

GREAT FOUNDERS OF FALKIRK AND GLASGOW

Maclarens and Telfers from 1775

By John Henderson

from his own *Telfer* Archives and the *Maclaren* Archives

The verb, '**found**' has at least three meanings in the English language.

It can be used as the past tense/past participle of the verb '**to find**' as '**to discover**'.

It can be used as it derives from Latin – '**fundare**' meaning '**to establish**'.

It can also be used as it derives from Latin – '**fundere**' meaning '**to melt**' (*materials like metal*) and '**to pour into a mould**'.

This story highlights all three of the above meanings.

Many of our Maclaren, Rennie and Telfer forebears were **Foundrymen** in Falkirk and Glasgow in the 18th or 19th, and 20th centuries.

Some Maclarens and Telfers in particular were '**founders**', managers, and developers of business and social organisations within their communities ... e.g. Glasgow and Falkirk.
and,

We two, Hamish and John, **found** that we were blood-related, courtesy of '**My Heritage**' on the Internet, and decided to share our respective **discoveries**.

Our parallel blood-lines originate from the marriage of a Robert McLaren, or Maclaren, and a Margaret Lowrie, or Laurie, in Falkirk in the 1770s. John descends from their daughter Margaret born in 1775, and Hamish from their son Robert born in 1778.

John HENDERSON was born in 1939 in Causewayhead, Stirling, Scotland.

James Nicoll Kerr HENDERSON was born in 1908 in Dunblane. He died in 1989. He married **Agnes TELFER** in 1934 in Falkirk.

John Walker TELFER was born in 1859 in Falkirk. He married **Elizabeth Waddell WALKER** in 1902 in Falkirk.

John TELFER was born in 1835 in Newton Mearns. He married **Janet WALKER** in 1857 in Falkirk.

William TELFER was born in 1811 in Barrhead. He married **Jean RENNIE** in 1834 in Paisley. She was born in 1807 in Falkirk.

Andrew RENNIE was born in 1770. He married **Margaret MCLAREN** in 1792 in Falkirk. She was baptised in 1775 in Falkirk.

Robert MACLAREN married **Margaret LOWRIE** c.1774 in Falkirk.

Hamish Simon Edward MACLAREN was born in 1949 in Ayr, Scotland.

Lt Col. Ian Garnet MACLAREN was born in 1915 in Troon and died on 16 Feb 1997 in Gatehouse of Fleet. He married **Annette Mary BIRTWISTLE** in 1947 in Pleasington Priory, Blackburn, Lancashire.

Dr Norman Henry William MACLAREN was born in 1880 in Pollokshields, Glasgow and died in 1937 in Pollokshields, Glasgow. He married **Mary Margaret GARNET** in 1912.

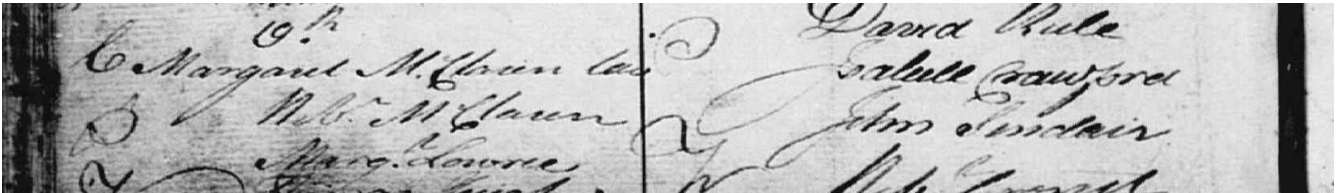
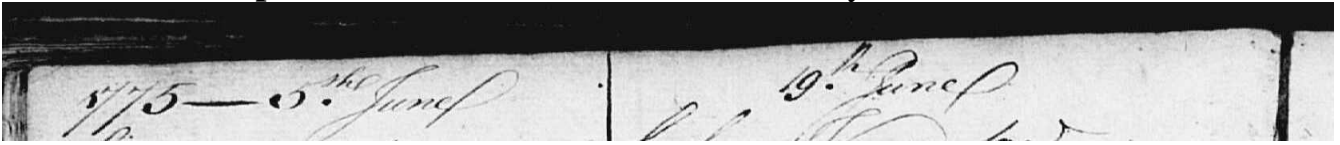
Robert MACLAREN was born in 1817 in Falkirk and died in 1889 in Pollokshields, Glasgow. He married **Mary Jane FINLAY** in 1859 in Glasgow.

Robert MACLAREN was born in 1778 in Falkirk. and died in 1826 in Falkirk. He married **Margaret SHAW** in 1807 in Falkirk.

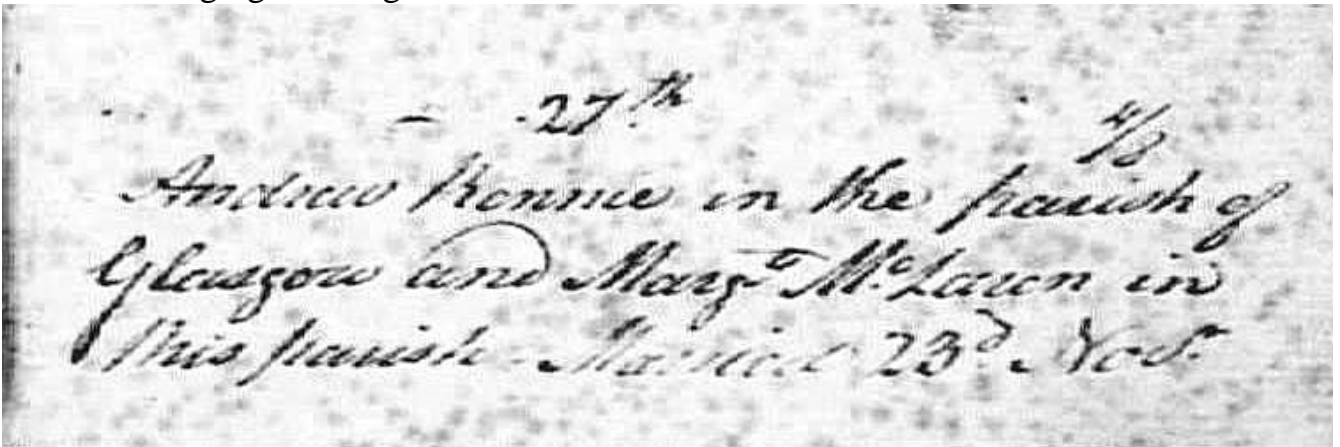
Robert MACLAREN married **Margaret LOWRIE** c.1774 in Falkirk.

John Henderson writes,

According to this Old Parish Record for Falkirk, my GGG Grandmother Margaret McLaren was **baptised** there on 19th June, 1775. She may have been **born** elsewhere.



Her marriage, aged 17 years, to Andrew Rennie (Wood Sawyer) in 1792, as registered in the Old Parish Record for Falkirk, shows her as belonging to Falkirk Parish and Andrew Rennie belonging to Glasgow Parish.



Andrew Rennie m. Margaret McLaren 23.11.1792 - Falkirk

Their first born of nine children was baptised Michael Bruce Renney on the 12th of November, 1797 in Falkirk Parish. This gives rise to the hypothesis that Andrew Rennie had at sometime become an employee of Baronet Bruce of Stenhouse whose family owned part of the land that was acquired by Carron Ironworks founded in 1759 –

Sir William Bruce of Stenhouse, 7th Bt.¹

M, #185163, d. 17 November 1827

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Sir William **Bruce** of Stenhouse, 7th Bt. was the son of [Sir Michael Bruce of Stenhouse, 6th Bt.](#) and [Mary Agnew](#).¹ He married [Anne Colquhoun Fairlie](#), daughter of [Sir William Cunningham-Fairlie](#) of Robertland and Fairlie, 6th Bt. and [Anne Colquhoun](#), in June 1795.² He died on 17 November 1827.²

Sir William Bruce of Stenhouse, 7th Bt. succeeded to the title of *7th Baronet Bruce, of Stenhouse [N.S., 1628]* on 1 November 1795.¹

Children of Sir William Bruce of Stenhouse, 7th Bt. and [Anne Colquhoun Fairlie](#)

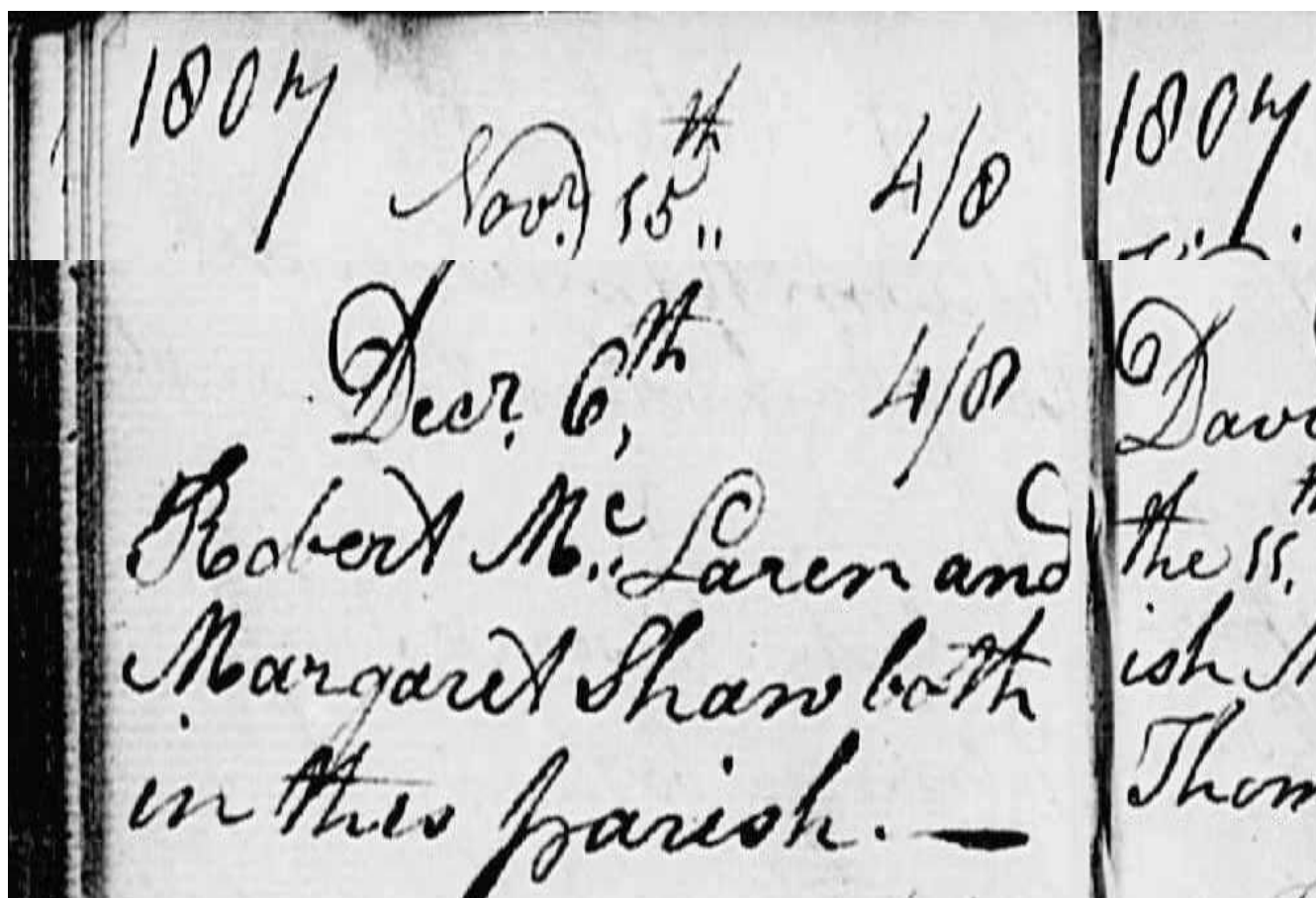
- [Mary Agnew Bruce](#) ³
- [Sir Michael Bruce of Stenhouse, 8th Bt.](#) b. 31 Mar 1798, d. 14 Dec 1862²
- [William Cunningham Bruce](#)+ b. 24 Nov 1798, d. 11 Nov 1842²
- [Alexander Fairlie Bruce](#)+ b. 31 Aug 1799, d. 26 Jun 1875²

My cousin Hamish Maclaren's GGG Grandfather, **Robert McLaren I**, who in Falkirk had two children with Margaret **Lowrie** / Lawrie / Laurie / - *Margaret in 1775 and Robert II c.1778* - appears to have died before 1786 as his widow Margaret Lawrie married an **Andrew Liddell I** of Larbert in 1786.

In 1789 **Andrew Liddell I** and Margaret Lawrie had a son, **Andrew Liddell II**, and then in 1797 **Andrew Liddell I** and his wife Margaret Lawrie bought land at Bainsford. **Andrew Liddell I** was then described as a school master at Bainsford.

*[Details within Trusts subsequently set up by **Robert McLaren II** and **Andrew Liddell II** established the blood link between the **Liddells**, **McLarens**, **Rennies** and **Telfords**.]*

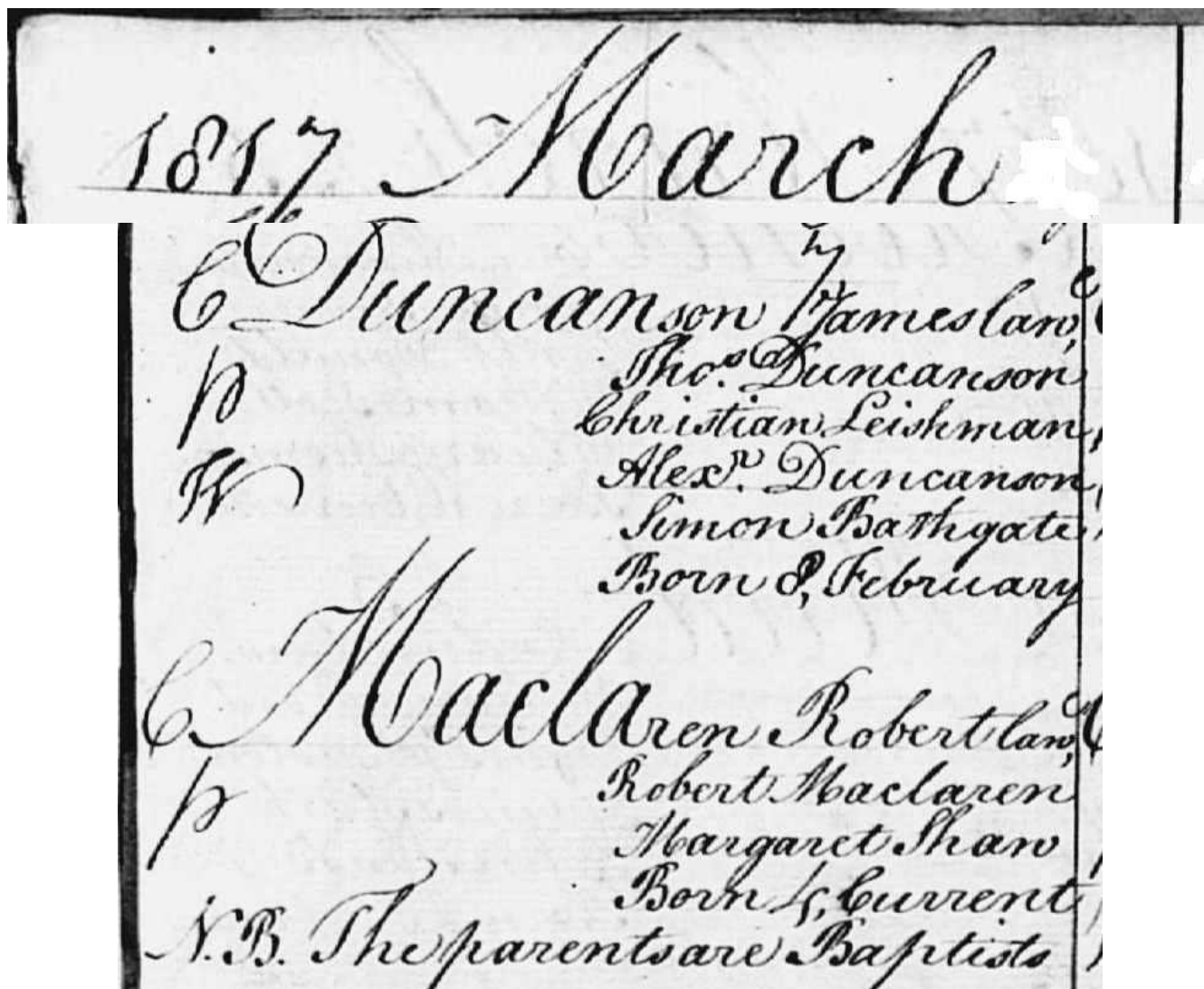
In 1807 **Robert McLaren II** married Margaret Shaw (b. 1781) in Falkirk, (*presumably before this time, Robert had been living with the **Liddells**, alongside his probable half brother **Andrew Liddell II**.*)



In, 1808 **Robert Maclaren II's** son **James Shaw Maclaren** was born; in 1810 **Robert II's** daughter **Jean** was born ; in 1812 **Robert II's** daughter **Margaret** was born.

In 1814, Andrew Liddle II succeeded to his parent's land at Bainsford.

In 1816 Robert McLaren II's daughter Janet was born; on 4th March, 1817 Robert II's son Robert Maclaren III was born and he was baptised on the 7th March.



And later births were Jeannie (c.1820-1843), Andrew (c.1826), and Archibald (c.1827)

In 1820 Andrew Liddell II married a Janet Goodsir.

Then in 1826 Robert Maclaren II died. He had then been Sub-Manager of the Carron Iron Works and partner with his half-brother Andrew Liddell II in Andrew's firm of Iron-mongers. Before his death, in the same year, Robert Maclaren II set up a trust (with Margaret Shaw) for their children. The Trustees were his 'beloved half-brother' Andrew Liddell II and 'beloved brother-in-law' Andrew Rennie (husband of his elder sister Margaret).

Andrew Liddell II married twice. His second wife was a Jessie Peddie. There is a reference to an ante-nuptial contract of marriage dated 2 November, 1829, in which details are given of the **Maclaren** family. He speaks of his deceased brother uterine **Robert Maclaren II**, Clerk at Carron Iron works, and his widow, Margaret Shaw or **McLaren**. The children are also mentioned: **James Shaw Maclaren** now at Pittsburgh or elsewhere in the USA; **Robert Maclaren III** Gas Tube Manufacturer in Glasgow; **Andrew MacLaren**, merchant in London; and Archibald MacLaren 'presently Clerk with the said **Robert Maclaren (III)**'; **Janet Maclaren** living with her mother at Bainsford, and **Margaret Maclaren II**, wife of William Law formerly Shoemaker in Dunfermline, and now or lately Farmer at Brunton in Linlithgowshire.

Andrew Liddell II also makes bequests to the children of the late Andrew Renny, Sawyer at Carron and his late first wife, **Margaret McLaren I** who was **Andrew Liddell II's** sister uterine. {Mother in common}

The children are listed in the document thus:

“Michael Bruce Renny, Blacksmith at Carron Iron works,
Andrew Renny, Blacksmith in Glasgow,
Margaret Renny, wife of James Scott, Sawyer at Carron,

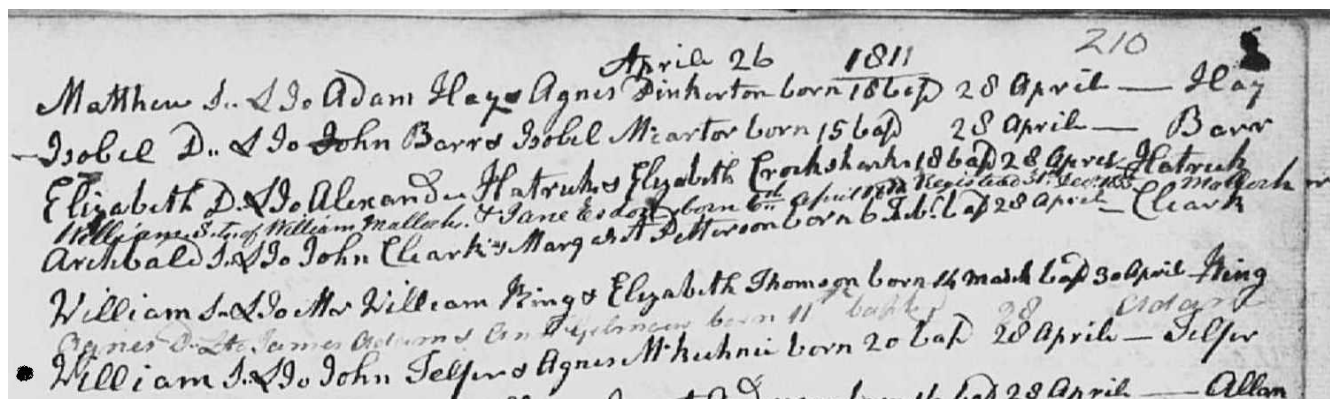
Jean Renny, wife of William Telfer, Blockcutter at, or near, Pollokshaws,

ANDREW RENNEY/MARGARET MACLAUREN

19/10/1807RENNEYJEAN

FRCH2V21

U Falkirk/STIRLING



Abbey Parish, Renfrew Apr. 1811

Robert Renny, now or lately Blacksmith at Falkirk Foundry,
Isabella Renny, wife of Moses Neilson, Blockcutter at Grahamston,
Phoebe Renny, wife of Boston Harley, Dresser of Iron Goods at Carron,
and Jessie Renny widow of Andrew Stewart, Shoemaker at Grahamston.”

Andrew Renny's second wife was Margaret Stevenson (they were married in 1819).

This Trust seems to have worked without dispute until the deaths in 1854 of both **Andrew Liddell II** and **Robert McLaren II's** widow, Margaret Shaw.

Robert MacLaren III inherited a firm of Iron Founders from his uncle, **Andrew Liddell II**. However there seems to have been a bit of deceit and acrimony over the inheritance. But, eventually, **Robert MacLaren III** brought an action against the Executors, or Trustees, of **Mr Liddell** from whom he won a substantial sum in damages. With this money he started a firm in his own name in 1858. v.i.z.

**Robert Maclaren & Co.,
Iron Founder and Manufacturer of Patent Cast-Iron Pipes,
Eglinton Iron Works, Port Eglinton,
Glasgow.**