wallace. The register simply records the date and their names (see tree 1 p. 15):

Robert Bonallow and Elizabeth Wallace were married

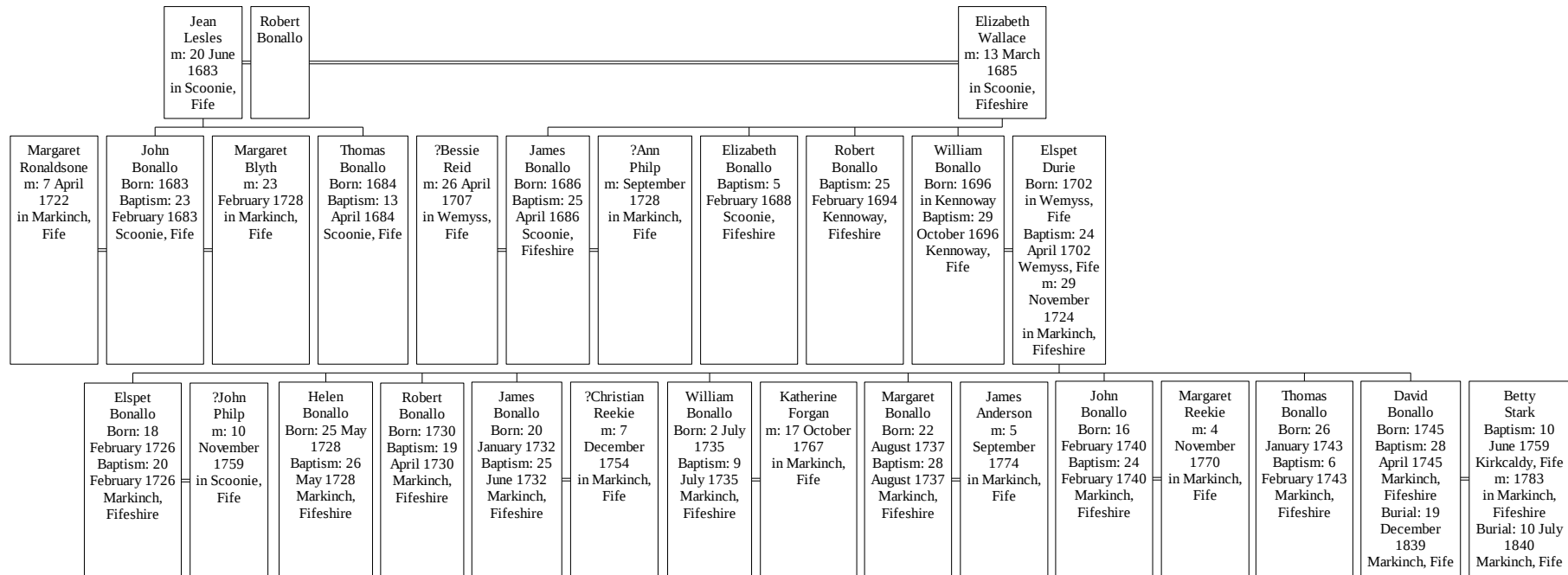
Two further children were baptised there – James – 25th April 1686 – and Elizabeth – 5th February 1688. It seems likely that James married Bessie Reid at Wemyss on 26th April 1707 and baptised five children at Markinch. He may have subsequently married Ann Philp and had two more sons. The four parishes of Scoonie and Wemyss, Kennoway and Markinch, where Robert and his descendants went next, make a tight little group together. Robert and Elizabeth's next known child, also named Robert, was baptised at Kennoway on 25th February 1694. I suspect his parents were recent arrivals in the parish, as his mother's name is wrongly recorded as Margaret Wallace. There may have been other children in between, baptised where records haven't survived. As with Elizabeth, there is no further trace of Robert junior.

The last child of the family was William, whose descendants we will follow, and who is the first definitely proven Bonallo in this line. He was baptised at Kennoway on 25th October 1696. This time, the mother's name was given correctly. Not much more is known of Robert Bonallo and Elizabeth Wallace, although it seems that Robert, at least, lived to a ripe old age. An obituary for his grandson David in *The Gentleman's Magazine*⁶ makes an intriguing statement:

Longevity seems peculiar to the family, for his grandfather's, his father's and his own age, when taken at an average, have each amounted to 97. His father [sic] happened to cross Magus Muir on 3rd May 1679, when Archbishop Sharpe was murdered, and saw the assassins scouring across

⁶ https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=k-wIAAAIAAJ&pg=PA222&lpg=PA222&dq=Balcurvie+bonallo&source=bl&ots=7xn8qoFbVU&sig=gIOA1Y1c8MQpWutfdemL3HC9t_E&hl=en&sa=X&ei=JYuQT6n7Eoik8QO6spWSBA&ved=0CB8Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=Balcurvie%20bonallo&f=false

Tree 1 - Descendants of Robert Bonallo



A lot of this tree is speculative, and can't be proven definitively.

the heath after the bloody deed. He was then in his 15th year.'

Sharp was Archbishop of St Andrew's, Primate of Scotland at a particularly turbulent time in Scottish religious history. The Covenanters, who were strictly non-conformist, hated bishops on principle, and found Sharp totally antagonistic to them and their preferred way of worship. On a journey from Edinburgh to St Andrews, he stopped overnight at Kennoway, and the next day was waylaid and assassinated by a group of Covenanters. The only problem with this account is the fact that David's father, William, had not been born in 1679. However, his father, Robert, who married first in 1683, could well have been around 15 at the time. If the account is correct about longevity, and it is referring to Bonallo ancestors not maternal ones, then presumably Robert died sometime around 1760. Curiously, there are some burial records from Markinch for the 18th century, but not a single Bonallo entry among them. There is a burial for a Robert Bonallo at Ceres in 1764, but no real reason to connect this to our Robert. Ceres is around 16 miles from Markinch.

Robert's son William Bonailo married Elspet Durie, daughter of James Durie and Helen Laverock at Markinch on 29th November 1724:

Oct 24th 1724 contracted William Bonailo and Elspet Durie both in this parish and consigned their pledges. Married Nov 29. Paans [sic] delivered.

It is relatively unusual for the marriage date to be recorded in early registers. Often just the proclamation date is noted, but where this is the only date available, I have recorded it as the marriage date.

Scottish families often followed strict naming patterns, which makes it easier to work out family relationships. The first son was named after the paternal grandfather, the second after the maternal and the third after the father. Daughters followed a similar pattern – maternal and then paternal grandmother, then mother. Looking at William and Elspet's parents, this would produce sons named Robert, James and William and daughters Elizabeth, Helen and Elspet. Given that Elspet and Elizabeth are variants of the same name, these were unlikely to be repeated, so it is comforting to see that their first five children were named as follows: Elspet, Helen, Robert, James and William. However, that is the nearest that I have to proof that the William Bonallo born in Kennoway was the one raising a family in Markinch. Fortunately, this branch of the Bonallo clan stayed in Markinch until a time when further records are available, making the rest of the descent much more clear-cut.

Elspet, William and Elspet's first child, was born just over two years after they married, and was baptised on 20th February 1726 at Markinch (as were all her siblings). The register notes that she was born on 18th February, and gives Markinch as her parents' abode. The witnesses were Robert Bonailo and James Bonailo, presumably her grandfather and uncle. It is possible that it was she who married John Philp at Scoonie on 10th November 1759 however, there was another Elspet

Bonallo born in Markinch a year earlier, to a John and Margaret. The two Elspets may well have been cousins, if this John was, as I suspect, half-brother to William.



Markinch parish church

Helen – William and Elspet's next child - was baptised on 26th May 1728, but then disappeared from the records. However, her baptism is the first to mention Balcurvie in Markinch as the family's home. This place retained links to descendants of the Bonallo family well into the 21st century. Balcurvie was, and still is, a small settlement, over 4 ½ miles from the town of Markinch, although part of the parish. Kennoway would have been a much nearer town, less than a mile away. Leven is around 3 ½ miles away, as is Wemyss.

Robert, baptised 19th April 1730, may have made an early marriage to Anna Bowie in 1749, but I suspect this is more likely Robert son of John, born in Markinch in 1723. James baptised on 25th June 1732, probably married Christian Reekie on 7th December 1754 at Markinch, while his brother William, baptised on 9th July 1735, probably married Katherine Forgan there on 17th October 1767. Margaret, baptised on 28th August 1737, married James Anderson in 1774. It is from a post-nuptial contract⁷ for this marriage that we learn that William Bonallo was a weaver:

James Anderson, weaver in St. Claretown and Margaret Bonallo, his spouse, daughter of William Bonallo, weaver in Balcurvie: Post- nuptial contract of marriage, 20.10.1774

According to the *Statistical Accounts*⁸, in 1795 there were 160 weavers in the parish.

⁷ NRS (National Records of Scotland) SC20/36/12, Sheriff Courts of Fife Deeds 1715-1809

⁸ https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/viewer/osa-vol12-Parish_record_for_Markinch_in_the_county_of_Fife_in_volume_12_of_account_1/osa-vol12-p525-parish-fife-markinch?search=Markinch

Married ye 23rd April 1697



They baptised four children in Wemyss, James, on 13th March 1698, Elspet on 24th April 1702, Hendrie – 21st June 1705 - and Isabell – 4th April 1708 (**See tree 2 p. 18**). Both James Durie's and Helen Laverock's families can be followed for two more generations. James junior, like his sister, married in Markinch. His bride, whom he wed on 10th August 1722, was Emilie Martin. Their younger sister Isabell married Thomas Berrage at Wemyss on 21st July 1733.

James senior's father was also named James. He married Isobell Michie at Wemyss on 3rd June 1664, and their first child, James, was baptised there on 30th July 1665:

Sunday July 30 1665

The said day was baptised James Durie son lawful to James Durie and Isobell Michie before these witnesses, Robert Durie and Thomas Durie ...

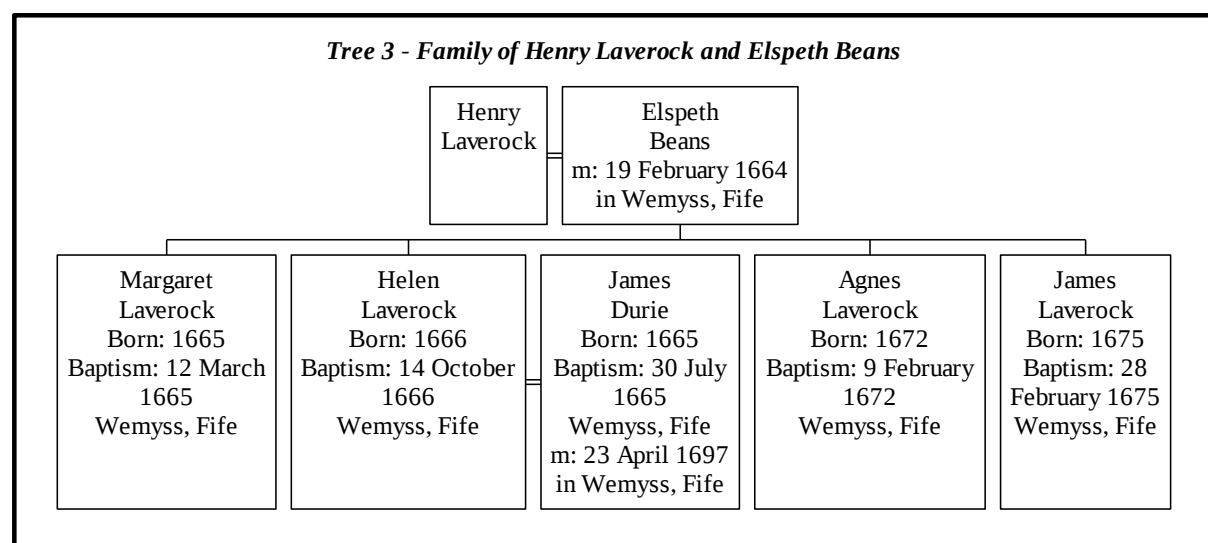
It seems most likely that Robert and Thomas Durie were the child's uncles. Two daughters followed: Mary – 9th February 1668 and Margaret – 20th April 1673. I suspect there may have been earlier generations of Duries in Wemyss, but the register only begins in 1660.

Helen Laverock was also baptised at Wemyss, on 14th October 1666. She too was the eldest in her family, followed by Agnes, baptised on 9th February 1672 and James – 28th February 1675 (**See tree 3 – p. 19**). Their parents were Henry Laverock and Elspeth Beans who married on 19th February 1664. Clearly their births would have taken place before the register started, but, due to the peculiar habit of charging marrying couples a deposit in case of riotous behaviour, we know that Elspeth was the daughter of David Beans:

The said day were contracted for marriage Henry Laverocke and Elspeth Beans both in this parish. The man consigned in pledge 2 rex dollars. And David Beans ... for his daughter's pt Married Feby 19.

January 3 1664

Tree 3 - Family of Henry Laverock and Elspeth Beans



Bonallo: Markinch

David Bonailo, son of William Bonallo and Elspeth Durie, was the first of his line to spend his whole life in Markinch parish, and his son William was the last. David was born on 19th April 1745 and baptised on 28th.

The Old Statistical Account of Scotland was published between 1791 and 99. The entry for Markinch⁹ explains that in 1794 it was one of the most populous country parishes in Fife, with nearly 2,800 people, a rise from 2,188 in 1755. Two large collieries and a number of mills provided employment. Oats, barley, flax, potatoes, peas and beans were grown locally; cattle-breeding was beginning to replace sheep farming. Linen manufacture was also a source of employment, with weavers either working locally or for the:

great manufacturers on the coast

There was one 'established' schoolmaster in the parish, paid £10 per annum. He charged:

3 s for teaching Latin, 2s 6d for arithmetic, 2 s for writing, and 1 s 6d for English.

There were also a number of private schools, including a school to teach girls to sew. Over 200 Markinch children benefitted from schooling, and only 20 people were in receipt of regular poor relief.

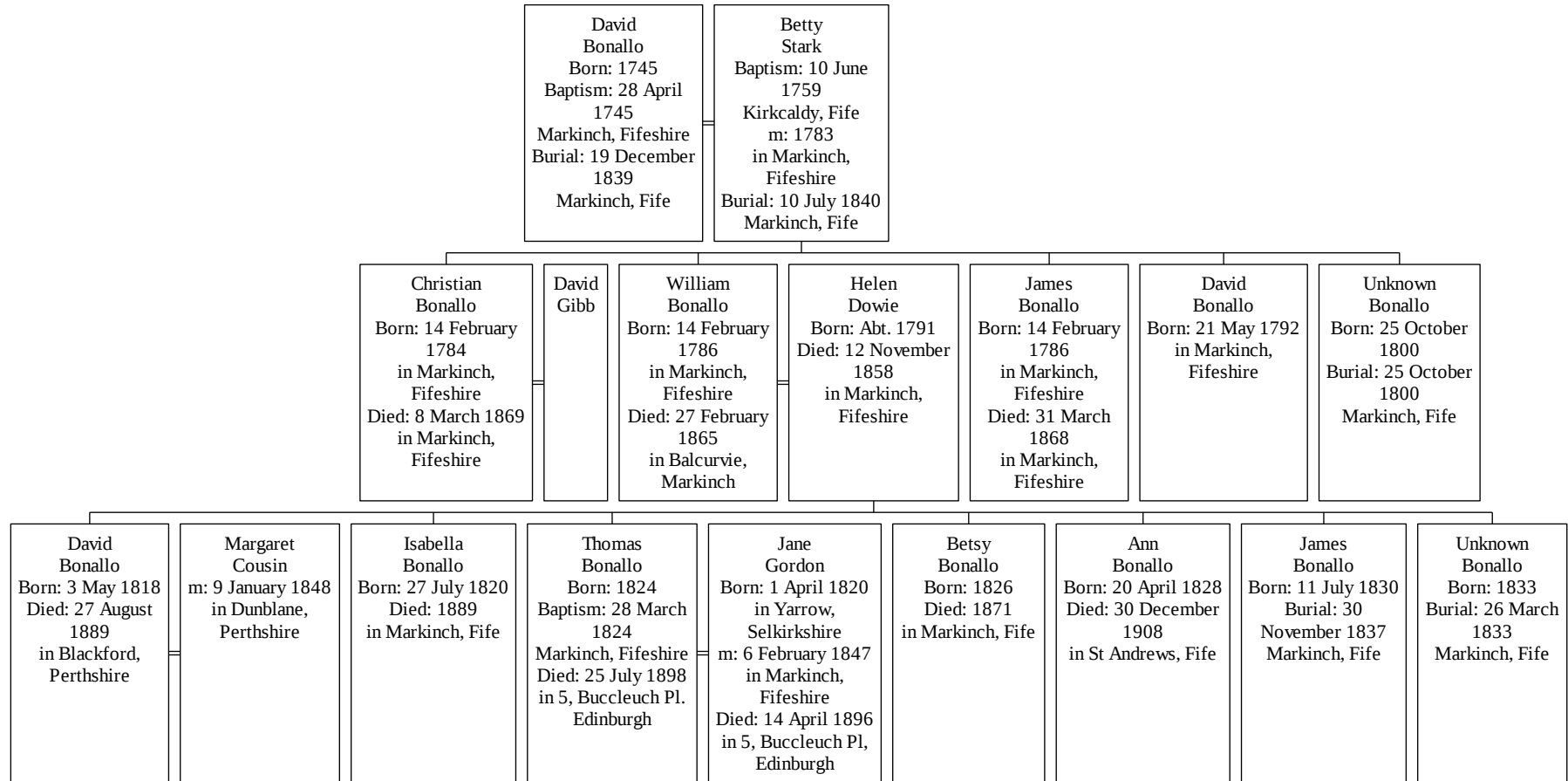


Markinch, Fife

[cc-by-sa/2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/) - © [James Denham](https://www.geograph.org.uk/p/2487767) - [geograph.org.uk/p/2487767](https://www.geograph.org.uk/p/2487767)

⁹ https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/viewer/osa-vol12-Parish_record_for_Markinch_in_the_county_of_Fife_in_volume_12_of_account_1/osa-vol12-p525-parish-fife-markinch?search=Markinch

Tree 4 - Descendants of David Bonallo and Betty Stark



In 1783, David married Betty Stark at Markinch, or at least they proclaimed their banns. The date is not clear, but probably reads 22nd May:

David Bonaillo and Betty Stark both in this parish gave up their names and gave 20^d to the poor.

Presumably by this time, fees such as those charged earlier at Wemyss had been commuted to a charitable donation. The couple's first child, Christian, was baptised at Markinch on 11th April 1784 (see **tree 4 - p. 21**). She must have made a late marriage to one David Gibb, labourer - though there is no record of it - as the couple baptised three children in Markinch between 1817 and 1821. She died on 8th March 1869 at Markinch, recorded as Christina Gibb, maiden name Bonella. The mother's name is Betty Stark, so it is clearly the right person, despite the aberrant spelling.

Next came twins, William, whose story will be followed later, and James:

Bonailo, William and James, lawful sons of David Bonailo and Betty Stark in Balcurvie were born Feb 14th and baptised 17th, 1786

It was another six years before David and Betty baptised their next child, David, born on 21st May 1792. He never married; the 1851 census¹⁰ records him as an unmarried linen hand-loom weaver, so he presumably took up his grandfather's craft. While the census got his age close at 57, he was buried at Markinch cemetery - near the Wishart Stone - from Balcurvie on 26th July 1851 with his age noted erroneously as 54. There was one last child, born and buried on the same day, 25th October 1800, recorded as a:

Child of silent birth of David Balnallie, Balcurvie

The register notes that the baby was interred 2 yards from the south and 17 yards from the east side of the churchyard.

According to his son William's death certificate, David was a tanner by trade. However, his daughter Christian or Christina's death certificate states that he was a shoemaker. The Register of Voters¹¹ has two entries for a David Bonailo. The first, dated 2nd October 1832, gives:

Bonailo David, Shoemaker, Proprietor, Houses and land, Balcurvie

The second entry, dated 1840, reads:

Bonnale, David, Feuar, proprietor five dwelling houses and four outhouses, land and gardens. - Balcurvie

¹⁰ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk>, 447/13/9, 1851 census, Markinch

¹¹ <https://ancestry.co.uk> All Fife, Scotland, Voters' Lists, 1832-1894

The latter entry must refer to David Bonallo junior, as his father died in 1839, but the former presumably refers to the father. It would be quite feasible for a tanner to also operate as a shoemaker. (According to the *Statistical Account*¹² there were 20 shoemakers in Markinch in 1794.) David senior would have been 87 in 1832, but this would not preclude him from owning land and having the right to vote. The entry does not state how many houses he owned, or indeed how he came to acquire them. I would guess that a successful shoemaker and tanner would probably earn more than a weaver, which was his father's occupation, but there is no way of telling whether this property was bought or inherited, either from his father or father-in-law. It is further complicated by the Scottish system of land tenure. A feu held land in feu, that is, he didn't actually own it, but could pay an annual fee for it more or less in perpetuity. This system was similar to the Feudal system in England, I believe.

David senior was buried at Markinch. The register records:

Bonallie David (95) at Balcurvie 19 Dec 1839

and adds the following detail:

left side of grandchild James Bonalie, son of William Bonallie in
Balcurvie, interred 30 Nov 1837 (no. 110, 1837)

The obituary already referred to appeared in *The Gentleman's Magazine*¹³

Lately, at Balcurvie, aged 96, Mr David Bonallo. Longevity seems peculiar to the family, for his grandfather's, his father's and his own age, when taken at an average, have each amounted to 97.

The use of the title 'Mr' as well as the fact that it was *The Gentleman's Magazine* suggests that David Bonallo had some standing in his small community. Betty Stark outlived her husband by less than a year, dying in July 1840:

Margt [sic] Stark, widow of David Bonalie at Balcurvie, aged 82 years, was int. 10th July. She lys in same grave with her husband.

The next in this line is William, baptised as William Bonailo in 1786, whose primary occupations were brewer and malster. He must have married Helen Dowie sometime around 1816 but, as with his sister Christian, the entry seems to have been

¹² https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/viewer/osa-vol12-Parish_record_for_Markinch_in_the_county_of_Fife_in_volume_12_of_account_1/osa-vol12-p525-parish-fife-markinch?search=Markinch

¹³ http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=k-wIAAAIAAJ&pg=PA222&lpg=PA222&dq=Balcurvie+bonallo&source=bl&ots=7xn8qoFbVU&sig=gIOA1Y1c8MQpWutfdemL3HC9t_E&hl=en&sa=X&ei=JYuQT6n7Eoik8QO6spWSBA&ved=0CB8Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=Balcurvie%20bonallo&f=false

lost. Their first child David's arrival was recorded in the Markinch register on 3rd May 1818, with the surname spelled Bonaillo.

To digress from William's story for a while, it would seem that David Bonallo benefitted mightily from being the oldest child and male. According to the *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*¹⁴ which records details of all Scots clergy from the Reformation onwards, David was born on 27th April 1818, and his father was a farmer. This is definitely the right person, as both parents are named, so maybe William farmed at Balcurvie as well as being a malster and brewer. David was educated at Kennoway School, the University of St. Andrews from 1837-8 and then Glasgow University. In 1841¹⁵ he was living at the house of James Brodie, a clergyman in Monimail, where he was employed as a tutor. The *Fasti Ecclesiae* states that he was licenced by the Presbytery of Kirkaldy on 30th June 1843, made an assistant at Fossway and ordained to Ardoch parish in 1844. He served there until his transfer to Blackford on 17th June 1858.



Blackford church

By this time he had married Margaret Cousin at Dunblane, on 9th January 1848. The couple had four children: William, James, Janet and Jane. James also entered the church, serving at Auldearn. (Presumably he was upwardly mobile as he married Nina Dunbar, daughter of the 'Dowager Lady Dunbar of Boath'!¹⁶) In 1851¹⁷ David and his family were living at Braco near Muthill where he combined his duties as minister of Ardoch with tutoring a live-in seven-year-old scholar from Glasgow. In 1858 *The London Gazette*¹⁸ announced:

¹⁴ <https://www.google.com/search>, *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, vol IV, Hew Scott

¹⁵ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, 448/1/18, 1841 census, Monimail

¹⁶ <https://books.google.co.uk/books>, *Family of Hay*, Charles Jones Colcock

¹⁷ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, 386/10/19, 1851 census, Muthill

¹⁸ <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/London/issue/22157/page/3089/data.pdf>, 29th June 1858

The Queen has been pleased to present the Rev. John R Campbell to the church and parish of Ardoch, in the presbytery of Auchterarder, and the county of Perth, vacant by the transportation of the Reverend David Bonallo, late minister thereof, to the Assistant Ministry of the parish of Blackford.

In 1861¹⁹ the census noted his new position at Blackford. David was still tutoring as there were three boarders in the household, the oldest 18, all described as scholars, and all from Jamaica. David, despite having left Markinch as a young man, must have owned property there, as he appears in the Register of Voters²⁰ in 1864 as:

Bonella, Rev David, Blackford, proprietor, houses and land, Balcurvie

By 1871²¹ David and his family were installed in Blackford Manse; no students now, but three servants; the situation was similar in 1881²². He died on 27th August 1889 at Blackford, leaving his wife Margaret and daughter Jane to execute his will and leaving an estate worth £1,264, 3/2.

In contrast, William and Helen's eldest daughter, Isabella, who was recorded in the Markinch register on 27th July 1820, spent much of her life in service. In 1851²³ she was working as a house maid at the home of a retired Lieutenant Colonel in Edinburgh. Ten years later²⁴ she was in the same street but in a different, and all female, household, still as a domestic servant. The road she was working in was Heriot Row, opposite Queen Street Gardens. It has been described²⁵ as:

...one of the most important in Edinburgh's new town... The buildings in the street are A-listed... classified ... as of national or international significance for their architecture, history or both

Heriot Row had several famous residents, including Robert Louis Stevenson, so although Isabella was in service, she was probably considered a cut above the average domestic.

By 1871²⁶ she had moved to Inverleith Terrace in Edinburgh, and although the address appears to be a shop flat, the road faces the Royal Botanic Gardens and she was now working as a lady's maid. By the time of the next census²⁷ she had retired from service and was back in Balcurvie, sharing a house with her younger sister Annie, both living on:

¹⁹ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, 333/4/1, 1861 census, Blackford

²⁰ <https://ancestry.co.uk> All Fife, Scotland, Voters' Lists, 1832-1894

²¹ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, 333/4/4, 1871 census, Blackford

²² <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, 333/4/2, 1881 census, Blackford

²³ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, 685/1 134/11, 1851 census, Edinburgh

²⁴ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, 685/2 48/10, 1861 census, Edinburgh

²⁵ <http://www.heriotrow.org/introduction/>

²⁶ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, 685/1 85/7, 1871 census, Edinburgh

²⁷ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, 447/15/4, 1881 census, Markinch

Income from houses

The death was recorded of Isabella Bonello, aged 68, in 1889.



Heriot Row, Edinburgh

[cc-by-sa/2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/) - © [Jim Barton](https://www.geograph.org.uk/p/4254160) - [geograph.org.uk/p/4254160](https://www.geograph.org.uk/p/4254160)

The third child in William and Helen's family was Thomas, born in 1824; his life and line will be followed later. Betsy came next – born 27th May 1826. She never married and stayed in Markinch, working as a dressmaker, until her death in 1871, aged 62. In the census²⁸ taken shortly before her death, she was living in Balcurvie village with sister Ann and aunt, Ann Dowie, housekeeper. Ann was born two years after Betsy – 20th April 1828 – but also never married. She too worked as a dressmaker, although for the last two censuses of her life – 1891 and 1901²⁹ – she was living on private means – presumably still the income from houses referred to previously. She died aged 80 on 30th December 1908. For some reason she was in St Andrews³⁰, although the certificate notes her usual abode as Balcurvie, Windygates. Her death was announced in *The Scotsman*:

At 3 South Bridge Street, St Andrews, ANNE BONALLO, youngest daughter of the late William Bonallo, Balcurvie, Fife.

William and Helen had two further children: James was born on 11th February 1830 but buried on 30th November 1837 in the grave of an unnamed sibling interred on 26th March 1833.

From the mid-19th century, the census returns add colour to the story. The 1841³¹ census gives minimal information, and rounded down ages for adults, so, at Balcurvie six Bonnalos are recorded, William, aged 50, Malster, Helen – 45, Isabella –

²⁸ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, 447/13/3, 1871 census, Balcurvie, Markinch

²⁹ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, 447/15/19 & 447/2/22, 1891 & 1901 censuses, Markinch

³⁰ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *The Scotsman*, 11.1.1909

³¹ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, 447/13/11, 1841 census, Balcurvie, Markinch

20, Thomas - 17, Betsy - 15, and Ann - 13. Also in the household are Ann Dowie - 40, Helen's sister, and 25 year old excise officer George Simpson. The next door house is occupied by Handloom Weaver James Dowie, aged 45, with wife Agnes and children Christian and William. James was Helen Dowie's cousin, son of her uncle William. The names Stark, Dury and Gibb all appear on the same page, and were probably kin of some kind.

In 1851³² the information recorded is as follows:

William Bonnalo	Head	Marr	64	Malster	Markinch, Fife
Helen	"	Wife	"	62	" "
Betsy	"	Dau	U	23	Dress-maker " "
Ann	"	Dau	U	21	Milner (App) " "
Ann Dowie	Sister-in-law	U	?54	House Servant	" "
David Campbell	Lodger	U	20	Teacher	Kingussie, Inverness

The Valuation Rolls of Scotland record proprietors of property and land, their tenants and the value of the land. Not all of them are available on-line, but the earliest which is, dates from 1855-6. In the Fife volume³³ are several interesting entries. The columns begin with an entry number, the property assessed, the place, the proprietor's name, the tenant's name and the occupier's if different, followed by the yearly rent as assessed, followed sometimes by a different sum if it was adjusted on appeal. The key one is for William Bonella:

House Garden Land etc.,	Balcurvie	William Bonello Malster
Said William Bonello	9/10	8/10

An entry further down the page is for house and ground in Balcurvie where the proprietor is Ann Dowie - William's sister-in-law, listed as:

@ William Bonallo's Balcurvie

and the property assessed at 3/11.

There is, though, one final entry of interest, and it is directly above William's and worded similarly in that it refers to house gardens and land in Balcurvie. The proprietor is listed as:

James Bonella Esq., Jamaica

Nothing further has been discovered about this man in Jamaica, but it would be tempting to believe, especially in the light of the fact that William's son David tutored pupils from that island, that this maybe is William's twin brother James, and that maybe he didn't die as an infant, but made his fortune after emigrating to Jamaica. However, this theory is probably scuppered by the fact that James

³² <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 447/13/4, 1851 census, Balcurvie, Markinch

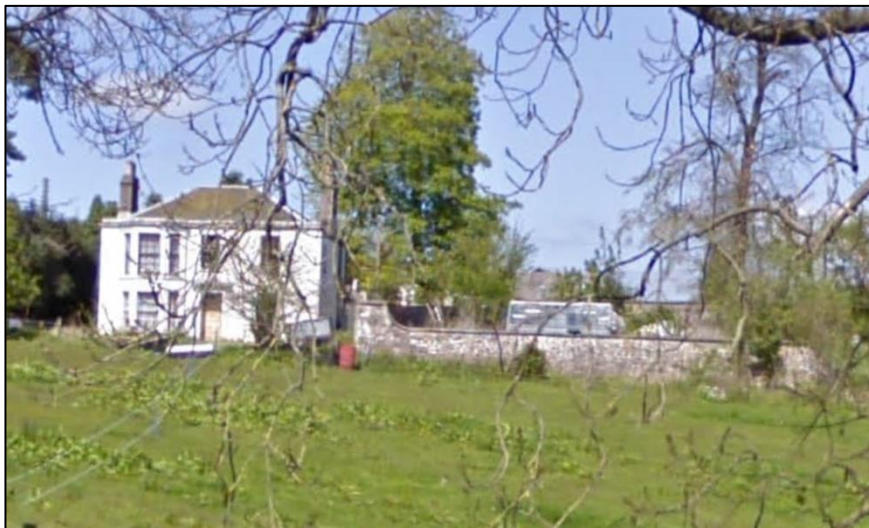
³³ <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, Valuation Rolls, Fife, 1855-6

Bonella's death is recorded at Balcurvie on 31st March 1868. He was single, a joiner, and son of David Bonella, shoemaker and Betty Stark. The informant was a nephew, John Reid. Perhaps James spent some time in Jamaica but returned to his roots and a humbler occupation than 'esquire' suggests.

Helen Dowie died ten years earlier:

Bonallo Helen, wife of malster, married; d. 12.11.1858, 10.00 a.m., at Balcurvie, Markinch, aged 67; daughter of Thos. Dowie, linen weaver and Isabella Briggs, both deceased. Informant, Thomas Bonallo, son. Cause, diarrhoea 4 days, unspecified intestinal disease for some time.

By 1861³⁴ William Bonello was living at Balcurvie House, although this may not be quite as grand as it looks at first sight. It was presumably a big house, and there were several households living there. First enumerated was George Greig esq., 'Laird and Farmer', along with his mother, sister and a servant. William, now a widow, aged 75, was still a maltman. His unmarried daughters, Betsy and Ann, both now dressmakers, were there, as was Ann Dowie, with the unglamorous occupation 'Housework'.



Balcurvie House

Balcurvie House was the former estate house, and has been described as follows³⁵:

Earlier 19th century. 2 storey, 3 bay, piend roofed house with single storey service wing. Harled with stone margins. Base course eaves cornice and blocking course. Stone mullions.

S (ENTRANCE) ELEVATION: panelled, timber door with blocked fanlight at centre in corniced doorcase with block pediment, window above at 1st floor; window in bay to right at both floors and full height, corniced

³⁴ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, 447/13/2, 1861 census, Balcurvie, Markinch

³⁵ <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB43006>

canted window to left.

W ELEVATION: window to outer left at both floors and dominant shouldered wallhead stack at centre. Single storey wing to left with 2 windows and small opening to right.

N ELEVATION: stair window at centre. E ELEVATION: small window at ground to right outer, 1st floor windows to outer right and left, and dominant shouldered wallhead stack at centre. Single storey wing to right with 2 windows.

8 and 12 pane glazing patterns in timber sash and case windows. Graded grey slates. Coped ashlar stacks with harled shoulders; harled stacks with thackstones to wings. Ashlar coped skewers with ropework detail scroll skewputts.

WALLED GARDEN: flat, ashlar coped rubble boundary wall to walled garden at E of house. Pedestrian entrance to W.

BOUNDARY WALLS, GATEPIERS AND GATES: semicircular coped rubble boundary walls. Flat coped, ashlar, quadrant walls with cushion capped droved outer piers (pedestrian gates) and square inner piers (carriage entrance) of ashlar with base course, string course and coped with moulded cornice. Arrowhead cast iron gates.

Several of the terms in this description need glossing into English. A piend roof is a hipped one; harled equates to English pebbledash; thackstones are stones projecting from a chimneystack; and a skewputt is a supporting stone at the corner of a gable.

William died in 1865.

Bonallo William, malster, m to Helen Dowie, dec. D 27.2.1865, 11 p.m., Balcurvie, Markinch, aged 78. Son of David Bonallo Tanner and Betty Stark, both deceased.

Cause: cardiac disease, bronchitis. Informant, David Bonallo, son

Stark and Dowie: around Markinch

When Betty Stark married David Bonailo at Markinch in 1783, the register recorded both parties as:

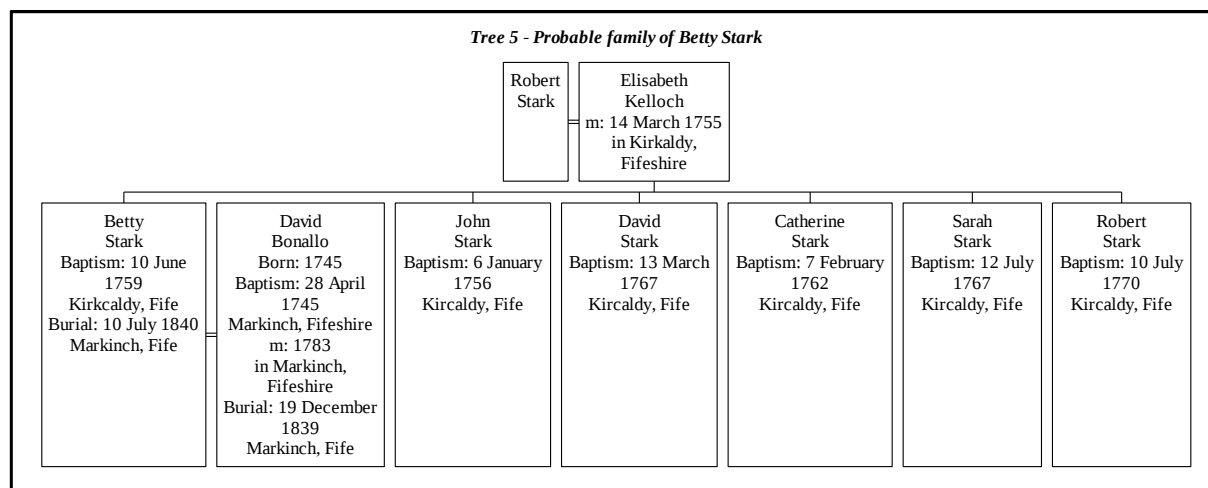
in this parish

but Betty Stark doesn't seem to have been born in Markinch. Her age at burial suggests a birth around 1758. There are two possible candidates. The nearer, geographically, would be Bettie Stark, born in Dysart on 12th February 1759 to John Stark and Margaret Graham. However, less than two miles further away, in Kircaldy the following was entered in the register (see tree 5 – p. 30):

1759 June 4th was born Betty, lawful daughter to Robert Stark, shoemaker and Elisabeth Kelloch his spouse. Witness David Stark, founder in Kirkaldy and George Just, cloakmaker there.

The fact that Betty herself married a shoemaker makes this seem a more likely birth. If it is correct, then her parents married in Kirkaldy in 1755:

March 1st were contracted in order to marriage Robert Stark shoemaker and Elisabeth Kelloch both in this parish and after proclamation were married y^e 14th of said month.



Betty would have been the third child of seven, all born in Kirkaldy: John – 6th January 1756. David – 13th March 1757, Catherine – 7th February 1762, James – 7th June 1765, Sarah – 12th July 1767 and Robert – 10th June 1770. Nothing further is known about this family.

In contrast, the Dowie line can be followed for several generations (see **tree 6 – p. 32**). According to her death certificate, Helen Bonallo, née Dowie, should have been born around 1791. In fact, I think she was probably born at Markinch a couple of years earlier on 20th October 1789. The register doesn't give a name for this child, and the mother's name is given as Nellie, not Isabella as is recorded on Helen's death certificate. In 1789, the Markinch register merely notes:

Dowie Thomas, Currieland, and Nellie Brigs had a child born 20.10.1789

Currieland has not been found on a map, although 'currach' meaning bog or boggy is an element in the place name Balcurvie, owing to stretches of boggy ground to the north, east and south of the settlement. Another entry in the register, in 1793, gives:

Dowie, William, lawful son to Thomas Dowie and Isobel Briggs in Balcurvie born 25th and baptised 26th May

To compound the confusion Thomas Dowie and Isabel Bridges married in Markinch in 1788 – Bridges and Brigs or Briggs may be considered the same surname, one spelling English and the others Scots.

Dowie Thomas and Isabel Bridges both in this parish gave up their names for proclamation Dec 23rd 1788

The birth of a child 10 months later would be entirely reasonable. Isobel had a sister named Helen – Nellie. It also seems reasonable to surmise that whoever wrote up the register recorded the wrong sibling's name, or that the daughter's name was written instead of the mother's. The other possibility is that the child was Nellie's and that some kind of cover-up was being perpetrated. However, the Scottish kirk was so hot on any hint of impropriety or illegitimacy, that this seems unlikely. That said most entries carry the phrase 'lawful son' or 'lawful daughter', the 1789 one doesn't. Further down the same page, though is an entry which reads:

Welch, Euphan, begotten in fornication...

highlighting the kirk's usual response to illegitimacy.

There is just one more possibility, that this was a still-born child, and therefore unnamed. Given that the baptism of Helen's sister Ann is missing from the records, it is possible that Helen's is as well. At least the death certificate confirms that her parents were Thomas Dowie and Isabella Briggs.

As a final piece in the puzzle, which will be followed up later, Helen's grandmother, also named Helen, was buried as Isabella! So maybe these two names were both used by this family, and the 1789 birth is the right one after all.

Thomas Dowie was a linen weaver according to Helen's death certificate, and he was also the son of a weaver. Handloom weaving in the 18th century, before the advent of industrialisation was considered a skilled job, and usually paid well. Weavers were in a good position at this time as various processes had speeded up spinning, so those capable of the next process, weaving, were in high demand. Fife, Perth and Forfar were the three principal counties for linen weaving, and according to Wikipedia³⁶, Balcurvie was a weaving village.

On 22nd November 1761 at Kennoway:

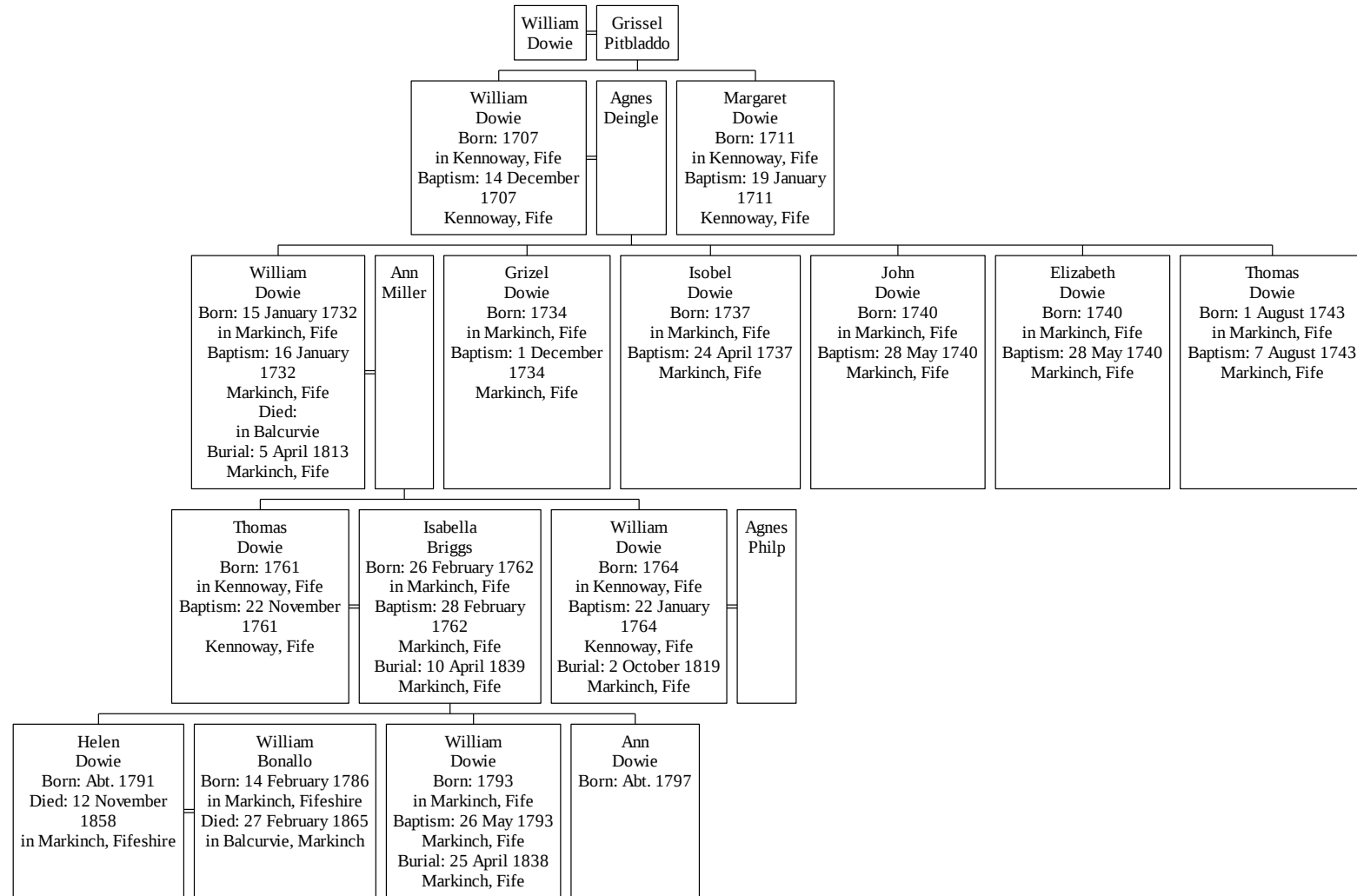
William Dowie weaver in Bogside and Anne Miller his spouse had a child before the congregation and named Thomas

William and Ann had married at Kennoway the year before:

Nov 7th 1760 William Dowie and Ann Miller both in this parish were....
...marriage

³⁶ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Windygates>

Tree 6 - Descendants of William Dowie and Grissel Pitbladdo



Another son, William, was born at Kennoway on 22nd January 1764. It was this son who married Agnes Philp and fathered James the handloom weaver who was living next door to the Bonallos in 1841³⁷.

Not much else is known about Thomas Dowie, not even the date of his death, although his wife Isabella was buried at Markinch. Once again, names weren't always accurately recorded; father and son seem to have been conflated:

Briggs Isabell (80) widow of William [sic] Dowie at Balcurvie, 10 April 1839,
left side of son, William Dowie at Balcurvie, interred 25 April 1838

Thomas' father, William Dowie, was also buried at Markinch, on 5th April 1813. His son William only outlived him by six years and was buried on 2nd April 1819. His wife Agnes spent a long time as a widow, dying in 1852.

William senior was the eldest child of yet another William, and his spouse Agnes Deingle. William was born on 15th January 1732 and baptised the following day. He was followed by two daughters: Grizel – 1st December 1734 - and Isobel – 24th April 1737. The next two were twins: John and Elizabeth – 28th May 1740 – and the final child was a boy, Thomas – 7th August 1743. I have found no further definitive trace of William's siblings.

The Dowie line can be traced one generation further back, though in Kennoway rather than Markinch. The William who married Agnes seems to have been born to yet another William and his spouse Grissel Pitblado and baptised on 14th December 1707. A sister Margaret was born in 1711. There was another William born in Scoonie a few years earlier, but the fact that his first two children were named William and Grizel suggests this is the right one.

We now backtrack briefly through three William Dowie's to reach Thomas Dowie, and his wife Isabella (see tree 7 – p. 34). Although her burial and children's births give her surname as Briggs, she was both married as Isabel Bridges and baptised similarly at Markinch in 1762:

David Bridges and Helen Robertson in Currilands had a child born Feb 26th
and baptised 28th called Isabel. Witnesses Thomas and Andrew Bridges

Once again, Currilands is given as the abode.

David Bridges and Helen Robertson had four more children. Of Thomas and Nellie, born on 27th April 1769 and 27th May 1773 respectively, there is no further sighting. Ann was the next child, was born on 19th September 1776 but buried³⁸, as the:

³⁷ <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 447/13/11, 1841 census, Balcurvie, Markinch

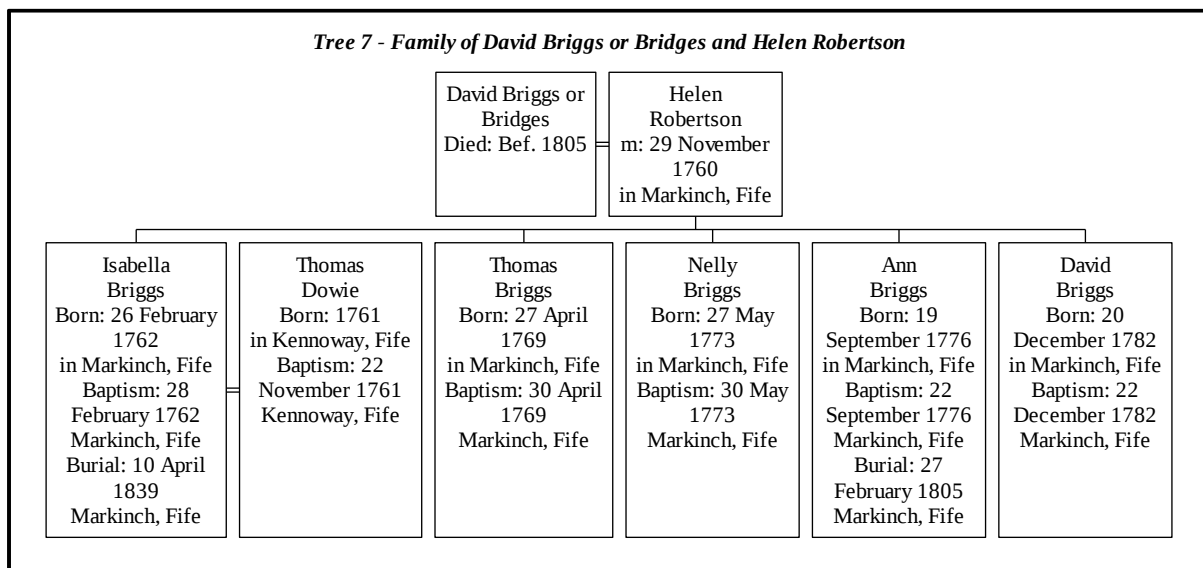
³⁸ <http://www.markinchchurch.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/MarkinchBurials1799to1854.pdf>

daughter of deceased David Bridges, Curralands; 27 Feb 1805

David must therefore have died sometime between 1776 and 1805. Helen Robertson died in 1809 and was buried at Markinch as Isabel:

Isabel [sic] Robertson, Spouse of the dec^d David Bridges at Curralands was inter^d the 12th of Dec^r 1809. She lys by her daughter's right, Int. the 10...1805

So the confusion between the names Helen and Isabel in this family persist!



Thomas Bonallo and family: Markinch to Edinburgh and beyond

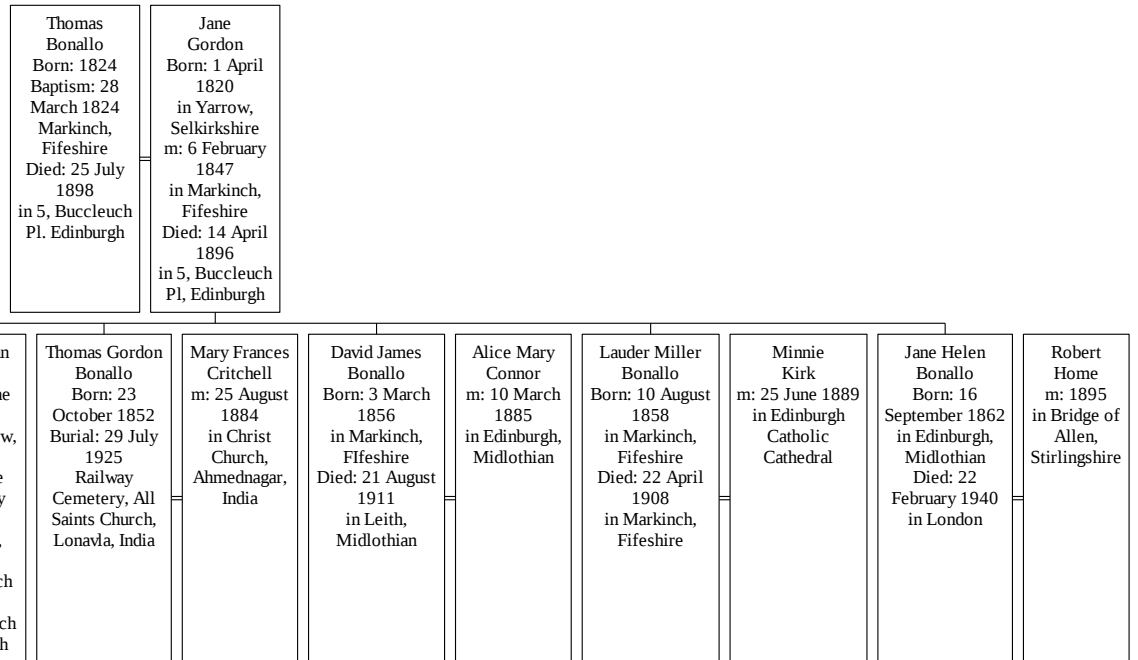
Although Thomas Bonallo, third child of William and Helen Bonallo had his name recorded in various guises during his life, he was of the last generation to use the old spelling, so his birth is recorded in the Markinch register as:

Bonaillo Thomas Lawful Son to William Bonaillo and Helen Dowie at Balcurvie was born 7 and baptised 28 March

In 1841³⁹ he was still living at home with his parents and all but his eldest sibling. On the census return, the surname appears as Bonnalo, but at the time of his marriage to Jane Gordon at Markinch, the proclamation – dated 6th February 1847 – recorded the name as Bonnallo. Both bride and groom were described as ‘in this parish’, but Jane’s roots were in Selkirkshire. We can only speculate as to whether Jane migrated to Fife or whether they met in Edinburgh, where they ultimately lived (see tree 8 – p. 35).

³⁹ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, 447/13/11, 1841 census, Balcurvie, Markinch

Tree 8 - Family of Thomas Bonallo and Jane Gordon



In all likelihood, Jane was already pregnant by the time they married, as their first child, William, named after Thomas' father, as was customary, was born and baptised as:

Lawful s. to Thomas Bonallo and Jean Gordon (Cameron Distillery)

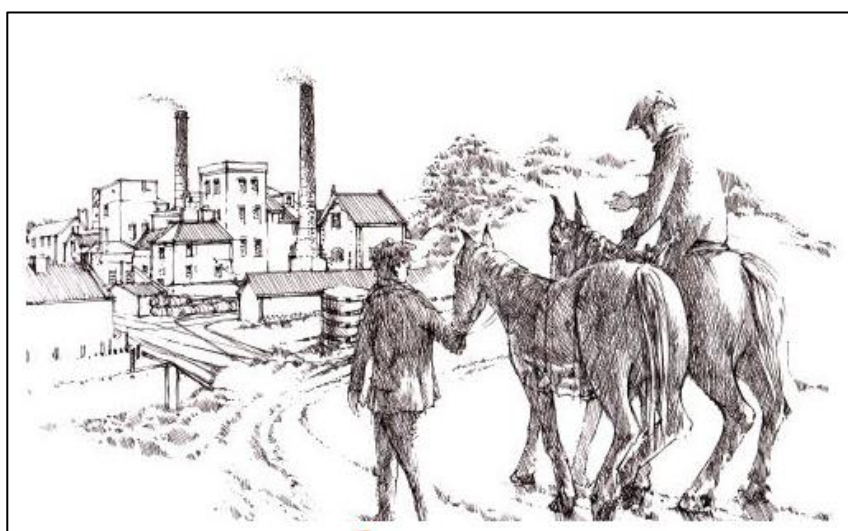
on 8th October 1847. Sheila Bonallo's great-grandfather came next, recorded in the Markinch register as:

Bonallo Charles Jno Brodie lawful son to Thomas Bonallo and Jean Gordon Cameron Mill was born 2nd November 1850 and baptised

Charles as a name is, at first glance surprising, not having appeared elsewhere in the Bonallo tree thus far. However, one Charles Brodie (who died in 1846) appears in the Fife Voters' Lists⁴⁰ in 1843 as:

proprietor land and houses, Cameron Bridge-End

and my guess is that Charles Brodie was either a friend or colleague at the Cameron Distillery or Thomas' landlord.



Cameron Bridge Distillery

<http://www.kennetpans.info/cameronbridge-distillery/>

According to the 1845 or *New Statistical Account of Scotland*⁴¹ the population of Markinch had more than doubled in the previous 70 years; the latest year quoted, 1838, cited 5,396 people in the parish. Wheat had joined barley and oats as a principle crop; peas, beans and flax had diminished, but linen was still woven and bleached locally. Cameron Bridge and Windygates were two of the villages in the

⁴⁰ <https://ancestry.co.uk> , Fife, Scotland, Voters' Lists, 1832-94

⁴¹ https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/viewer/nsa-vol9-Parish_record_for_Markinch_in_the_county_of_Fife_in_volume_9_of_account_2/nsa-vol9-p655-parish-fife-markinch?search=Markinch

parish. The Haig family, makers of whiskey, according to Wikipedia⁴² opened the distillery at Cameron Bridge, just over a mile and a half south of Balcurvie, in 1824. A website devoted to the Stein Whisky dynasty⁴³ tells the following story:

According to family legend, John Haig was riding with his old servant along the road which runs through Windygates when his attention was drawn to the old Cameron Mills on the River Leven. John turned to the old retainer and said *"d'ye ken Sandy – there is money to be made here – aye from whisky"*.

He leased the land from his friend Captain Wemyss, the lease being taken out in his father's name since John was still a minor.

By 1830 John Haig had installed a pair of Stein's continuous stills. These were one of the first to be installed outside Kilbagie. Haig's commission or royalty to Robert Stein was 1d per gallon of spirit. Production rose to nearly 150,000 gallons of whisky within the first year. Haig soon decided to set family loyalty to one side and switch to the much more productive Coffey still. By 1877 the distillery had an annual output of 1.3 million gallons which could be increased if necessary. Its whisky was said to have no rivals.

Wikipedia adds:

In 1830 it became the first distillery to produce Grain whiskey according to the Column still method invented by Robert Stein.

Grain whiskey makes use of various grains, not just malted barley, and the column still method produces a whiskey which is high in alcohol content but less full-flavoured. Another source⁴⁴ suggests that Haig's took over a distillery which had been running for a number of years in 1822. The same source suggests that nearly every household in Markinch had at least one family member working there.

In 1851⁴⁵ Thomas and Jane Bonallo were enumerated at the Cameron Distillery in Markinch. Thomas was the head of the family, married, aged 26 and employed as a malster, born in Markinch. My guess is that in working at the Cameron distillery, he was probably following in his malster father's footsteps. Jane was also 26, and her birthplace given as Yarrow. The two children, William, aged 3, born Markinch, and Charles, aged 1, completed the household.

By 1855 at least (this is the first year for which the Valuation Rolls⁴⁶ are online) Thomas Bonallo was tenant of a house and garden at Windygates. He was also the occupier of the property, valued at a yearly rent of £4. The proprietor was a Mrs Brodie of Windygates, presumably the widow of Charles Brodie.

⁴² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cameron_Bridge

⁴³ <http://www.kennetpans.info/cameronbridge-distillery/>

⁴⁴ <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/sp/?id=2009-09-17.19687.2>

⁴⁵ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, 447/13/12, 1851 census, Balcurvie, Markinch

⁴⁶ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, Valuation Rolls, Markinch

The next child was given his father's first name and his mother's surname. Thomas Gordon Bonallo was born and baptised on 23rd October 1852. A fourth son was born after the introduction of General Registration, so the certificate should give more information than the church register, for example, given the father's occupation and the precise time of the birth in addition to the parents' names and abode. However, in the case of David James Bonnallo, born 3rd March 1856, the certificate is almost illegible, though it is possible to tell that Thomas is now probably foreman, as well as being a malster. Fortunately, the next child's certificate is easier to read:

Bonallo Lauder Miller 1858, Aug 10th 15.10 a.m. Windygates, Markinch,
M, Thomas Bonallo, Foreman at Distillery, Jane Bonallo m s Gordon.
Registered by Thomas Bonallo, father, present.

Windygates is an unsurprising address. The village lies almost half-way between Balcurvie and the Cameron Distillery, but the name can also refer to the district, which incorporates both Balcurvie and Cameron Bridge.

Maybe the birth certificate was referring to the district, as the 1861⁴⁷ census places the family in Balcurvie. Thomas, aged 37, is a maltman, and he and all the children give Markinch as their place of birth. Jane gives her age as 38, and place of birth simply as Selkirk. The four older boys, William, Charles, Thomas and David are all listed as scholars.

Sometime in the next 18 months, probably around October 1861, Thomas and Jane moved their family to Edinburgh. The *Dunfermline Saturday Press*⁴⁸ recorded the supper held when Thomas left the distillery:

WINDYGATES

SUPPER AND PRESENTATION – Mr Thomas Bonallo, on his leaving Cameron Bridge Distillery for Edinburgh, was, on Saturday evening, entertained at supper in Windygates Inn, and presented by his fellow workers with a splendid silver watch and guard. Mr White acted as chairman, and Mr Carrly as croupier. About 30 supped and spent a happy evening.

In Edinburgh, finally, a daughter was born, and named Jane Helen after her mother and paternal grandmother. She arrived at 5 p.m. on 16th September 1862, at Dumbiedykes Place in the Canongate area of Edinburgh. Her birth confirms her father's occupation as maltman, and also her parent's marriage date.

So what persuaded Thomas Bonallo, who seemed to be settled in employment at Cameron Bridge as a distillery foreman, to move his family to Edinburgh? Is there a clue in the fact that he is described as a maltman in the 1861 census? Was this a demotion, or was it simply that Thomas had transferable skills and decided to use

⁴⁷ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, 447/13/5, 1861 census, Balcurvie, Markinch

⁴⁸ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, 5.^{10.1861}

them in beer brewing rather than whiskey distillation? Edinburgh had long been famous for beer brewing; the *Fellowship and Society of Ale and Beer Brewers of the City of Edinburgh* had been established in 1575 in order to:

negotiate with the city fathers, to protect itself from foreign competition, to erect a common brew house, to set prices and to insure adequate supplies of barley and water. The establishments were all in the Old Town, bounded by Cowgate to the north, Candlemakers Row to the west, and Lothian Street to the south⁴⁹.

The various breweries in Edinburgh, from this time until Thomas' time and beyond, were all strung out along a geographical fault line which ensured a good supply or suitable water. Greg Noonan's book also points out that:

Breweries had to bore their own wells to supply the copious amounts of water they required. By good fortune, the wells of Cowgate, Hollyrood and Canongate tapped a bountiful aquifer.

The water was also at a constant and suitable temperature.



37, Candlemaker Row (on the right, just beyond the corner)

So it is perhaps unsurprising that in 1871⁵⁰ Thomas and Jane were living at 37, Candlemaker Row in Greyfriars parish, Edinburgh, right next to the busy Grassmarket. Number 37 was an imposing five floor town house at the junction with Merchant Street, and the Bonallos shared it with several other households. The

⁴⁹

<https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=N4FaDwAAQBAJ&pg=PT24&lpg=PT24&dq=Windmill+House+Brewery+Edinburgh&source=bl&ots=BOsLL7ax2d&sig=ACfU3U0tygsNKsNNfilHo-mlHIFxSokQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjzo-vSwI7qAhXkURUIHUxaCCsQ6AEwEnoECB8QAQ#v=onepage&q=Bonallo&f=false>, *Scotch Ale*, Greg Noonan

⁵⁰ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, 685/4/34/13, 1871 census, Edinburgh

Electoral Registers⁵¹ show that there were seven other artisans – and presumably their families – in the building: a porter, tinsmith, shoemaker, lapidary, joiner, painter and French polisher. Thomas was listed as a brewer, both in the register and the census. The latter showed that the eldest three children had left home, but David was still there, aged 15 and a Plasterer's Apprentice; Lauder and Jane, 12 and 8, were both scholars, but there was also an 'adopted son', Peter Wishart aged 8 and born in Edinburgh. He turned out to be the son of David Wishart, born in Markinch, a malster in Glasgow in 1851⁵² but living with his family at Cameron Mill in 1841⁵³. His wife, Abigail Gillespie Aitken, died in 1869, and presumably the children were farmed out to various friends. By the time of the next census⁵⁴ Peter had returned to his mother's home town of Glasgow, was living with an older brother and working as a pork butcher.

From 1872 -1875, Thomas Bonallo appeared in the Post Office Directory⁵⁵ at 5, Victoria Street, Edinburgh as a brewer. This was another tall town house, less than a quarter of a mile from Candlemaker Row; he is also shown at this address on the Electoral Register⁵⁶ for 1875-6, but in this instance he was the sole tenant and occupier. By 1876-7 he had moved again, to 5, Buccleuch Street⁵⁷, still advertising himself as a brewer. From 1877-83 the directory⁵⁸ placed him in Buccleuch Place, at number 31, just round the corner. I wonder whether the Bonallos had both properties as while the 1881 census⁵⁹ places the family at number 31, Thomas' death was registered at number 5.



31, Buccleuch Place (centre door)

⁵¹ <https://ancestry.co.uk> , Edinburgh, Scotland, Electoral Registers, 1832-1966

⁵² <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 644/1/52/11, 1851 census, Glasgow

⁵³ <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 447/14/12, 1841 census, Markinch

⁵⁴ <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 644/12/5/2, 1881 census, Glasgow, Gorbals

⁵⁵ <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/> , Scotland Post Office Edinburgh and Leith Directory

⁵⁶ <https://ancestry.co.uk> , Edinburgh, Scotland, Electoral Registers, 1832-1966

⁵⁷ <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/> , Scotland Post Office Edinburgh and Leith Directory

⁵⁸ <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/> , Scotland Post Office Edinburgh and Leith Directory

⁵⁹ <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 685/4/73/3, 1881 census, Edinburgh

The 1881 census describes Thomas as a:

Practical Brewer, beer

while Jane is a brewer's wife. It is impossible to tell whether he and Jane were running their own business at this point. The directories would perhaps support the idea as he is listed always as a brewer, not as the employee of a company. Lauder is the only child still at home, employed as a clerk – again, maybe suggesting that he was working for the family business. There is a boarder, Ida Gillespie, from Earlston in Berwickshire, and a local live-in domestic servant, Ellen Susan Lorrimer.

In three successive editions of the *Edinburgh and Leith Post Office Directory*⁶⁰ between 1885 and 1889, Thomas appears as:

Bonallo, Thomas, Brewer, Windmill House, Windmill Lane

This is another intriguing address. According to *Curious Edinburgh*⁶¹:

This street was originally close to the South Loch, which was drained to make way for Meadows Park in 1722. The street was named after the windmill which stood near this spot to pump water from the Loch to the Society of Brewers' brewery near what is now Chambers Street.

The Electoral Register⁶² for 1885-6 shows Thomas at this address, but sharing it with a baker named James Young. In the 1890-1 register, he is shown at the address he was at in the census for that year.

In 1891⁶³ Thomas is described as a:

Brewer, employed

which implies that he was working for someone else. It may be that it was around this time that the Bonallos linked their fortunes to the Argyle Brewery of *Campbell, Hope and King*. Three subsequent generations worked for this company, and lived in brewery property in Chambers Street on very favourable terms. Maybe this was as a result of Thomas selling what seems to have been an independent enterprise to the bigger brewery, but this is only speculation.

In the 1891 census, Jane was the only one of the children still at home, aged 28, unmarried and employed as a teacher. However, Lauder's wife Minnie Kirk, listed as Mary K Bonallo, daughter-in-law, clerk's wife was there, as was their son Henry, age 2. Lauder was not present. There was also a boarder, William

⁶⁰ <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/> , Scotland Post Office Edinburgh and Leith Directory

⁶¹ <http://curiousedinburgh.org/2018/01/29/society-of-brewers-chambers-street/#:~:text=In%201596%20the%20Society%20of,Museum%20of%20Scotland%20new%20stands.>

⁶² <https://ancestry.co.uk> , Edinburgh, Scotland, Electoral Registers, 1832-1966

⁶³ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/> , 685/4/53/4, 1891 census, Edinburgh

McGregor, aged 16, a scholar. The household had moved again, though, to 8, Graham Street, St Cuthbert. For the first time since moving to the capital, Thomas and Jane were living outside the Old Town; Graham Street was just north of the Water of Leith, and about a mile from Leith itself.

The Valuation Rolls⁶⁴ are a peculiarly Scots record which cover every piece of property in Scotland, giving the name and value of the property, the name of the proprietor and tenant and occupier. Not every year is on-line, but those which are give a flavour of Thomas and Jane's lives. In 1875-6, Thomas is recorded at 5, Victoria Street, a property owned by the Misses McIntosh of Greenside Lodge, Murrayfield. Thomas is both tenant and occupier of a house, and the yearly rent is 19/6. In 1885-6, he is listed in a house at 1 Windmill Lane, property of Patrick Wilson's representative for Robert Wilson, 2, Queen Street. The rent here is 25/-, so presumably a step up. He also appears in 1884 and 1885 as tenant and occupier of a public house and stables at Bilston in Lasswade parish, assessed at a yearly rent of £65. He was clearly diversifying his portfolio! Perhaps of more interest, though, are the entries for Balcurvie in 1895-6, which both show him as still owning property in Markinch, and having moved to yet another address in Edinburgh:

No.	Property	Place	Proprietor
Tenant		Occupier	Yearly rent
799	Land	Balcurvie	Thomas Bonallo, 23 Balcarres Street, Edinburgh
	Robert Henderson, labourer	Same	£1 11/10
800	House	Balcurvie	Thomas Bonallo, 23 Balcarres Street, Edinburgh
	Andrew Greig, Miner	Same	£2 6/-
801	House	Balcurvie	Thomas Bonallo, 23 Balcarres Street, Edinburgh
		Empty	£1 0/-

Sometime in this period, Thomas stopped working, as his wife's death certificate shows:

Jane Bonallo m to Thomas Bonallo, Practical Brewer, retired. D 14.4.1896, 3.30 p.m.. No 5 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh; female, 75 years. Parents: Thomas Gordon, road contractor, deceased, Jane Gordon, m s Turnbull, deceased. Cause: Infleunza, Bronchitis, Cardiac Failure, 10 days. Informant: J.C. Bonallo, son. Reg. 15.4.1896, Edinburgh

In fact, Jane had just passed her 76th birthday. Whether the couple, or just Jane, had been at 5 Buccleuch Place - now occupied by son Charles - while she was ill, or had moved back into the city centre earlier is unclear. After his wife's death, though, Thomas returned to Balcurvie for a while as it is there that he wrote his will on 17th December 1896.

⁶⁴ <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, Valuation Rolls

All Thomas and Jane's children survived them, and all are named in his will, although their life experiences, which will be followed later, were all very different. The will⁶⁵ begins as follows:

I Thomas Bonallo, Brewer, formerly residing at number five Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh, now at Balcurvie, Fifeshire, in order to regulate the succession to my estate in the event of my death do hereby give grant assign and depone to and in favour of my sons William Bonallo, Dentist, Newcastle on Tyne and John Charles Bonallo Brewer, Edinburgh..... hereinafter called the said trustees..

Land still owned in Balcurvie was divided between William and Charles. To William went:

that piece of ground known as the Ryefold Rig part of the small pentacle of ground or property at Balcurvie, Fifeshire presently belonging to me with any buildings thereon...

and to Charles:

that piece of ground known as the Backyards part of the pentacle of ground or property at Balcurvie with any buildings thereon...

Daughter Jane, now Jane Home, received:

all household furniture including bed, table, linen, books, pictures, silver plate, china etc, excepting the mahogany bookcase...

Sons Thomas Gordon, David James and Lauder Bonallo all received £30, while Charles' son Thomas was given £40 and:

the aforesaid mahogany bookcase

The rest of the estate was to be divided amongst all his children. However, there is then a clause which states that:

I have from time to time advanced to David James and Lauder Bonallo sums ... for the purpose of ...setting them up in life and enabling them to commence and carry on business

These, he says, far exceed the shares they would get from his estate after his death, so they are only to receive the initial £30 mentioned, and not benefit from any future share-out caused by the death of one of their siblings.

Thomas Bonallo died at his son Charles' home in Edinburgh on 25th July 1898:

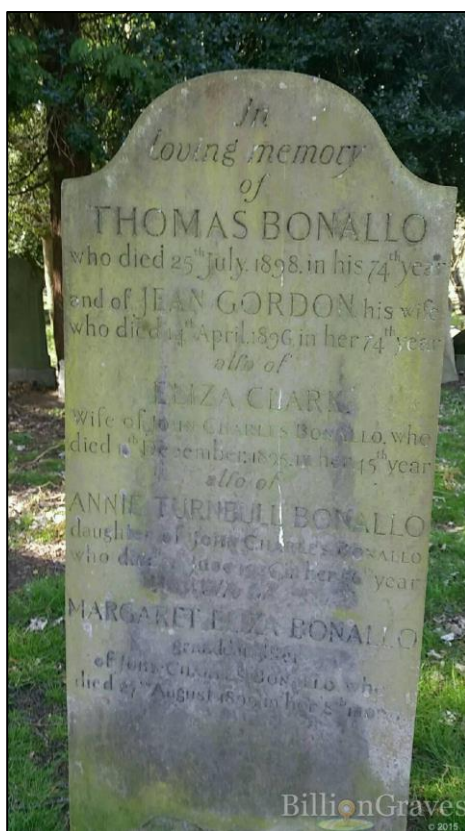
⁶⁵ <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, SC70/4/307, Will of Thomas Bonallo, 1898

Bonallo Thomas, Brewer, widower of Jane Gordon, d 25.7.1898, 2.30 a.m., 5, Buccleuch Place, aged 75, son of William Bonallo, malster and Helen Bonallo m s Dowie, both deceased. Informant MK [sic] Bonallo, son. Cause: Intestinal obstruction, pulmonary cardiac

An inventory⁶⁶ of his possessions was taken on 22nd September 1898, and showed that his household furniture and personal effects were worth £15 10/3. However, a Prudential Life Assurance policy taken out in 1864 was valued at £100, and his estate was due over £10 in respect of his membership of the Edinburgh Trade Benefits Society. In addition, he had nearly £130 in the Bank of Scotland, almost £600 in stocks and shares – including some securities in Campbell Hope and King and £200 in the London Bank of Australia, apparently to be paid back in instalments. All in all, the estate was valued at just over £1,000.

On the same day Charles Bonallo, Brewer:

residing at no 5 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh, who being solemnly sworn and examined, deponed that the said Thomas Bonallo Brewer who resided sometime at 5 Buccleuch Place aforesaid afterwards at Balcurvie, Fifeshire but latterly at 5 Buccleuch Place afd, died at Edinburgh upon the 25th day of July 1898 ... that the deponent is executor nominate of the deceased along with William Bonallo, Dentist, Newcastle on Tyne...



Grave of Thomas Bonallo and Jean Gordon

⁶⁶ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, SC70/1/372, Inventory of Thomas Bonallo 1898

Thomas was buried at Dalkeith Road Cemetery in Edinburgh, in the same grave as his wife. The headstone also commemorates other members of the family, and reads:

In loving memory of
Thomas Bonallo
who died 25th July 1898 in his 74th year
and of Jean Gordon his wife
who died
14th April 1896 in her 74th year
Also of
Eliza Clark
Wife of John Charles Bonallo who
died 12th December 1895 in her 45th year
Also of Margaret Eliza Bonallo
granddaughter of John Charles Bonallo who died
27th August 1899 in her 1st year

Of Thomas and Jane's children, only Jane and John Charles spent most of their adult life in Edinburgh. His story will be followed later. William clearly was bright and must have received an education good enough to earn him a place as a student at the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh. In 1866 he won a prize there for Chemistry⁶⁷:

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH
Prize list for session 1865-6 ...
Class of Chemistry
2nd - William Bonallo, Edinburgh

He went on to gain qualification as a surgeon, and moved south across the border into England. In 1871⁶⁸ he was boarding with the Scott family in Cambois in Northumberland, but was clearly proud to enter the following under occupation:

L.R.C.P. ... R.C.S. Ed

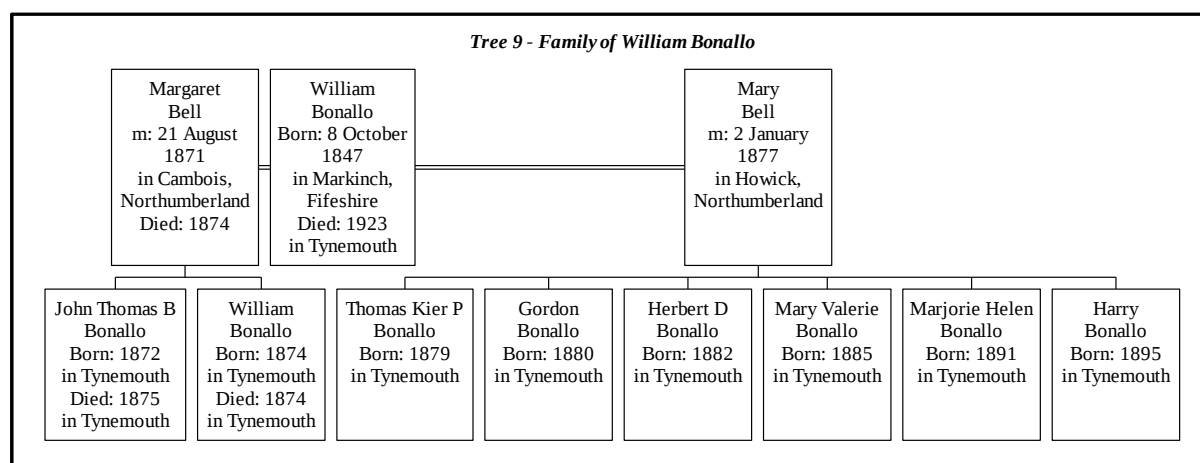
in other words Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians ... Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh.

Later that year, on 21st August, he married Margaret Bell at Cambois (**see tree 9 - p. 46**). There were two children from the marriage, John Thomas B, born 1872 and William, born 1874. Neither lived; William died in 1874, as did his mother, and John in 1875. His father remarried on 2nd January 1877 at Howick. His wife was named Mary Bell, but does not seem to have been Margaret's sister. Between 1879 and 1895, the couple had six children: Thomas Kier P, Gordon, Herbert D, Mary Valerie, Marjorie Helen and Harry.

⁶⁷ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *Edinburgh Evening Courant*, 31.3.1866

⁶⁸ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, RG10/5166, 1871 census, Cambois

For many years things seemed to go well for William. The 1881 census⁶⁹ shows him living in Cramlington village as a Dentist Surgeon. The next two⁷⁰ call him a Dental Surgeon and place him at Cramlington Hall. The 1911 census⁷¹, when he was still at the Hall, just calls him a dentist, but notes that he has had 8 children, two of whom have died, and that his property - which he now shares just with his wife - consists of 8 rooms.



The Dentists' Register⁷² shows him to have been practicing since before 22nd July 1878 (when it began), and a number of local directories⁷³ confirm the fact that he was practicing between 1879 and 1915. He made numerous appearances in the local newspapers, for example in 1880⁷⁴ when he successfully operated on a tumour in the mouth of a poor widow, and forbore to charge for the work. He also advertised on a regular basis, often worded as below⁷⁵ or similarly:

SPECIAL HIGH-CLASS DENTISTRY
W. Bonallo, F.R.M.S.,
SURGEON DENTIST
136 Percy Street
Newcastle-on-Tyne

A different story appeared in the *Morpeth Herald*⁷⁶ in 1889, when William sued the North Eastern Railway Company because of an accident. The train he had been travelling in collided with another; William sustained a head injury and was consequently unable to work for some time. He told the court that he had branches at Newcastle, Morpeth, Alnwick, Chester-le-Street and Consett, but although an assistant was covering for him, he had sustained considerable loss of earnings. He was awarded £800, the equivalent apparently to a year's income.

⁶⁹ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, RG11/5094, 1881 census, Cramlington

⁷⁰ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, RG12/4235, RG13/4811, 1891 & 1901 censuses, Cramlington

⁷¹ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, RG14/30843, 1911 census Cramlington

⁷² <https://ancestry.co.uk>, UK Dentists' Register 1879-1942

⁷³ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, UK City and County Directories 1766-1946

⁷⁴ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *Morpeth Herald*, 29.12.1880

⁷⁵ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *Morpeth Herald*, 4.11.1887

⁷⁶ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *Morpeth Herald*, 23.2.1889

He took an interest in local politics, but found time for other pursuits⁷⁷ as well:

Royal Meteorological Society. – At a meeting of the above society, held in London on the 19th inst, William Bonallo, surgeon dentist, Cramlington Hall, was elected a fellow of the society. Mr Bonallo has been superintendent of the observatory at Cramlington for some considerable time.

He was initiated into the Freemasons⁷⁸ as part of the Astley Lodge at Seaton Delaval in 1903, but resigned in 1910.

He also found time to engage in further studies. The Medical and Dental Students' Register⁷⁹ records:

William Bonallo Lond. Matric. June 1894. Started studies at Durh. May 1894

This is amplified by London University Records⁸⁰

Bonallo William – Matric. June 1894, Sch. of Sci. and Art, New-on-T. and Pr. St.; Prel. Sci. excl. Biol, July 1895, Rutherford Coll. and Pr. St., Biol. 1896, Rutherford Coll. and Pr. St.

I take Pr. St. to mean private study – not the easiest route to take.

However, after such a glittering career, in 1915 it all came crashing down when he was accused of:

having performed an illegal operation on a woman at Cramlington on August 21⁸¹

Despite his protestations of innocence, he was found guilty. The General Medical Council struck him off the register as a result⁸² and he was sentenced to three years' penal servitude for:

Feloniously using a certain instrument with intent to procure miscarriage⁸³

William Bonallo was 68 when he was sentenced. He lived for another seven years, probably a broken man. His death was registered at Tynemouth in 1923.

⁷⁷ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *Morpeth Herald*, 29.12.1883

⁷⁸ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, England, United Grand Lodge of England Freemason Membership Registers, 751-1921

⁷⁹ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, UK Medical and Dental Students' Register 1882 - 1937

⁸⁰ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, UK University of London Student Records, 1836-1945

⁸¹ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *Newcastle Daily Chronicle*, 14.10.1915

⁸² <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *Morpeth Herald*, 2.6.1916

⁸³ <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>, England and Wales, Crime, Prisons and Punishment, 1770-1935

William's brother, Thomas Gordon Bonallo, spent most of his adult life as Thomas Gordon, though he gave his children Bonallo as a middle name, and his father Thomas Bonallo is recorded as his next of kin on his army papers⁸⁴. It is not clear why he dropped his surname. He attested at Edinburgh on 13th October 1869, claiming to be 18, although he was actually still some weeks shy of his 17th birthday. He then apparently deserted from his original regiment on 15th August 1870, before joining up again in York on 15th August 1870, still claiming to be 18. Maybe his parents would not have approved him joining the army at such a tender age, and he felt that the Bonallo surname was too well known in Edinburgh for him to get away with enlisting under his real name. Whatever the reason, his whole army record referred to him as Thomas Gordon, and it seems that his descendants in India have retained Gordon as their surname (see tree 10 – p. 49).

The original attestation of 'Thomas Gordon' on joining the 72nd Foot stated that he was of the parish of St Giles in Edinburgh and a mason by trade. He proclaimed himself willing to serve for 12 years. He was described as 5' 6 ¾" tall, with fair hair, grey eyes and a fresh complexion. His medical examination passed him fit with the disclaimer of a:

slight thickening of the left ?cord

Under general remarks as to habit and conduct, the words temperate and exemplary appear. However, his earlier sins found him out and he was recorded as having:

Fraudulently enlisted into the 72nd Highlanders on 15th August 1870
and held to serve in that corps by order of the Commander in Chief in India
dated Simla 24th July 1871

For this misdemeanour he forfeited the service he had already done, and remained a Private until 1876, by which time he was receiving good conduct pay. In 1879 he was promoted to Lance Corporal and became a full corporal the following year.

In 1881 he transferred to the 113th Seaforth Highlanders and was:

Re-engaged to complete a total service of 21 years at Lucknow

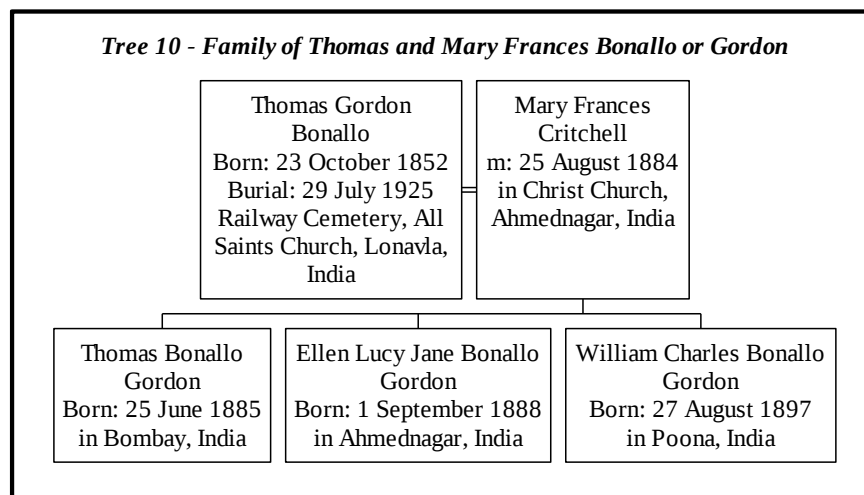
In 1882 he was promoted again, to Lance Sergeant and then transferred to the 1st 'Ballabow' [sic] Rifle Brigade. Later he was sent to Bombay and appointed Sergeant Instructor to the 'Chow Company Agra Volunteers'. Further transfers followed, and by 1885 he was deemed worthy of a Good Conduct badge. After that he moved to the 2nd Battalion Gloucestershire Regiment, where he stayed until 1890, by which point he had apparently earned five Good Conduct badges. He had now completed 20 years' service and was entitled to discharge.

⁸⁴ <http://ancestry.co.uk>, Fold 3; UK Royal Hospital Chelsea Pensioners Soldier Service Records, 1760-1920

A few further items can be gleaned from this record. The first is that he gave his religion as Presbyterian. The second is that he had already left his childhood home when he joined up. The third is that he was 'at home', i.e. in Scotland between 13th October 1869 and 15th August 1870 and from 16th August 1870 to 20th February 1871. From 21st February 1871 to 16th October 1890, he was in what was described as 'East Indies' - 19 years and 238 days. His next of kin was recorded as Thomas Bonallo, 31 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh.

In terms of campaigns, he served in Afghanistan in 1878, 79 and 1880. He was awarded the silver medal for distinguished conduct in the field at the Battle of Kandahar on September 1st 1880 and a further medal for distinguished service in the field - the bronze star for the march from Cabul to Kandahar, a medal for the Afghan War, a long service and good conduct medal. He was wounded at Poona on 14th December 1888.

Finally, the record gives other family information, namely that he married Mary Frances at Ahmednagar on 25th August 1884 and had two children: Ellen Lucy Jane Bonallo Gordon, born 1st September 1888 and Thomas Bonallo Gordon born 25th June 1885. He received his army discharge on 16th October 1890.



Once again, the army seems to have ignored a surname. Thomas' wife was actually Mary Frances Critchell. She was 18 and a spinster. Thomas is recorded as of full age, a bachelor with the rank of:

Sergeant Instructor R.M.V.R.

The groom's father is recorded as Thomas Gordon.

A third child was born after Thomas left the army. William Charles Bonallo Gordon was born on 27th August 1897 and baptised exactly a month later at St Paul's Church Poona, where the family was living. His father's occupation was given as Conservancy Superintendant. The family made at least one visit back to Scotland.

In 1901⁸⁵ they were enumerated at the Adelphi Hotel at 59 Cockburn Street, Edinburgh. Thomas, 48, was a:

Pensioned Sergeant

born at Cameron Bridge, Fife. His wife and three children were all born in India. Probably, Thomas spent the remainder of his life in India. He died at Lonavla – presumably the hill station now called Lonavala in Western India near Mumbai – on 29th July 1925 of:

old age and general debility

and was buried the following day at the Railway Cemetery (All Saints Church) Lonavla.

The next brother, David James, also joined the forces, but in his case it was the Navy. The *Register of Seamen's Services*⁸⁶ notes his birth at 'Windegates' on 2nd March 1856 and describes him as 5'4" with brown hair, brown hazel eyes and fair complexion. At the time he signed on for 10 years, on 2nd March 1874, he had no trade. However, his record shows that before this he had served on both the *Cambridge* and the *Revenge*, presumably as a cadet, between January and July 1873, and then transferred to the *Resistance*. His character at the time was described as very good. From the date of his engagement in March 1874, he was designated an Ordinary Seaman, but was promoted to Able Seaman in October. He was a Leading Seaman briefly on the *Royal Adelaide* in 1877 and then returned to the *Cambridge* where he became first, Petty Officer 2nd class and then Petty Officer 1st class in 1878. His character was regularly described as very good or excellent. In June 1881, he paid £12 for his discharge, and returned to Scotland.

On 10th March 1885, at 5, Blackburn Street Edinburgh, David married Alice Mary Connor (**see tree 11 – p. 51**). Both were living in Loanhead, and David gave his profession as Innkeeper. The service was partly conducted by his uncle, Reverend David Bonallo, minister of Blackford. His sister Helen, or Nellie, also witnessed the marriage. In October 1886, the couple's first child was born, at Windmill House, but whether they were both living with Thomas and Jane at the time or Alice was just there for the confinement is unclear. Barbara died aged 3. Eight more children followed, five of whom also died young: Thomas Gordon was born in 1887, Frances Dorothy 1895-6, Eric McKay 1897-7, Norah McCombie 1898-8, Sheila Connor 1900-0, Helen 1901-1, William John 1902 and Jane, born in 1906.

In 1891⁸⁷, David and Alice were at *The Commercial Inn* at West Calder, nearly 20 miles to the south-west of Edinburgh. David described himself as a Wine and

⁸⁵ <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 685/4/7/11, 1901 census, Edinburgh

⁸⁶ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, UK Royal Navy Register of Seamen's Services, 1848-1939

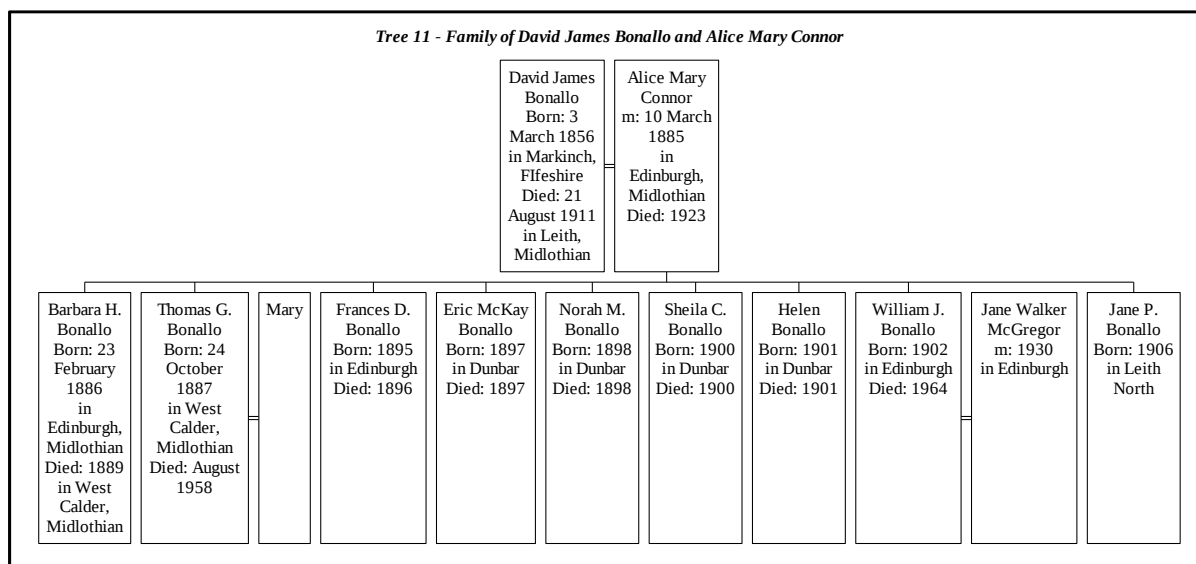
⁸⁷ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk>, 701/3/15, 1891 census, West Calder

Spirit Merchant. However, presumably the business wasn't thriving, as, only a year later, a notice appeared in *The Scotsman*⁸⁸:

TRUST – ESTATE OF DAVID BONALLO BOTTLER, WEST CALDER

Notice is hereby given, that the proceeds of this estate are about to be distributed among the creditors who have lodged claims

Presumably this is what his father was referring to in his will. I imagine that Thomas had either set his son up in business originally, or had tried to bail him out when things began to go wrong. It would explain why in 1901⁸⁹ David, Alice and 13 year-old Thomas were to be found in Dunbar, where David was employed as a Limestone Quarryman. In fact, they had been there for some time, as the valuation rolls⁹⁰ shows David to have been tenant and occupier of a property in Letham Place, Bayswell, Dunbar in 1897 and 8, and again from 1899-1901. In 1899 he was also recorded as tenant occupier of a house at 17 Victoria Street, Dunbar. In 1905 he was occupying a house as tenant at 19, Johnston Street, Leith.



What remained at home of David's family, his wife, daughter Jane and son William, was enumerated in 1911⁹¹ at 35, Ferry Road, Leith, where David was described as a Dock Labourer. Son Thomas Gordon was already thinking of emigrating, and sailed from Glasgow, bound for New York, on the *Furnessia* on 17th June. He settled in Canada, where he married, worked as a Lumberman, and aged 30 in 1917, joined up to fight in the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force⁹². In 1919 he and his wife Mary moved from Winnipeg to the United States⁹³, where he

⁸⁸ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *The Scotsman*, 25.3.1892

⁸⁹ <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 706/1/10, 1901 census, Dunbar

⁹⁰ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, Valuation Rolls

⁹¹ <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 692/1/14/4, 1911 census, Leith

⁹² <https://ancestry.co.uk>, Canada, WWI CEF Attestation Papers

⁹³ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, In the U.S. Records of Aliens pre-examined in Canada, 1904-54

petitioned for naturalisation⁹⁴. In 1951 he appears on an index of passengers arriving from Honolulu⁹⁵. He clearly had itchy feet, for two years later, he and Mary sailed for Ireland⁹⁶. He died in August 1958⁹⁷. His brother William stayed in Midlothian; he married Jane Walker McGregor in 1930 and died in 1964. Of Jane Bonallo no further trace has been found.

David James Bonallo died on 21st August 1911 at Leith Workhouse. He was described as an:

Engineman, sometime residing at 35, Ferry Road, latterly at 66, Henderson Street, Leith

Confirmation (or probate) was granted to his sister Jane Helen, his executor, who was living in Fredrick Street in Edinburgh at the time. David's estate was valued at £51. His widow remarried in 1918 to George Bevan, but died five years later.

Lauder Miller Bonallo seems to have spent his life mainly in Midlothian. He was still at home in 1881⁹⁸ and employed as a clerk. When he married on 25th June 1889 he gave his occupation as Spirit Merchant and his address as Bilston ..? Roslin, Lasswade (see tree 12 – p. 53). His bride, Minnie Kirk, must have been a Catholic, as the wedding took place at Edinburgh's Catholic Cathedral on Broughton Street:

After publication according to the forms of the Roman Catholic Church

Minnie gave her occupation as housekeeper. A son named Henry was born two years later. He and Minnie were enumerated as part of Thomas and Jane Bonallo's household in 1891⁹⁹, but Lauder was not present. Instead, he was lodging at a house in Croft Street, Penicuik and working as a general labourer. Given his brother David's history, it initially seemed likely that Lauder had gone into business with him, and gone bust with him as well. However, the story was more complex than that.

The *Musselburgh News*¹⁰⁰ ran an item in 1890 headed:

ROSLIN

A FAMILY DISPUTE -

The piece is worth quoting in full:

It was announced in the Court of Session on Tuesday that a settlement has been arrived at in the action by Lauder Bonallo, wine and spirit

⁹⁴ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, West Virginia U.S. Naturalisation Records, 1814-1991

⁹⁵ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, Honolulu, Hawaii, Index to passengers arriving, 1900-52

⁹⁶ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, U.S. Departing Passenger and Crew Lists, 1914-66

⁹⁷ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, U.S. Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007

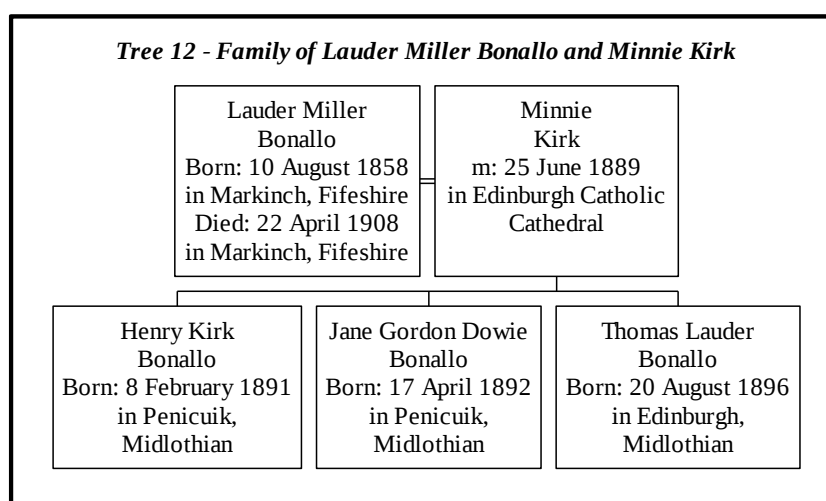
⁹⁸ <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 685/4/73/3, 1881 census, Edinburgh

⁹⁹ <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 685/4 53/4, 1891 census, Edinburgh

¹⁰⁰ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *The Musselburgh News* 16th May 1890

merchant, Bilston Cottage, Roslin, against his father, Thomas Bonallo, brewer, 8 Graham Street, Edinburgh, to have him ordained to remove from Bilston Inn, and to count and reckon for his intromissions with the stock-in-trade. The pursuer averred that he had purchased from the defender the goodwill, stock-in-trade, and business of Bilston Inn, Roslin, in October 1888, for £500, and granted a bill for the amount, and that in December 1889 the defender had illegally and unwarrantably resumed possession. A discharge has been granted by the pursuer in favour of the defender, and the pursuer gives up all right to the inn in respect of a sum paid to him under the deed.

Minnie must have joined her husband at Penicuik, as a daughter, Jane Gordon Dowie, was born there in 1892. By the time Thomas Lauder was born, in 1896, the family was back in Edinburgh. In 1901 Thomas, Minnie, Henry K, Jane and Thomas L were all living in two rooms at 12 George Street Leith, and Lauder was a general labourer.



However, after that, they pretty much disappear. Henry or Harry was boarding with the Kinnear family at Balcurvie and working as a hewer in a coal mine in the 1911 census¹⁰¹, and appeared on the Valuation Rolls there from 1930-40¹⁰², but there is no sign of the others. Lauder only reappears at the time of his death on 22nd April 1908. This took place at Windygates and his occupation was given as:

retired clerk

Given that he was only 41, this seemed a slightly disingenuous statement, although he may have returned to clerking only to have to retire on grounds of ill health. The cause of death was Phthisis Pulmonalis, or TB.

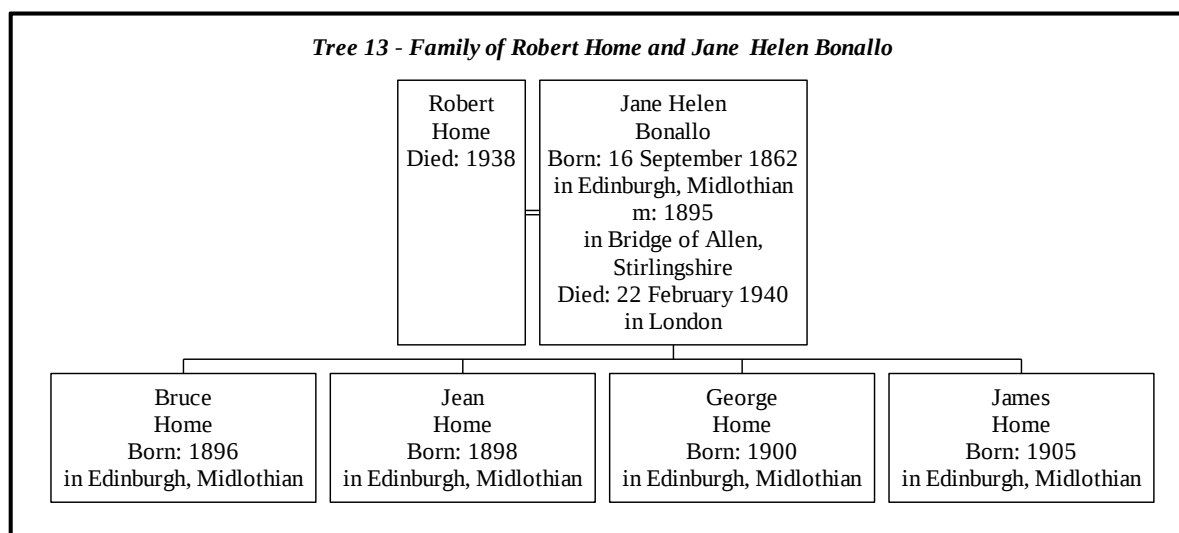
¹⁰¹ <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 447/2/2/29, 1911 census, Markinch

¹⁰² <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

It seems that Minnie emigrated to Canada, where she was later joined by her daughter. The passenger list on the *Grampian*¹⁰³ in October 1913 shows:

Bonallo Jane G	21	Going to mother	Montreal Que	RC
----------------	----	-----------------	--------------	----

Both age and religion suggest this is the right person, especially as the death of a Mary Kirk Bonallo was recorded in Montreal in 1926¹⁰⁴.



Jane Helen Bonallo married Robert Home on 5th June 1895 at Bridge of Allan in Stirlingshire (see tree 13 – p. 54). Robert was an artist described on an artist biography site¹⁰⁵ as an:

Edinburgh-born portrait painter, illuminator and stained glass designer. He exhibited at the Glasgow Institute of Fine Arts, the Royal Academy of Arts and Royal Scottish Academy

Pictures of his¹⁰⁶ are hung in such diverse places as the Fife Folk Museum, Tain Council Chamber and the University of Edinburgh. By the time of their first child Bruce's birth in 1896 they were living in Brandon Street in Edinburgh, where they were enumerated in 1901¹⁰⁷, along with two more children, Jean (born 1898) and George (born 1900). By 1911¹⁰⁸, a son James had joined the family, born 1905.

After 1918, Robert lived at Ceres, apparently with fellow artist Eveline Jolly¹⁰⁹, although the website which records this makes no reference to the kind of relationship, although it does note that he had a wife and three children who

¹⁰³ <https://familysearch.org>, Canada Passenger Lists 1881-1922

¹⁰⁴ <https://www.newspapers.com/>

¹⁰⁵ <https://www.artbiogs.co.uk/1/artists/home-robert>

¹⁰⁶ <https://artuk.org/discover/artists/home-robert-1865after-1921>

¹⁰⁷ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, 685/2/67/15, 1901 census, Edinburgh

¹⁰⁸ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>

¹⁰⁹ <https://httpartisticchorizons.org/2020/09/13/robert-home-ceres-artist/>

outlived him. Robert died in 1938, but maybe Jane had already moved to London where she appears on the 1939 Register¹¹⁰ at 20/22 Lexham Gardens, Kensington, running a boarding house. Her son James and his wife are part of the same household. She died on 22nd February 1940 at the London County Council Hospital, Marloes Road, London. Administration¹¹¹ of an estate valued at £809 7/6 was granted to son James.



Ceres Green – Robert Home

Gordon and Turnbull: mainly Yarrow

Jane Gordon was four years older than her husband Thomas Bonallo. She was the daughter of John Gordon and Jane Turnbull and born at Craig Douglas in Yarrow in Selkirkshire:

1820 John Gordon, Craig Douglas, and Jean Turnbull his wife, had a daughter born to them 1st April, named Jean

Unlike Markinch, an area of gently swelling hills, and a parish full of small villages, Yarrow was in a fairly wild and mountainous area and sparsely populated. Craig Douglas, or Craig of Douglas, shows as two buildings on the O.S. map of 1860¹¹². *The New Statistical Account of Scotland* for Yarrow¹¹³, dated 1845, describes Yarrow parish as:

¹¹⁰ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, 1939 England and Wales Register

¹¹¹ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, National Probate Calendar, 1858-1995.

¹¹² <https://maps.nls.uk/view/74968640>, Selkirkshire X. 14

¹¹³ https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/viewer/nsa-vol3-Parish_record_for_Yarrow_in_the_county_of_Selkirk_in_volume_3_of_account_2/nsa-vol3-p29-parish-selkirk-yarrow?search=Yarrow

perhaps the most extended in the south of Scotland. Its greatest length is eighteen, and breadth sixteen miles, with an area of 111 square miles. The figure is very irregular and some parts of it are almost isolated...

The population of this huge area the year after Jane was born was only 1,249. This was an area of sheep and cattle farming, and the same account notes that:

the shepherd's plaid is a standing article of dress

The nearest market town was Selkirk, nine miles away, and there were only two small villages in the parish, the rest of the population living in scattered settlements.

By 1841¹¹⁴ Jane, aged 21, was employed as a servant in the household of Francis Scott, a farmer at Eldenhope in Yarrow. There were three other female servants, including her 15 year-old sister Femey, so Jane also had probably been earning her keep for some years. How she came to meet Thomas Bonallo is a mystery. Maybe she went in search of a new employment in distant Markinch. The rest of her story has been told alongside Thomas'.

When she died in 1896 her death certificate named her father as Thomas Gordon, but as her and all her siblings' baptisms call him John, I suspect that the informant got the name of his long-deceased grandfather wrong:

Jane Bonallo m to Thomas Bonallo, Practical Brewer, retired. D 14.4.1896, 3.30 p.m.. No 5 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh; female, 75 years. Parents: Thomas Gordon, road contractor, deceased, Jane Gordon, m s Turnbull, deceased. Cause: Infleunza, Bronchitis, Cardiac Failure, 10 days. Informant: J.C. Bonallo, son.

She was buried in Dalkeith Cemetery in Edinburgh, and the headstone which records her husband also records that it was erected in loving memory of:

Jean Gordon his wife
who died
14th April 1896 in her 74th year

Apart from her birth, this is the only time Jane was recorded as Jean.

Jane was the second child born to John Gordon and Jean Turnbull (see tree 14 - p.61). The first, Elizabeth, was born on 9th January 1818 and baptised on 19th at Peebles. Presumably she died young as the name was later used again. All the others were, like Jane, born at Yarrow. Euphemia, or Femey, on 22nd October 1822, Thomas - 22nd December 1824, another Elisabeth - 11th June 1827, Catherine - 7th September 1829 and finally Mary - 2nd December 1830.

¹¹⁴ <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 779/2/3, 1841 census, Yarrow

John Gordon and Jean or Jane Turnbull made an irregular marriage at Canongate in Edinburgh, in other words, one not sanctioned by the established church. At this time, it was possible to have a valid marriage in Scottish law by simply making a verbal declaration in front of witnesses. The kirk disapproved - of course - as they did of Episcopalian marriages, which this was. So the Peebles register has an entry as follows:

Peebles: 7th August 1817. John Gordon labourer in Peebles and Jane Turnbull daughter of James Turnbull Grocer in the parish of Yarrow compeared this day before the Kirk Session and produced marriage lines dated Canongate 27th November 1816 and signed Joseph Robertson, min^r. They acknowledged themselves married persons, were rebuked for their irregularity and absolved and their marriage was ordained to be recorded.

There is also an entry in the Old Parish Registers – the established church - at Canongate for 27th November 1816. This, though, was a proclamation, not the actual marriage. The entry reads:

John Gordon Labourer, parish of Yarrow and Jane Turnbull of No 16 High Street Canongate, 1st storey, Daughter of James Turnbull, Grocer, parish of Yarrow, gave up their names for marriage. Certified by John Campbell, Spirit Dealer, No 28 Canongate, and John Laidlaw, Labourer, parish of Selkirk.

The High Street Canongate is now, I think, what is known as the Royal Mile, and full of tourist shops. No. 16 is now the *Real Scot Shop* at ground floor level, but still a building which rises to six floors and an attic. My guess is that Jane Turnbull was probably in service here.



Canongate¹¹⁵

115

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:John_Knox%27s_House,_Edinburgh_%28NBY_440664%29.jpg

It seems that the Episcopalian minister who actually conducted the wedding, Joseph Robertson, had form in conducting Episcopalian marriages, as shown in the Criminal Trials section of the *Edinburgh Annual Register, Volume 11*¹¹⁶, which reports the case of:

Joseph Robertson, for celebrating Irregular Marriages and forging
Certificates

in the Edinburgh High Court in March 1818. Robertson, a minister at Leith Wynd Episcopalian Chapel, and William Pearson, spirit dealer in Canongate, were accused of fraud, forgery and celebrating marriages. It would have been Robertson, presumably, who would have supplied the Canongate Kirk with a fraudulent certificate of proclamation of banns. The jury found him guilty of a number of offences of this kind, and he was banished from Scotland for life in accordance with the then law. The fact that the couple seem to have chosen an Episcopalian ceremony suggests that perhaps John Gordon was, as my one-time Yarrow correspondent would put it, a Pesci.

No grocer named James Turnbull (or anything else) has been traced in Yarrow records, which doesn't mean that he didn't exist. Jane's brother was at one time a meal dealer, and meal no doubt counted as groceries. Going on the ages Jane gave in 1851 and 61, and the fact that she married in 1816, Jane must have been born somewhere between 1789 and 1796. However, there are no likely births in the Old Parish Registers. If Jane was born in Glenkirk as she said in the census returns, her father must have been some kind of agricultural worker at that time as Glenkirk appears on the 1856 O.S.¹¹⁷ map as a single building with a small plot of land and a sheepfold. Moving around 30 miles to become a grocer seems an unlikely prospect. However, in a small community like Yarrow, a grocer would probably have had a supplementary occupation. The only James Turnbull who seemed to be a likely father married Mary Stavert in 1798 and fathered, along with the Anne Turnbull who appears later in this story, 13 children – none of them named Jane. However, Anne's death certificate also names a father James who was a grocer, suggesting that these two were half-sisters.

The mystery was partly solved by Jane Gordon's death certificate. She died in Liberton, about 15 miles north of Heriot, on the outskirts of Edinburgh. Her death certificate, with what I suspect is an inflated age, reads:

Jane Gordon Pauper Widow of John Gordon Labourer; 1866 August First
5h 45m A.M.; F; 80 years; James Turnbull Feuar Deceased Euphemia

¹¹⁶ https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=mnQEAAAAQAAJ&pg=RA2-PA35&lpg=RA2-PA35&dq=Joseph+Robertson+irregular+marriages+Edinburgh&source=bl&ots=S1QScIg3gm&sig=A CfU3U1I- 0UggsuxvS9- 3iL2x_R64kzDA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiyg4WT48XqAhVHPcAKHf_WC2cQ6AEwA3oECAC QAQ#v=onepage&q=Joseph%20Robertson%20irregular%20marriages%20Edinburgh&f=false

¹¹⁷ <https://maps.nls.uk/view/74954456>, Peeblesshire XIX.3, Broughton, Glenholm and Kilbucko, 1856

Turnbull MS Ramage Deceased; Palsy for years As cert by Thos Peacock MD;
William Cochran Inspector of Poor Liberton

This proves that she was indeed the product of an earlier marriage of James Turnbull to Euphemia Ramage. No record of this marriage has been found, but it does explain the choice of the name Euphemia for Jane's third daughter.

Although John Gordon described himself as a labourer in 1817, he seems to have morphed into a builder, as the *Gordon Arms Inn* in Yarrow appears to have been named after him. Many years ago I was in correspondence with a lady who lived in Yarrow, and knew a lot about the local history. In one of her letters she wrote:

If you can get your hands on *Ettrick and Yarrow*¹¹⁸... you will find on page 105, '...the Gordon Arms Inn, so called after the builder, a contractor named Gordon, who was at the making of the Hartleap Road'

'Contractor' may be a slightly grandiose title for labourer John Gordon although it is the term used on Jane's death certificate. However, the letter goes on to say:

According to the present incumbent at Eldinhope he obtained a licence to keep an Inn at the Gordon Arms in April 1829. To have the local inn named after you is real fame... Associations with Scott, Wordsworth etc. Hartleap is on the road over from the Gordon Arms to Tushielaw.



The Gordon Arms, Yarrow

A website¹¹⁹ dedicated to the area clarifies that the Hartleap Road is now usually known as the Berrybush and runs south from the inn towards Ettrick Valley.

If John Gordon did run the Gordon Arms Inn, it must have been for a fairly short time as by 1841¹²⁰ he and Jane had moved with daughters Catherine and Mary

¹¹⁸ *Ettrick and Yarrow – a Guide*, William Angus, James Lewis, Selkirk, 1894

¹¹⁹ <http://www.ettrickandyarrow.co.uk/uploads/visitorsguide.pdf>

to Dewar Toll Cottage in Heriot, Midlothian. *Duncan's Itinerary of Scotland*¹²¹ makes the following reference to this property:

Heriot House and Toll – 1 m. fur. on r. at a distance, upon Heriot Water

According to the census, John was 50 and an 'Ag Lab'; Jane was 45 and Catherine and Mary 10 and 9 respectively.

In 1851¹²² John and Jane were living at Dewar Gill in Heriot – possibly the same place but with the address recorded differently. John was still a labourer, but now aged 65. He gave his birthplace as Dumfries in Dumfriesshire, while Jane, aged 56, claimed to have been born in Glenkirk in Peebleshire. Euphemia had returned to the family home, unmarried and described as a labourer's daughter. There were two grandsons in the household as well. John Donaldson, aged five, was the son of one Ronald Donaldson and Eliza Gordon (presumably Elizabeth); he had been born at Heriot on 23rd October 1845 and baptised there eight months later. Given the fact that the other grandson, James Turnbull, was only a year old, I imagine his mother was Euphemia. He was enumerated as having been born in Heriot, but there is no record of this, and no further record of his life that I can find.

Eliza was also living in Heriot at the time¹²³, but enumerated as an unmarried housekeeper at Garvald Cottage, living with her one-year-old son, Thomas G Tod. There was no-one else in the household. In 1861¹²⁴ she was back with her parents at Dewar Gill Cottage, working as a dressmaker, but by now her son was known as Thomas G Peden, and she as Eliza Peden, widow. Whether there ever was a Mr Peden is unclear. John and Jane had aged considerably in ten years; John's age was given as 85 and Jane as 72. Both, however, were consistent regarding their birthplaces. Interestingly, John described himself as a Toll Keeper Road Man, and given that the 1841 address was Toll Cottage, I suspect that he had spent many years dividing his time between toll-keeping and maintaining the road.

The following year, a death was registered at Heriot. This was of one Thomas Gordon who died of Phthisis or T.B. on 27th January 1862, aged 9. His aunt Eliza Gordon or Peden was present at the death, and he was stated to be the illegitimate son of Euphemia Duncan, MS Gordon. No further definitive sightings of any of this family have been found, though it seems likely that Thomas Gordon Peden emigrated to Australia.

¹²⁰ <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 688/3/5, 1841 Census, Heriot

¹²¹ <https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=rJ4HAAAAQAAJ&pg=RA1-PA12-IA1&lpg=RA1-PA12-IA1&dq=Dewar+Toll+Cottage+Heriot&source=bl&ots=LhlSVzoKWF&sig=ACfU3U3ZzCTDn3Fel-rvmlQXLTiZeY2FPA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKewirxpbDuqTqAhV1QEEAHT4KDQkQ6AEwA3oECACQAQ#v=onepage&q=Dewar%20Toll%20Cottage%20Heriot&f=false> *Duncan's Itinerary of Scotland: with the principal roads to London*, James Duncan, 1820

¹²² <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 688/3/3, 1851 census, Heriot

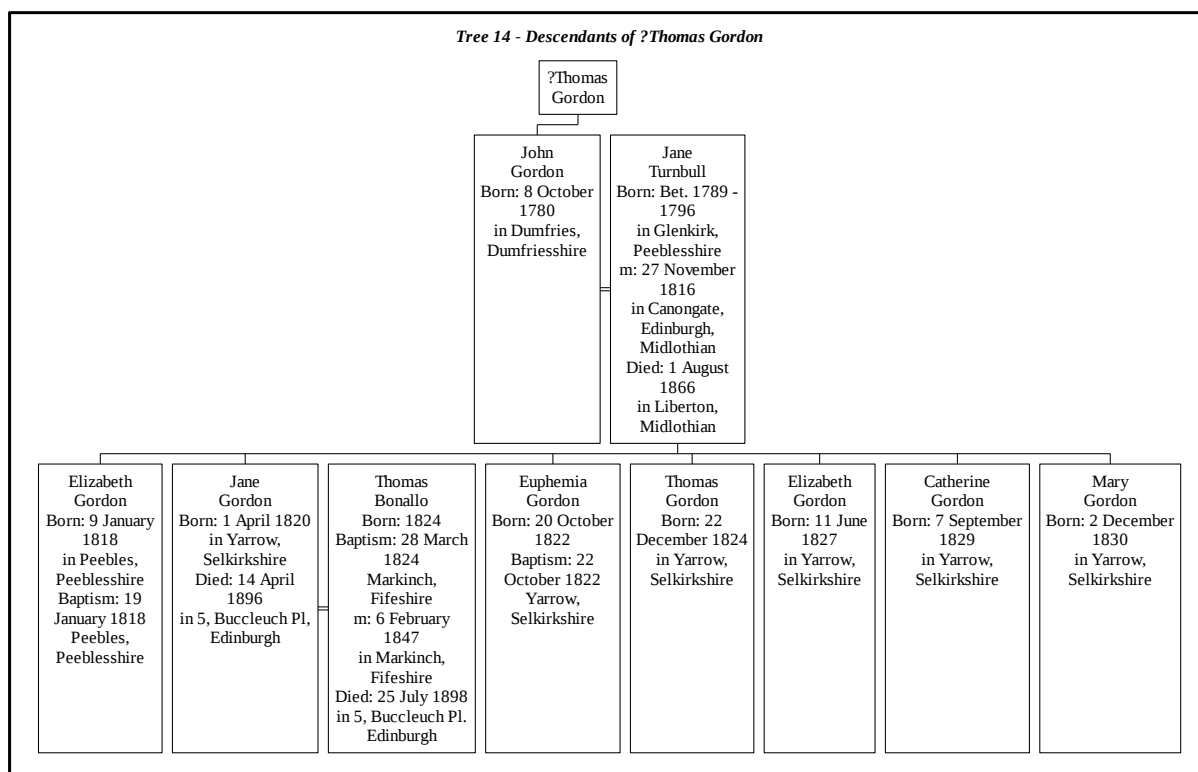
¹²³ <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 688/3/4, 1851 census, Heriot

¹²⁴ <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 688/1/2, 1861 census, Heriot

John Gordon gave his place of birth as Dumfries. Given the discrepancy in recording his age in the census returns, he could have been born any time between 1776 and 1786. There is only one entry for a John Gordon born in Dumfries in that time frame, on 8th October 1780:

John lawful son to Thomas Gordon labourer. Witnesses Bailie James Clark and James Carrathers

No mother's name is given, but given that John named his only son Thomas, I suspect this is our man.



John Charles Brodie Bonallo and family: mainly Edinburgh

There is some confusion over the name of this Bonallo. The entry recording his birth gives:

Bonallo Charles Jn^o Brodie lawful son to Thomas Bonallo and Jean Gordon
Cameron Mill was born 2nd November 1850 and baptised.

The Jn^o looks almost squashed in against Brodie, as if it was almost an afterthought. The 1851 and 1861 censuses¹²⁵, when he was living with his parents, call him Charles and Charles B respectively. Later censuses all list him with John as his first name.

¹²⁵ <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 447/14/12 & 447/13/5, 1851 & 61 censuses, Markinch

My guess is that his parents called him Charles after Charles Brodie of Cameron Mill, but as an adult, their son preferred to be known as John, apart from for official purposes.

Charles, or John, was probably around 11 years old when the family moved to Edinburgh, and he spent about the next 35 years living in the capital. Although he ultimately became a brewer like his father, his first occupation seems to have been as a railway stoker. It is possible that the family still had connections to his mother's birthplace of Yarrow, as when he married on 5th January 1869, although the ceremony took place in Edinburgh, his bride was also Yarrow-born (**see tree 15 – p. 63**). Not only that, she was also his first cousin once removed, a relationship which will be explained later:

John Charles Brodie Bonallo, bachelor, 21, Railway Stoker of 37,
Candlemaker Row (Redpath, Brown and Co), s of Thomas Bonallo,
brewer, Jane Bonallo, m s Gordon
Margaret Ann Oversby, domestic servant, spinster, 21, dau of Oliver
Oversby and Ann Oversby, m s Turnbull. 5th January 1869 at St. Giles
Church, Edinburgh

Given that Margaret Ann Oversby was in service in Edinburgh, it is more likely that they met there, as his mother's family had long left the Yarrow area.

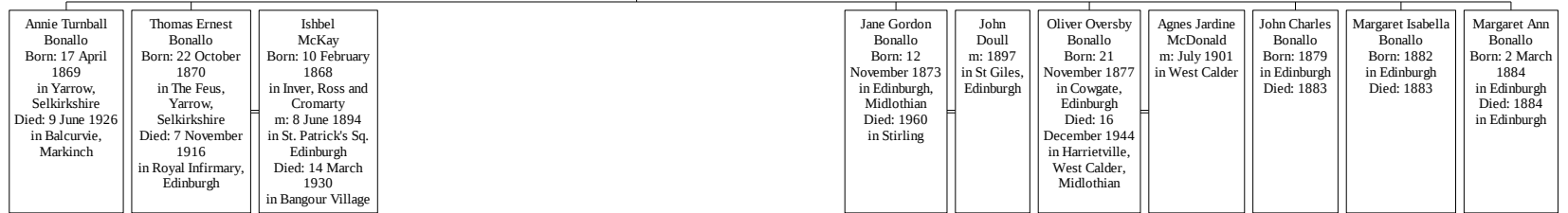
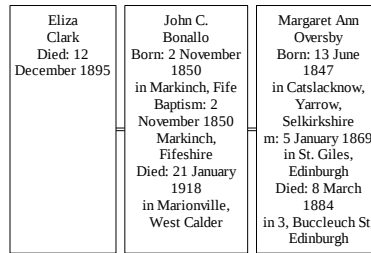


Yarrowfeus

[cc-by-sa/2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/) - © [Walter Baxter](https://www.geograph.org.uk/p/3626456) - [geograph.org.uk/p/3626456](https://www.geograph.org.uk/p/3626456)

John, or Charles, was only 19 when he married, despite giving his age as 21, but the fact that his wife, who was three years older, was also 6 months pregnant, no doubt concentrated their minds somewhat. Margaret returned to Yarrowfeus for the birth of Ann Turnbull Bonallo on 17th April 1869. Ann, or Annie as she was known, never married, and stayed in the family home for most of her life. However, true to this family's homing instinct, she returned to Windygates eventually, and died there on 9th June 1926, aged 57. An inventory of her estate was lodged with the Sheriff-

Tree 15 - Descendants of John Charles Brodie Bonallo and Margaret Ann Oversby



Clerk of Forfarshire, an event which was considered worthy of report in the press under the heading 'Dundee Wills'¹²⁶:

Miss Annie Bonallo, Balcurvie, Windygates £1,138 12 8

The *St Andrews Citizen and Fife Free Press & Kirkaldy Guardian* gave a valuation of £1,138 12/3! However, neither of these sums agrees with the entry in the Scottish National Probate Index¹²⁷ 1876-1935:

Bonallo, Annie, Balcurvie, Windygates, died 9 June 1926 at same place, Testate. Confirmation Cupar, 31 August, to Oliver Ovesby Bonallo, Harrierville, West Calder, her brother, Executor. Will dated 7 March 1918 recorded Cupar 18 August 1926. Value of Estate, £923:13:6.

Annie is commemorated on the headstone to her grandparents in Dalkeith Road Cemetery.

The next child, Thomas Ernest, was also born at Yarrow, on 22nd October 1870. His story will be followed later. Another daughter followed, Jane Gordon, born in Edinburgh on 12th November 1873. The Bonallos were still following Scottish naming practices, with the first daughter named for her maternal grandmother and the second for the paternal. Thomas was of course named for his paternal grandfather. In 1897, Jane married John Doull at St Giles. A son Alexander Clark was born in 1899. John Doull was also a brewer, and was enumerated as such in the 1901 census¹²⁸. He worked for Campbell, Hope and King and was described in the *Journal of the Institute of Brewers* vol. 70, 1964¹²⁹ as:

Honorary Secretary of the Scottish Section for the long period of twenty-four years.

He died in 1926, but Jane lived on until 1960, when she was 86. Her death was registered in Stirling. Her son, Alexander Clark Doull died just four years later in Alyth, but was cremated in Edinburgh. He had also been a brewer. An obituary in the *Journal of the Institute of Brewers*¹³⁰ described him as one of the Institute's most distinguished members. He had started his career with Campbell, Hope and King, but after working for two other breweries had joined *George Younger and Sons* of Alloa, rising to be Head Brewer and a director there before retiring in 1962.

Oliver Oversby Bonallo, named for his maternal grandfather, was born in Edinburgh at 147, Cowgate on 21st November 1877. Her father gave his name as

¹²⁶ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *Dundee Courier*, 1.9.1926

¹²⁷ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, Scotland National Probate Index

¹²⁸ <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 685/1 176/1, 1901 census, St George, Midlothian

¹²⁹ <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/j.2050-0416.1964.tb01991.x>

¹³⁰ <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1002/j.2050-0416.1964.tb01991.x>

Charles, rather than John. In 1901¹³¹, Oliver was enumerated as a plumber, but when he married, later that year, he was referred to as a wine merchant¹³²:

At Huntley House, Gattonside, Oliver Bonallo, wine merchant, West Calder,
to Agnes Jardine, daughter of the late William McDonald

There was one child from this marriage, Jane Margaret Florence, born at West Calder in 1902. She was the last of the Bonallo clan to be sole owner of property at Windygates, and when she died intestate in 1999, her estate had to be divided amongst all her relatives, as she had no direct descendants. The division of the estate rumbled on for over twenty years. By 1911¹³³ Oliver was calling himself a shopkeeper, and employed, presumably by his father.

Although he doesn't ever seem to have lived at Windygates, Oliver had property rights there, as he appears on both the 1930 and 1935 Electoral Registers for the Western Division of the County of Fife¹³⁴ as:

Bonallo, Oliver O., Harriet Villa [sic], West Calder

The majority of the others on the page have addresses in Balcurvie or Windygates.

He appears to have been a keen golf player, coming in as runner-up in the West Calder championship of 1933¹³⁵. After he died, his wife Agnes presented the club with a trophy in memory of him¹³⁶:

The West Calder Club have been presented with a beautiful Silver Trophy by Mrs Bonallo, widow of the late Mr Oliver Bonallo to commemorate her husband's long connection with the club in which he always had a great interest.

Oliver and Agnes were buried in West Calder Cemetery, with a headstone reading as follows¹³⁷:

Oliver Oversby Bonallo dearly beloved husband of Agnes Jardine
McDonald who died at Harrietville 16th Dec 1944 aged 67 years
The above Agnes Jardine McDonald who died at Harrietville
18th June 1955 (78) dearly beloved mother of Florence Bonallo
Rock of Ages Cleft for Me

The next son was named, of course, after his father. By the time John Charles was born, on 7th October 1879, the family was living at 3, Buccleuch Street in

¹³¹ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, 701/3/19, 1901 census, West Calder

¹³² <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *The Southern Reporter*, 25.7.1901

¹³³ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, 701/3/8, 1911 census, West Calder

¹³⁴ <https://ancestry.co.uk/>, Fife, Scotland, Electoral Registers, 1914-66

¹³⁵ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *Edinburgh Evening News*, 4.10.1933

¹³⁶ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *Midlothian Advertiser*, 1.6.1945

¹³⁷ <https://www.gravestonephotos.com/>

Edinburgh. He had a short life, dying in 1883 aged 4. The next child, Margaret Isabel, born in 1882, also died as an infant, in 1883. John Charles and Margaret's final child, named Margaret Ann after her mother, was born on 2nd March 1884, but died the same year. There was another reason for giving her her mother's name; Margaret Ann Bonallo née Oversby died six days after the birth.

To return now to the story of John Charles Brodie Bonallo himself, having been a railway stoker at the time of his marriage, by the time of the 1871 census¹³⁸ he had become a brewery maltman, and was living at 6 Wemyss Terrace in the St Cuthbert's area of Edinburgh. The address no longer exists, but is described as¹³⁹:

a small row of houses that ran off the Vennel. These houses appeared in the 1840s maps of Edinburgh although they are not named until later maps. They eventually fell foul to the expansion of the Edinburgh College of Art in the early 1900s.

The 1875 Valuation Roll¹⁴⁰ shows that the family didn't stay long at that address. In this year he was living in a house at 157 Cowgate, an area which has been extensively rebuilt since the Bonallos' time there. Charles Bonallo 'Brewer's Servant' is tenant and occupier of a house valued with a yearly rent of £10. More interesting perhaps, is the entry directly above, which notes a name familiar to subsequent generations of the family:

Description	Proprietor	Tenant & Occupier
Brewery	Alexander Campbell	Archibald Campbell
Gatehouse and Stables	6, Charlotte Square	and co Brewers

The property was valued at a yearly rent of £750. It seems likely that at this point, John Charles was working for the company which would later become *Campbell, Hope and King*.



Window advertising Campbell, Hope and King

¹³⁸ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk>, 685/1 54/2, 1871 census, Edinburgh

¹³⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/lostedinburgh/photos/>

¹⁴⁰ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk>, 1875 Valuation Roll, Edinburgh

In 1881¹⁴¹ he and Margaret Ann were at 3, Buccleuch Street, which must have been the property next door to the one which appears as his father's address in the Edinburgh Directories at the time, so presumably 'Ale Brewer' John Charles was working with his father. Also enumerated were Annie and Thomas, born at Yarrowfeus, and Jane, Oliver and John, all born in Edinburgh. The Electoral Register¹⁴² for the same year also confirms his address in Buccleuch Street, his occupation as Brewer's Servant and status as tenant and occupant.

Left by Margaret's death in 1884 with four children and aged only 35, John Charles soon married again. His new wife was Eliza Clark, spinster, aged 34, and the wedding took place at her home, Highfield Lodge, St Alban's Road, Edinburgh, by banns on 24th March 1885. His address at the time was 10, Rankeillor Street, Edinburgh. However, the 1891 census¹⁴³ places John Charles and Eliza at 27, St Patrick's Square, Buccleuch, Edinburgh. All four surviving children are at home; Annie as a dressmaker, Thomas as a brewery worker, Jane at 17 without occupation and Oliver a scholar.

Between 1885 and 1897, Charles Bonallo, brewer, appears in the directories¹⁴⁴ at various addresses; Rankeillor Street in 1885-6, 7, West Preston Street in 1887-8 and 5, Buccleuch Place in 1896-7. In 1885, still identified as a brewer's servant¹⁴⁵, John Charles was at the Rankeillor Street address valued at a yearly rent of £24. Ten years later¹⁴⁶, the property he tenanted and occupied at 5, Buccleuch Place had a yearly rent value of £37, so he was clearly on an upward trajectory.

This trajectory can only have been improved by a legacy received in 1898 from William Gray Campbell, son of brewery founder Alexander Campbell. A portion of his extremely long will reads:

...five hundred pounds to Charles Duff Campbell Bookkeeper at the Argyle Brewery the sum of one thousand pounds to Charles Bonallo also employed in said Brewery

In 1905¹⁴⁷ he appears twice in the rolls. At Balcurvie he is listed as proprietor of a house and garden tenanted by one Alexander Henderson, fencer, valued at a yearly rent of 12/-. Additionally, at West Calder, he is the proprietor of a pub at 27 Main Street, with a yearly rent or value of £65. By 1915¹⁴⁸, he has moved up a notch again. The entry for the pub on Main Street stays the same, but there is also the following entry:

¹⁴¹ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk>, 685/4 71/3, 1881 census, Edinburgh

¹⁴² <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, Edinburgh, Scotland, Electoral Registers, 1832-1966

¹⁴³ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk>, 685/4 53/3, 1891 census, Edinburgh

¹⁴⁴ <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/>, Edinburgh and Leith Post Office Directories

¹⁴⁵ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk>, 1885 Valuation Roll, Edinburgh

¹⁴⁶ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk>, 1895 Valuation Roll, Edinburgh

¹⁴⁷ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk>, 1905 Valuation Roll, Edinburgh

¹⁴⁸ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk>, 1915 Valuation Roll, Edinburgh

John Charles Bonallo Tenant, Occupier House 'Marionville' West Calder
Parish of West Calder, Mln
Yearly rent or value £30 Feu duty etc. £2 16/6

In Balcurvie, too, there is more than one entry. He is assessed on a house there with a yearly rent or value of £13 and a piece of land with a rental value of £1 18/-. He is variously described in these documents as publican or spirit merchant.

By 1901¹⁴⁹, despite increasing prosperity, he was alone again in that Eliza had died on 12th December 1895. (She is commemorated on the headstone to Thomas Bonallo and Jean Gordon in Dalkeith Road Cemetery in Edinburgh.) He had also moved again to 25, Kirkgate, West Calder where he was working as a Spirit Merchant, an employer rather than employed. Annie, now 31, had no occupation listed, but was no doubt housekeeping for her father, while Oliver was working as a plumber. By 1911¹⁵⁰ he was now living at his final address, 1, Harburn Road in West Calder and listed as:

Publican Employer



1, Harburn Road, West Calder

This seems to have been a substantial, double-fronted house, with good-sized rooms. Business must have been booming. Annie was still there, as was Oliver, now a shopkeeper, married to Agnes, and with daughter Florence. The census return noted that the property had 7 rooms with one or more windows, and that Oliver and Agnes had been married for 9 years.

In 1913 he was still engaged as a publican, *The Scotsman*¹⁵¹ published details of applicants for certificates to license premises. On 17th October that year, it recorded:

¹⁴⁹ <https://scotlandsppeople.gov.uk>, 701/3/19, 1901 census, West Calder

¹⁵⁰ <https://scotlandsppeople.gov.uk>, 701/3/8, 1911 census, West Calder

¹⁵¹ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *The Scotsman*, 17.10.1913

LIST OF APPLICANTS FOR CERTIFICATES FOR THE SALE OF
EXCISEABLE LIQUORS FOR THE COUNTY OF EDINBURGH...
FOR NEW CERTIFICATE

John C Bonallo, 1, Harburn Road, West Calder

The class of certificate applied for noted:

Public House (Alteration of premises.)

and under 'Name and address of Landlord' is written:

Applicant; Proprietor

John Charles' life came to an end in 1918, and it is possible that none of his family was present as the informant on the certificate was a neighbour, though maybe he was just helping out with the formalities, and someone must have given him family details he was unlikely to have known. The certificate gives the following detailed information:

John Charles Brodie Bonallo, publican, wid of 1st Margaret Ann Oversby,
2nd Eliza Clark. d 21.1.1918, 7 a.m. Marionville, West Calder, M, 68 years.
Thomas Bonallo, Brewer deceased, Jane Bonallo m s Gordon. Cerebral
Haemorrhage, 8 days. Informant – neighbour William Meldrum.

The death was registered on the same day.

His affairs were settled quickly. An advertisement appeared in *The Scotsman*¹⁵² on 26th January:

ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS against the late JOHN CHARLES
BONALLO Wine Merchant, West Calder, are requested to lodge them with
the Subscribers forthwith; and ALL PERSONS INDEBTED to the deceased
are requested to make immediate payment to them.

HOSSACK & HAMILTON
Agents for the Deceased's trustees

His will was presented for registration on 28th January. It was written in 1902 and begins:

I, John Charles Brodie Bonallo Wine and Spirit Merchant, West Calder,
being desirous of settling the disposal of my means and estate after my
death...

He appoints as trustees Andrew Haig Hamilton, Edinburgh Solicitor, Robert Drummond, Brewer in Glasgow and Robert Home, Artist, of Frederick Street, Edinburgh – his brother-in-law.

¹⁵² <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *The Scotsman*, 26.1.1918

After the usual preambles, he makes the following bequests:

...to my son Oliver all cash in bank at my credit whether on current account or deposit receipt; to my daughter Annie, the sum of Four hundred pounds sterling; to my son Thomas, the sum of Two hundred pounds sterling and all jewellery which may belong to me at the time of my death including... my gold watch and chain; and to my daughter Mrs Jane Bonallo or Doull, the shares held by me of and in the Undertaking called Archibald Campbell Hope and King, Limited, Brewers, Edinburgh:

All household furniture:

whether useful or ornamental

and including bed and table linen was to go to Annie. When it came to property, though, it was the sons who benefitted:

to my said son Oliver, the heritable property in West Calder belonging to me ... together with the goodwill of the business of Wine and Spirit Merchant carried on by me.... All stock, working utensils and furniture therein, together with everything pertaining to the said business and property...

to my said son Thomas the heritable property belonging to me, situated in Balcurvie, Fifeshire:

The residue of the estate was to be sold to pay the legacies.

An inventory of his personal estate was presented by Hossack and Hamilton on 25th June 1918. It showed around £300 in cash in the house, in the bank and in the value of the household goods, but most of his wealth was in investments. There was around £1,300 in war stock, but also a small number of shares in Campbell, Hope and King:

4 £10 Preference Shares at £2 12/6	10: 10: -
20 10 Ordinary Shares at 2/6	2: 10: -

There was £144 in an insurance policy with Caledonian Insurance Company; stock in trade was worth just over £160 and stock in bon just over £908. With a sum of £50 listed as:

granted by Robert Drummond to deceased

possibly a debt, and interest owed, the final valuation was of £3,297: 2: 2.

His son Thomas, a major beneficiary in the will, had died two years previously, and there is nothing in the will to specify what was to happen to his share.

Oversby and Turnbull: Yarrow

As has been stated above, Margaret Ann Bonallo, née Oversby, died in childbed at a relatively young age:

Margaret Ann Bonallo, married to John Charles Bonallo, d 8.3.1884, 8.30 a.m., 3 Buccleuch St, Edinburgh, F, 36. Parents: Oliver Oversby, Molecatcher, Ann Oversby, m s Turnbull, dec. Puerperal Fever, 6 days. Informant: J C Bonallo. Reg 8.3.1884 Edinburgh

She had been born at Catslackknow, in Yarrow parish on 13th June 1847:

Oliver Oversby, Catslackknow and Ann Turnbull his wife had a daughter born... named Margaret

On the 1858 map of Selkirk¹⁵³ Catslack Know is written below the Catslack Burn and parallel to and above the words Yarrow Feus. My Yarrow correspondent thought that it referred to:

the scattered hamlet of Yarrow

which seems feasible.



Oversby Cottage, Yarrow

Oversby is a rare name in the UK as a whole, but in Scotland only Oliver's family bore the name. Between 1800 and 1900 there were only eight Oversby births recorded in the *Scotland's People*¹⁵⁴ indexes, and they all descend from him. So it is perhaps not surprising that the humble cottage he occupied in Yarrow is known to this day as *Oversby Cottage*, and has been known by that name since at least 1878. A headstone in the kirkyard dated that year records the death of one Elizabeth Grieve

¹⁵³ <https://maps.nls.uk/view/74968643>, Selkirkshire X.15 (Yarrow)

¹⁵⁴ <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

of *Oversby Cottage*. The lady who owned it in the early 1990s used it as a weekend retreat from Edinburgh. She obviously loved the place, but wasn't blind to its drawbacks. In one of her letters, dated in April she says:

It is sunshine and showers as promised by Ian McCaskill this morning, but he didn't say the latter would be hail. I have been trying to garden and constantly having to come in, a lamb is eating one of my roses through the fence, I am not at all surprised that Ann Oversby died in the Asylum if she had to live here all the year round without electricity and piped water.

Margaret's father, Oliver Oversby had been born in Dent, Yorkshire, but had migrated north as a young man. On 17th March 1827, banns were published for his marriage to Janet Scott at Wilton in Roxburghshire:

Proclaimed Oliver Oversby and Janet Scott, parish of Minto, 2 Sundays, 2/-

A son named George was probably born in the same year (**see tree 16 – p. 73**). He only appears once in the UK records, as a 14 year-old born in Scotland, in the 1841 census¹⁵⁵. However, there is a reference to a George Oversby, born about 1827 residing in Wellington County, Ontario in 1851¹⁵⁶. Given how unusual the name Oversby was in Scotland, it seems likely that Oliver's older son emigrated, especially as there is another reference, to George Oversby labourer in a Toronto Directory¹⁵⁷ in 1863. Oliver seems to have settled in Janet's home parish of Minto, for, when he and Ann Turnbull had their banns proclaimed at Yarrow on 25th November 1833 that was where he was living:

Oliver Oversby in the parish of Minto and Ann Turnbull in this parish – 12

Within a year Oliver and Ann had their first child, a son James, named after his maternal grandfather, and born on 9th September 1834. He had left home by the time of the 1851 census¹⁵⁸, and is enumerated at Ashkirk – about ten miles south-east of Yarrow - as a servant in the Grieve household, working as a cattle herd. On 13th February 1860, Joan Robertson, Cook, Domestic Servant at Elibank, Yarrow, gave birth to James' illegitimate daughter Mary. He seems to have left his daughter in Yarrow, for although he is missing from the 1861 census, he presumably moved to Leith where on 29th April 1864 he married Christina Potter. By 1871¹⁵⁹, he and his wife and five daughters were living at Kinghorn in Fife, where James was employed as a coachman. This had been his occupation when Mary was born, which would explain perhaps why he left his daughter with his mother.

He disappears from the Scottish records after this, but given that Christina, her daughters and a son born in 1876 appear variously in the 1891 and 1901 censuses

¹⁵⁵ <https://scotlandsppeople.gov.uk>, 779/3/9, 1841 census, Yarrow

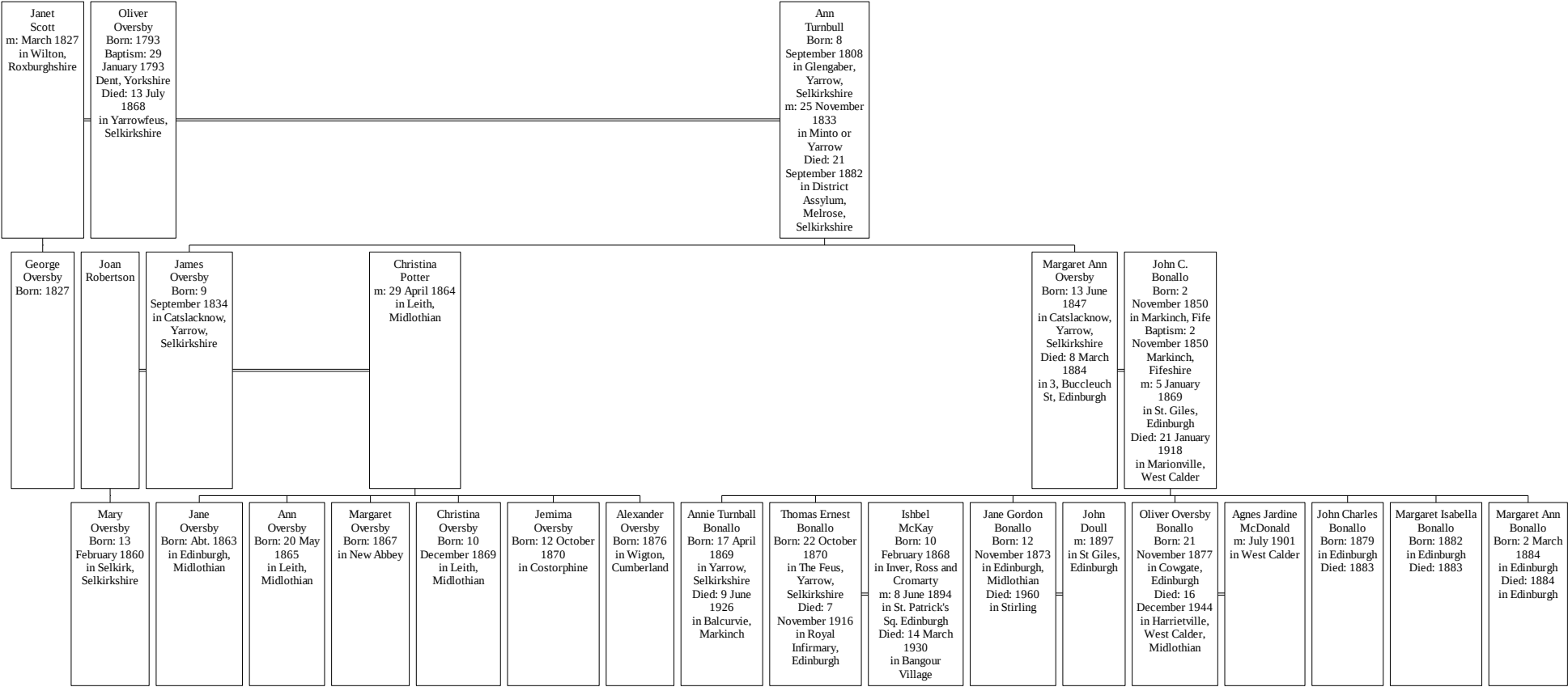
¹⁵⁶ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/>, 1851 census Canada East, West, New Brunswick and Novia Scotia

¹⁵⁷ <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/Hutchinson's> Toronto City Directory, 1862-3

¹⁵⁸ <https://scotlandsppeople.gov.uk>, 781/3/8, 1851 census, Ashkirk

¹⁵⁹ <https://scotlandsppeople.gov.uk>, 439/5/11, 1871 census, Kinghorn

Tree 16 - Descendants of Oliver Oversby



for Wigton in Cumberland¹⁶⁰, I suspect the entry in the Lunacy Patients Admission Register¹⁶¹, which records admissions to institutions all over the country, refers to James:

Oversby, James	24 June [1879]	Carlisle	5 Apr 80
----------------	----------------	----------	----------

The two dates refer to admission and death. He is also noted as a pauper.

There is no indication as to what form James' mental illness took in the register; however, it seems probable that it was an inherited disease, as his mother was enumerated the following year as a 'lunatic' at the District Lunatic Asylum in Melrose¹⁶².

In 1841¹⁶³ Oliver was to be found, aged 44 and an agricultural labourer, at Catslackburn in Yarrow, with sons George, 14 and James, 6. However, there is no sign of Ann. Given that Margaret Ann, their only other child, wasn't born until 1847, is it too fanciful, given what is known of the end of her life, to wonder whether she was suffering from a bout of mental illness at this time? That might explain the missing enumeration. In 1851¹⁶⁴ the couple are apart again, as Oliver was working as a servant and agricultural labourer at Mount Benger Know, an area north-east of the Gordon Inn marked on the 1858 map¹⁶⁵ in what looks like an empty space above something marked Mountbengernow (ruins of). This is the only time Oliver gives his home county, Yorkshire, although the parish is not recorded. Ann was at home in Catslackknow with 4 year-old Margaret, but was also recorded as an Ag Lab¹⁶⁶.

In 1861¹⁶⁷ Oliver and Ann were actually in the same household at Burn Side, Catslackburn on census night, along with their daughter Margaret and James's daughter Mary. Ann and Margaret give Yarrow as their birthplace, while Mary gives Selkirk, and Oliver simply England. His occupation is given as mole catcher. Whether, at 63, this was a full-time job, or something he did in his twilight years when he was no longer capable of more physical work is hard to know. Burn Side has been identified as what is now Oversby Cottage. Oliver died seven years later. His age was given as 80 years, whereas he was actually only 75. Given that the informant was a nephew-in-law, it is not surprising that he didn't know Oliver's age for sure. He also got the parentage slightly wrong, giving John Oliver rather than George Oversby, but the mother's name was largely right:

Oliver Oversby, m to Ann Turnbull, d. 13.7.1868, 12 h. midnight at
Yarrowfeus, M, 80 years. John Oliver deceased, Margaret Oliver m s

¹⁶⁰ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, RG12/4295 & RG13/4873, 1891 & 1901 censuses, Wigton

¹⁶¹ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, UK, Lunacy Patients Admission Registers, 1846-1912; MH 94, piece 25

¹⁶² <https://ancestry.co.uk>, 779/5/21, 1881 census, Melrose

¹⁶³ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, 779/3/9, 1841 census, Yarrow

¹⁶⁴ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, 779/3/6, 1851 census, Yarrow

¹⁶⁵ <https://maps.nls.uk/view/74968640>, Selkirkshire X.14, 1858

¹⁶⁶ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, 779/3/6, 1851 census, Yarrow

¹⁶⁷ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, 779/2/1, 1861 census, Yarrow

Mason deceased. Dropsy. No medical attendant. Informant, John Reid, nephew-in-law, Present. Reg. 19.7.1868, Yarrow School.

As a coda to the Oversbys in Scotland. Mary Oversby had her own illegitimate son, James, born at Galashiels in 1893. According to more recent inhabitants of Yarrow, she supposedly had a reputation for witchcraft, and was accused of 'overlooking' the Catslack cow, causing it to fall and break its leg. I have no idea whether there is any truth in the story. She had moved to Edinburgh and was in service by 1881¹⁶⁸, so would have to have been a very young witch! She was still there, in service, in 1901¹⁶⁹, and died in 1914.

The rest of the Oversby story takes place in England, so before following that line, it is time to explore the Turnbulls in Yarrow. Ann or Annie Turnbull was born in 1808. The register records:

James Turnbull herd at Glengaber and Mary Stavert his wife had a Daughter born 8th Sept^r 1808 named Anne

Not much is known about her life. She married Oliver Oversby, who was a widower 15 years her senior and who had a six-year-old son, gave birth to a son of her own the following year, and then had no more children for nearly 13 years. She was alone at Catslacknow with her daughter Margaret in the 1851 census¹⁷⁰ and it is impossible to know whether this was an unusual circumstance, or whether Oliver's farm work meant that he was often away from the home. It is tempting to speculate that this was not a marriage made in heaven, and that maybe Anne was exhibiting symptoms which led to her ending her days in Melrose Asylum.

Having said this, Margaret Ann returned twice to her home parish to give birth, suggesting maybe that she was close to and wished for the support of her mother. Annie brought up her granddaughter Mary for at least the first 11 years of her life, it seems. During the 1860s, she made contributions to something called the *Yarrow Free Church Half and Half Scheme*, the notebook for which I saw at Yarrow. It was some kind of co-operative scheme in which, I was told, half the interest was used for annual support of the subscribers. The first entry calls Ann Mrs Oliver – a more common surname in this area, but the following ones give her correct name:

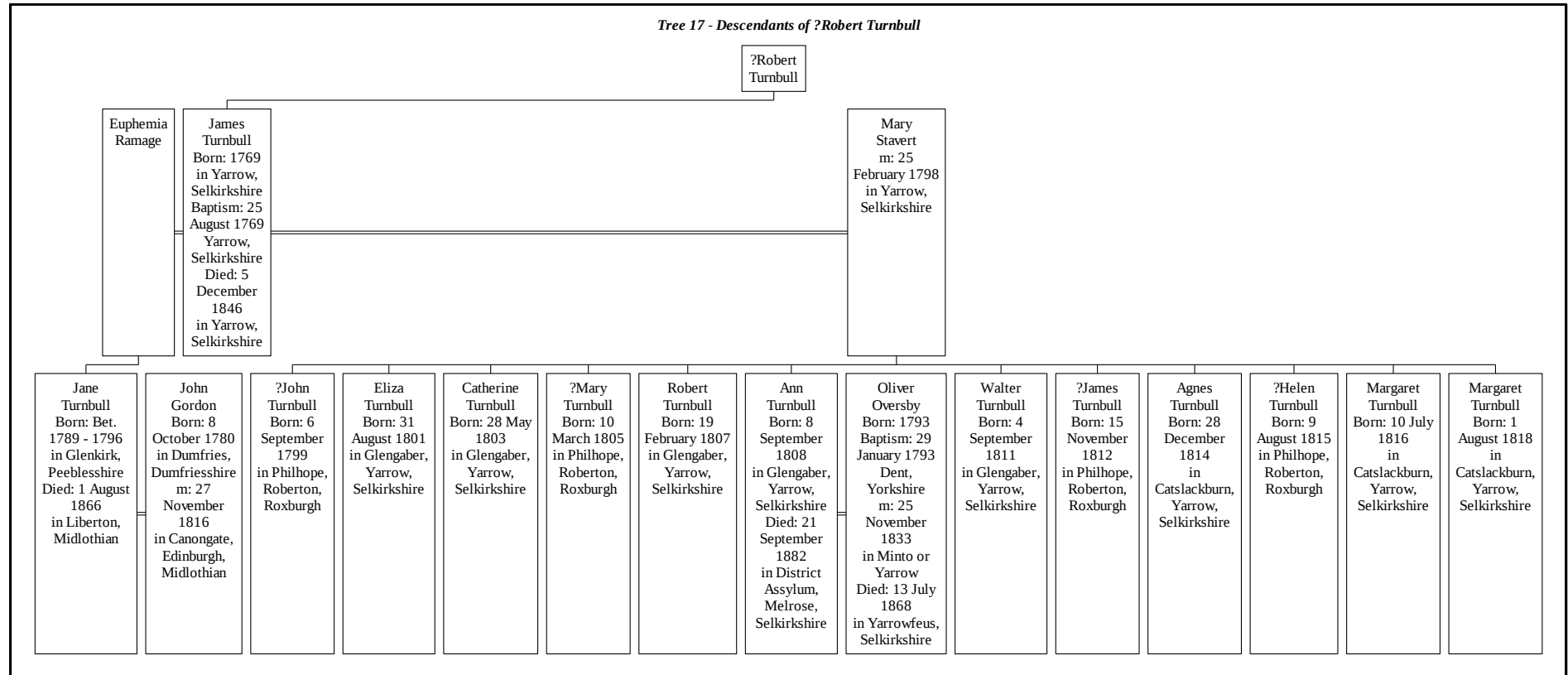
Mrs Oliver [sic]	Feus	1s	1.1.861
Mrs Oversby	Feus	1s	7.1.1862
Mrs A Oversby	Feus	1s	7.1.1863
Mrs Oliver Oversby	Feus	1s	7.1.1864
Mrs Oliver Oversby	Feus	1s	7.1.1865
Mrs Oliver Oversby	Feus	1s	7.1.1866

¹⁶⁸ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, 685/2 85/12, 1881 census, St Andrew

¹⁶⁹ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, 685/5 61/2, 1910 census, Newington

¹⁷⁰ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, 779/3/6, 1851 census, Yarrow

Tree 17 - Descendants of ?Robert Turnbull



However, by 1871¹⁷¹ she was designated a pauper, living in Yarrow with her granddaughter Mary and by 1881 she was clearly ill enough to have been admitted to the Roxburgh, Berwick and Selkirk District Lunatic Asylum. The entry in the 1881 census¹⁷² describes her as follows:

Ann Turnbull Patient 77 or Oversby	Labourer's Widow Lunatic	Yarrow, Sel
---------------------------------------	-----------------------------	----------------

The asylum was situated on Bowden Moor, near The Lase of the Eildon Hills, about half a mile out of Melrose. At the time Ann was admitted it was a new institution, and seems to have been fairly enlightened for its time¹⁷³:



Melrose Asylum

The 1857 Lunacy (Scotland) Act provided for a new asylum to be built at Melrose to treat patients from the counties of Roxburgh, Berwick and Selkirk. 124 patients were admitted when the new 200-bed asylum opened in May 1872, but overcrowding soon became a problem. This was partly relieved by accommodating some female patients in specially constructed houses near the main hospital, one of the many innovative methods of care employed at the asylum.

The 1857 act was passed to solve the problem of 'pauper lunatics' who had previously been either put into overcrowded poorhouses or often kept locked away by relatives. The *Southern Reporter* ran an article on the Melrose Asylum, stating that it catered for:

'those without sufficient means [who] were designated "pauper lunatics" and became the responsibility of the nearest male relative'

¹⁷¹ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, 779/2/9, 1871 census, Yarrow

¹⁷² <https://ancestry.co.uk>, 779/5/21, 1881 census, Melrose

¹⁷³ http://www.lhsa.lib.ed.ac.uk/collections/GD30/gd30_tlfa.htm

This relative could apparently put away the 'lunatic' if his charge was becoming violent and a danger to his household. There is no way to tell whether this was the case with Ann. The nearest male relative would have probably either been her brother Robert or her brother Walter.

James Turnbull, father to both Jane and Ann Turnbull, holds the peculiar distinction of belonging on two generations of the Bonallo family tree (**see tree 17 – p. 76**). His granddaughter Jane Gordon was mother to John Charles Brodie Bonallo, who married another of James' granddaughters, Margaret Ann Oversby. This had the odd effect of making John Charles Bonallo and his children second cousins. In the Yarrow entry for his marriage to Mary Stavert, he is described as of Yarrow and Mary of Cavers; in the Robertson entry it is the other way round. If James was Yarrow-born, then it is most likely that he was the son of Robert Turnbull, cooper in Deuchar who baptised a son born on 25th August 1759. This date would agree with the age which appears on James' headstone.

Much of what is known about him has already been told. He married Euphemia Ramage and fathered a daughter Jane, possibly in Glenkirk in Peeblesshire, and then married again, following the proclamation made at Yarrow on 25th February 1798. Between 1801 and 1818 eight births were recorded at Yarrow, with James described as a herd at Glengaber in that parish. Eliza, who married John Reid at Yarrow on 21st September 1823, was born on 31st August 1801. Catherine and Mary were born on 28th May 1803 and 10th March 1805 respectively. Mary may have died young, but Catherine married William Ford – place and date unknown. Robert, who settled his father's affairs after his death, was also born at Glengaber, on 19th February 1807. He was followed by the Anne who married Oliver Oversby. Walter was born on 4th September 1811 and grew up to marry Jean or Jane Sibbald on 15th June 1835 in Yarrow. Agnes, born 28th April 1814 at Yarrow married James Watson on 3rd September 1837. The final two children, both named Margaret, were born in Yarrow, on 10th July 1816 and 1st August 1818. His wife Mary died the following year, on 11th January 1819, aged 41. She was buried in Yarrow Kirkyard.



Yarrow Parish Kirk

The family may have been bigger than it seemed. Four children were born to parents named James Turnbull and Mary Stavert at Philhope, in Roberton parish; on each birth James is recorded as a tenant at Philhope. A son John was born on 6th September 1799; Mary on 15th October 1809; James on 15th November 1812, and Helen on 9th August 1815. It seems inconceivable that there were two couples named James Turnbull and Mary Stavert having children whose dates dovetail so neatly together, but if that was the case, it would explain the two marriage proclamation entries. The alternative is to believe that James and Mary alternated their home between Philhope and Glengaber. The two aren't exactly close – about 25 miles of rough ground separates them. However, it is, I suppose, possible that, depending on the time of year and needs of the land, James sometimes was a tenant herding in Glengaber and sometimes a herd in Philhope. It does, though, seem significant that none of the Philhope children turn up in Yarrow in later life. When James died, Robert was described as his eldest son, as well, though the John born in 1799, if he did belong in this family, might have been dead by then.

In 1841¹⁷⁴, James was living at Catslacknow in Yarrow. He was recorded as 68 years old and an 'Ag Lab'. His son Robert, 30 and a tailor, and his daughter Margaret, 20 were living with him. There was also:

Eliza Gordon 14 FS

FS stands for female servant – a strange description for a girl who was in fact his granddaughter, daughter of his eldest daughter Jane. However, it was quite common, especially in Scotland, for family members to be in service to members of their extended family. Ann Dowie, for example, was recorded as housekeeper in her sister Helen's home rather than just as a family member.

James died at Yarrowfeus on 7th December 1846. He didn't leave a will; few Scots did, it seems. However, there was clearly enough property for some kind of administration to be needed¹⁷⁵, and it seems that he was a bit more than the humble ag lab described in the census.

Inventory of James Turnbull's Estate 1849

Inventory of the Personal Estate of unquell James Turnbull residing at Yarrowfeus in the parish of Yarrow and county of Selkirk who died at Yarrowfeus aforesaid the seventh day of December 1846 Made by Robert Turnbull, carrier, residing at Yarrowfeus, son of the deceased...

Value of sheep on his feus at Yarrowfeus	£21.11.0
--	----------

Per valuation of James Turnbull, flesher, Selkirk

Value of corn and hay on the feus	£10.16.3
-----------------------------------	----------

Value of household furniture, bedding and wearing apparel	£8.2.0
---	--------

£40. 9. 3

At Selkirk, 3.8.1849 ...

¹⁷⁴ <https://ancestry.co.uk> 779/3/8, 1841 census, Yarrow

¹⁷⁵ <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, SC/53/34/5, Inventory of James Turnbull's estate, 1849

Compeared Robert Turnbull, carrier, eldest son of the late James Turnbull, feuar, sometime residing there ... that the said James Turnbull died intestate on 7.12.1846 ... and the deponent has entered upon the possession and management of his personal estate as only [sic] son and one of the next of kin.

Once again, James is referred to as a feuar, as he was on Jane Gordon's death certificate, a detail which helps cement the relationship between these two.

A headstone in Yarrow Kirkyard, helpfully transcribed by the owner of Oversby Cottage, helps piece this confusing family together somewhat:

In memory of Mary Stavert, spouse of James Turnbull, who died at Catslackburn, 11.1.1819, aged 41... also of the above James Turnbull, who died 5th December 1846, aged 77 years, also Robert Turnbull, who died at Yarrow Feus on 20th February 1855, aged 49, also Walter Turnbull who died 11th June 1892, aged 84, and Jane Sibbald his wife, who died 27th February 1865 aged 44, also Ebenezer Turnbull his son who died 14th July 1878, aged 27.

The fact that there is no mention of a wife for Robert on the headstone suggests he remained unmarried, something perhaps borne out by the 1851 census¹⁷⁶ when he was recorded as a meal dealer at Catslackknow living with nephew James Turnbull, son of his brother Walter, and niece Mary Ford, daughter of his sister Catherine. He seems to have changed occupation again, but meal might conceivably be sold at a grocer's, so maybe this was a continuation of his father's sideline.

Walter Turnbull did marry, and he and Jane Sibbald baptised a number of children. Walter seems to have been a labourer and road man for most of his life, but the 1891¹⁷⁷ census gives his occupation as feuar. Like his father, he died intestate, and administration¹⁷⁸ of an estate worth just over £130 was granted to his son James. In 1891¹⁷⁹ Walter's son, also Walter, was living at Oversby Cottage.

No definitive birth record for Mary Stavert has come to light, although there is the birth of a Marion – a diminutive of Mary – to one Thomas Stavert at Robertson in 1781, but whether this is 'our' Mary, the mother of the Philhope children or someone else entirely remains a mystery.

It is only possible to speculate on James Turnbull's antecedents. There seem to have been three Robert Turnbells in the area, one with a family at Robertson, one based at Asheted, and at Deuchar perhaps the most likely, who appears to have had two sons named James. At the birth of the first in 1768, he was placed at Deuchar Mill. For the second in 1769, he was called Cooper in Deuchar. Deuchar Mill lies a

¹⁷⁶ <https://ancestry.co.uk/>, 779/3/7, 1851 census, Yarrow

¹⁷⁷ <https://ancestry.co.uk/>, 779/2/2, 1891 census, Yarrow

¹⁷⁸ <https://ancestry.co.uk/>, Scotland National Probate Index, 1876-1936

¹⁷⁹ <https://ancestry.co.uk/>, 779/2/2, 1891 census, Yarrow

little way east of Yarrow Bridge, and Deuchar is on the north side of Yarrow Water, but where the old bridge stood.

Oversby, Willan and Mason: Dent

The story now moves briefly to England. Oliver Oversby was baptised 29th January 1793 at Dent in Yorkshire, son of George Oversby and his wife Margaret Mason. Oliver would have felt at home in the countryside around Yarrow, which was probably not dissimilar from the landscape around Dent.



Looking down Dentdale

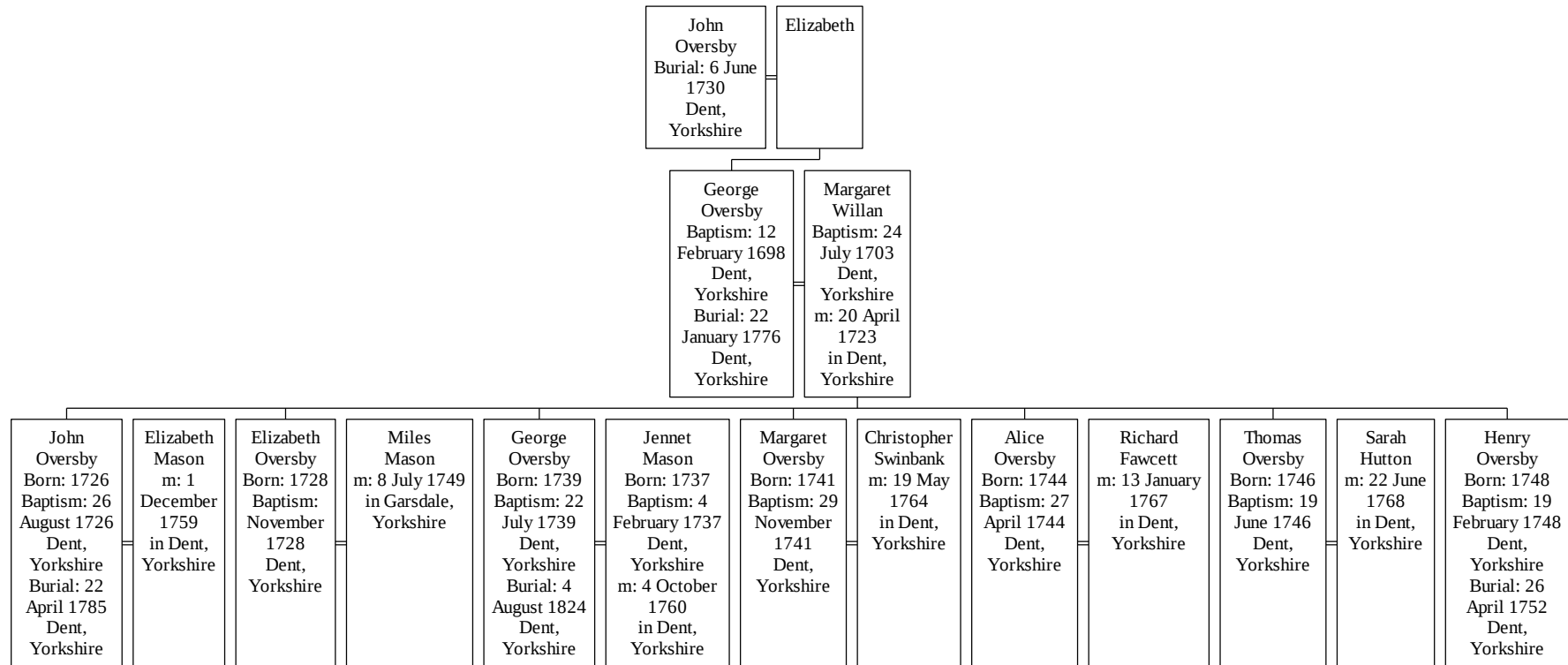
Dent is the only village in Dentdale, a long narrow valley with the River Dee cutting deeply through it. When the Oversbys lived there, it was part of the West Riding of Yorkshire, but is now in Cumbria. Dent and Dentdale seem to have been run pretty much in earlier times by ‘statesmen’, representatives of the yeoman farming families living in the parish; this system began in the 15th century, but Statesmen’s pews can still apparently be seen in the church. The *Visit Cumbria*¹⁸⁰ website describes the area as follows:

Dentdale, south of Sedbergh, is possibly the finest of the Cumbrian Dales, a valley full of beauty and historic interest. It is a farming community, with scattered homesteads, each sharing the fell and valley floor, owing much to the settlement patterns of the Vikings who came here in the 10th century.

Dentdale was also a centre of Quakerism, with two Society of Friends Meeting Houses, one near Dent town and the other at the other end of the dale at Kirkthwaite/Kirthwaite, or LeaYeat. Although the Oversbys adhered to the Church

¹⁸⁰ <https://www.visitcumbria.com/yd/dent/>

Tree 18 - Descendants of John and Elizabeth Oversby



of England, several branches of the Mason and Willan clans, which provided Oversby spouses, were Quakers.

It has been suggested that the surname Oversby is Norse in origin, the name for a settlement on a hill. Certainly, the family was settled in this remote, hilly region for many centuries, and the name is still largely confined to Yorkshire, Lancashire, Durham and Cumbria. Dentdale was probably a fairly insular region; the same surnames crop up again and again on the Oversby tree.

With the exception of the odd entry at Sedbergh, Garsdale (the next-door valley) and Kirby Malham – where a Thomas Oversby who may have been father to the first proven Oversby was buried in 1663 – almost all the Oversby's vital records in England on *FindmyPast* occurred in Dent up until the end of the 18th century. Oliver, moving to Scotland, must have been quite an adventurer.

The first Oversby to appear in the Dent register was John who, with wife Elizabeth, baptised a son named George on 12th February 1698 (see **tree 18 – p. 82**). As a newcomer, his name was mangled slightly as Overbury on George¹'s baptism, but when he was buried on 6th June 1730, it was as John Oversby, a pauper in receipt of help from the parish. His wife Elizabeth had died eight years earlier in 1722, I believe. He was said to be of Kirkthwaite, or Leayeat, almost at the opposite end of Dentdale from Dent Town, as it was called.



Leayeat, Dentdale

George¹ was only a slightly less shadowy figure. On 20th April 1723 he married Margaret Willan, whose kin had lived in Dent for several generations:

George Oversby and Margaret Willan, spinster, both of Dent, published and married by Mr Rumney.

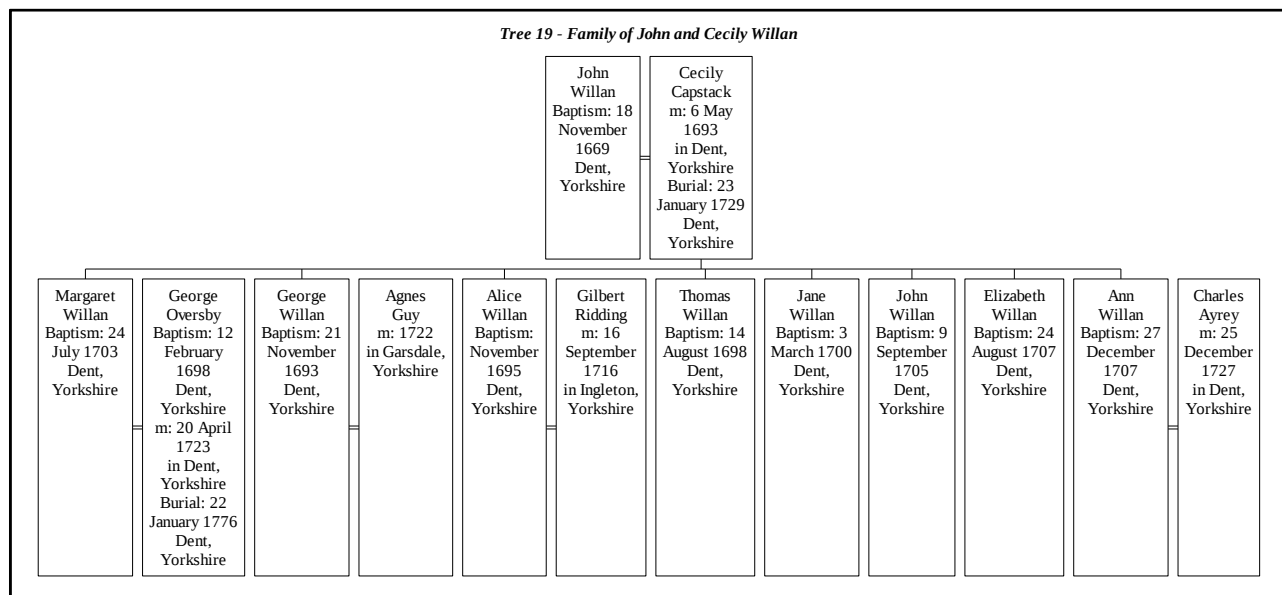
The first two children from this union were named after George's parents; the second two after their own parents: John was baptised on 26th August 1726,

Elizabeth in November 1728, but there was a long gap before George² was baptised on 22nd July 1739 and Margaret on 29th November 1741. Thomas was baptised on 1st June 1746 and Henry on 19th February 1748, though he died four years later in 1752.

The eldest son, John, married Elizabeth Mason in 1759, one of many Anglican unions between the extensive and confusing Mason clan and members of the Oversby family. (This was by far the most common surname in the register.) The next sibling, Elizabeth, had married Miles Mason ten years earlier, though the two spouses don't appear closely related. All the children apart from Henry married: Margaret to Christopher Swinbank in 1764, Alice to Richard Fawcett in 1767 and Thomas to Sarah Hutton in 1768. All of these raised families in Dent.

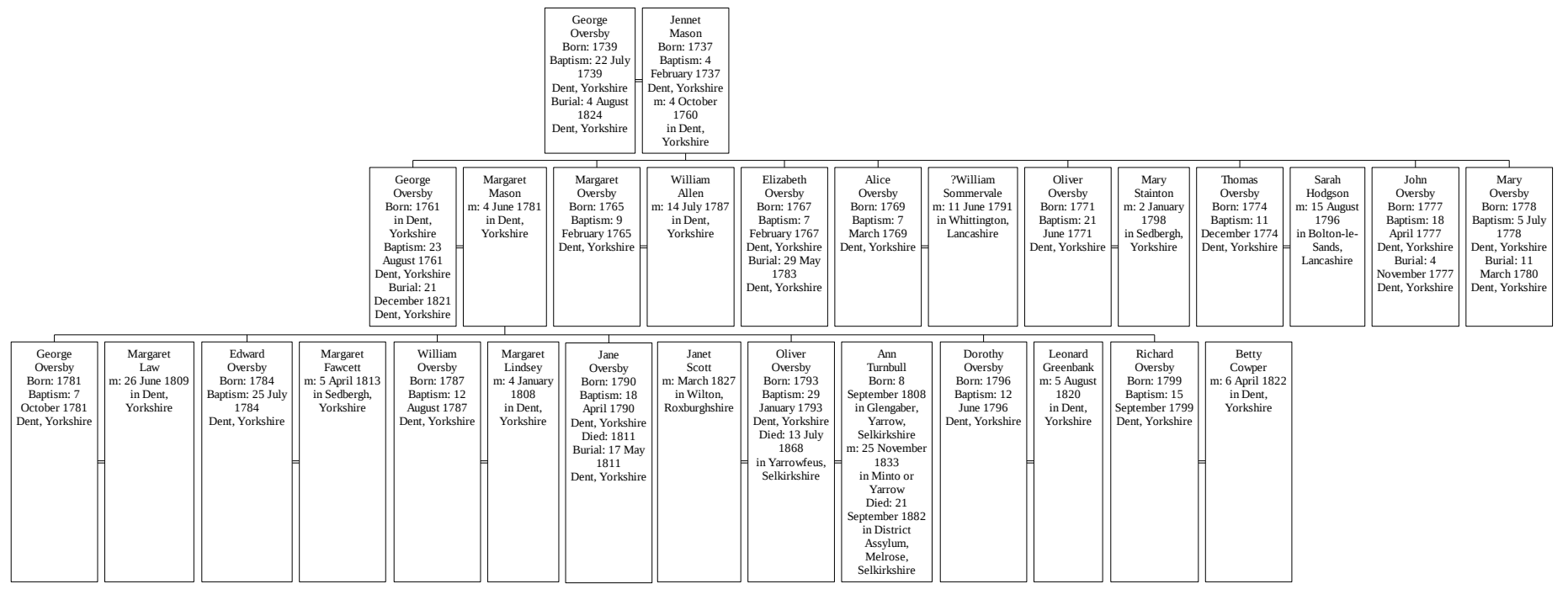
The father, George¹, was buried on 22nd January 1776; Margaret's burial hasn't been found for sure.

The Willans were also a widespread and long-standing family in Dentsdale. Margaret was the daughter of John Willan and his wife Cecily Capstack – member of another large, almost peculiarly Dentsdale clan. John and Cecily married on 6th May 1683; Margaret was baptised on 24th July 1703, their fifth child (**see tree 19 – p. 84**). She was preceded by George in 1693, Alice in 1695, Thomas in 1698 and Jane in 1700. She was followed by John in 1705, and possibly two sisters, although there is some confusion in the fact that Elizabeth was baptised on 24th August 1707 and Ann either on 27th October or 27th December the same year.



The next Oversby in the story was George². The fact that he was born in 1739, eleven years after his older sister Elizabeth, could suggest that he was the product of a second wife, especially as his younger siblings arrived at regular intervals (**see tree 20 – p. 85**). However, no other marriage for his father has appeared, or a burial for a first wife before 1739, so maybe there are missing baptisms, or a series of failed pregnancies. This George also chose a Mason bride. Jennet, who he married on 4th

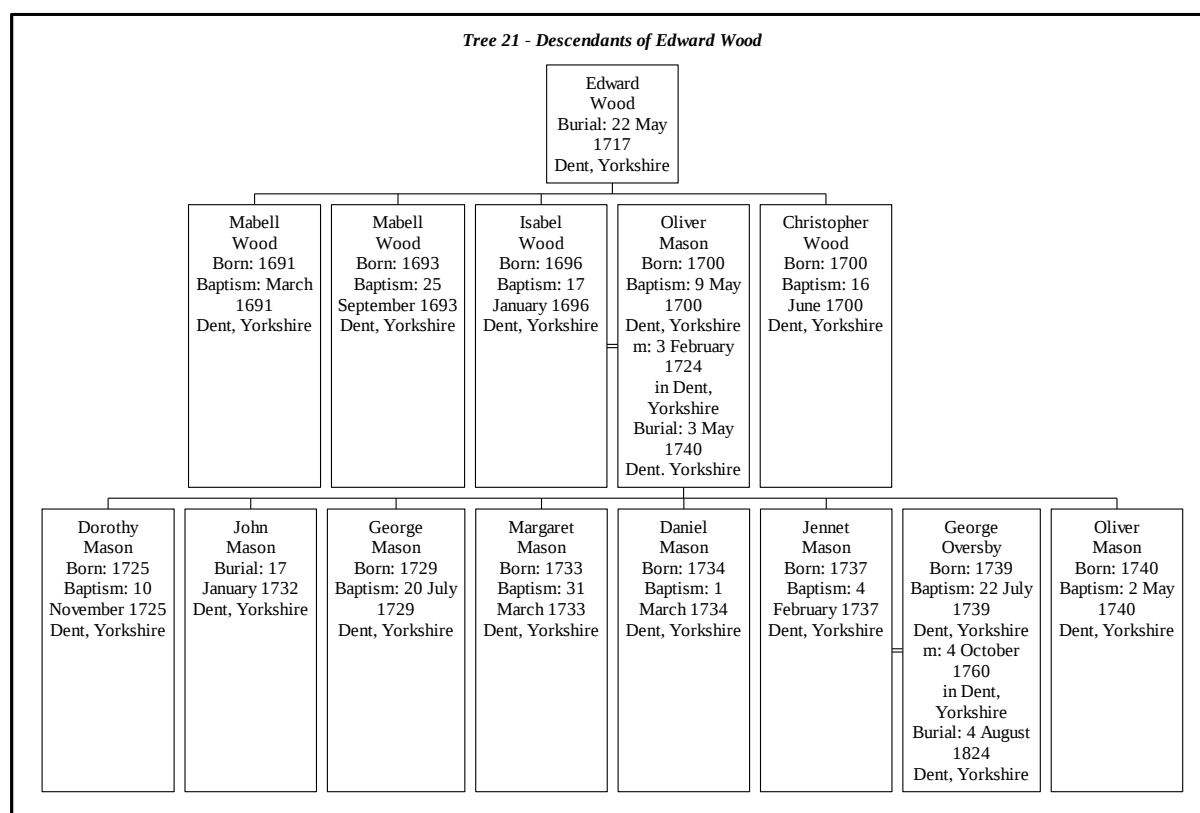
Tree 20 - Descendants of George and Jennet Oversby



October 1760, was the daughter of Oliver and Isabel Wood, which no doubt explains the appearance of Oliver as a family name for the Oversbys.

Their first son, however, was George³ – the third so- named in this line. He was baptised on 23rd August 1761 and was followed by Margaret – 9th February 1765. (Both paternal grandparents remembered in these names.) The next child was Elizabeth – 7th February 1767 – given a name cognate with Isabel, so maybe a nod to her maternal grandmother. Alice came next – 7th March 1769.

The next child was the first Oliver Oversby, baptised on 21st June 1771. Thomas, John and Mary completed the family, baptised on 11th December 1774, 18th April 1777 and 5th July 1778 respectively. Three of these children died young, Elizabeth in 1783, John in 1777 and Mary in 1780. Margaret married William Allen in Dent on 14th July 1787 and Oliver married Mary Stainton in Sedbergh on 2nd January 1798, but the other two went further afield. Alice married William Sommervale at Whittington in Lancashire, about 11 miles away on 11th June 1791, while Thomas went twice as far, marrying Sarah Hodgson at Bolton-le-Sands, also in Lancashire, on 5th August 1796.



George² was buried on 4th August 1824, but his wife's burial has not been found. Jennet was two years older than him, and was baptised at Dent on 4th February 1737. She was the sixth of Oliver and Isabel Mason's brood, following Dorothy, George, John, Margaret and Daniel, born between 1725 and 1734 (see tree 21 - p 86). She also had a younger brother, Oliver, born in 1740. Oliver Mason and Isabel Wood had married on 3rd February 1724. She, in turn, was daughter to

Edward Wood and had been baptised on 17th January 1696. Two daughters named Mabel preceded her, in 1691 and 1693, and a son named Christopher followed in 1700. Her father Edward was buried on 22nd May 1717, but his wife, Isabel's mother, remains elusive.

Oliver Mason was the son of a John Mason. He and a twin Alice were baptised on 9th May 1700. She was buried the following day. There were probably other siblings, but more than one John Mason, so it's hard to be sure which child belonged to which John. He was buried on 3rd May 1740 as:

Oliver Mason householder

Jennet's burial has not been found.

George³ Oversby and his wife Margaret Mason bring us full circle as they were the parents of the Oliver Oversby who migrated to Scotland. Margaret is a shadowy figure; apart from the date of her marriage to George on 4th June 1781, nothing is known of her, neither baptism, parentage or burial. The entry in the marriage register places her at the time of her marriage at Baxtongill in Dent.

George x Oversby of Melling in the co. of Lancs, Margaret Mason of Baxtongill, Dent, spinster, by banns, married 4th June 1781. Witnesses, John Mason, Frances Brown

It would seem that George³ had spent some time working away from home; Melling, in Lancashire, is not that far from Whittington, where his aunt Alice had married. I suspect though that George and Margaret settled in Baxstonegill, as two of their children were living in that hamlet in 1851¹⁸¹. Backstonegill is at the Dent town end, a little further down the valley, directly under Aye Gill Pike. They may also have lived at one point at Kitscroft, also part of Dentdale.



Dent parish church

¹⁸¹<https://ancestry.co.uk/>, HO 107/2276, 1861 census, Dent

The couple's first child was born four months after the wedding, named George and baptised on 7th October. On 26th June 1809, he married Margaret Law. His brother Edward, baptised on 25th July 1784 also married a Margaret – surnamed Fawcett – on 5th April 1813. The third brother, William, baptised on 12th August 1787, married Margaret Lindsey on 4th January 1808. It must have made for much confusion, having three daughters-in-law with the same name as their mother-in-law.

Jane, George and Margaret's first daughter, was baptised on 18th April 1790, but died at 21 and was buried on 17th May 1811. Oliver, whose story has already been told, was baptised on 29th January 1793. The last two children were Dorothy, baptised on 12th June 1796 - married Leonard Greenbank on 5th August 1820 - and Richard, who married Betty Cowper on 6th April 1822.

George³ was recorded as both a labourer and a farmer in the records but apart from that, all that is known about him is the date of his burial, 21st December 1821.

This part of the account has been a litany of names and dates. Unfortunately, the Oversbys left virtually no paper trail that I have found. In addition, as they named their prolific family quite conservatively, it is often hard to know which family member is being referred to. There is, for example, an entry for a document held at the Cumbria Archive Centre, the description of which is as follows:

John Sall a poor child of Dent township to George Oversby for Haora Estate of Dent till aged 24 years 14 June 1763

This obviously refers to an apprenticeship, but whether the master was George¹ or George² is unclear.¹⁸² Apart from that one reference, I have found nothing in the archive catalogues which might refer to Oliver Oversby's Dent ancestors. Records have presumably either been lost, or never existed.

Thomas Ernest Bonallo: Edinburgh

Thomas Ernest Bonallo was born in his mother's home parish of Yarrow in 1870:

at The Feus, Yarrow, b 22.10.1870 1 a.m., son of John Charles Brodie Bonallo, malster and Margaret Bonallo, m s Oversby. (m 3.1.1869)

but spent most of his life in Edinburgh. The 1871 census¹⁸³ found the five-month-old Thomas at Wemyss Terrace in St Cuthbert's in Edinburgh:

John Charles Brodie Bonallo	H M	21	Maltman Brewery Fifeshire Markinch
Margaret A O Bonallo	W M	23	Selkirk, Yarrowfeus

¹⁸² TNA, <https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>, WRP 70/O 5/39, Apprenticeship Indentures

¹⁸³ <https://scotlandsppeople.gov.uk>, 685/1 54/2, 1871 census, Edinburgh

Ann Bonallo	Dau	1	Selkirk, Yarrowfeus
Thomas Bonallo	S	5m	Selkirk, Yarrowfeus

In 1881¹⁸⁴ he was at the family home at 3, Buccleuch Place, a scholar - as were older sister Annie (11) and younger sister Jane (7). Thomas was 10, Oliver 3 and John 1. In 1891¹⁸⁵ he was still living at home, which was now 27, St Patrick's Square, with his father and step-mother, and siblings Annie, Jane and Oliver. He was described as a Brewery Worker.

Two years later, on 8th June 1893, he married. The ceremony took place at his home - a common Scottish practice, and the certificate is full of detail:

at 27, St. Patrick Sq, Edinburgh after banns by the church of Scotland
 Thomas Ernest Bonallo, brewer, bachelor, 23, of 27, St. Patrick's Sq
 Is McKay, spinster, 25, of 97, Buccleuch St, Edinburgh
 Son of John Charles Bonallo, brewer, and Margaret Bonallo m s Oversby,
 deceased
 Daughter of Hugh McKay, joiner, and Annie McKay, m s Fraser
 Witnesses: John Doull, Jessie McKay

His bride, Ishbel McKay, was almost the girl next door, although she had been born in the Highlands, at Tain in Ross and Cromarty. John Doull was his brother-in-law and Jessie McKay was Ishbel's sister. The wedding was reported in the Dundee Evening Telegraph¹⁸⁶:

At 27 St Patrick Square, on the 8th inst, by the Rev. Charles Wedderburn
 THOMAS BONALLO, eldest son of John Charles Bonallo, to BELLA,
 daughter of HUGH MACKAY, Tain

Wedderburn was a minister of the Free Church of Scotland, a group which had broken away from the main wing of the Presbyterian church in the mid-1800s. It was more evangelical in style and against the patronage system, which allowed landowners to choose ministers. Whether Thomas or Ishbel held the views of this sect or not is unclear.

Just under two years later, the birth of the couple's first child, John Charles Brodie, which took place on 5th March 1895, was registered in the Canongate district. Hugh followed a year later, on 20th March 1896, and a girl followed - Eliza Margaret, born on 10th January 1899. She only lived for a few months, dying on 27th August the same year. Almost a year later, on 3rd August 1900, Annie Fraser Bonallo was born. Thomas Ernest was born on 13th September 1903, but it was another eight years before the final member of the family, Isabella, or Bella made an appearance on 23rd February 1911.

¹⁸⁴ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk>, 685/4 71/3, 1881 census, Edinburgh

¹⁸⁵ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk>, 685/4 53/4, 1891 census, Edinburgh

¹⁸⁶ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, Dundee Evening Telegraph, 9.6.1893

The 1901 census¹⁸⁷ found Thomas and Isabella – as she was enumerated – at 59 St Leonards Hill, not far from the green space of Salisbury Crags. It was presumably a tenement building as there were three other households at the same address. The other three were headed by a printer-compositor, a lithographic printer and a brewery mash house man. Thomas was recorded as a 30 year-old brewer, a worker. Isabella was a year older, and her birthplace given as Fearn, Rossshire. There were three children: Charles aged 6, Hugh, 5 and Annie, 7 months.



The Courtyard, Campbell, Hope and King, 17 Chambers Street

By 1911¹⁸⁸ the family was living at the address which would be home to three generations of Bonallos, 17, Chambers Street, in the ecclesiastical parish of Old Greyfriars and ward of St Giles. This was the home of the Argyle Brewery, Campbell, Hope and King, and Thomas was enumerated as Brewery Foreman. A photograph¹⁸⁹ showing the courtyard of the brewery – now a university car park appears on a flickr-stream dedicated to breweries, and carries the following description:

Just off Chambers Street in Edinburgh is a gate to a University car park. If you follow it round, you'll be rewarded by finding many signs of the former Argyle Brewery which operated here until as "recently" as 1970 ...

This is inside the brewery compound, with the malthouse dead ahead.

Archibald Campbell the senior began brewing here as early as 1710, buying Glaswegian spirit merchants and blenders Hope & King in 1896. Campbell had a further brewery in the Old Town of Edinburgh, at the Pleasance, which closed in the same year.

The new company brewed here with some success until taken over at the end

¹⁸⁷ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk>, 685/5 2/11, 1901 census, Edinburgh

¹⁸⁸ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk>, 685/4 18/3, 1911 census, Edinburgh

¹⁸⁹ <https://www.flickr.com/photos/kaputniq/8376956309/in/photostream/>

of a period of industry consolidation in 1967 by English giant Whitbread, who closed the operation in 1970.

The registration of Thomas and Ishbel's children help to plot Thomas' progress. The first child was, not unsurprisingly, called John Charles Brodie. He was born in 1895, at 5 Salisbury Street, and Thomas was described as a brewery labourer. Hugh McKay, named for his maternal grandfather, was also born at Salisbury Street, in 1896, when Thomas was still a brewery labourer. By the time Eliza Margaret was born in 1899, the family was living on St Leonard's Hill and Thomas was a fully-fledged brewer. When Annie Fraser was born, in 1900, both address and occupation were the same, but by the time Thomas Ernest junior was born in 1903, the family had moved to Chambers Street; Thomas was still a brewer.



Photo from the *Edinburgh Evening News*. The caption begins: 'Archibald Campbell, Hope and King, the three wise men as they were known to imbibers everywhere, were a legend in the history of brewing in Edinburgh.'

This may have been the most prosperous time for Thomas and his family. Thomas junior's birth is the only one to have been recorded in the press¹⁹⁰:

BONALLA, - At 17 Chambers Street on 13th inst., the wife of Thomas E. Bonalla, of a son

When the last child, Isabella, was born in 1911 - they were still at 17 Chambers Street, and although the census taken the same year called him Brewery Foreman on Isabella's birth record Thomas was calling himself a Brewery Caretaker and it seems significant that this birth wasn't heralded in the papers.

Although the advert appeared two months after Isabella's birth, it is tempting to speculate that the following advert¹⁹¹ referred to the role that Thomas seemed already to be doing, if only unofficially:

¹⁹⁰ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *Edinburgh Evening News*, 14.9.1903

BREWERY, - Workman wanted, partly for day, and partly for night work;
Good wage for steady man. Apply Campbell's Brewery, 17, Chambers
Street.

Of course, it is possible that this is an advert for a brewer, it is also possible that Thomas had taken on a caretaking role as he was not in good health. He died when Isabella was only five years old. The cause of death was peritonitis, but 'acute obstruction' was also mentioned. Although both terms suggest a fairly sudden onset, it is possible that there had been underlying problems. The death certificate calls him an assistant brewer again:

Thomas Ernest Bonallo, Asst Brewer, m to Isabella McKay, d 7.11.1916,
11.25 a.m., Royal Infirmary. Usual residence: 17, Chambers St; male, 47.
John Charles Bonallo, Spirit Merchant, Margaret Ann Bonallo, m s
Oversby, dec.
Peritonitis 1 day, Acute Obstruction. Informant John Doull, brother-in-law.

There is one other document which perhaps lends credence to the idea of ill-health or disability. William Gray Campbell, who had bequeathed John Charles Bonallo £1,000 had also remembered Thomas Ernest, and from the way it is worded, had been supporting him for some time. A codicil to his will¹⁹², dated 21st June 1897 states:

I hereby authorise and direct the Trustees appointed under my Trust
Disposition and Settlement to continue to pay to Thomas Bonallo sometime
Brewer in my employment the annuity of One hundred and fifty pounds
presently allowed by me to him...



Campbell, Hope and King frontage in the 1980s

¹⁹¹ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *Edinburgh Evening News*, 4.11.1903

¹⁹² <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk>, SC70/4/309, Testament of William Gray Campbell 1898

He was to receive this sum free of any government duties for the rest of his life. Was this financial support, or part of the deal when the Bonallos joined Argyle breweries?

*The Morning Post*¹⁹³ listed Campbell's bequests – and considerably more succinctly than the legal document, but also got John Charles' bequest wrong, saying £500 instead of £1,000! Thomas was still paying rent for the property in Chambers Street, or 147 Cowgate, as the Valuation Rolls¹⁹⁴ describe it, from 1914-15, though after his death his widow did not. The following year, the home was described as *Minto Cottage*. No explanation for the name change was given. Intriguingly, Campbell also makes a bequest to his housekeeper, one Isabella McKay, but Edinburgh seems to have been full of people called Isabella McKay and there is no way of proving that Thomas' wife had been Campbell's housekeeper.

The lives of Sheila's father Hugh and his siblings will be told later, but first, this story turns to Ishbel McKay and her antecedents in Rosshire.

¹⁹³ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *The Morning Post*, 31.1.1899

¹⁹⁴ Edinburgh City Library, Valuation Rolls