

Our Kerr Families' Roots and Shoots

Chapter Two

The following data in red type has been deduced, as 'merely probable', not only from the information about the mother of the deceased, (3) James **KERR** [Coachman] (b...1808) that is recorded in his 1892 Death Registration Document at the General Registry Office, Edinburgh, but also from the fore-naming of his children born to his wife Barbara **HENDERSON** (b.24.06.1810) from 1831 to 1855.

1st Generation

(1) James **KERR** (b.c.1762-Mid Calder, Midlothian, Scotland)
 sp: Isabel **BALLANTINE** (b.c. 1766-Mid Calder, Midlothian, Scotland;m.06.05.1785)

Children

Agnes **KERR** (b.30.09.1786-Mid Calder, Midlothian, Scotland)
 (2) James **KERR** [Coachman] (b.11.08.1788-Mid Calder, Midlothian, Scotland)
 sp: Margaret **ROBERTS** (b...1790-Midlothian, Scotland;m.c. 1808)
 Mary **KERR** (b.25.10.1795-Mid Calder, Midlothian, Scotland)
 Walter **KERR** (b.18.04.1798-Mid Calder, Midlothian, Scotland)

2nd Generation

(2) James **KERR** [Coachman] (b.11.08.1788-Mid Calder, Midlothian, Scotland)
 sp: Margaret **ROBERTS** (b...1790-Midlothian,Scotland;m.c. 1808)
 (3) James **KERR** [Coachman] (b...1808-Kirknewton ;d.25.07.1891-Crossford,Fife,Scotland)
 sp: Barbara **HENDERSON** (b.24.06.1810-Kirknewton ;m.22.06.1831;d.08.09.1892-Dundee)

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1891. DEATHS in the District of Dumfrieshire in the County of Kirkcubright

No.	Name and Surname Rank or Profession, and whether Single, Married, or Widowed.	When and Where Died.	Sex.	Age.	Name, Surname & Rank or Profession of Father. Name and Matron Surname of Mother.	Cause of Death, Duration of Disease, and Medical Attendant by whom certified.	Signature & Qualification of Informant and Residence, if out of the House in which the Death occurred.	When and where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
304	James Wishart	1891, July	M	62 years	James Wishart Baroness Weaver	Concussion of Brain	Walter Kerr Brother	1891, July 27 th Dumfrieshire
	Baroness Weaver Single	4 th am Dumfrieshire			James Wishart M ^{rs} . Baunsie (Deceased)	as cert. by W ^{rs} Charles Kausse-lee M.B.	James Wallace Registrar.	
305	Margaret Adie	1891, July	F	71 years	James Blair Baroness Weaver	General Debility.	William Blair Brother	1891, July 27 th Dumfrieshire
	Widow of David Adie, Baroness Weaver	10 th 30 th am Buffield Dumfrieshire			Margaret Blair M ^{rs} . Thomson (Deceased)	many months as cert. by J ^{rs} Maria J. J. P. S.	James Wallace Registrar.	
306	James Kerr	1891, July	M	82 years	Margaret Kerr M ^{rs} . Roberts	Chronic Bronchitis and Genic Debility	Walter Kerr Son	1891, July 27 th Dumfrieshire
	Baroness Married to Barbara Henderson	4 th 30 th P.M. Crossford Dumfrieshire			(Deceased)	as cert. by Arch ^d Hamilton M.B.	James Wallace Registrar.	

James Wallace Registrar.

This 3rd generation of coachmen intrigued me to the extent that I decided to investigate the unusual fore-naming of two of their ‘short-lived’ children as, Isabella Maconochie Kerr (b. 1837) and Anne Blair Maconochie Kerr (b. 1844). From my knowing that 19th century servant classes in Scotland would occasionally fore-name some of their ‘short-lived’ children with their employers children’s or spouses’ names, I wondered if James Kerr’s employer had been ‘Maconochie’ gentry, and if his spouse had been an Anne Blair?

3rd Generation

James **KERR** [Coachman] (b...1808-Kirknewton, Midlothian, Scotland;
d.25.07.1891-Crossford, Fife, Scotland)
sp: Barbara **HENDERSON** (b.24.06.1810-Kirknewton, Midlothian, Scotland; m.22.06.1831;
d.08.09.1892-Dundee, Angus, Scotland)

Children

1. James **KERR** [Coachman] (b.19.08.1832-Mid Calder, Midlothian, Scotland;
d.05.09.1894-Colinton, Edinburgh, Scotland)
2. Robert **KERR** [Coachman] (b.05.11.1833-Mid Calder, Midlothian, Scotland;
d.07.03.1914-Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland)
sp: Jane **PROVEN** (b.11.11.1826-Corstorphine, Midlothian, Scotland; m..11.1854;
d.08.08.1917-Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland)
3. Margaret **KERR** (c.25.10.1835-Mid Calder, Midlothian, Scotland died before 1850)
4. **Isabella Maconochie KERR** (c.03.09.1837-Kirknewton and East Calder, Scotland died as baby)
5. William **KERR** [Coachman] (c.22.06.1840-Kirknewton and East Calder, Scotland;
d.01.06.1878-Union Canal, M, Edinburgh)
6. George **KERR** (c.20.06.1842-Kirknewton and East Calder, Scotland;
d.08.12.1856-Kirkewton Village, Midlothian, Scotland)
7. **Anne Blair Maconochie KERR** (c.02.06.1844-Kirknewton and East Calder, Scotland died as baby)
8. Walter **KERR** [Coachman] (c.15.03.1846-Kirknewton and East Calder, Scotland;
d.18.03.1924-Paisley, Renfrew, Scotland)
sp: Janet McNeil **MCLAY** [Domestic Servant] (b.27.03.1849-Inchinnan, Renfrew, Scotland; m.31.01.1872)
9. Barbara **KERR** (c.21.05.1848-Kirknewton and East Calder, Scotland died before 1855)
10. Margaret **KERR** (c.04.07.1850-Kirknewton and East Calder, Scotland died before 1855)
11. Male Baby **KERR** (b.Ab..1852-Kirknewton and East Calder, Scotland; d.Ab. 1852)
12. Barbara **KERR** (b.23.02.1855-Kirknewton/ East Calder, Scotland;
d.16.02.1935-South Leith, Edinburgh, Scotland)
sp: Thomas Pallister **SPENCE** [Gentleman's Servant] (b...1853-Northumberland, England; m.20.11.1874)

I soon established that, about 30 years earlier, and also in Kirknewton, that an Anne Maconochie-Wellwood and an Isabella Cornelia Maconochie-Wellwood had been born as two of the ten children of an Alexander Maconochie-Wellwood and an Anne Blair. I then found out that an Alexander 'Maconochie-Wellwood' had been born in 1777 in Kirknewton as an unhyphenated Maconochie child of an Allan Maconochie and an Elizabeth Wellwood. Allan in turn had been born to a William Maconochie and an Isabel Allan in 1748 in Kirknewton. and William had been born to a James Maconochie and a Jean Henderson (!) in Kirknewton in 1717. [*Although I was unable to establish a blood link between this Jean and Barbara Henderson (Kerr), it might exist!*].

However the address that did keep cropping up in my searches for the birth records for these people was MEADOWBANK, Kirknewton.

At this point I hypothesised that MEADOWBANK had been a country mansion of a local landowner of the times, and thus, in search of proof, I went on-line to the Edinburgh University web site containing all of the 1795 and 1845 Statistical Accounts submitted by Scottish parish ministers of the time.

The 1845 Statistical Account for Kirknewton Parish under 'Eminent Men of the Parish', is very revealing, v.i.z.

"Allan Maconochie, Esq.,(1748-1816) equally distinguished as a man of science and general accomplishment, and an able lawyer, was a proprietor of Meadowbank in this parish, from which he took his official title when raised to the bench. He was admitted to the Scotch Bar in 1770; and, having been appointed successively Professor of Public Law at Edinburgh University and Sheriff of Renfrew, he was, in 1796, advanced to the bench, of which he continued for twenty years to be a distinguished ornament, having been appointed a Lord Commissioner of Justiciary, and also one of the first Lords Commissioners of the Jury Court when originally erected. He was born in 1748, and died in 1816. His remains are deposited in a private burying ground, selected by himself, in the grounds of Meadowbank."

The Gazetteer for Scotland web site provides even more data, v.i.z.

"Two eminent Lords of Session were connected with the parish of Kirknewton in Midlothian, namely, Allan Maconochie (1748-1816) of Meadowbank Estate and

Mansion, and his son Alexander Maconochie (1777-1861) and they both on their elevation to the bench assumed the title of Lord Meadowbank.”

So, had there been any connection between my Great-Great-Great Grandfather James Kerr (1808 – 1891) and both the Lords Meadowbank?

To get an answer to this I needed the definitive residence of James Kerr (1808 – 1891) during his working life as a coachman from at least 1837 onwards. Here I had a stroke of good fortune because official birth records from GRO started in 1855, and, lo and behold, Barbara, the last of James and Barbara Kerr’s twelve children, just made it into the GRO record book! The birth image of Barbara Kerr that I then went on-line to obtain from the GRO web site provides an affirmative answer – she **was** born in Meadowbank Lodge, Kirknewton in 1855. This registration image also reveals the horrors of child mortality in the 19th Century, as exemplified here by our Kerr family in Kirknewton! On February 23rd, 1855, the record of this Kerr Family reads,

“5 boys and 1 girl living, and, 1 boy and 4 girls deceased”

1855. BIRTHS in the Parish of Kirknewton and East Calder in the

No.	Name of child, sex, and date of birth (month, day, year) (English name, if different, in large characters, and date of birth in small)	Sex	Year, Day, Month, Hour	Where born. If Lodgings, address.
6	Spith, Janet (Present)	Female	February 23 rd 1855	Meadowbank Lodge, Parish of Kirknewton and East Calder
7	Hutton, David (Not present)	Male	February 23 rd 1855	Kirknewton Village, Parish of Kirknewton and East Calder
8	Hunter, Betty (Not present)	Female	February 23 rd 1855	East Calder Village, Parish of Kirknewton and East Calder
9	Young, Barbara (Not present)	Female	February 23 rd 1855	East Calder Village, Parish of Kirknewton and East Calder
10	Kerr, Barbara (Not present)	Female	February 23 rd 1855	Meadowbank Lodge, Parish of Kirknewton and East Calder

County of Edinburgh Registered by John Hirdle Registrar.

FATHERS		MOTHERS		STRENGTH	Time at date of birth of parents
Name, Rank, Religion, occupation, Age, Birth place	Where and when married, how long since	Name, Rank, Religion, Age, Birth place	Where and when married, how long since	Signature of Father or Mother or other informant, and residence, and the time which it took to send.	Time at date of birth of parents
George Spith	1818, Willingale	Helena Spith	1818, Willingale	George Spith	1855, February 23 rd At Kirknewton
George Hutton	1818, Kirknewton	Agnes Hutton	1818, Kirknewton	George Hutton	1855, February 23 rd At Kirknewton
James Hunter	1818, Glasgow	Betty Hunter	1818, Glasgow	James Hunter	1855, February 23 rd At Kirknewton
William Young	1818, Glasgow	Barbara Young	1818, Glasgow	William Young	1855, March 13 th At Kirknewton
James Kerr	1808, Glasgow	Barbara Kerr	1808, Glasgow	James Kerr	1855, March 14 th At Kirknewton

John Hirdle Registrar