

Bonallo Connections

Brewers, Fishers and Teachers

Isabella McKay - Tain and Edinburgh

Isabella McKay, or Ishbel or Bella as she was variously known, was a twin. She and her sister Margaret were both born on 10th February 1868 at Tain, in Rossshire (see tree 22 - p. 96):

Born 10.2.1868, 5.15 a.m., Inver. Daughter of Hugh McKay, boatbuilder (master) and Ann McKay, m s Fraser 9M 15.12.1865, Tain). Registered by John Bruce, son of Alexander Bruce, fisherman, neighbour.

Margaret was the elder of the two, by 15 minutes. Six more children followed, and Isabella was 16 by the time her youngest sibling was born.

Tain is a royal burgh in north-east Scotland (created as such by Malcolm Canmore in the 11th century), on the southern side of the Dornoch Firth. Inver, a small hamlet in Tain parish, where Ishbel was born, is six miles to the east, on the edge of Inver Bay, where it opens out into the Dornoch Firth. It was a community which made its living by fishing. When I visited a few years back, a local told me of the tradition for sharing the catch. When the boats came back from a fishing trip, the fish were parcelled up according to the number of families who had caught them. They were then placed in a circle, and a blindfolded man was placed in the middle. As each bundle was picked up, he would call out the name of the recipient for that portion of the catch. This way, each family got a fair share of the collective endeavour.

This part of Scotland is, and was, sparsely populated, with a close-knit community - most of whom were either called McKay, Fraser, Ross or Skinner. It was an endogamous community, with most people marrying folk they were, distantly at least, related to. A transcription of the 1841 census¹ showed a population of 206. Of these, 56 had the surname McKay; there were 55 Rosses and 40 Frasers. Only 28 souls didn't bear one of the four most common names. This has made untangling the lines very difficult, despite help from DNA testing.



View over the Dornoch Firth from Inver

The introduction to the parish in the 1845 Statistical Accounts², describes Tain as follows:

The parish of Tain, which is of a very irregular oblong figure, measures between 9 and 10 miles in length from north-east to south-west; its greatest length from north-east to south-west is about 4 ¼ miles.... On the eastern side the parish adjoins to those of Tarbat and Fearn; on the west to Edderton; and on the south to Loggie Easter; while its northern boundary is formed by the waters of the Dornoch Frith... The parish... separates itself into three distinctly marked districts.

These are defined as a flat, sandy plain, a higher, highly cultivated and wooded area, and a series of low hills, the highest of which, the Hill of Tain, reaches 780' above sea level.

¹ <http://www.rossandcromartyheritage.org/Community/Inver/History.aspx> *Inver's Millenium; 2000 years of history in one book*, David Sleith, 2000

² [https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/viewer/nsa-vol14-Parish record for Tain in the county of Ross and Cromarty in volume 14 of account 2/](https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/viewer/nsa-vol14-Parish%20record%20for%20Tain%20in%20the%20county%20of%20Ross%20and%20Cromarty%20in%20volume%2014%20of%20account%202/)

Population figures given in the *Statistical Account* show numbers rising from 1,870 in 1755 to a peak of 3,078 in 1831, before dropping again to 2,915 in 1836. The author notes:

The decrease in the past five years may be ascribed in part to the ravages of cholera in the village of Inver where above a third of the inhabitants were swept off in a few weeks; and partly to emigration

The population of Inver in 1836 was just 151. Inver was also largely Gaelic speaking, though the population of the parish as a whole was split fairly evenly between English and Gaelic speakers. At the time of writing, in 1837, it was noted that Gaelic was already losing ground.

The inhabitants of Tain as a whole were generally occupied in agriculture, quarrying or fishing, the latter being based largely in Inver, which had the only fishing station:

Haddock and flounder are the staple kinds of fish; cod, whiting skate are also found in abundance, as is herring in its season

The price for haddock varied, according to season, from 1-2 a penny to 3-4 a penny.

Obviously, the information quoted above from the *Statistical Account* reflects the situation a generation earlier than Ishbel's, but much must have been recognisable to her as she grew up.

At the time of the 1871 census³, her father was working away from home, which meant that Isabella's mother was in Tain looking after three-year-old twins on her own, quite a handful no doubt. By 1881⁴ the family was together again, and much expanded. Hugh and Annie now had five children – Bella and Margaret aged 13. John, 7, Annie, 5 and Williamina aged 2. Also at the address at 5 Mid Street Tain, was her grandfather, William McKay.

Sometime during the next ten years, she left home to find work in Edinburgh and the 1891 census⁵ showed her working as a domestic servant in the household of one L G Thornton at 13, Spottiswood Street, Newington in Edinburgh. The head of the household was born in Assam, as were three boarders, one of whom was a medical student. A visitor was an attorney, so it was clearly a professional household. Two years later, she married Thomas Bonallo; her life with him has already been outlined.

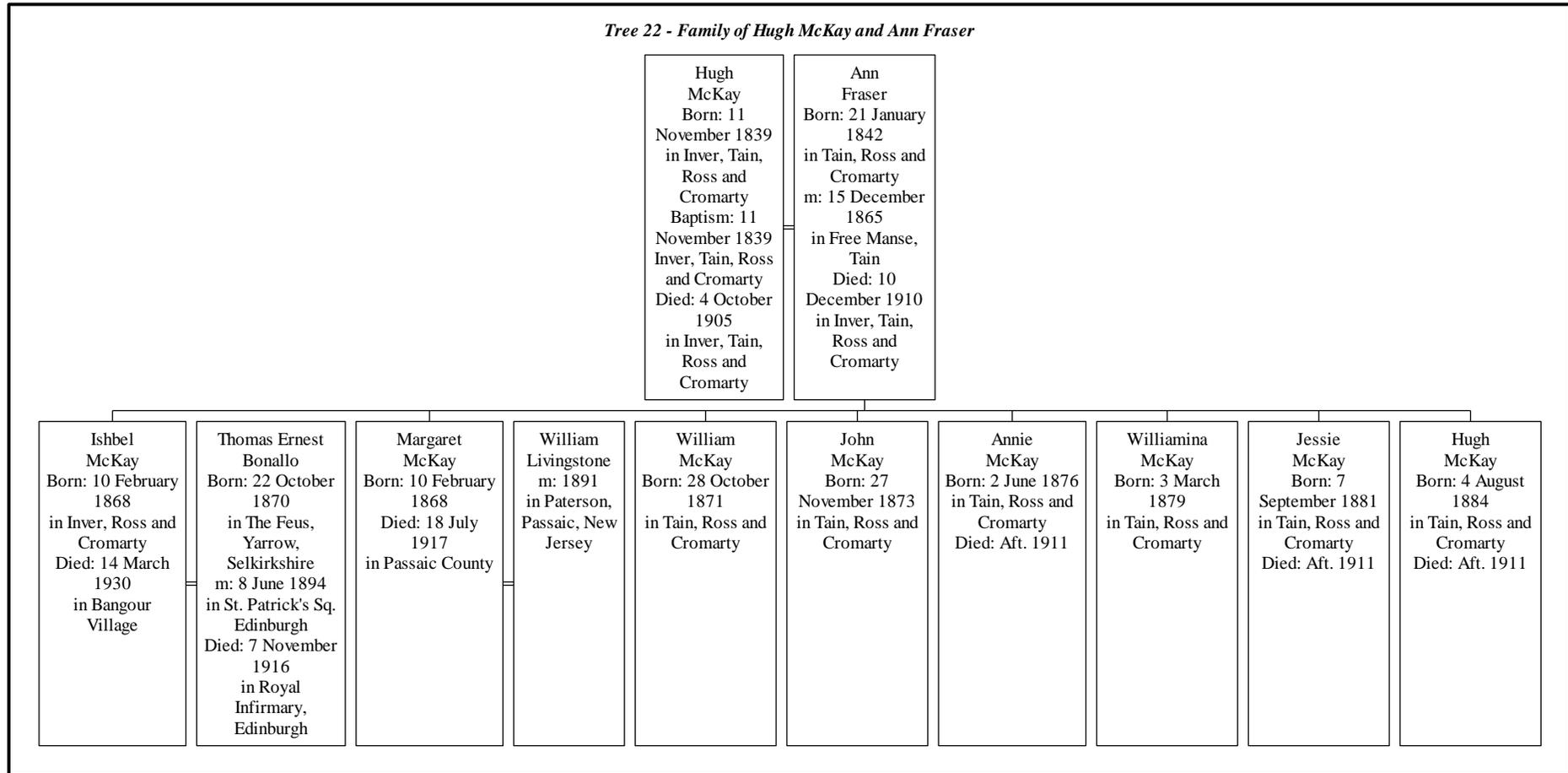
She was only 48 when she was widowed, but the remaining years of her life passed largely unrecorded. However, she appears on the Valuation Rolls for 1917 to

³ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk>, 082/11/12, 1871 census, Tain

⁴ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk>, 082/11/11, 1881 census, Tain

⁵ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk>, 685/5/109/28, 1891 census, Edinburgh

Tree 22 - Family of Hugh McKay and Ann Fraser



1921⁶ at 147 Cowgate, which seems to be an alternative address for 17 Chambers Street. The 1920 entry describes no. 147 Cowgate as a 'Brewery and House', with Archibald Campbell Hope and King Ltd, 17 Chambers Street as proprietors. The property is listed as occupied by the proprietor, and the yearly rate or value is £850. The next line reads:

Minto Cottage House Mrs Isabella Bonallo [occupier]

but there is a dash in the rent column, so presumably Archibald Campbell was allowing the family to live there rent free.

Isabella or Ishbel died on 14th March 1930, aged 62, although the certificate knocks a couple of years off:

Isabella Bonallo, widow of Ernest Bonallo, brewer, d 14.3.1930, 8.10 p.m.,
Bangour Village. Usual residence, 1, Clerk St. Edinburgh, F, 60.
Parents: Hugh McKay, Carpenter, deceased, Isabella McKay m s Fraser,
deceased. Myocardial Degeneration. Informant, Hugh McKay Bonallo,
son, 17, Chambers St, Edinburgh. Reg. 15.3.1930, Waterstone

The cause of death is given as heart disease, but Bangour Village was actually a mental hospital at this juncture. The *Undiscovered Scotland*⁷ website describes it as:

... one of the most atmospheric places in Scotland: though at times the atmosphere is not entirely comfortable, and can border on distinctly spooky. Large numbers of very imposing and increasingly derelict buildings are dotted around an overgrown 960 acre site on a south facing slope, just to the north of the M8 motorway and the A89, and three miles north of the centre of [Livingston](#).

Although it became a military hospital in both world wars, between 1922 and 1939 it served its initial purpose as a mental hospital, albeit one whose:

aim was to give patients a positive and pleasant environment by building a series of widely spaced "villas" in which patients would be housed, with other buildings providing central services. Patients would receive a range of therapies, but were also expected to benefit from the rural setting and the opportunities to work in the grounds, in workshops, and on the neighbouring farm.

It is not possible at this distance to know what form of mental illness afflicted her, but it makes a sad end to what was probably often a fairly hard life. An announcement in the local paper ⁸described her as:

ISABELLA MACKAY, beloved wife of the late THOMAS BONALLO

⁶ Edinburgh City Library, Valuation Rolls

⁷ <https://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/livingston/bangour/index.html>

⁸ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *The Scotsman*, 17.3.1930

Of the other children of Hugh McKay and Ann Fraser, the easiest to trace has been Ishbel's twin, Margaret, probably because she also left Tain, but for America. There she married William Livingstone, sometime in 1891, in Paterson, Passaic, New Jersey. The 1910 census⁹ tells us that William was also a Scot, and that he and Margaret had both immigrated in 1888. He appears to have been a letter carrier by trade, although the entry is not very clear. They record a marriage of 19 years, with ten children born and seven still living. They are all at the same address at 229 Marion Street in Paterson City. The children are: Annie, 17, Bessie, 15, William, 10, Maggie, 8, Agnes, 7, Helen, 6 and Isabelle, 3.



Margaret McKay - Isabella's twin

The family was still at the same address when the New Jersey State Census was taken in 1915¹⁰. William is still engaged in the same occupation, and gives his date of birth as January 1870, making him nearly a year younger than Margaret. He also says he immigrated 36 years earlier, which doesn't tally with the information in the previous census, though Margaret's 25 years does. She gives her occupation as housewife. Of the children still at home, Annie is a school teacher, Elizabeth a milliner; William junior's occupation is unreadable. Margaret is a student and Helen, Agnes and Isabelle are scholars. All the family put 'yes' against the questions about whether they can read and write, and a final column notes that Margaret and Isabelle are in primary school, Agnes in grammar and Margaret in high school. Margaret McKay Livingstone died on 18th July 1917, still living on Marion Street¹¹. She was buried at Laurel Grove Memorial Park, Totowa, Passaic County. Apart from Agnes, who reappears in this story to marry her cousin Thomas Bonallo, I have not followed this line further.

⁹ <https://ancestry.co/uk>, 1910, United States Federal Census, Passaic

¹⁰ <https://ancestry.co/uk>, 1915, New Jersey State Census, Passaic

¹¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/161097101/margaret-livingstone>

Ishbel's other siblings are far more elusive. The next born after the twins was William, on 20th October 1871, but he died as a toddler in 1874. John was born on 27th November 1873, but although he is recorded as a seven-year old scholar on the 1851 census¹², and an unemployed agricultural labourer living at home on Mid Street in 1891¹³, after that it is impossible to identify him among all the John McKays listed. Annie McKay, born 2nd June 1876, became a nurse. In 1901¹⁴ she was working as a probationer at the Smallpox Hospital in Colinton on the outskirts of Edinburgh, with a note in the appropriate column that she spoke both Gaelic and English. No doubt this was a step up from her work as a domestic servant, as recorded when she was still living with her family in 1891¹⁵. Although she has not been found in the 1911 census, she does appear in the Probate records¹⁶ on behalf of her uncle, Peter Fraser. The entry reads, in part:

Confirmation granted at Dingwall, 27 December [1911] to Annie Mackay,
Nurse, Trained Nurses Association, Shandwick Place, Edinburgh, his niece,
Executrix dative qua next of kin.

Her movements after 1911 remain a mystery.

Williamina, born on 3rd March 1879, also disappeared from the records after the 1901¹⁷ census, when, aged 21, she had 'Boatbuilder's daughter' scored out beside her name, presumably on the grounds of her having attained her majority. After that year there is no marriage or death recorded in the area which could be her, so maybe she, too moved away. By 1911, only the two youngest children of Hugh McKay and Ann Fraser remained in Tain. Jessie, born 7th September 1881 and Hugh, born 4th August 1884, were living at 13, Main Street, Tain in 1911¹⁸, along with retired fisherman Peter Fraser, their uncle. Jessie has no occupation listed, but Hugh put Insurance Agent as his occupation. Nothing further has been found relating to these two.

The earlier McKays - Inver

Thanks to the impressively detailed civil registration scheme which operated in Scotland after 1855, it is possible to take Ishbel McKay's family back for three more generations. From adult children's death certificates, we know that one William McKay and his wife Ann Ross were the great-grandparents of Ishbel McKay and her siblings (see **tree 23 - p. 100**). They probably married in Tain around 1782,

¹² <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/11/11, 1881 census, Tain

¹³ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/11/10, 1891 census, Tain

¹⁴ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 677/1/10, 1901 census, Colinton

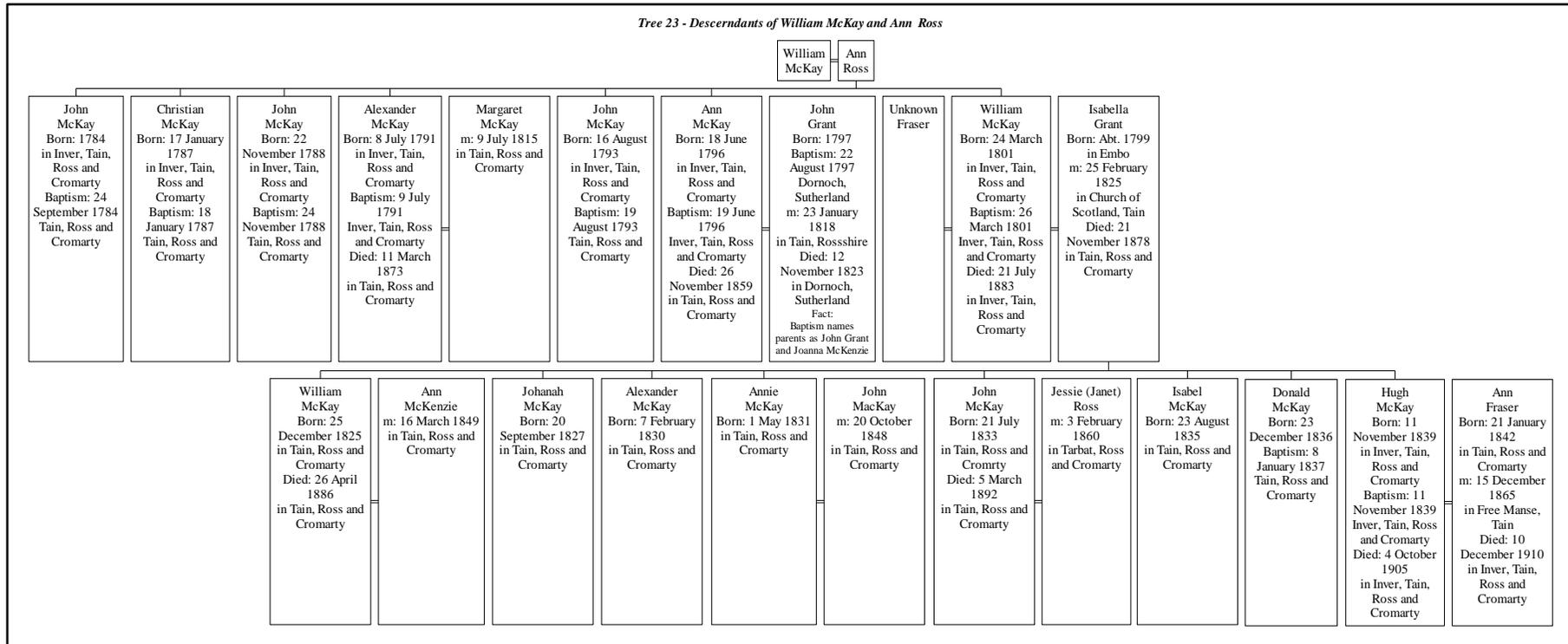
¹⁵ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/11/10, 1891 census, Tain

¹⁶ <https://ancestry.co.uk>, Scotland National Probate Index, 1876-1936

¹⁷ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/11/6, 1901 census, Tain

¹⁸ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/11/5, 1911 census, Tain

Tree 23 - Descendants of William McKay and Ann Ross



but there are no marriage records for the parish before 1808. Their first child, John, was born on 24th September 1784. The entry reads:

Tain, 24th Sept^r 1784

Which day William McKay fisher in Inver had a child babtised and lawfully begot with Ann Ross named John. Witnesses Alex^r Fraser and John McKay fisher

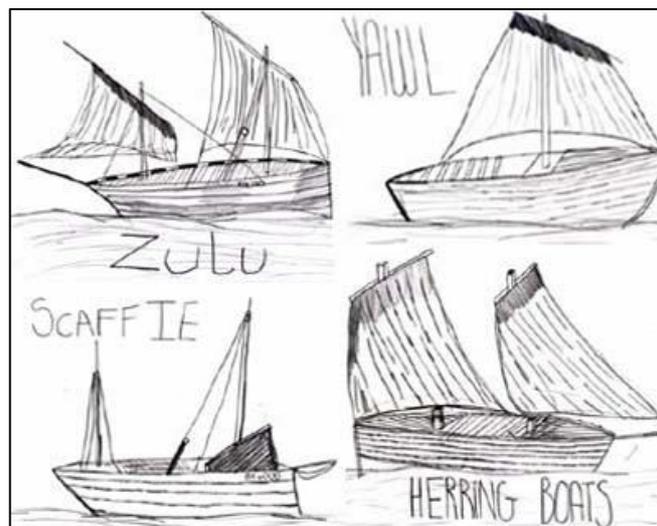
The second child, Christian, was born at a time when the incumbent recorded even more detail:

William McKay, fisher in Inver, had by his wife Ann Ross a daughter born to him the 17th Jan^y 1787 and was babtised upon the 18th day. Named Christian. Witnesses Alex^r Fraser and John McKay fisher

Another son named John followed, baptised on 22nd and baptised on 24th November 1788, and the same two men were witnesses. Presumably, though, he was no luckier than his earlier namesake, as, after another child, Alexander was born and baptised on 8th and 9th July 1791 (same witnesses), his parents named their next child John again. He was baptised on 19th July 1793, an event witnessed this time by John Fraser and Donald McKay. The only girl was Ann, born and baptised on 18th and 19th June 1796, with the two usual witnesses.

William McKay, Ishbel's grandfather, was born on 24th and baptised on 26th March 1801. The baptism was obviously a more public affair than the previous ones had been:

William McKay in Inver had by his wife Ann Ross a son born to him the 24th March 1801 and babtised the 26th day at a Fellowship Meeting. Named William.



Fishing boats drawn by children in *Inver's Millenium*

Nothing more is known about William McKay and Ann Ross, although his persistent attempts to name a son John might suggest that this was perhaps his father's name. However, given that he was a fisherman, a flavour of this couple's lives may be gleaned from an account in *Inver's Millenium*¹⁹:

... The herring dominated their lives. It involved the whole family from the youngest to the oldest. Husbands and sons would be away days, weeks and months fishing. Their wives would follow the progress of the herring down the coast as they were engaged in gutting and packing and the children would miss school because they had to go too.

The herring arrived along the local coastline in the summer months of June, July and August. The men of Inver not only fished around their own shores for herring... They travelled to Shetland in the North and as far as Yarmouth in the South.... The men worked from quite large boats, 30 to 50 feet long... A herring boat would have... from sixteen to twenty-six drift nets...

The same account explains that the buoys attached to the nets were originally made from inflated sheep or dog skins. A buoy starting to sink meant that herring were swimming into the net and pulling it down.

Another extract from the same book suggests that when William McKay and Ann Ross first married it was a time of hardship:

A lot of shellfish were eaten in 1783, because there was a scarcity of bread at that time and it kept the people alive.

This extract also highlights the way fishing for shellfish, or 'whitefishing' was seen as a family endeavour:

The main job for the fishermen was getting the lines ready. Everyone in the family would have helped in some way or other. His wife baited the line and the children would crack open the mussels or dig for the lug worms out on the mud flats beside the village for the bait.

Of William and Ann's children, the first two John's died young; I have found no further trace of Christian, or indeed the third John. Alexander married another McKay, named Margaret, at Tain on 9th July 1815. They baptised six children at Tain between 1816 and 1830: Ann, Janet, Mary, William, John and Alexander. Ann married John Grant on 23rd January 1818 at Tain. He was probably the brother of the girl who later married his brother-in-law, William McKay, Ishbel's grandfather. Their marriage was short-lived, but produced three children, William, Jean and Ann, before John Grant died in 1823.

¹⁹ <http://www.rossandcromartyheritage.org/Community/Inver/History.aspx> *Inver's Millenium, 2,000 years of History in one book*, Pupils and Staff of Inver's Primary School

According to his death certificate, the last born, William McKay, married twice, first to an unknown Fraser, and then to Isabella Grant. His first marriage must have been short-lived, as he was only 23 when he married Isabella:

Tain 25th Feby 1825 which day William Mckay hoer and Isobel Grant Embo entered into the honorable bonds of marriage

I'm not sure if the term 'hoer' refers to something to do with fishing, maybe the man who calls out when he sees a shoal of fish - a lookout. Certainly, both the death certificate and census returns call William a fisherman, like his father.

William and Isabella had eight children together, naming the first four in accordance with Scottish naming practices. The first son, William, born 25th December 1825, was named after his father's father. The first daughter, Johannah, born 20th September 1827, was named after her mother's mother, but seems to have died young. Alexander, born on 7th February 1830, was named for his mother's father, while Ann or Annie, born 1st August 1835, reflected her paternal grandmother's name. The other four were John - a common McKay name - born 21st July 1833; Isabel, born 23rd August 1835, and given, as expected, her mother's name; Donald - 8th January 1837 - and Hugh - 11th November 1839.



Shore Street, Inver

By 1841²⁰ it seems that William and Isabella had lost three more of their children, as there is no sign of Alexander, Isabel and Donald. The household at Inver consists of:

William Mckay	35	Fisher	Y
Isabella Mckay	35		Y
William Mckay	15		Y
Ann McKay	10		Y
John Mckay	8		Y

²⁰ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/10/1, 1841 census, Tain

The 'Y' means born in this county, and ages for adults are approximate.

The 1851 census²¹ shows William and Isabel McKay at Inver, aged 51 and 52 respectively. He is a fisher, as is son John, aged 17. Hugh, aged 11, is still at home, and there is a ten-year-old niece, Janet Grant. Both she and Isabel give Embo in Sutherland as their place of birth. Janet was the daughter of Isabel's younger brother Kenneth. Between these two censuses, both William and Ann had married. William married Ann McKenzie at Tain on 16th March 1849. Like his father, he was a fisherman, and he and Ann McKenzie had ten children; William died in 1886. Ann had married yet another McKay, John, on 20th October 1848, and between them they added another nine McKays to the Tain register.

At the time of the 1861 census²² Hugh was the only one still at home with his parents. John had married Jessie Ross at Tarbat the year before, on 3rd February, with his brother Hugh as one of the witnesses. John gave his trade as carpenter, which is interesting in the light of his and Hugh's later occupation. The census shows that William was still a fisherman, and that Isabella now recorded her place of birth as Dornoch rather than Embo, i.e. the parish not the village. There is a ten-year old 'servant' in the household as well, local girl Ann Skinner. Closer examination suggests she was William and Isabella's great niece, granddaughter of John Grant (Isabella's brother) and Ann McKay (William's sister). Hugh, aged 20, puts his occupation down as Boatbuilder (apprentice), which suggests he may have been working with and for his older brother. John's death certificate, dated 5th March 1892 possibly corroborates this, as he is described as a boatbuilder. John and Janet also added to the tally of McKays in Tain quite substantially, producing Alexander, Janet, Isabella, Donald, William and John between 1859 and 1870.

By 1871²³ all the children had flown; William and Isabella, now aged 69 and 70, and described as Fisherman and Fisherman's wife, were living in Tain rather than Inver, supported by a 14 year-old servant, Isabella Grant. William's wife Isabella died on 21st November 1878:

d. Isabella McKay married to William McKay, meal dealer, 21st November 1878, 6h a.m., Inver, Tain, F, 78, Alexander Grant, fisherman, (deceased), Johan Grant m s McKenzie, (deceased). Natural Decay, no medical attendant. Hugh McKay Son, present. Reg. 26th Nov. 1878

Presumably William had given up fishing for a shore job by this time, as he is described as a meal dealer. It may also be that his sight was beginning to or had failed by this time, as in the 1881 census²⁴ he was living alone at 5, Mid Street, Tain, a

²¹ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/8/8, 1851 census, Tain

²² <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/12/9. 1861 census, Tain

²³ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/11/12. 1871 census, Tain

²⁴ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/11/11. 1881 census, Tain

widowed, 79 year-old annuitant (blind). He died two years later, with his son registering his lifetime occupation rather than the more recent one:

Tain, 21.2.1883 5 a.m. William Mckay fisherman, widow first of – Fraser, 2nd of Isabella Grant, at Inver, Tain, M, 82 years. William Mckay fisherman, deceased, Janet Mckay, m s Ross, deceased, Natural Decay, no medical attendant. Informant, John Mckay, son, present.

Once again, the informant doesn't quite get the grandmother's name right, but the baptisms a generation back all confirm that she was Ann not Janet.

With Hugh McKay, the circle closes, as he was both William and Isabella's son and Ishbel McKay's father. As has already been shown, he was a boat-builder by trade, along with his brother John, a fact which was alluded to in *Inver's Millenium*²⁵:

Mackay was the name of Inver's boat builders. They built the wooden Zulu style boat. These boats were beautifully made by top-notch craftsman but with the coming of engine driven boats it spelt the end of sailing boats and for the boat builders as the channel of Inver was not deep enough for the new boats. The boats at Inver were launched at the back of Shore Street.

As has already been stated, Hugh was born on 11th November 1839:

which day William McKay fisher Inver had by his wife Isobell Grant a son to him lawfully begot which was baptised this same day at a diet of catechising at Inver, named Hugh.



Free Manse, Tain – now a guest house

He married Annie Fraser in 1865:

²⁵ <http://www.rossandcromartyheritage.org/Community/Inver/History.aspx> *Inver's Millenium, 2,000 years of History in one book*, Pupils and Staff of Inver's Primary School

15.12.1865 at the Free Manse Tain. Hugh McKay, boatbuilder of Inver, single, aged 26; Ann Fraser, aged 22 of Inver
Son of Wm McKay, fisherman and Isabella McKay m s Grant; dau of John Fraser, fisherman and Margaret Fraser dec, m s McNaughton
Witnessed: John McKay, Catherine McPherson

Once again, the Scottish certificate helpfully gives the names of both sets of parents. What is known of their children's lives – Isabella, Margaret, William, John, Annie, Williamina, Jessie and Hugh has already been outlined in Isabella or Ishbel's story. Hugh senior can be traced through the censuses from 1841²⁶ when he was only a year old, and living with his parents and older siblings, through 1851²⁷ when only he and his brother John were still at home, to 1861²⁸ when only he was still at home.



Inver's last fishing boat²⁹

Whether boatbuilding had already begun to founder at Inver by 1871 (steam replaced sail between 1840 and 1880), or there was some other reason, Hugh and his

²⁶ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/8/8, 1841 census, Tain

²⁷ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/8/8, 1851 census, Tain

²⁸ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/12/9. 1861 census, Tain

²⁹ <http://www.rossandcromartyheritage.org/Community/Inver/History/Inver-s-Millennium-History/Page-4.aspx>

brother John were living in 1871³⁰ at Embo village in Dornoch, Sutherland. They were still enumerated as boatbuilders, but were living as lodgers in the household of their uncle, Kenneth Grant, younger brother of their mother. John was 37 and Hugh 30. Kenneth Grant, a fisherman, was 57, and born at Dornoch. There was a harbour at Embo, so maybe the brothers could boat-build there.

Whatever the reason, Hugh was back the other side of the Dornoch Firth by 1881³¹ but living now at 5, Mid Street in Tain, rather than Inver, and calling himself a carpenter rather than a boatbuilder, which perhaps implies he had to diversify. In the same household were wife Ann, and children Bella, Margaret, John, Annie and Williamina. Jessie would have been born later that year.

By 1891³² the twins were gone, but the remaining five children were still at home, now back in Inver. Hugh made his final appearance in the 1901 census³³ where he was living at 13, Main Street. He recorded himself as 'Boatbuilder Own Account', in other words, working for himself. His wife Ann, daughters Williamina and Jessie and brother-in-law Peter Fraser, a retired lace factory worker, completed the household. Interestingly, ten years later³⁴, but at the same address, Peter Fraser was described as a retired fisherman, and in his probate record³⁵ as a millwright. A varied career, it seems. Next door, at no 12, lived Ann's brother Hugh with his wife Helen and daughter Hughina. Clearly, it was a close-knit community.

Hugh McKay died in 1905. Once again, the name of one parent is wrongly recorded. It is possible that Hugh junior, who was the informant, had assumed that his brother John was the eldest son, and must have been named for his grandfather. In fact, it was his eldest brother William, who had died before Hugh was born, who had been given his grandfather's name. So the certificate stated:

Hugh McKay boatbuilder, m to Ann Fraser, 4.10.1805, 7 p.m. M, 63 yrs. John McKay, fisherman, deceased, Isabella McKay, m s Grant, deceased. Diseased heart, 3 yrs. Hugh McKay, son, present.

Hugh's widow, Ann Fraser, lived another five years, but also had heart problems at the end, although this was not the only malady on her death certificate:

Annie McKay, widow of Hugh McKay boatbuilder, 10.12.1910, 9 a.m. Inver, Tain, F, 67 yrs, John Fraser, fisherman, deceased, Margaret Fraser m s McNaughton, deceased. Asthma, peritonitis, cardiac failure.

³⁰ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 047/1/L 12, 1871 census, Dornoch

³¹ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/11/11, 1881 census, Tain

³² <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/11/10, 1891 census, Tain

³³ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/11/6, 1901 census, Tain

³⁴ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/11/5, 1911 census, Tain

³⁵ <https://ancestry.co.uk/>, Scotland, National Probate Index, 1876-1936

Tree 24 - Family of Alexander Grant and Joanna McKenzie

Alexander Grant Died: 24 August 1852 in Dornoch, Sutherland	Johanna McKenzie m: 17 April 1795 in Dornoch, Sutherland Died: 20 June 1853 in Dornoch, Sutherland
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John Grant Born: 1797 Baptism: 22 August 1797 Dornoch, Sutherland Died: 12 November 1823 in Dornoch, Sutherland Fact: Baptism names parents as John Grant and Joanna McKenzie	Ann McKay Born: 18 June 1796 in Inver, Tain, Ross and Cromarty Baptism: 19 June 1796 Inver, Tain, Ross and Cromarty m: 23 January 1818 in Tain, Rosshire Died: 26 November 1859 in Tain, Ross and Cromarty	Isabella Grant Born: Abt. 1799 in Embo Died: 21 November 1878 in Tain, Ross and Cromarty	William McKay Born: 24 March 1801 in Inver, Tain, Ross and Cromarty Baptism: 26 March 1801 Inver, Tain, Ross and Cromarty m: 25 February 1825 in Church of Scotland, Tain Died: 21 July 1883 in Inver, Tain, Ross and Cromarty	Alexander Grant Born: Abt. 1801 Died: 20 December 1866 in Golspie, Sutherland	Esther McDonald m: 19 December 1819 in Dornoch, Sutherland	Christian Grant Born: 1802 in Embo Baptism: 7 October 1802 Dornoch, Sutherland	Jean Grant Born: 1804 in Embo Baptism: 18 September 1804 Dornoch, Sutherland Died: 25 June 1877 in Fearn, Ross and Cromarty	Donald Ross m: 17 November 1824 in Dornoch, Sutherland	Catherine McKay m: 4 February 1831 in Dornoch, Sutherland	Donald Grant Born: 1806 Baptism: 30 September 1806 Dornoch, Sutherland Died: 22 November 1884 in Embo, Sutherland	Jane Sutherland m: 27 December 1847 in Clyne, Sutherland	Margaret Grant Born: 1809 Baptism: 7 March 1809 Dornoch, Sutherland	Hugh Grant Born: 1811 Baptism: 1 November 1811 Dornoch, Sutherland Died: 27 February 1838 in Dornoch, Sutherland	Kenneth Grant Born: 1812 Baptism: 1 November 1812 Dornoch, Sutherland	Janet McKay m: 4 February 1837 in Dornoch, Sutherland	Janet Grant Born: 1814 Baptism: 3 July 1814 Dornoch, Sutherland	William Grant Born: 1816 Baptism: 2 December 1816 Dornoch, Sutherland	Ann Grant Born: 1818 Baptism: 17 August 1818 Dornoch, Sutherland
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Grant and McKenzie - Dornoch

Dornoch is in Sutherland, one of the most northerly counties in Scotland, and only 80 miles from John o' Groats, the northernmost place in mainland Britain. It was by no means a wealthy area; there seem to have been few natural resources. The population in 1791 was 2,541, of whom around 90 were deemed poor. According to the *Statistical Accounts*³⁶:

About the year 1758 potatoes became the principal article of provision here. Now they serve as the chief subsistence of the people during a third part of the year; with many for one half, and for some even two thirds of the year.

Despite the monotony of such a diet, the potato is supposed to be able to supply all nutritional needs, and presumably did so, as, in regard to population the account goes on to note:

Although the registers have not been regularly kept here, it is universally believed, that the population has increased within the last thirty years very considerably, to the extent, it is supposed, of at least 500.

The author does not ascribe this to any trade or manufacture – only two whiskey distilleries and some flax spinning were apparently on offer. Instead, he puts it down to the fact that:

the women are prolific, and that by subdivision of farms, and the advancing culture of small crofts and muir ground, the people in general are encouraged to marry young.

Alexander and Johanna, who baptised twelve children, would seem to confirm this view (see tree 24 – p. 108).

The couple married on 17th April 1795 in Dornoch. The entry in the register reads:

Alex^r Grant at Embo was this day married to Johanna McKenzie from Fourpenny

Embo is a small, coastal village about 2 miles from Dornoch; Fourpenny a small hamlet a little further north.

Despite the fact that the father's name was recorded wrongly, the child named John baptised at Dornoch on 22nd August to John Grant and Johanna McKenzie was almost certainly Alexander's son. Substituting the father's name for the baby would be an easy mistake to make, and again, DNA helps to confirm the relationship, though the link could come from his wife, Ann McKay, daughter of

³⁶ <https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/>, *Statistical Accounts of Scotland*, 1793

William McKay and Ann Ross. John and Ann married in 1818 and produced three children, William, Jean and Ann, before John died in 1823.

Isabella was probably born around 1799 – her age was given as 78 when she died in 1878, but for some reason she doesn't appear in the register. Nor does her probable brother Alexander, born around 1801, but again, although his death certificate only gives his father's name – Alexander – DNA matches suggest a relationship, as does the fact that he named his first two children Alexander and Johanna. A fisherman like his father, he married Esther McDonald at Dornoch in 1819, and raised a family of 10 children at Golspie in Sutherland. He died in 1866.

A daughter named Christian was baptised at Dornoch on 7th October 1802, but nothing more is known of her. Jean, or Jane as she was recorded when she married Donald Ross at Dornoch in 1824, was baptised on 18th September 1804. This couple had a family of nine, all born at Fearn, on the south side of the Dornoch Firth, and it was here that Jane died in 1877. The next child, Donald, baptised on 30th September 1806, was a fisherman, and married twice. His first wife, whom he married at Dornoch in 1831, was Catherine McKay, but no relation as far as I can tell. After her death in 1847 he married Jane Sutherland, at Clyne in Sutherland. Between them, his wives gave him 12 children. He died at Embo in 1884.

Margaret, baptised on 7th March 1809, disappears from the Dornoch records, but Hugh, baptised 1st November 1811, died aged 27 on 27th February 1838. The next child, Kenneth, was baptised on 1st November 1812, and married another unrelated McKay (as far as I can tell) named Janet at Dornoch on 4th February 1837. A fisherman like most of his family, he, too, fathered a large family, of 10 children. He died at Embo in 1889.



Looking towards Dornoch across the Firth from Tain

Of the last three children - Janet, baptised 3rd July 1814, William, 2nd December 1816 and Ann, 17th August 1818 I have found no further trace. Nevertheless, Alexander and Johanna seem to have founded something of a dynasty, with at least

53 grandchildren born between 1818 and 1849. My children show a high number of DNA matches to descendants of this pair.

This prolific couple, who had married at the end of the 18th century, were still going strong by the time of the first censuses. In 1841³⁷ they were to be found in Fishertown, Dornoch, where Alexander was recorded as a 70 year-old Fisherman and his wife Johan Grant as 60. With them was their granddaughter Catherine Grant, aged 13, daughter of their son Alexander. However, in 1851³⁸ they were enumerated alone at Embo:

Alexander Grant	H	M	75	Fisherman	Dornoch, Sutherland
Johanna McKenzie	W	M	72		Golspie, Sutherland

Golspie was the next parish north from Dornoch, on the other side of Loch Fleet. According to the *Sutherland Local Plan Map Booklet*³⁹

Embo was a planned village with a coherent street structure which can still be clearly seen in the original 5 streets of Fishertown... [It] has been laid out in narrow lanes and rows of houses running parallel down to the beach... Golspie is the largest settlement within Sutherland and is situated on the east coast located under the shadow of Ben Bhraggie. [It] originated as a small fishing village on the main road north ... expanded in the early 19th century to house those evicted during the clearances...

Alexander Grant died the year after this census, in 1852:

Aug^t 24th Alex^r Grant Fisherman Embo 88 Old age...

Johanna died the following year. Her entry in the Dornoch register reads:

June 20th Johan McKenzie (blind) Widow of Alex^r Grant Fishertown 89

I can't help feeling that their ages were inflated somewhat in the register, as frequently happens with death records, when the informant only has a shaky idea of the age of a parent. If Johanna had really been 89, she would have been 50, 52 and 54 for the births of her last three children. I think the census ages are likely to be closer, meaning that Alexander was probably born around 1776 and Johanna around 1779.

³⁷ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 047/5/3, 1841 census, Dornoch

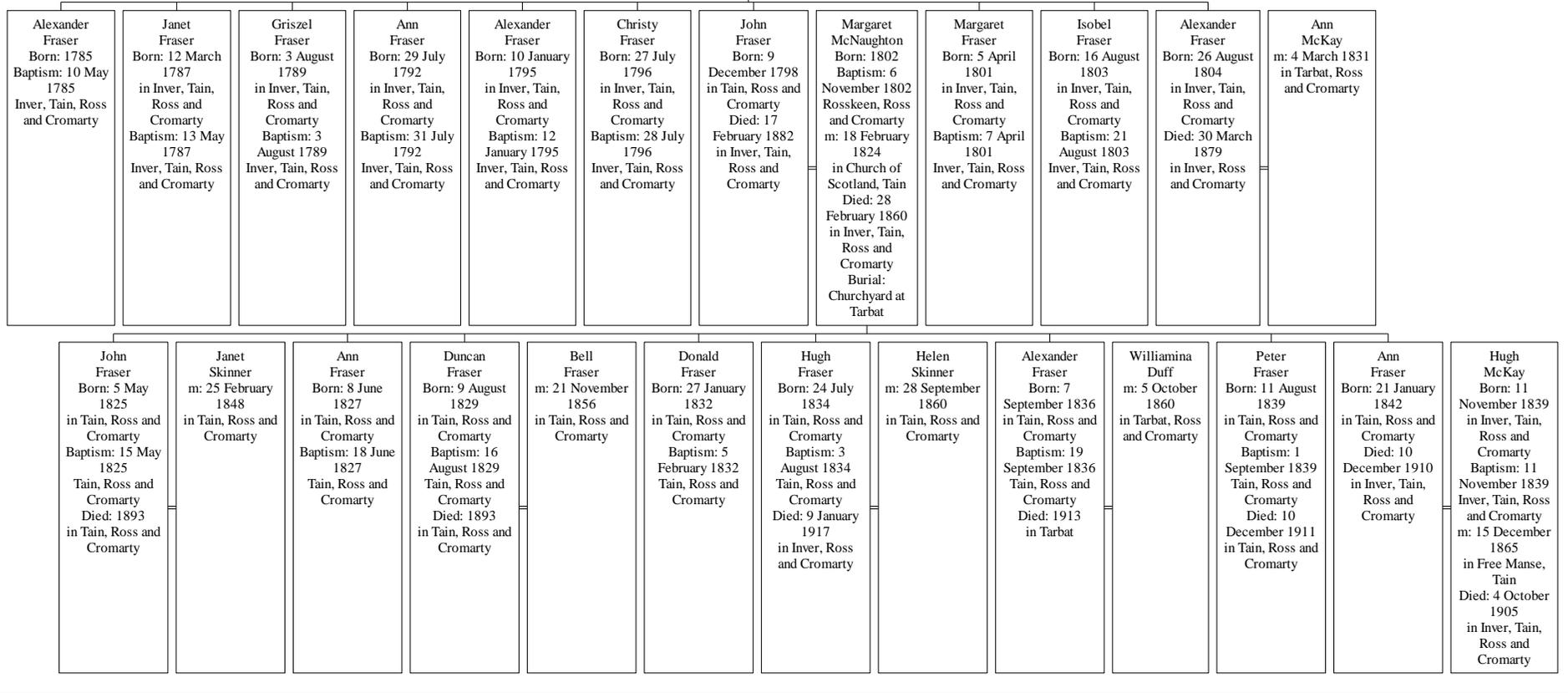
³⁸ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 047/5/4. 1851 census, Dornoch

³⁹

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/factsheet/2018/06/high-land-council-planning-authority-core-documents/documents/sutherland-local-plan-maps-pdf/sutherland-local-plan-maps-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/Sutherland%2BLocal%2BPlan%2B-%2BMaps.pdf>

Tree 25 - Descendants of John Fraser and Ann Ross

John Fraser Ann Ross



Fraser and Ross - Tain

Still following the distaff line for a while, we now explore the paternal family of Ann Fraser, who married Hugh McKay, boatbuilder, at Tain in 1865. She was born in 1842. The entry in the register reads:

Fraser and McNaughton: Ann, lawful daughter of John Fraser, Salmon Fisher, Inver and of Margaret McNaughton was born the 18th and baptised on the 21st January 1842

She was the penultimate child of the family (**see tree 25 - p. 112**). The one younger child was named George, and was born around 1845, but there is no record of his baptism, and after 1861 he disappears from the records. Two of Ann's siblings seem to have died young: an older Ann, born on 8th June 1827 and baptised on the 18th; and Donald, born on 27th January 1832 and baptised 5th February 1832. The rest lived to marry and raise families of their own.

John Fraser, John and Margaret's oldest child, was born on 5th and baptised on 15th May 1825, married Janet Skinner on 25th February 1848, fathered 10 children and died in 1893. A fisherman by occupation, he seems to have spent his life in Tain. Likewise, Duncan, born on 9th and baptised 18th August 1829; he married Bell Fraser on 21st November 1856, produced six children and died the same year as his older brother. Hugh, the next brother, managed a family of eight. He was born on 27th July, baptised on 3rd August, married Helen Skinner on 28th September 1860 and died at Inver on 10th December 1911. Like his older brothers, he seems to have spent his whole life in Tain.



Tain parish church

Alexander, however, born 7th and baptised 19th September 1836, ventured as far as Tarbat, around 10 miles away, where he married Williamina Duff on 5th October 1860, producing six children with her. He was the longest-lived of this generation, dying at Tarbat in 1913. Peter, who has already been mentioned, was born on 11th August and baptised on 1st September 1839. In 1911⁴⁰ he was living with his McKay relatives, but died shortly after on 10th November that year.

The parents of this family, John Fraser and Margaret McNaughton, were married at Tain on 18th February 1824:

Which day John Fraser, fisher, and Margaret McNaughton, both in Inver were contracted in order to marriage

The family can be tracked through the censuses. In 1841⁴¹, both John and Margaret have their ages rounded down to 35. However, the children's ages are fairly accurate: John - 15, Duncan - 10, Hugh - 7, Alexander - 5 and Peter - 1. By 1851⁴², John junior was married, so the census finds at home John and Margaret, now 53 and 47; Duncan - 21 and a fisher like his father; Hugh - 16, Alexander - 14, Peter and Anne - 11 and 9, both scholars, and 6 year old son George.

Margaret died in 1860, so in 1861⁴³, John, still erratically aged at 60, has just his fisherman son Peter, 21, 18 year-old Ann and 15 year-old George living with him, and by 1871⁴⁴ only Peter remains. John's age this time is recorded as 64! By the time of the 1881⁴⁵ census he was living with his son John and his family, and recorded as a widowed, 78 year-old annuitant (Blind). John died the following year:

d. John Fraser, fisherman, widow of Margaret McNaughton, 17.2.1882, 6 p.m. Inver, Tain, M, 84 yrs; John Fraser, deceased, fisherman, Ann Fraser, m s name Ross. Natural Decay. No medical attendant; John Fraser, son, present.

Little is known of John's parents, John Fraser and Ann Ross, other than the names of their children, and the dates of their births and baptisms. There are no burial records for Tain at this time, and the name Fraser is so common it is impossible, even when the names come up in the marriage records, to be sure which is the right one. The births of John's older siblings are as follows, where there are two dates, the first is the birth, the second the baptism:

Alexander	10 th May 1785
Janet	12 th March, 13 th May 1787
Griszel	3 rd August, 3 rd August.1789

⁴⁰ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/11/5, 1911 census, Tain

⁴¹ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/10/5, 1841 census, Tain

⁴² <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/8/6, 1851 census, Tain

⁴³ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/12/5, 1861 census, Tain

⁴⁴ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/11/6, 1871 census, Tain

⁴⁵ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/11/6, 1881 census, Tain

Ann	27 th September 1792
Alexander	10 th January 1795
Christy	27 th July, 28 th July 1796

All these are in the Tain register, as are those of John's younger siblings.

Margaret	5 th April 1801
Isobel	16 th August, 21 st August 1803
Alexander	26 th August 1804

Only the final Alexander, born in 1804, seems to leave a clear trace. He married Ann McKay at Tarbat on 4th March 1831, and raised a family back in Inver. In 1841⁴⁶ he was enumerated as a fisherman at Inver, aged 35, with his wife Ann. Next door is 45 year-old Ann Fraser, who might just be his sister. He died on 30th March 1879.

McNaughton and Gourley: Ross and Perthshire

The final part of the story in north-east Scotland concerns the family of Ann Fraser's mother, Margaret McNaughton. Her death certificate called her a fisherwoman, which might suggest she had grown up on the coast. In fact, she was born at Ardross, in Rosskeen parish, and more than a dozen miles from Tain:

Margaret daughter to Duncan McNaughtan Schoolmaster Ardross & Anne Gourley was born 6th Nov^r 1802

Presumably she was baptised on the same day as there is no other date in the register. Her parents had married almost exactly a year earlier. Banns, or proclamation had been called on 13th November 1801 at Kiltearn, half-way down the Cromarty Firth:

Duncan McNaughtan schoolmaster at Ardross parish of Rosskeen and Ann Gourley of Drummond was contracted for marriage.

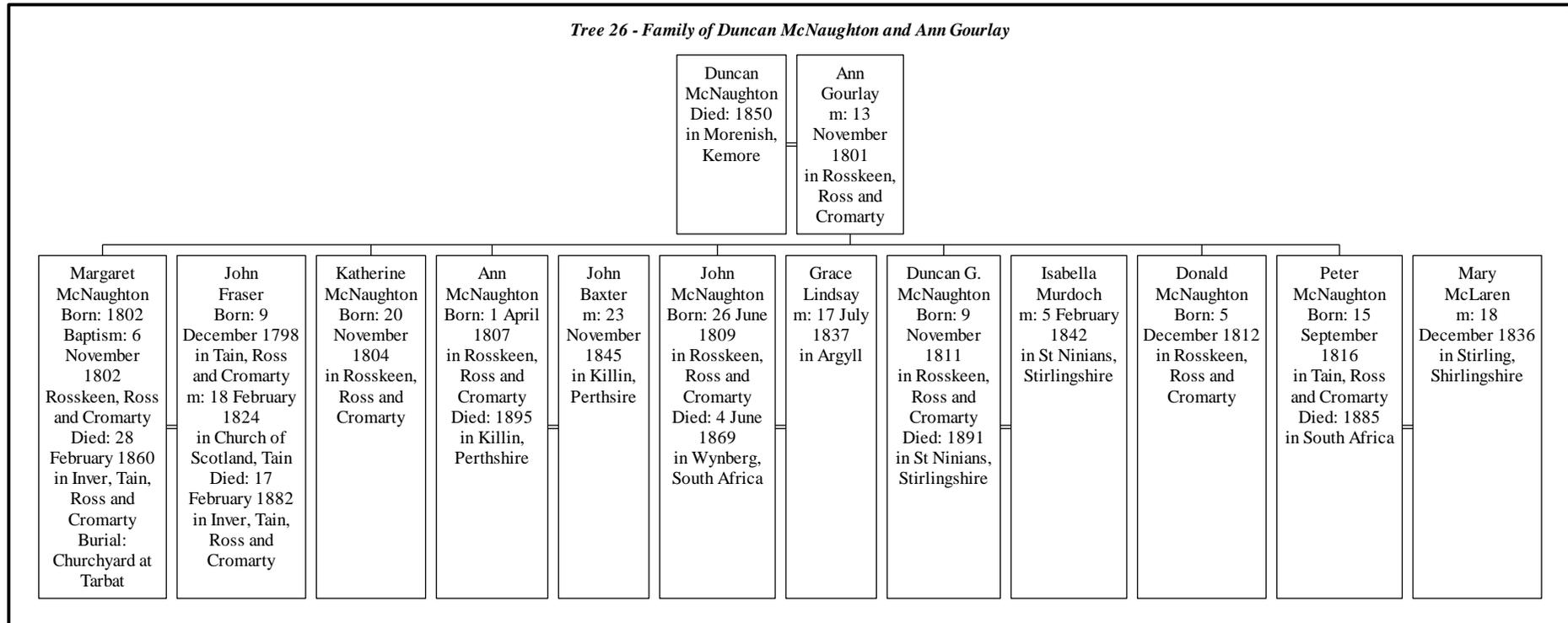
The entry was repeated in the Rosskeen register:

McNaughtan and Gourley. Then were contracted in order to marry Duncan McNaughtan in this parish and Annie Gourley in the parish of Kiltearn

I imagine that Anne Gourley, Gourlay, Gowrly – the surname appears in various guises – was a local girl, but Duncan McNaughton was born some distance away, in Perthshire. Nothing more is known about Anne other than the names of her other children, so she remains a mystery. Much more is known about her husband, Duncan, and several of their children, whose lives will be followed before their

⁴⁶ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 082/10/1, 1841 census, Tain

Tree 26 - Family of Duncan McNaughton and Ann Gourlay



father's is explored (see tree 26 – p.116) . Margaret, born in 1802, as has been seen, married John Fraser, and became one of the fisherfolk of Inver. No doubt this involved a lot of exposure to the elements, and work in damp, cold conditions, which probably contributed to her relatively early death:

Margaret Fraser, Fisherwoman, married, d. 28.2.1860, 4 p.m. at Inver, F, 56 years. John McNaughtan, schoolmaster, deceased, Ann McNaughtan, m s Gourley, deceased. Cough and asthma 4 years. No medical attendant. Buried churchyard at Tarbat, certified Paul McKay. Informant Hugh Fraser his + mark, son, present. JH Ross, registrar, Witness. Reg. 5.3.1860, Tain

Once again, a grandfather's first name was misremembered, not surprising, perhaps, considering that Duncan McNaughtan had returned to his native Perthshire some 35 years before.

Nothing more is known about the next daughter, Katherine, born 20th November 1804 at Rosskeen, but Ann, born there on 1st April 1807, followed her father south and married John Baxter at Killin in Perthshire on 21st November 1845. He was considerably older than her, by some 30 years, and a Chelsea Pensioner, and after he died in 1868, she became a crofter at Tomochrocher, Morenish⁴⁷. She died in 1895 in Killin parish.

The first son, John, born at Rosskeen on 26th June 1809, followed his father into the teaching profession, as did two of his brothers. At some point after his marriage to Grace Lindsay in Argyll in 1837 and before 1841, he emigrated to South Africa. In that year, he founded a school at Wynberg in the Western Cape. According to *Wikipedia*⁴⁸, it is the second-oldest school school in South Africa and one of the best academic schools in Cape Town. Another website⁴⁹ describes John's experience:

Newly arrived from Scotland, Mr McNaughton found himself teaching in a single room with 65 pupils who, in terms of the government policy of the day, were admitted without prejudice in terms of colour or creed.

At the time of the school's 170th anniversary, I was contacted by someone in South Africa who was hoping I had a portrait which they could add to their hall of fame. She also sent me a digest of all the research they had done on John McNaughton. They had discovered that he had done his teacher training at the Glasgow Normal School gaining a diploma in 1837, the year he married Grace Lindsay. However, his headstone in South Africa suggests that he had been teaching since 1823, and they may have confused him with his brother Duncan. In 1841, at Glasgow University, he met with one James Rose Innes, a Scot by birth, but recently created Superintendent-General of Education in South Africa⁵⁰. He was

⁴⁷ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 361/9/12, 1871 census, Killin

⁴⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wynberg_Boys%27_High_School

⁴⁹ <https://www.constantiabergbulletin.co.za/news/cheers-to-wynberg-boys-175th-year>

⁵⁰ http://www.s2a3.org.za/bio/Biograph_final.php?serial=1381

actively recruiting teachers to work in South Africa, and John McNaughton responded.

He spent three months learning Dutch before leaving for Wynberg where his school was established in one room:

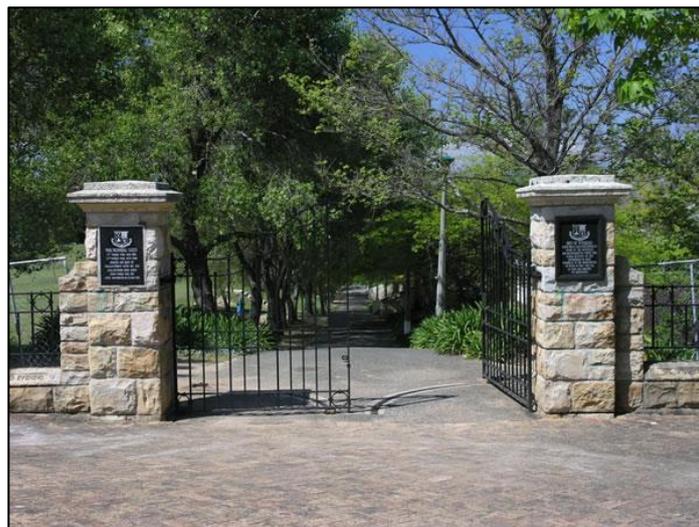
with no furniture and sadly in need of repair

Within a month, he had effected repairs, bought desks and begun to enrol pupils. By December he had 49 boys and 16 girls in the school. Despite what he considered a low salary, he built the school up over the years and taught there until 1863 when he resigned:

worn out, and quite deaf

He died at Wynberg in 1869. The inscription on his headstone reads:

In Memory of John McNaughton, Master of the Government School at Wynberg, who labored at his vocation with distinguished success during a period of 40 [sic] years. Died 4th June 1869 aged 60 [sic] years.



Wynberg High School - Memorial Gates

Duncan McNaughtan and Anne Gourley's next child, Duncan, born at Rosskeen on 9th November 1811, stayed in Scotland, but settled in St Ninians in Stirlingshire, where he married Isabella Murdon on 5th February 1842. In 1851⁵¹, living in Cambusbarron in St Ninians, he described himself as a

Teacher of English etc.

The initial G after his first name shows that he had already taken on his mother's name, Gourley, as a middle name. Also in the household was his Stirling-born

⁵¹ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 488/8/12, 1851 census, St. Ninians

mother-in-law, who described herself as a merchant's wife, and his sister-in-law, who described herself as a grocer. He has not been found in the 1861 and 1871 censuses, but by 1881 and 1891⁵² he was describing himself as a Retired Grocers Merchant, so presumably he decided teaching wasn't for him. This may be corroborated by an entry in *SSPCK Schoolmasters*⁵³ which I believe refers to him:

McNaughton Duncan:

.....

- 2) Morenish 1837-40, succeeded father Duncan. 1837 qualified at Normal School Glasgow and gained diploma; among his pupils was a 6' tall man seated on the duxes' form between two little boys and he rose and answered in turn like the others. 1840 left school unattended. Dismissed.

He died in 1891. The probate entry⁵⁴ describes him as:

Duncan Gourlay Macnaughton, sometime Merchant, Cambusbarron, thereafter residing at 5, Park Place, Stirling, who died 22 August 1891

His widow Isabella was executrix, and the estate was valued at £2,195 9/9.

Of Donald McNaughtan, born at Rosskeen on 5th December 1812, no further trace has been found, so I suspect he died young. The last-born of this family was Peter, born on 15th September 1816 at Tain. He also took Gourley as a middle name. He married Mary McLaren at Stirling on 18th December 1836, but followed his brothers into teaching. In 1844 he followed his oldest brother out to South Africa, spending two months with John at Wynberg before transferring to Beaufort West to become the Master at the Established School there. According to the biography of John prepared by Wynberg School, he later transferred to Colesburg, where he retired in 1852 and died on 28th August 1885. His year of death is corroborated by the Cape Province Estates Death Notice Index⁵⁵.

The father of this family, Duncan McNaughton, was probably born around 1775, somewhere in Perthshire. The 1841 census⁵⁶ shows him in old age, having returned to his home county – as evidenced by the Y in the final column, but the name McNaughton and its variants is too common in the area to surmise which of the various Duncans born on the right time frame might be him. The address given is Tomochrocher, a tiny hamlet in Kenmore parish between Morenish and Milton Morenish, and the information given is as follows:

Duncan McNaughton	65	Teacher	Y
John McNaughton	25		N

⁵² <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 488/1/7/21 & 488/1 7/18, 1881 & 1891 census, St Ninians

⁵³ SSPCK [*Scottish Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge Schoolmasters*] 1709-1872, A S Cowper

⁵⁴ <https://ancestry.co.uk/>, *Scotland, National Probate Index, 1876-1936*

⁵⁵ <https://ancestry.co.uk/>, *Cape Province, South Africa Estates Death Notice Index, 1834-1936*

⁵⁶ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 360/8/7, 1841 census, Kenmore

Don ^d Fraser	8		N
John McDonald	20	Teacher	N
Cha ^s Stewart	25	Mason	Y
Thomas Stewart	30	Ag Lab	Y



Countryside near Tomochrocher

The second line would seem to refer to his eldest son, but there is no reference to him being a teacher and no sign of his wife, although the N for not born in county would suggest an incomer. Donald Fraser, aged eight, would be his daughter Margaret's son, whether visiting or living with his grandfather isn't clear.

According to *SSPCK Schoolmasters*, Duncan's first teaching appointment was probably in Glenorchy in Argyll, on the west coast of Scotland:

Braes of Glenorchy (par. Glenorchy: presb. Lorn) 1796-1798. Salary £8 ambulatory.

I can only imagine that the word ambulatory suggests a peripatetic posting, with no designated schoolhouse. For the next eleven years, during which he married and raised a family, he was at Ardross. There is some confusion about the exact date. The SSPCK gives:

Ardross (par. Rosskeen) 1799-1810; Salary £13. 1810, teacher had a difference with the proprietor of Ardross, so removed.

However, an entry in the Rosskeen kirk Session Minutes⁵⁷ regarding the burial of one Hector Sutherland, and dated 29th January 1798 ends:

... before these witnesses, James Calder, Schoolmaster at Rosskeen and Duncan McNaughton, Schoolmaster at Ardry

⁵⁷ National Records of Scotland CH2/1136/1, Rosskeen Kirk Session Minutes, p.350

I take Ardry to be a corruption of Ardross. There is no indication as to what caused the difference with the proprietor of Ardross, and whether Duncan was sinning or sinned against. It must have been a blow to his wife, Ann Gourlay, to find herself transported to the Caingorms, over a hundred miles away as the next posting was to:

Dell of Rothiemurchus (par. Kirkmichael, presb. Aberlour); 1811-12.

For Duncan, it would have seemed more like home, for, briefly, he was back in his own home county. There is a gap in the family baptisms at this point, so it is possible that Anne stayed in Rosskeen for the duration.

In 1814, Duncan McNaughton was appointed teacher at Inver. Again, the entry in SSPCK is succinct but slightly damning:

Inver (par Tain) 1814-24; Teacher not acceptable to Tain fishers.

*Inver's Millenium*⁵⁸ describes the system of education pertaining following an act of 1696 which required landowners to provide a school in every parish, with a house and salary for the teacher, but although there were schools in Tain and Tarbat, there was nothing in Tain until the SSPCK appointed a teacher there in 1767; he left after a short time because his salary was insufficient. In Duncan McNaughton's time, a report was sent to the society revealing that there were:

Only eight in attendance whereas there had been seventy during winter, nineteen of whom could read Gaelic, after being able to read the English Bible

The booklet also notes that:

The house and schoolhouse are declared not to be in good repair and the grass for the cow and garden are not *attached*

This reads as shortcomings maybe with employer rather than teacher.

There is no record of when Anne Gourlay died, but it may well have been her demise which prompted his return to his home county of Perthshire. Here he took up residence at a place called Morenish, which often seems to appear in the records as Moreinsh. Once again, the SSPCK records give the barest outline:

Morenish (par Kenmore) 1825-50. 1826 Tawse reported; age 53; 30 years' service; paid Lord Bredalbaine £5 13.0 for croft and cow grass which was the same rate as other crofters; schoolhouse an old thatched ruinous building. 1837, ill. School taught by son. 1838, superannuated. Sept 1850 died.

⁵⁸ <http://www.rossandcromartyheritage.org/Community/Inver/History.aspx> *Inver's Millenium, 2,000 years of History in one book*, Pupils and Staff of Inver's Primary School

Morenish is another small settlement about three miles north-east of Killin, on the north side of Loch Tay. So the school was probably also small. According to the *Statistical Accounts*⁵⁹, the SSPCK Teachers were paid between £15 and £17 p.a. It reports in 1845 that:

All the children [in Killin] above six years of age can read, and nearly all in Gaelic and English

The author points out that the locals, even the poorest, put a high price on education.



Loch Tay at Morenish

Despite the date of death given above, it seems more likely that the date of death given in his Testament – 23rd August 1850 at Morenish – is more accurate. This document⁶⁰ helpfully names his surviving family:

Duncan G McNaughton, Cambusbarron
Peter McNaughton, Beaufort, Cape of Good Hope, South Africa
John McNaughton, Wynberg, South Africa
Margaret Fraser or McNaughton, wife of John Fraser, Inver, Tain
John Fraser
Ann Baxter or McNaughton, wife of John Baxter, residing at Morenish
John Baxter

and calls them:

Executors dative qua nearest in kin decerned to the said defunct.

Decerned is a Scots term meaning adjudged. On 12th December 1851, then, Duncan's estate was valued as follows:

⁵⁹ <https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/>

⁶⁰ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, SC/49/31/53, Testament of Duncan McNaughton

Primo: Cash in the Central Bank	£65	
+ interest	£1 1.10	£66.1.10
Secundo: Household furniture and Other effects (appraised 25.12.1851)		£13.4.0
Amount of inventory		£79.5.10

Duncan Gourlay McNaughton swore that neither he nor any other of the executors before named knew of any settlement or writing relative to the disposal of the deceased's ... estate. The records don't show it, but presumably this was enough for probate to be granted. There is no record of his father's burial.

Hugh McKay Bonallo's siblings: Edinburgh and further afield

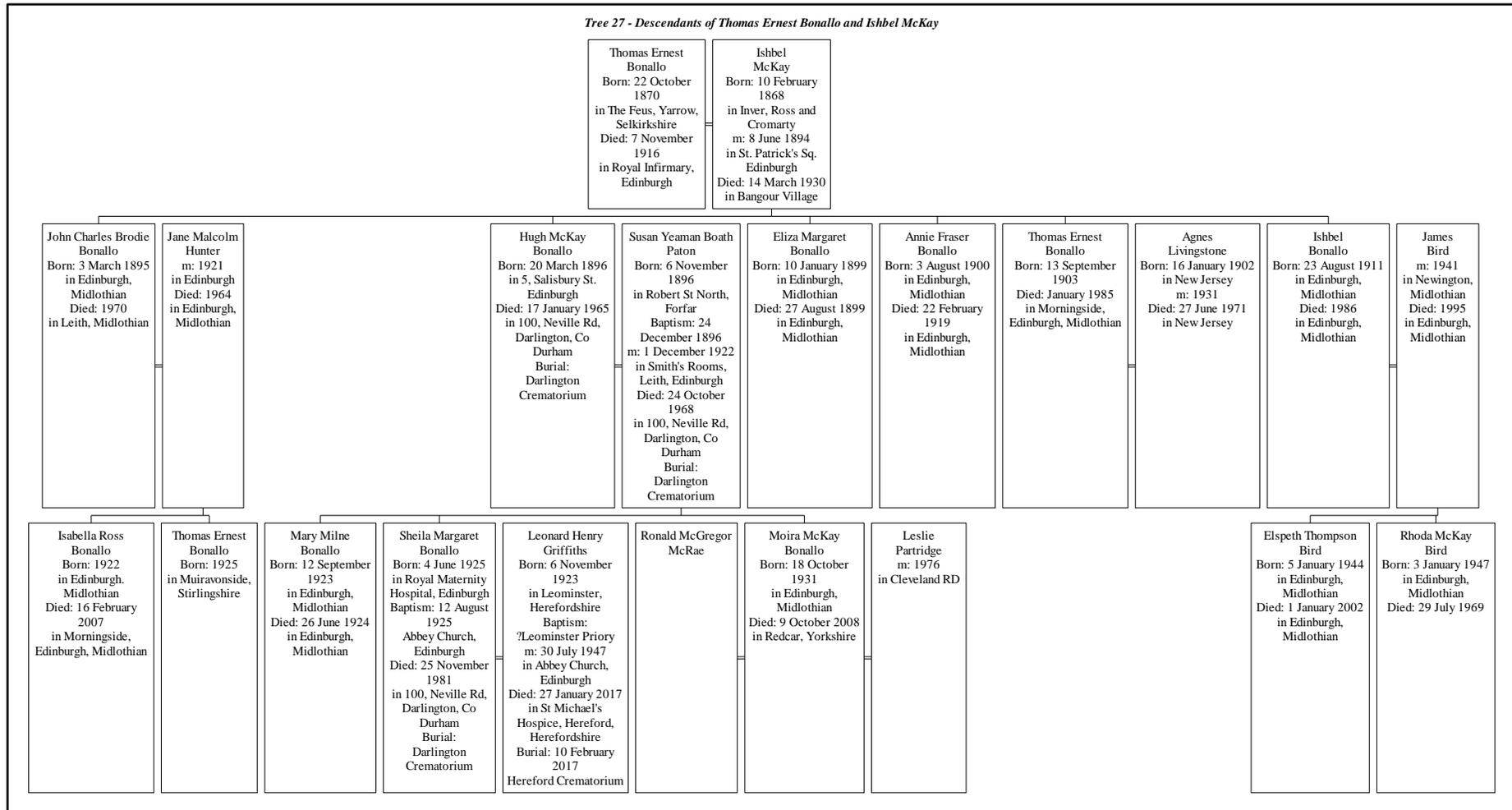


L-R: Thomas, Charles, Thomas Ernest, Bella, Ishbel, Hugh, Annie Bonallo

Before the story of Hugh Bonallo, father of Sheila is told, a little about his siblings (see tree 27 – p. 124). The eldest child of Thomas Ernest Bonallo and Ishbel McKay was named John Charles Brodie after his paternal grandfather. Born in 1895, he was recorded with his family in 1901⁶¹ at 59 St Leonards Hill, Edinburgh as a 6 year-old scholar.

⁶¹ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 685/5 2/11, 1901 census, Edinburgh

Tree 27 - Descendants of Thomas Ernest Bonallo and Ishbel McKay





Charles Bonallo

In 1901⁶² he was living at the family home on Chambers Street, where he was enumerated as an apprentice tailor. On 22nd July 1921, at Bellevue Crescent in Edinburgh, he married Jane Malcolm Hunter. He gave his occupation as School Janitor and his address as Prospect House, Standburn, Avonbridge, about 50 miles west of Edinburgh. His new father-in-law was also a school janitor, but his bride gave her occupation as tailor's machinist, which maybe give an indication of how they met and how come he changed his occupation. His brother Hugh was one of the witnesses.



**Charles and Hugh Bonallo in WWI
- possibly in the brewery courtyard at 17 Chambers Street**

In the intervening ten years, he had, like his brother, served in the First World War, in his case, in the 9th Royal Scots Regiment Tank Corps, where he held the ranks of Lance Corporal and then Sergeant. He served in France, first landing there on 26th February 1915. Presumably after the war he returned home, as the Edinburgh Electoral Registers⁶³ show him living at Chambers Street shortly before his marriage.

In 1922, Charles and Jane's first child, Isabella Ross (named for her maternal grandmother) was born in Edinburgh. She married Walter Syme McLean in Leith in 1948, and died in Morningside, Edinburgh in 2007. Sometime after her birth the family moved to Muiravonside in Stirlingshire, where a son, Thomas Ernest, was born in 1925. He married Margaret Stewart[t] Whyte in Edinburgh in 1948, and

⁶² <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 685/4 18/3, 1911 census, Edinburgh

⁶³ <https://ancestry.co.uk/>, Edinburgh, Scotland Electoral Registers, 1832-1966

appears in the electoral registers⁶⁴ at 10, Oakfield Place in Edinburgh between 2003 and 2010 but I have found no record of his death.

By 1927, Charles and Jane were back in Edinburgh, at Georgie Road⁶⁵; they were still there in 1930, but in 1932 they were living in Marshall Street, and by 1939 they were at Craigmillar School, Liberton, suggesting that Charles was once again a janitor. 1945 saw the couple at Albion Road School in Leith, where they still lived through to 1960. Jane died in 1964, and the electoral register for the following year shows Charles on his own at West Pilton Walk. He died at Leith in 1970.

Charles' first sister, Eliza Margaret, didn't survive infancy, and his second, Annie Fraser, born in 1900, died in the 'flu pandemic on 22nd February 1919. Her death certificate shows her to have been a tailoress, living at 17, Chambers Street; cause of death Influenza; Broncho pneumonia. Her deceased father was described as an assistant brewer; her brother Hugh was the informant on the certificate.



**Thomas Bonallo and Agnes née Livingstone
New Hampshire 1936**

The two youngest children were Thomas Ernest, born in 1903, and Ishbel or Bella, born in 1911. The 1911⁶⁶ census shows Tom, aged 7 and Isabella, aged 1 month along with Charles, Hugh and Annie all at 17 Chambers Street. Tom was too young to fight in the First World War, but presumably as an adult trained as a printer, as

⁶⁴ <https://ancestry.co.uk/>, UK Electoral Registers 2003-2010

⁶⁵ <https://ancestry.co.uk/>, Edinburgh, Scotland Electoral Registers, 1832-1966

⁶⁶ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 685/4 18/3, 1911 census, Edinburgh

this was the occupation he gave when, on 10th October 1931 he set sail from Glasgow for New York, and a new life in America. He arrived, on the *SS Tuscania*, on 18th October 1931⁶⁷. Earlier that year, on 11th July, at the family home in Chambers Street, he had married his first cousin, Agnes Livingstone, daughter of his mother's sister Margaret⁶⁸. The couple had no children, but spent their married life together in the U.S.A. In March 1939, Tom took out American citizenship⁶⁹.

The 1940 census⁷⁰ noted that Thomas and Agnes had been living at their address in Albion Street, Passaic, Paterson, New Jersey since at least 1935. He gave his occupation as Pressman working in a private company in the Paper Carton manufacturing industry. Agnes was a school teacher in a public school. The pair appears in a U.S. directory⁷¹, although the entry is a little impenetrable to English eyes:

Bonallo Agnes L Mrs tchr 55 Clinton h at Clinton
- Thomas E (Agnes L) rem to Clinton

I think Clinton is the street name in Paterson.

By 1942, according to his World War II draft card⁷², he and Agnes were living at 5, Haledon Court, Haledon, Passaic, although he also gave a business address – 70, Outwater Lane, Garfield, Passaic; his employer was the Empire Box Company. The draft card also notes that he was 5' 7 ½" tall, weighed 140 lbs, had blue eyes, brown hair and a light complexion. The document is dated 14th February 1942. It is not clear that he actually served, as the directories⁷³ for both 1944 and 1947 show him at Haledon Court, and his occupation printer.

The next thirty years are a mystery, but when Agnes died in 1971, an announcement appeared in the local paper⁷⁴:

BONALLO – Passed into life eternal ... on Sunday June 27, 1971, Agnes (Livingstone), beloved wife of Thomas E Bonallo, age 69, of Van Riper Road, Wayne.

She was buried at the Laurel Grove Memorial Park. At some time after this, Thomas Ernest returned to his native Scotland, and died in the Morningside area of Edinburgh in 1985, aged 81.

⁶⁷ <https://ancestry.co.uk/>, New York Passenger and Crew Lists, 1820-1957

⁶⁸ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *The Scotsman*, 16.7.1931

⁶⁹ <https://www.newspapers.com/>, *Morning Call*, 17.3.1939

⁷⁰ <https://ancestry.co.uk/>, 1940, United States Federal census, Passaic

⁷¹ <https://ancestry.co.uk/>, U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995

⁷² <https://ancestry.co.uk/>, U.S. World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-47

⁷³ <https://ancestry.co.uk/>, U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995

⁷⁴ <https://www.newspapers.com/>, *The News*, 29.6.1971

The youngest of Thomas and Ishbel's family was Isabella, born in 1911. Aged 30, on 4th October 1941, she married James Bird at Pleasance Church in Edinburgh. He was a Letterpress Printer, although serving as a Private in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders at the time. Her occupation was given as Invoice Clerkess, and her address as Gladstone Terrace. She signed her name as Ishbel Bonallo. Their first daughter, Elspeth Thompson, was born on 5th January 1944, and the second, Rhoda McKay, on 3rd January 1947, both in Edinburgh. In 1950, the family was living in Crighton Street, Edinburgh⁷⁵, but by 1960 they were at Marchmont Crescent. Rhoda sadly took her own life on 29th July 1969, and Elspeth never married. In 1965 she was living with her parents in Marchmont Crescent, Edinburgh. She died in 2002. Her mother died in 1986 and her father in 1995, both also in Edinburgh.



Bella Bonallo



Bella and Elspeth Bird

Hugh Mackay Bonallo: Edinburgh and Darlington

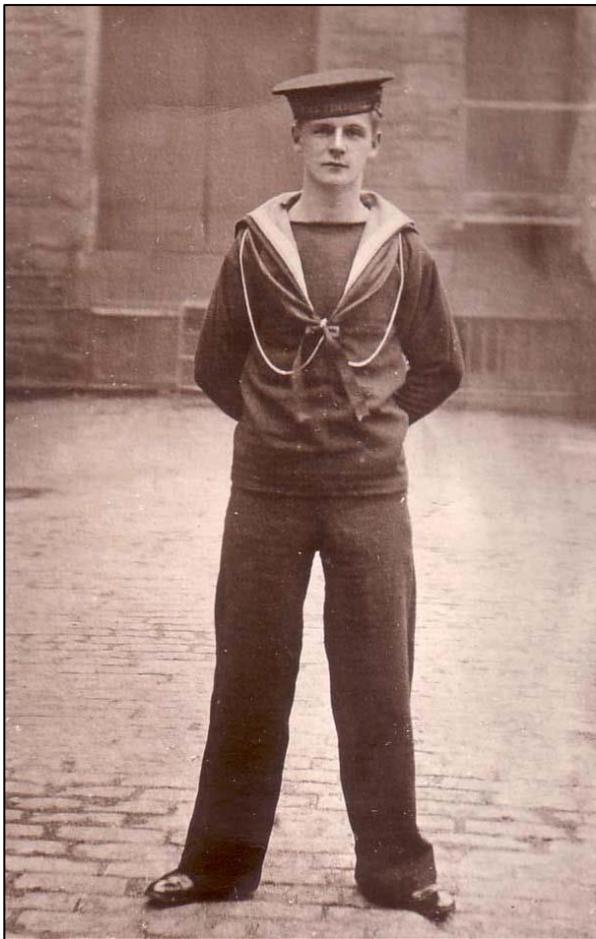
Sheila's father, Thomas and Ishbel's second son, was born in 1896. His birth certificate spells his middle name Mackay, although other documentation records either McKay or MacKay:

Hugh Mackay Bonallo, 1896 March twentieth 12 h noon, 5 Salisbury St.

⁷⁵ <https://ancestry.co/uk/>, Edinburgh, Scotland, Electoral Registers, 1832-1966



Hugh McKay Bonallo



Edinburgh, M

Thomas Ernest Bonallo Brewery Labourer, Isabella Bonallo m s Mackay
1894 June 8 Edinburgh, Signed Thomas E Bonallo Father. Reg. 10.4.1896

In the 1901 census⁷⁶ he was living at 59, St Leonards Hill in Edinburgh with his parents, older brother Charles and sister Annie, but by 1911⁷⁷ he was living at 17, Chambers Street, which was to be his home until sometime in the first half of the 1950s. The 1911 census designates him an Apprentice Butcher, aged 15. However, in 1912, like his great uncle David Bonallo before him, he decided to join the navy. He would have been 16 years old, which put him in the age bracket for boys' training for the Navy.



Hugh McKay Bonallo in the Navy - 4th from L, 2nd row from back

His naval record gives his date of birth in Canongate in Edinburgh, his religion as Presbyterian and his occupation as 'Van Boy' - presumably for the butcher's. It also notes that he could swim. The record gives Chatham as his Port Division, but the first entry shows him to have served as a Boy 2nd class and then

⁷⁶ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 685/5 2/11, 1901 census, Edinburgh

⁷⁷ <https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 685/4 18/3, 1911 census, Edinburgh

Boy 1st class between 19th June – 28th October 1912 on the 'Ganges'. The HMS Ganges was a shore establishment. *Wikipedia*⁷⁸ describes it as follows:

Royal Naval Training Establishment Shotley, known in the Royal Navy as HMS Ganges, was a naval training establishment at Shotley, near Ipswich in Suffolk. Starting in 1905, it trained boys for naval service until it closed in 1976. It had a mixed reputation in the Royal Navy, both for its reputed harsh methods of training boys in order to turn out professionally able, self-reliant ratings and for the professionalism of its former trainees. It is particularly famous for its 143-foot (44 m) high mast which all boys under training were required to ascend, at least to the half-moon, and for the mast manning ceremonies held whenever a dignitary visited the establishment.

Another article explains why such an establishment was considered necessary:

The increasing professionalism of the Royal Navy and the reform of practices during the mid-nineteenth century led to the need to establish new training centres at which recruits could be inducted into navy life. The Admiralty decided to set aside five old laid up hulks in different ports around the country, and use them as bases at which volunteers aged between 15 and 17 could spend a year being educated for future service in the navy. The plan called for an annual intake of 3,500 boys. They were to be trained in seamanship and gunnery, as well as traditional aspects of sea life.

Between 29th October 1912 and 9th January 1913 he was on the *Royal Arthur*, another shore-based training facility near Skegness. Here, his conduct was described as Very Good, though his ability was only deemed Satisfactory. This seemed to be the standard report given for Hugh, so either the Navy wasn't the best place for his talents, or the officers reporting were parsimonious about giving higher praise. During the rest of 1913 he seems to have divided his time between the *Pembroke* and the *Agamemnon*. HMS *Pembroke* was the naval barracks built at Chatham and situated between the Victorian Steam Yard and Brompton Barracks. It was completed in 1908. The *Agamemnon*, launched in 1906, was one of the last pre-dreadnought battleships built, and in November 1913, Hugh became an Ordinary Seaman on it.

On his 18th birthday, 20th March 1914, he signed on for 12 years' service. The record shows him promoted to Able Seaman on the *Agamemnon* where he served – still of very good character but satisfactory ability – from 1st to 28th September. Alongside the entry on date and period of engagement are a series of descriptive comments. On first entry Hugh was 5' 4 ⁷/₈" tall, with a chest measurement of 34"; he had brown hair and eyes and a fresh complexion. He bore a scar over his stomach and a hernia scar on the right side. By October 1913, he had grown two inches and added an extra inch round the chest.

⁷⁸ *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RNTE_Shotley, & [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Ganges_\(shore_establishment\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HMS_Ganges_(shore_establishment))

From 23rd December 1915 to 4th September 1917 he served on HMS *Indomitable*, which meant he took part in the Battle of Jutland, the only major naval battle of World War I, fought on May 31st 1916. Although the British suffered considerable losses, and the Germans claimed victory, it ultimately deterred the German High Seas Fleet from attempting to break the Allied Blockade. The British lost a number of ships and nearly 7,000 men in all. Two commemorative medallions were passed down to Hugh's eldest grandson, one silver-coloured and one bronze. Both are inscribed as follows. On the obverse, which has a crossed White Ensign and Union flag and a trident with a shield inscribed 31 May 1916, the words round the edge read:

To the glorious memory of those who fell that day

The reverse has an inscription within a wreath, reading:

May 31 1916
The
German fleet
attacked off the coast
of Jutland and driven back
into port with heavy loss.

-
Admiral Sir John Jellicoe
Commander in chief
Vice Admiral Sir David Beatty
commanding
battle cruiser
fleet

Nevertheless, Hugh's next report, dated 31st December that year, still sticks to the Very Good/Satisfactory grading! He was, however, awarded a good conduct badge on 19th March 1917.

In the autumn of 1917, from 27th September, he was back on land at HMS *Pembroke*, presumably either he had been wounded or because of illness. Under the final entry for the *Pembroke* are the bracketed words (Seaman Gunner), which was presumably the final rank he held. He was invalided out of the Navy on 17th October, and pensioned. The cause of his disability isn't clear. The first word is fibroid, but the second is illegible. The certificate of discharge notes that he was released from hospital on 20th October 1917. A splendid Honourable Discharge Certificate shows Britannia holding a trident and flag, gazing at a soldier and sailor, who stand smartly at Present Arms. In the scroll below is written:

Hugh Mackay Bonallo
Able Seaman. Official 720 J. 18579
Served with honour and was disabled in the Great War.
Honourably discharged on 17th October 1917
George RI



Hugh Mackay Bonallo
Able Seaman. Official No. J. 18579
Served with honour and was disabled in the Great War.
Honourably discharged on 17 October 1917.

George R. J.

There are further entries on his copy of his Certificate of Service which don't appear on the archived record of service. It notes his receipt of the 1914 Star medal on 13th March 1919, and the clasp for this on 21st July 1920, followed by the British War and Victory medals on 26th June 1923. Under the heading:

Special recommendations, Prizes or other Grants

is an entry dated 27th September 1920 which shows him to have been:

Paid £12 10s from the Naval Prize Fund.

There are three further entries regarding this fund, two in 1922 and one in 1923, though no further sum is mentioned. This fund seems to have been a payment made to all sailors who took part in active service in WWI, and the money was a bounty on enemy shipping destroyed during hostilities.

Presumably, Hugh returned to Chambers Street. Certainly, both he and his brother Charles appear on the Electoral Register⁷⁹ for 1920-21 at that address. The death of his sister Annie on 22nd February 1919 was presumably what persuaded Hugh to acquire rights to a burial plot in Newington Cemetery in Edinburgh. A receipt dated that day shows that Edinburgh Cemeteries:

Received from Mr Hugh Bonallo, 17, Chambers St. the sum of ten pounds stg being the price payable for the exclusive RIGHT OF BURIAL in that piece of ground in the Edinburgh Cemetery at Newington, Compartment marked G¹ No. 656

In addition, he paid 8/6 stamp duty. A document dated three weeks later, on 12th March, grants Hugh exclusive rights to the plot, which measured three square yards, with permission to:

bury their dead therein.

In 1922, Hugh became a mason. A rather grand document, headed:

GRAND LODGE
OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF
SCOTLAND

And written in both Latin and English pronounces that:

Hugh Mackay Bonallo was duly entered an *apprentice*, passed *fellow-craft* and was raised to the sublime degree of *Master Mason* in the Lodge

⁷⁹ <https://ancestry.co.uk/>, Edinburgh, Scotland, Electoral Registers 1832-1966

GRAND LODGE OF ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF SCOTLAND



Omnibus et Singulis
qui has Literas viderint
Salutem.

*Sciunt omnium Fratrum nostrorum
Hugonem Mackay Bonallo
qui hasce Literas afferat, rite
Cironem factum, Cooperatorem
receptum, ad sublimem gradum
Magistri Architectonici Honorarium
inceptum, Architectonici
Operarii S. Jacobi,
Numeri 97. a Summa Societate
Architectonica Scotica condita
et constituta, scilicet constat ex
Chartis nostris in Summa Societate
a Magistro Apparitoribusque
dictae Societatis explicatis.*
In testimonium quorum
Literas hasce a fratre nostro qui
nobis est, a fratre subscriptas et
seculo nostro munus chirographo
dicti fratris etiam pro cautione
apposita obimus ex Aula Summae
Societatis Architectonicae Scoticae,
Edinburgi, *mesimo*
die *Octobris* Anno
Domini MCMXXII. atque
Lucis 133 CM XXVI.

To all and sundry
to whose knowledge these presents
shall come.

Greeting.
These are to Certify that
the *Brother*
Hugh Mackay Bonallo
was duly entered an Apprentice,
passed fellow-craft and raised
to the sublime degree of Master
Hugonem in the *97.*
97. holding of the Grand
Lodge of Scotland as appears from
authentic documents in the hands
of the Master and Office Bearers
of the said Lodge, produced to the
Grand Lodge aforesaid.
In testimony whereof these
presents are subscribed by our
Secretary and sealed with our
Seal, having also for the greater
security the signature of the said
Brother annexed on the margin.
Given at Freemasons' Hall,
Edinburgh, this *thirteenth* day of
October in the year of our
Lord 1922 and of Light 26.
Day of Registration 18th Sep.
1922.

NE VARIETVR



David Reid
GRAND SECRETARY

It is dated 30th October 1922, and signed by the Grand Secretary. Freemasonry can be defined as follows⁸⁰:

Freemasonry is a society of men concerned with moral and spiritual values. Its members are taught its precepts by a series of ritual dramas, which follow ancient forms, and use stonemasons' customs and tools as allegorical guides. Another website⁸¹ highlights the charitable role of the society:

The values of Freemasonry are based on integrity, kindness, honesty and fairness. Freemasons are taught to practise charity and to care, not only for their own, but also for the community as a whole – both by charitable giving, and by voluntary efforts and works as individuals.

From its earliest days, Freemasonry has been concerned with the care of orphans, the sick and the aged. This work continues today. In addition, large sums are given to national and local charities.

In the same year Hugh married. As usual, the certificate gives a wealth of information, though I have not managed to track down the connection to the witnesses, one of whom is a Paton. Banns were proclaimed in November:

At Edinburgh the nineteenth day of November 1922. It is hereby certified that Hugh MacKay Bonallo 17 Chambers St. and Susan Yeaman Boath Paton 4 Salmon Place have been daily proclaimed in order to marriage, in the parish church of Abbey and that no objections have been offered.

The wedding followed in December:

At Smith's Rooms the 1st day of December 1922
The above parties were this day married
By A Morrison, minister [from Proclamation document]
1st Dec Smiths rooms Leith after banns.
Hugh Mackay Bonallo; Brewer; bachelor, 17 Chambers St,
Susan Yeaman Boath Paton; Post Office Asst. Spinster: 4, Salmond Place
Thos Bonallo, Brewer dec; Isabella Bonallo MS Mackay
Wm Paton tramway Inspector, Mary Paton MS Milne
signed Archibald Morrison Minister of Abbey Church
George H Finnick 5 Dolbirt Rd Edinburgh
Linnie Paton, 14 Dean Park St. Edinburgh

A daughter named Mary Milne after her maternal grandmother, but known as Maisie, was born on 12th September 1923 and baptised at the Abbey parish church in Edinburgh on 6th October (see tree 27 – p. 141). As a clearly cherished first child, she was photographed with her mother and grandmother when probably

⁸⁰ https://www.rosslynchapel.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Scottish_Freemasonry.pdf

⁸¹ <https://www.nottinghamshiremasons.co.uk/about-freemasonry/freemasonry-and-charitable-works#:~:text=The%20values%20of%20Freemasonry%20are,efforts%20and%20works%20as%20individuals.>



Bella and Hugh Bonallo, ? Susan Bonallo and Meg Paton

around six months old. Sadly, she was destined for a short life, and an announcement in the *Edinburgh Evening News*⁸² reported her death:

BONALLO - At Sick Children's Hospital, on June 26, MARY MILNE BONALLO (MAISIE), infant daughter of Mr and Mrs HUGH BONALLO, 17 Chambers Street, aged 9 months

The cause of death given on the certificate was:

Pneumonia 22 days



Mary Milne Bonallo - Maisie

and it noted, unsurprisingly, that her mother was present. This must have been a terrible blow to the whole family, but within three months, Susan was pregnant again, and Sheila Margaret was born almost exactly a year after her older sister's death, on 4th June 1925.

Another daughter completed the family. Moira Mackay Bonallo was born on 18th October 1931. This child was born in a nursing home rather than a hospital⁸³:

BONALLO - At Nursing Home, 26, Saxe-Coburg Place, Edinburgh, on 18th October, to Mr and Mrs HUGH BONALLO, 17 Chambers Street,

⁸² <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *Edinburgh Evening News*, 27.6.1924

⁸³ <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>, *Edinburgh Evening News*, 19.10.1931

a daughter.



Moira McKay Bonallo



Sheila Margaret Bonallo



Sheila and Moira - Chambers Street

On 25th January 1932, when Moira was a few months old, Hugh took out a Life Assurance policy with the Prudential, designed to pay out £6 if the child died under the age of 3, £10 under the age of 6 and £15 thereafter. The weekly premium was 1^d and the policy was designed to cover funeral expenses and pay a bonus.

Presumably Maisie's short life was in his mind, and it may be that a similar policy was taken out for Sheila, although no paperwork has survived. Like her elder sister, Moira attended James Gillespie's School in Edinburgh, and like her sister chafed at being sent to stay with relatives in Balcurvie at the beginning of the War, especially when Sheila, six years older, was able to 'escape' into the WAAF.

In 1958, she headed for pastures new, emigrating to Canada on the RMS *Carinthia*, which sailed from Liverpool, bound for Montreal on 8th October⁸⁴. She gave her address as 19, Alnwickhill Road in Edinburgh, her parents' address, and her occupation as secretary. A year later she returned, on the same ship, sailing from Montreal via Quebec to Greenock, and arriving on 8th October 1959. She was now listed on the manifest as Moira Mackay MacRae, having married Ronald Macgregor Macrae in Canada. The actual date is unknown, but probably on 18th April, as her mother's diary notes for that day:

Moira to be married

and on the 27th April:

Had letter from Moira telling of wedding

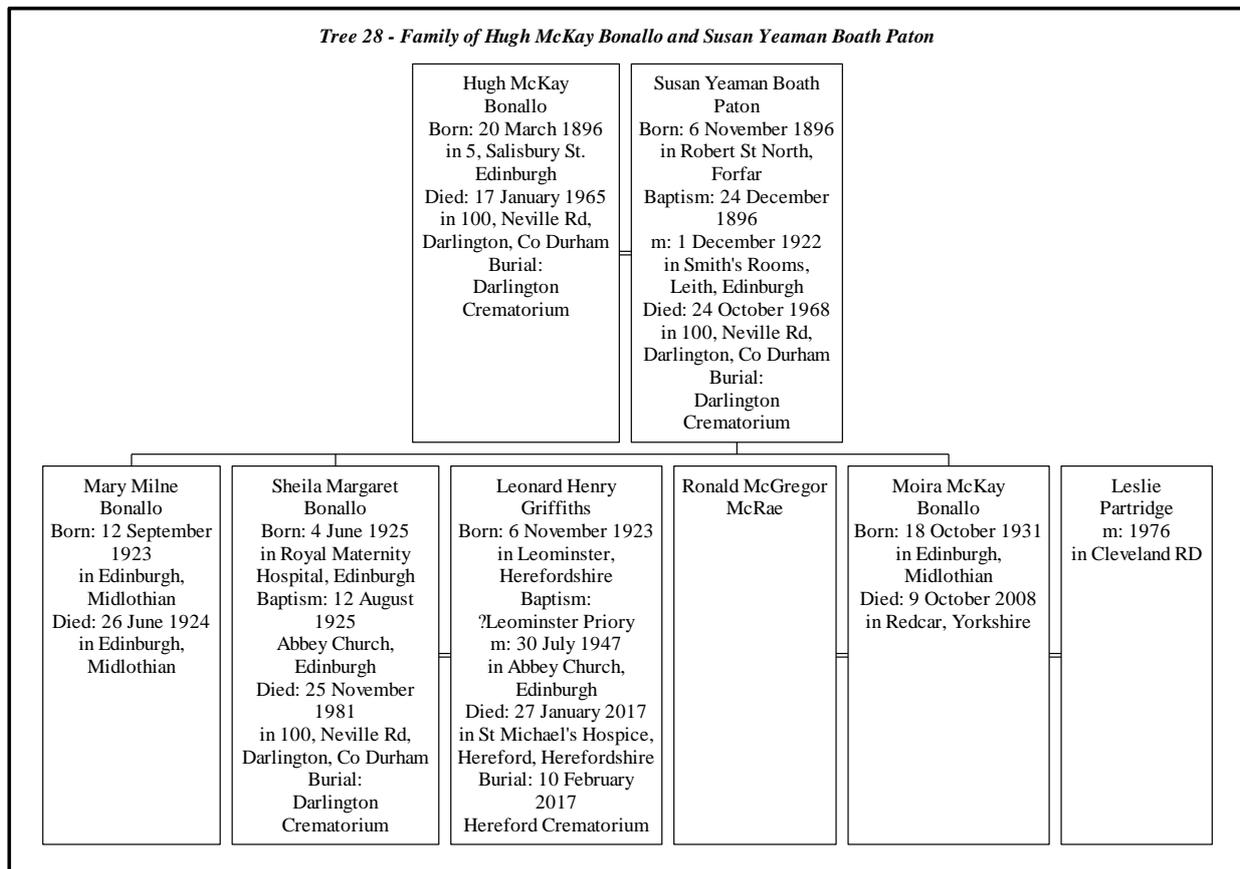


Moira McKay Bonallo

⁸⁴ <https://ancestry.co.uk/> , UK and Ireland Outward Passenger Lists, 1890-1960

Ronnie was a Scottish microbiologist, and two years older than Moira. Both put Alnwickhill Road as their return destination. I'm not sure if the couple had known each other before their time in Canada. It is possible, as after the War Ronnie had studied at Edinburgh University, eventually gaining a PhD⁸⁵. He and Moira married during the year he spent with the Research Council of Alberta, from where he was head-hunted to work at Porton Down – again, Susie's diary notes their move to Salisbury. His time there was followed with two years as the head of microbiology at the Brewing Industry Research Foundation – a post which, it is tempting to think, his father-in-law, a Head Brewer, might have been instrumental in promoting.

Unfortunately, the marriage didn't last, and in 1976, Moira remarried, to Leslie Partridge, in Redcar in what was then Cleveland but is now Yorkshire again. She worked in Redcar as a legal secretary but in her leisure time enjoyed her breaks in a static caravan at Commondale in North Yorkshire. Les was ten years older than Moira, and died in 1997. Moira died on 9th October 2008.



To return now to Hugh's story, he had presumably decided to become a brewer once his naval service was over. The Bonallo family was clearly favoured by the owners of Campbell, Hope and King, and the 1925 Valuation Roll⁸⁶ shows a number of entries under the proprietorship of Archibald Campbell Hope and King,

⁸⁵ <https://www.scotsman.com/news/obituaries/obituary-dr-ronnie-m-macrae-scientist-1516150>

⁸⁶ <https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, 1925

Ltd., 17 Chambers Street, including the entry for the Bonallo home. The first of these entries is for 143 Cowgate, tenanted by a confectioner, Mrs Ann Ogilvie, who paid £10 a year in rent. 145 was tenanted by John Jordan, Hardware Merchant, who paid £12 rent. Both these properties were shops.

The first entry under 147 Cowgate was listed as House and Brewery, and occupied by the proprietors at a yearly rent or value of £1,020. Next comes *Minto Cottage*, described as a House. There is nothing in the Occupier column, instead the words:

Hugh Bonallo, Assistant Brewer

appear in the next column, headed:

Inhabitant-Occupier. Not rated

and, as with his mother, there are dashes in the column headed Yearly Rent or Value. Clearly, *Minto Cottage* was seen as a grace and favour residence.

Nine further entries were listed for 147 Cowgate, all described as houses, although they must all have been part of the same complex. The occupiers included a tramway servant, a tin plate worker, a hawker, a carter, a charwoman, a brewer's servant and a musician. All of these were assessed at a yearly rent of between £4 2/- and £7 2/-. In 1930⁸⁷, although the Bonallo home had lost its designation as *Minto Cottage*, the situation was the same; Hugh was an assistant brewer, and the property was not rated. However, the annual value was given as £22, so it was clearly a cut above the other properties at 147 Cowgate, whose valuations hadn't changed much. The same is true in 1935 and 1940⁸⁸, the last year for which the Valuation Rolls are on-line. Hugh was still an Assistant Brewer, and still paying no rent.

Despite his designation as Assistant Brewer, Hugh appears in the Annual Report of the Council of the Institute of Brewing in 1929 as having been elected as an ordinary member:

BONALLO HUGH M., Technical Brewer, Messrs. A. Campbell, Hope and King, Ltd., Edinburgh

This was a national institute, with only 32 ordinary members, hailing from as far afield as Birmingham, Gloucester, Wellington and even Rawalpindi in India, so he must have been well-thought-of to have been elected.

The last Valuation Roll⁸⁹ I have seen which shows Hugh in central Edinburgh is dated 1948 - 9, and reiterates the information given in the earlier ones. However,

⁸⁷ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, 1930

⁸⁸ <https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/>, 1935 & 1940

⁸⁹ Edinburgh City Library, Valuation Roll 1948-9

the Electoral Registers⁹⁰ now take up the story, although they don't tell when he was promoted from Assistant to Head Brewer, which was the title he held later. In 1920-21 Hugh and Charles were both at 17 Chambers Street; in 1925-6, Hugh gave the address as 147, Cowgate. His status had risen, though, from a 'B', entitled to vote in Parliamentary elections only to an 'A', entitled to vote in parliamentary and all Local Government elections! In 1930, 1935 and 1939, the address was given as 147 Cowgate, but in 1945 it reverted to Chambers Street, as it also appeared in 1950.

Sometime in the next five years, Hugh and Susan moved out of the centre of the city to a tied house belonging to the brewery at 19, Alnwickhill Road, Liberton. This was the home that Hugh's grandchildren would remember visiting when they went to stay with their grandparents. Commanding an excellent view of Arthur's Seat and with open fields opposite, it was a far cry from the stones and mortar of the brewery complex. In 1955 Hugh, Susan and Moira all appear on the Electoral Register at Alnwickhill Road, and in 1960, Hugh and Susan are listed there.



19, Alnwickhill Road, Liberton (1970s or 80s)

By 1963, though, change was in the air. Hugh, now 66, had been ill for nearly three months during the winter of 1962-3 and although he was getting better by January had been told not to return to work yet. He was presumably due to retire from Campbell Hope and King, which meant that he and Susan would have to leave their tied house. In a letter to Sheila and Len, dated 5th January 1963, having updated them on his recuperation, and mentioned a visit from Moira and Ronnie, he continues:

Now to something more important. We have to vacate the house by 30th April. You know the type of house we would like 2 bedrooms if possible if not possible 3 bedrooms. I think Mum would prefer a house rather than a

⁹⁰ <https://ancestry.co.uk/>, Edinburgh, Scotland, Electoral Registers, 1832-1966

bungalow. The price about £2,500 in cash no loan required.

Moira was presumably already working in a legal setting as the letter goes on to say that she had offered to ask one of her colleagues to do the legal work involved. The letter ends with three x's for each of the grandchildren.

The hunt was successful, and culminated in the purchase of a sturdy, three-bedroomed, 1930s-built house at 100, Neville Road in Darlington. A letter to his daughter and son-in-law dated 26th December that year begins:

I felt I could not let this day pass without writing a short note to try and express our thanks to you both for seeing that our first Christmas south of the border was such an enjoyable one.... Christmas Dinner was 'Top Hole' ... I must say it was a very happy day spent with 'our ain folk' and if all goes well we would like to book the same table for Christmas 1964.

Hugh clearly took the social niceties of writing thank you letters seriously, as two others survive, the first, addressed to Sheila, from March 1947. After thanking her for her card and box of cigarettes, he goes on to list other gifts, including a Braemar pullover and some Braemar whiskey from Susan, quipping:

one to warm the inside and one to keep it warm



Hugh and Susie Bonallo

The second is more poignant. Again, written after his March birthday in 1964, he ends:

I hope we will be all together for the next one

It was not to be, as he died at Darlington on 17th January 1965. The bronchitis which had plagued him for some time finally got the better of his heart. The certificate states:

Seventeenth January 1965, 100 Neville Rd Darlington, Hugh McKay
Bonallo, male, 68 years, Acute cardiac failure, Chronic bronchitis,
certified by J.B. Keres M.B.
S. M. Griffiths, daughter, 23 Langholm Crescent Darlington.
Reg 18.1.1965

Hugh Mackay Bonallo seems to have been a genial man. Unsurprisingly, given his occupation and heritage, he was fond of a dram or two. Two family stories reflect this. Apparently, when his granddaughter was a baby, on family visits, Hugh would offer to take her for a walk. Inevitably, the pram ended up parked at a pub, while Hugh had a quick drink. In his final illness, he was forbidden alcohol, an interdict enforced by his wife, so he used to bribe my husband, then a teenager, to smuggle in a little something for him. Amongst various Bonallo papers is a somewhat dog-eared page which looks as if it has been torn from an autograph book. On it, and signed H.M. Bonallo, is a slightly misquoted poem attributed to either G.W.E Russell or Lord Neaves. Hugh's version reads:

Water is the best of gifts
That man to man may bring
But who are we that we should want
The best of everything?

Parsons may wallow at the well,
And Peers with pumps make free,
Whisky or wine or even beer
Is good enough for me.

Hugh's will, dated 3rd July 1964, appoints his wife Susan and daughter Sheila as executors. He leaves everything to his wife Susan, but with the proviso that if she pre-decease him, the Neville Road house and furniture devolve to Sheila. The rest of his estate is to be divided equally between his two daughters. It was signed Hugh M Bonallo and witnessed by next-door neighbours T. and O. Foster. He was laid to rest in Darlington Crematorium. His wife Susan survived him by three and a half years, but her story - and that of her family - belongs elsewhere.