

SON FIVE
ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL
OF
CROFTFOOT



The most notable Black was William, who, after beginning his literary career on the staff of the Glasgow Evening Citizen, migrated to London, and, as journalist and author of many novels, gained an immortal name as an exponent of Scottish life and scenery. Born in 1841 he was the grandson of Robert Black and Agnes Somervell.

MELODIES AND MEMORIES - PAGES 211-213

Robert, fifth Liltie-co-kee son, with his wife, Jane Sommerville, lived at Croftfoot. The sons were William, John, James, and one daughter named Martha. William's wife was Margaret Lithgow. They had four sons and three daughters. Robert, the eldest, farmed East Longridge, afterwards going to Milwaukee as a farmer. James became a Canadian farmer, having sons and daughters. One of the sons, James Lawson Black, became a pressman in Trenton, Nebraska. Thomas Porteous, second son of William, had as his wife, Helen, daughter of A. Bryce, Hen-nest. With a family of eight sons and three daughters, they lived at East Whitburn. Four sons became C. R. servants, passing from the lower to the higher grades, with much credit to themselves. William, the eldest, had nine sons and five daughters, several of the former being railwaymen. Alexander had two sons in railway service. Robert went long ago to Arkansas, served in the civil war, and has filled many public offices. He had many sons and daughters. Thomas went many years ago, as schoolmaster, to Forfarshire, having one son and two daughters. George has long served the C.R. Coy., being now District Superintendent at Aberdeen, having three sons and six daughters living. John, from a humble capacity, became Station auditor in the C. R. service.

John, second Croftfoot son, married to Janet Strathearn, was tailor in Harthill. There were eight children:- Robert, architect, Glasgow; John, of Bell & Black, match manufacturers, London -John Rankine Black, B.A., Barrister of Inner Temple, being son of last named John Black. William, a joiner, was third Harthill son; Elizabeth came next, then James, followed by Agnes, afterwards by Mary Strathearn, married to Hugh Reid, their descendants being now in Glasgow. The above lady died in 1904, aged eighty-three years. There was a son of John's named Thomas, regarding whom there are no particulars. Robert, a son of James mentioned above, with his family, lives in Glasgow, and possesses many facts, figures, and relics pertaining to his kindred, who, at home and abroad, have earned a goodly share of credit. Various other descendants of John, of Harthill, also have their abode in Glasgow.

James, second Croftfoot son, became tailor and clothier in Trongate, Glasgow. The most notable of his family of sons and daughters was William, who, after beginning his literary career on the staff of the Glasgow Evening Citizen, migrated to London, and, as journalist and author of many novels, gained an immortal name as an exponent of Scottish life and scenery. In our own country and in many other countries his books have a deservedly enthusiastic popularity, and are, because of their truth and purity, likely to be always regarded with favour. "A Daughter of Heth," "Madcap Violet," "A Princess of Thule," "Far Lochaber," and "Macleod of Dare," are worthy examples of his literary talent. William Black was a prolific writer, and altogether wrote more than thirty volumes. He died in December 1898, aged fifty-seven years.

*Reminder: * as JB didn't mention this individual, their story ends in the table whereas ^ tells you there is another generation within this document.*

The accompanying tree however might show several more generations than is in this narrative.

ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

Residence - Croftfoot, Whitburn, West Lothian

Robert, fifth Liltie-co-kee son, with his wife, **Jane [Agnes] Somervell**, lived at Croftfoot. The sons were William, John, James, and one daughter named Martha.

ROBERT BLACK

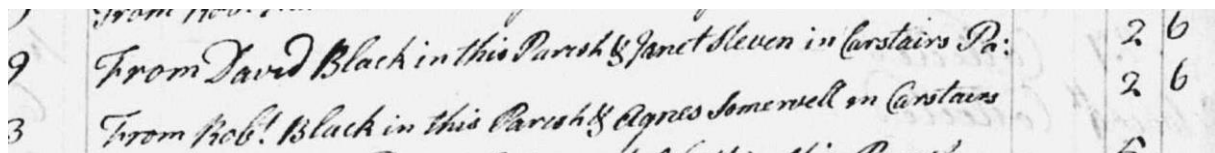
Robert is the only child of William Black and Mary Tod that no baptism can be found. It is estimated he was born around 1739 at either Liltie-co-kee or Cleughhead. He seems averse to church records (but not religion!) as we can find very few documents for this family.

AGNES SOMMERVEL

Robert's wife was Agnes, not Jane, as stated by JB. Her most likely baptism has been identified as 30 November 1747 in Carnwath to parents James Sommervell and Marion Muir but we caution that the marriage proclamation stated she was from Carstairs. An extract that follows states she was fluent in French and taught her children the language.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

Robert was 28 when he married Agnes on 23 August 1767. His younger brother had married two weeks before him.



Parish marriage records - Whitburn, West Lothian.

No records were found for the birth of their four known children, so the years have been estimated from census records where possible. The only known daughter, Martha, was specifically named by JB but we have no further knowledge about her.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	BIRTHPLACE	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
^William Black	abt 1769	Croftfoot	Whitburn	Margaret Lithgow	06 Apr 1829
*Martha Black	abt 1773	Croftfoot	Whitburn	unknown	unknown
^John Black	abt 1778	Croftfoot	Whitburn	Janet Strathearn	01 Feb 1865
^James Black	abt 1785	Croftfoot	Whitburn	Catherine Levies then Caroline Conning	09 Jul 1855



Croftfoot is centre right and not far from Breich Water.

John Thomson's Atlas of Scotland, 1832.

Croftfoot is today a privately owned wood, open to the public.

As Robert and Agnes's grandson became an important Scottish writer, the following was written about the upbringing of James, their youngest son. It gives a valuable insight into life at Croftfoot and possibly reflects the upbringing 'enjoyed' by all the Blacks of Breich Water.

Although his [James] schooling had been no better than that usually enjoyed by the son of a small farmer, he had educated himself so soil, and they should be deported to a foreign country! The elder that he could read the Greek Testament and had even some knowledge of Hebrew. French he had been taught as a boy on the lonely farm at Carnwath Moor, for his mother, with a provident care for the future unusual even in Scotland, had caused all her children to be taught French in case Napoleon's invading army should find footing on British Black's religion was deeply tinged with the melancholy of his race and sect. He had the Puritan's dread of many forms of pleasure that now seem innocent enough, and the world in which his son was destined to play his part seemed to him to be a place of darkness and sin. **William Black, Novelist: A Biography Wemyss Reid**

If the 'pleasures' denied to the Black children were innocent enough at the time this was written, we wonder what these activities were that were frowned on by Robert.

DEATH AND BURIAL

No burial was found for Robert and for that reason we have recorded his burial conservatively as 'after 1785'; the date reflects the birth of their youngest child. For Agnes, to teach her children French, she must have lived longer, and we have extended the date to 'after 1800'.

SECOND GENERATION

WILLIAM BLACK AND MARGARET LITHGOW

**Residence - Croftfoot, Whitburn, Lanark
East Longridge Whitburn, West Lothian**

William's wife was **Margaret Lithgow**. They had four sons and three daughters.
Robert, James... Thomas Porteous

WILLIAM BLACK

William we estimate was born around 1769 at Croftfoot, Whitburn.

MARGARET LITHGOW

From her age at death, Margaret was born in 1777. As she gave Lawson and Porteous as middle names to her children, we looked to these as possibilities for her mother's name but none were obvious.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

William married Margaret Lithgow circa 1806 so this would mean William was around 37 and Margaret 29. *Melodies and Memories* stated the couple had four sons but named only three. The missing son proved to be William. The three daughters were also unnamed and we have identified only two. Based on census records the family lived in Whitburn, possibly East Longridge as suggested by JB.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	BIRTHPLACE	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
^Robert Black	abt 1807	East Longridge	Whitburn	Janet unknown	bef 1880 USA
*Female Black	abt 1809	East Longridge	Whitburn	unknown	unknown
^Agnes Black	abt 1811	East Longridge	Whitburn	David Paton	09 Feb 1866
^Thomas Porteous Black	abt 1814	East Longridge	Whitburn	Helen Bryce	04 Apr 1877
*William Black	02 Oct 1816	East Longridge	Whitburn	unknown	bef 1841
^Janet Black	01 Sep 1817	East Longridge	Whitburn	George Banks	24 Jan 1864
^James Black ¹	06 Feb 1821	East Longridge	Whitburn	unknown	aft 1870 Canada

¹JB is confusing at times. It was decided that James Lawson Black, the pressman in Trenton Nebraska, was probably the son of James the Canadian Farmer.

DEATH AND BURIAL

William was buried around the age of 60 in Whitburn on 6 April 1829; Margaret's death was recorded at the age of 62 on 11 October 1839 in Glasgow. William Black was named as her deceased husband.



Parish burial records – Glasgow, Lanark.

JOHN BLACK AND JANET STRATHEARN

Residence - Harthill, Shotts, Lanark

John, second Croftfoot son, married to **Janet Strathearn**, was a tailor in Harthill. There were eight children: Robert... John... William... Elizabeth... James... Agnes... Mary Strathearn... Thomas.

JOHN BLACK

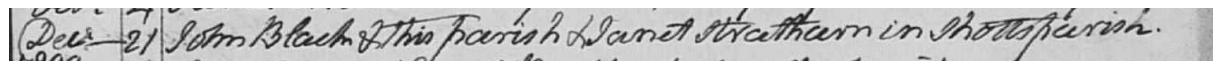
John was born about 1778 at Croftfoot, Whitburn. He was a tailor who lived all his married life in Harthill, a small village only a few miles from Whitburn, but lying in the parish of Shotts.

JANET STRATHEARN

Janet was baptised in Shotts on 6 October 1776 to parents John Stratherne and Elisabeth Clark. Again, spellings vary.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

John and Janet married on 21 December 1799 in Cambusnethan but the banns were also read in Shotts. Perhaps John undertook an apprenticeship in Cambusnethan for the marriage to be proclaimed there.



Parish marriage records - Cambusnethan, Lanark.



Parish marriage records - Shotts, Lanark.

Several of John and Janet's eight children had remarkable achievements and these are noted later. JB named all of their children correctly.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	BIRTHPLACE	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
^Robert Black	29 Oct 1800	Harthill	Shotts	Violet Woodrow	06 Dec 1869
^John Black	11 Jul 1803	Harthill	Shotts	Mary Robertson Dalton	06 Oct 1866 England
^William Black	06 Mar 1806	Harthill	Shotts	Janet Young then Mary Smith	bef 1881
^James Black	31 Mar 1810	Harthill	Shotts	unknown	18 Mar 1845
^Elizabeth Black	abt 1812	Harthill	Shotts	James Miller then James Dunlop	31 Dec 1886
^Agnes Black	11 Nov 1815	Harthill	Shotts	William Peat/Pate	13 Jan 1898
^Thomas Black	abt 1817	Harthill	Shotts	-	12 Mar 1831 ²
^Mary Strathearn Black	abt 1821	Harthill	Shotts	Hugh Stirrat Reid	14 May 1904

By the time of the first census in 1841 there was only one child at home, the youngest Mary.

CENSUS RECORD SHEET			
DISTRICT: Shotts, Harthill Lanarkshire			YEAR 1841
STREET Netherton			
NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
John Black	60	taylor	Scotland
Janet Black	60		Lanarkshire
Mary Black	20		Lanarkshire

The Shotts records show Janet died in March 1850 at the age of 74.

" 11 " Janet Strathearn, wife of John Black
Tailor, Harthill aged 74 Years

Parish burial records - Shotts, Lanark.

By 1851 the eldest daughter Elizabeth had returned to live with her father. She had been widowed two years earlier. Mary the youngest was still unmarried and living at home.

CENSUS RECORD SHEET				
DISTRICT: Shotts Lanarkshire				YEAR 1851
STREET Parkside				
NAME	DESIG	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
John Black	head	73	taylor	Whitburn
Elisabeth Miller	daughter	40	dressmaker	Shotts
Mary Black	daughter	28	straw hat maker	Shotts

² From a family tree - no records located.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

John was still alive in 1861 and was living alone aged 83.

DEATH AND BURIAL

John died on 1 February 1865 at the age of 87. The informant was his son-in-law William Pate, also described as a neighbour.

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 Maiden Surname of Mother.	Cause of Death, Duration of Disease, & 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.
7	John Black Tailor	1865 February First 11 h. 45 m. A.M.	M.	87	Robert Black Harmar (deceased)	La Puerchilus chronic Years	William Pate Son-in-law Neighbour Present	1865 February 3 ^d At Shotts W. Paterson Registrar
	Widow of Robert Black	Hartmill			Agnes Black Mrs. Sommersville (deceased)	as per Thomas Clark M.D.		

Death certificate - John Black.

We assume John was buried with his wife Janet at Shotts.

JAMES BLACK, CATHERINE LEVIES AND CAROLINE CONNING

Residence - Trongate, Glasgow

James, second [third] Croftfoot son, became a tailor and clothier in Trongate, Glasgow. The most notable of his family of sons and daughters was William....

JB erred when recording James as he was actually the third Croftfoot son. He was born around 1785 and like his brother John, he too was a tailor but he had moved to Glasgow before he married. Perhaps he was escaping his father's 'Puritan's dread of many forms of pleasure' as mentioned by his son's biographer. Cathcart is now included in Glasgow city but would have been of more rural in nature then. *Melodies and Memories* mentioned James's son William the novelist but failed to record the names of James's two wives and his many other children, but then again, tragically nearly all of them died young.

KATHERINE LEVIES

The marriage records indicate Katherine was a Levies (as opposed to a Lewis or Lavis) from Carluke so although no birth was found for her around 1787, we suspect her parents were James Levies and Margaret Steven, as a James Levies was born to this couple in Carluke in 1794. Birth records of Catherine's children and grandchildren give several variations of this surname.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

James and Katherine married on 10 August 1811 at Cathcart when James was 26.

Parish marriage records - Cathcart, Glasgow, Lanark.

James's death certificate tells a terrible tale of this family, as of the eleven children born to James and Katherine only two outlived their father (Robert and James). Rhesus negative is a layman's diagnosis for this family's tragedies but realistically this is just a wild guess. The certificate is shown below but it is very difficult to read as the death years are obscured and other supporting records are missing or incomplete.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR	AGE AT DEATH
^Robert Black	16 Jul 1812	Cathcart	Elizabeth Scott	01 Jul 1860	48 years
*James Black	abt 1814		-	04 Dec 1817	3 years
*William Black	1816		-	31 Mar 1817	4 mths
^Mary Graham Black	1817		-	20 Jul 1818	9 mths
*Mary Graham Black	08 Nov 1819	Cathcart	James Lindsay	30 Apr 1847	21 years
^James Black	23 Mar 1824	Gorbals	Janet Glen Montgomery	29 Oct 1879	55 years
*John Black	1825		-	1825	6 mths
*Catherine Black	abt 1825		-	1827	2 years
*Agnes Black	abt 1826		-	1851	29 years
*Martha Black	abt 1829		-	1830	1 year
*John Black	abt 1830		-	abt 1831	6 mths

CAROLINE CONNING

By 1835 Katherine had died and James, at the age of 51, married Caroline Conning a 27-year-old English born woman, on 31 January 1836. We are not sure of her parentage.³

Parish marriage records - Barony, Lanark.

Five children were born to his second wife and three survived.

³ In 1841 there were several Conning families living in Whitehorn, Wigtown, and the only Conning in Glasgow was a 70-year-old saddler James Conning. This is likely Caroline's father. In 1871 a Caroline Black, born in England, of the right age was visiting a family in Whitehorn.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR	AGE AT DEATH
^Wilhelmina Milroy Black	16 Apr 1837	Glasgow	John Garrett Morten	30 Aug 1907 England	70 years
^William Black	13 Nov 1841	Glasgow	Augustus Wenzel then Eveline Waldie Simpson	10 Dec 1898 England	57 years
*John Black	abt 1843		-	abt 1844	1 yr?
*John Black	abt 1844		-	05 Dec 1845	3 years
^David Black	13 Apr 1848	Glasgow	Jessie Edmond	bef 1901 England	53 years?

By the time of the first census only one child from his second marriage had been born.

CENSUS RECORD SHEET			
DISTRICT: Glasgow St Marys Lanarkshire			YEAR 1841
STREET Trongate			
NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
James Black	53	tailor & clothier	Lanarkshire
Caroline Black	30		England
Mary Black	20		Lanarkshire
Agnes Black	15	dressmaker	Lanarkshire
James Black	13	pattern designer apprentice	Lanarkshire
Wilhelmina Black	4		Lanarkshire
Jean Anderson	19	female servant	Scotland

By 1851 all the surviving children from his first marriage had left home and the last two of James's second family had been born. The family were living at 22 Trongate Street. James was described as a master tailor, employing four men. Because of the fame of his son we know much more about James's character than other members of the family.

[William's] father James Black was a gentle and studious person fond of books and devoted in the quiet undemonstrative Scotch fashion to his children of whom William was one of the younger. The eldest was a boy named James while between him and William came a sister [Wilhelmina] whose character in the coming years was to be drawn for the outer world by Black himself in the person of Queen Tita. The eldest son James died nearly twenty years before his more distinguished brother but some traits of his character were preserved by Black in his portrait of James Drummond the hero of Madcap Violet. **William Black, Novelist: A Biography Wemyss Reid**

DEATH AND BURIAL

James died in 1855 at the age of 70. For one year only, this very full death format was used, so the tragedy of this family's births and deaths (although difficult to read) are listed.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

DESCRIPTION OF THE DECEASED.							
No.	Name, Rank, Profession, or Occupation.	Sex.	Age.	Where born, and how long in this District.	Parents' Names, and Rank, Profession, or Occupation.	If Deceased was married,	
						To whom.	Issue, in Order of Birth, their Names and Ages.
619	Black	male	69	Whitburn	William Black	1 st Marriage	Robert 42 years
	James	years			Farmer	1 st Wife	James died 3 years
	Tailor & Clothier		35 years in	Glasgow	Agnes Black	2 ^d Wife	William died 1 1/2 years
					Maiden name		William & James died 9 months
					Cunningham		John & James died 21 years
						1 st Marriage	James 33 years
							John died at 2 mos
							William died 3 years
							John died at 1 year
							William & John 17 years
							John 14 years
							John died at 14 years
							William died at 3 mos
							5 years
							deceased afterwards

PARTICULARS OF DEATH.				
When died. Year, Day of Month, Hour.	Where died.	Cause of Death, and how long Disease continued. Medical Attendant by whom certified, and when he last saw deceased.	Burial Place. Undertaker by whom certified.	Signature of Informant.
1855 July 1 20 AM	33 Mungate Street Glasgow	Apoplexy 36 hours as certified by Dr C Black sur who saw deceased 7 th July 1855	North Street Cemetery Anderston	Robert Black Sons

Death certificate – James Black.

James was buried in the North Street Cemetery, Anderston; all the bodies in this cemetery have now been reinterred elsewhere.

It was in 1855, when Black was barely fourteen that his father died. I have briefly stated what manner of man he was. He never gained even moderate wealth - was never what the world calls successful. But he was one of those fortunate men who can enjoy life on very humble means, and enjoy it at least as fully as those with whom fortune has seemingly dealt more kindly. He was never tired of impressing upon his children the fact that all the really good things of life, all the essentials of happiness, are just as freely open to the poor as to the rich. He had an intense love of nature, and delighted to escape from the crowded streets of Glasgow into the country, where he would seek out some favorite spot and quietly study its beauties with observant eyes. Often his children, when they accompanied him in his country walks, saw him, as he gazed on some scene that satisfied his eye, reverently uncover his head, and they knew that he was giving thanks for the beauty that had thus been revealed to him. His love of nature, and his power of observing all natural objects closely, he bequeathed to his son William. Although his schooling had been no better than that usually enjoyed by the son of a small farmer, he had educated himself so that he could read the Greek Testament, and had even some knowledge of Hebrew. French he had been taught as a boy on the lonely farm at Carnwath Moor, for his mother, with a provident care for the future unusual even in Scotland, had caused all her children to be taught French - in case Napoleon's invading army should find footing on British soil, and they should be deported to a foreign country! The elder Black's religion was deeply tinged with the melancholy of his race and sect. He had the Puritan's dread of many forms of pleasure that now seem innocent enough, and the world in which his son was destined to play his part seemed to him to be a place of darkness and sin. In literature his tastes were characteristic of the man. He

did not positively forbid his children to read fiction, but the only novels he permitted in his house were Scott's, and even these were only tolerated as a special favor. There was little, therefore, in Black's home in his early days to smooth the way to his future calling. **William Black, Novelist: A Biography Wemyss Reid**

On his death, a notice to debtors and creditors was placed in the press.

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS.
THE Executrix of the late Mr. JAMES BLACK, TAILOR and CLOTHIER, 33 Trongate Street, Glasgow, requests all CLAIMS against the Deceased to be lodged, within One Month from this date, with Mr. Robert Black, Clothier, 32 Argyl Street, Glasgow; and all Parties INDEBTED to the Deceased are required to make Payment to the said Robert Black within the same period.
BROWN & DUNLOP,
 Agents for Executrix.
 Glasgow, 18th August, 1855.

Robert Black was James's son; they had the same occupation, but obviously worked apart.

After James's death, the family moved to a new home and took in boarders. The two Lawson women were not daughters of James Black as transcribed by *Ancestry*.

CENSUS RECORD SHEET				
DISTRICT: Glasgow St David, Lanarkshire				YEAR 1861
STREET 104 North Hanover St				
NAME	DESIG	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
Caroline Black	head	52		England
William Black	son	19	bookbinder	Glasgow
David Black	son	12	scholar	Glasgow
David Ireland	boarder	17	ironmonger	Fifes
Mary Peacock	servant	17	servant	Bishopton
Robert M D Shannon	boarder	37	commission merchant	Portugal
Margaret Lawson	daughter	47	housekeeper	Glasgow
Jane Lawson	daughter	44	housekeeper	Glasgow
Marion McNeil	servant	43	domestic servant	

Caroline, needless to say, survived her husband by many years and later went to live in England with her son William the novelist.

Mrs Black the mother of the novelist survived her husband for many years and lived to see her son William at the height of his fame and in the fullest enjoyment of his prosperity Like her husband she was a devoted parent and very proud of the talents of her son It was delightful later in life to hear her talk of the novelist to congenial friends who shared her admiration for him. Transplanted from Glasgow to London where she found herself amid strange surroundings she clung naturally to those who had associations with her old home or with similar scenes. But her deep affection for her son enabled her to hold her own in the society of men of letters to which she was introduced through him. Many can remember the fine old Scots lady whose pride in

her boy never betrayed itself in any fashion that jarred upon those around her and whose shrewdness of judgment led her to select unerringly among the many strangers with whom she was brought in contact the men and women who were most worthy of her friendship. Her mingled simplicity and quickness was a fair indication of the atmosphere of the home in which William Black spent his boyhood. **William Black, Novelist: A Biography Wemyss Reid**

According to one census, Caroline was not 'Scots' and she died in Camberwell in the June quarter of 1878. Her burial place is unknown.

THIRD GENERATION

CHILDREN OF WILLIAM BLACK AND MARGARET LITHGOW

ROBERT BLACK AND JANET L UNKNOWN

**Residence - East Longridge, West Lothian
Lisbon, Waukesha, Wisconsin, USA**

Robert, the eldest, farmed East Longridge, afterwards going to Milwaukee as a farmer.

ROBERT BLACK

Robert was born around 1807 in Whitburn and indeed, exactly as written, Robert was found on the 1841 census as a farmer at East Longridge. He lowered his age as required to 30 and also living in the household was a male and female servant. The following year he was living in America and probably married.

JANET L UNKNOWN

All we know is that Janet or Jannette or Jenette was born around 1814 in Scotland.⁴

MARRIAGE

No marriage was found for Robert in Scotland between 1841 and June 1842 when he sailed to New York. In 1848 he was naturalised as an American citizen.

⁴ Robert's servant in 1841 was Jane Bishop. We can't locate what happened to her so she may be the 'Janet' in Wisconsin.

B 420	
Family name 420 Black	Given name or names Robert
Address X	
Certificate no. (or vol. and page) Vol.-1 Pg.-31 & 32	Title and location of court Cir. Ct.-Waukesha Co.Wis.
Country of birth or allegiance Grt. Britain-Ireland	When born (or age) 41 Yrs.
Date and port of arrival in U.S. June 1842--New York	Date of naturalization Feb. 23, 1848
Names and addresses of witnesses Edmund Brainera X	
Lucius Botsford X	
U.S. Department of Labor, Immigration and Naturalization Service Form No. 1-1 P.	

Certificate of Naturalisation.

On the 1850 census Robert was living at Lisbon, Waukesha, Wisconsin aged 44, born in Scotland along with Janet L Black aged 36, born in Scotland and Charles H Black aged 14, born in England. This last person is a mystery also.

By 1855 it must have been evident to Robert that he and Janet were to remain childless and we believe he wrote to his younger brother Thomas Porteous Black, offering to pay the fare for one of his sons to come and work for him and be his 'heir'. As a result Thomas's thirteen year old son, also named Robert, travelled to Wisconsin in 1855. The 1860 Census (01 June 1860) from Lisbon, Waukesha, Wisconsin, records:

<i>William</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>"</i>					
<i>Robert Black</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>"</i>		<i>Farmer</i>	<i>3100</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>Scotland</i>
<i>Janet</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>"</i>					<i>"</i>
<i>Robert</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Same School</i>			<i>"</i>

1860 census - Lisbon, Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Five years later this nephew was still living with him but by 1870 he had married and left his uncle's property.

DEATH AND BURIAL

Robert and Janet (or Jeanette) were found on the 1870 census but had died before 1880.

AGNES BLACK AND DAVID PATON

Residence - Stirling, Stirlingshire
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[William Black and Margaret Lithgow] had... three daughters. [Agnes]
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AGNES BLACK

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

Agnes was one of the unnamed daughters mentioned by JB. Although the 1841 census transcription shows she was born in England she was born in Whitburn around 1811. Agnes became a milliner in Stirling, and it was here she gave birth to her daughter Mary, who was nine-years-old on the 1841 census. The pair resided at 19 Baker Street, Stirling with an apprentice milliner and a servant also in the household.

DAVID PATON

Nothing is known about this person and in the records we can obtain, he was never shown living with Agnes.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

Agnes's marriage to David Paton, the father of her child, is not located, and the baptism of their only child shows she was baptised as Mary Black Paton, but neither Agnes nor Mary used the surname Paton on any census records.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	RELATIONSHIP	DEATH/BUR
*Mary Black Paton	01 Sep 1831	Stirling	R. James Fleming	aft 1861

Ten years later, in 1851, Agnes gave her birthplace as Whitburn and there were now two nieces living with her, one being the daughter of her brother Thomas Porteous. As Thomas married Helen Bryce we assume Mary Bryce was more accurately her sister-in-law's niece.

CENSUS RECORD SHEET				
DISTRICT: Stirling, Stirlingshire				YEAR 1851
STREET Baker Street				
NAME	DESIG	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
Agnes Black	head	38	milliner	Whitburn
Mary Black	daughter	19		Stirling
Marin Black	niece	13	scholar	Linlithgowshire
Mary Bryce	niece	19	milliner	Linlithgowshire
Elizabeth Tait	servant	20	house servant	Stirling

By 1861, Mary too had given birth to a child with no sign of a husband. Joseph Fleming's father was identified as James Fleming on his birth certificate, but he was listed as illegitimate. Mary's name was given as Mary Black Patton on Joseph's birth certificate. Also living in the house was Charles Banks, the son of Agnes's youngest sister Janet. Janet was going through a difficult patch in Edinburgh during this time.

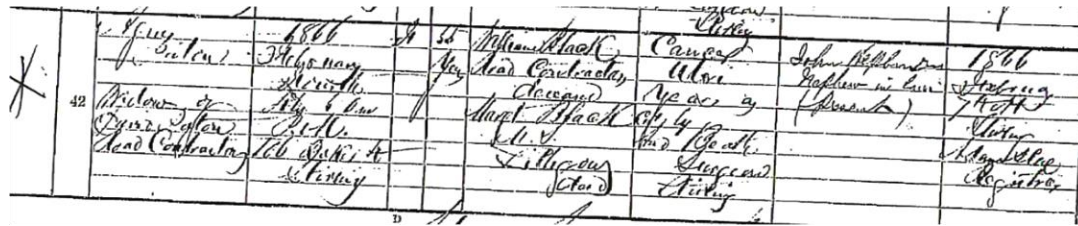
CENSUS RECORD SHEET				
DISTRICT: Stirling, Stirlingshire				YEAR 1861
STREET 106 Baker Street				
NAME	DESIG	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
Agnes Black	head	49	milliner	Whitburn

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

Mary Black	daughter	28		Stirling
Joseph Fleming	grandson	1		Stirling
Marion Black	niece	23	milliners assistant	Whitburn
Charles Banks	nephew	4		Edinburgh

DEATH AND BURIAL

Agnes died on 9 February 1866 at the age of 55.



Death certificate - Agnes Paton nee Black.

On this document, Agnes is described as the widow of David Paton. John Robertson her 'nephew-in-law' was the informant. His relationship to Agnes is yet to be proven.

THOMAS PORTEOUS BLACK AND HELEN BRYCE

**Residence – Longridge, Whitburn, West Lothian
East Whitburn, West Lothian**

Thomas Porteous, second son of William, had as his wife, **Helen**, daughter of A. **Bryce**, Hen-nest. With a family of eight sons and three daughters, they lived at East Whitburn. Four sons became C.R. servants, passing from the lower to the higher grades, with much credit to themselves.



THOMAS PORTEOUS BLACK

Thomas was born about 1814 in Whitburn. The reason for his middle name is unknown but at least four Thomas Porteous Blacks were named after him.

HELEN 'ELLEN' BRYCE

Helen was the daughter of Alexander Bryce and Marion Russell and was born 28 November 1817. Hens Nest Road today is in East Whitburn.

Photo shared widely on Ancestry.

Unable to acknowledge the original source.

5/05/2025

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

Thomas and Ellen married around 1835. As stated by JB, eleven children were located.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	BIRTHPLACE	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
^William Black	15 Mar 1836	Longridge	Whitburn	Isabella Miller	04 Feb 1898
^Marion Black	02 Dec 1837	Longridge	Whitburn	John Hepburn then James Scott	aft 1881 England?
^Alexander Black	08 Apr 1840	Longridge	Whitburn	Agnes Cherry	1897
^Robert Black	24 Jul 1842	Longridge	Whitburn	Caroline A Palmer then Sarah Fronaberger	27 Oct 1923 USA
^Margaret Lithgow Black	24 Oct 1844	Longridge	Whitburn	William McNair	12 Mar 1933
^Agnes Black	21 Feb 1847	Longridge	Whitburn	unknown relationship	aft 1881
^Thomas Porteous Black	19 Feb 1849	Longridge	Whitburn	Jane Kaie Ironsides	11 Oct 1913
*James Black	18 Mar 1851	Longridge	Whitburn	-	16 Nov 1853
^George Banks Black	03 Jun 1853	Longridge	Whitburn	Margaret Gibson Brown	26 May 1915
*James Black	09 Dec 1855	Longridge	Whitburn	-	18 Dec 1862
^John Black	27 Nov 1858	Longridge	Whitburn	-	18 Mar 1896

From the 1841 census we learn Thomas was a miner and labourer and by this date he was married with two children.

CENSUS RECORD SHEET			
DISTRICT: Whitburn, West Lothian			YEAR 1841
STREET Longridge			
NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
Thomas Black	25	labourer	Scotland
Helen Black	25		West Lothian
William Black	5		West Lothian
Marion Black	3		West Lothian

By 1851 Marion, the eldest daughter, had gone to live with her aunt, Agnes Black in Stirling where she was described as a scholar. The first child they had named James, was one month old in 1851 but he died two years later and another James was born to the couple.

CENSUS RECORD SHEET	
DISTRICT: Whitburn, West Lothian	YEAR 1861
STREET East Whitburn Village	

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

NAME	DESIG	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
Thomas P Black	head	47	iron miner	Whitburn
Helen Black	wife	45		Whitburn
William Black	son	25	coal miner	Whitburn
Alexander Black	son	20	iron miner	Whitburn
Margaret Black	daughter	16		Whitburn
Agnes Black	daughter	14	scholar	Whitburn
Thomas Black	son	12	scholar	Whitburn
George Black	son	7	scholar	Whitburn
James Black	son	5		Whitburn
John Black	son	2		Whitburn

DEATH AND BURIAL



Helen was 57 when she died on 16 March 1875. Thomas was 63 and he died on 4 April 1877. They are buried at Whitburn.

In Memory of Thomas Porteous Black of East Whitburn, died 4/4/1877 aged 63 years Helen Bryce his wife died 16/3/1875 aged 59 years, James their son died 18/12/1863 aged 8 years, John their son died 18/3/1896 aged 37 years.

JANET BLACK AND GEORGE BANKS

Residence – Edinburgh, Midlothian

[William Black and Margaret Lithgow] had... three daughters. **[Janet]**

JANET BLACK



The second unnamed daughter was Janet. Her birth was not found but an *Ancestry* tree gives it as 1 September 1817.

Janet Banks nee Black.
Alasdair MacNair collection.

GEORGE BANKS

George was born on 9 August 1813 in Stirling the son of John Banks

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

and Margaret Weir.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

Janet married George Banks a bootmaker in Stirling on 30 November 1835 when she was eighteen. They had moved to Edinburgh by 1851 and George was employing six men. The couple had thirteen children.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*John Alexander Banks	23 Sep 1836	Stirling	-	14 Jun 1838
*John Alexander Banks	28 May 1838 ⁵	Stirling	-	17 Jan 1870
*Margaret Lithgow Banks	05 Aug 1841	Stirling	-	03 Sep 1871
*William Black Banks	20 Jan 1844	Edinburgh	-	09 Sep 1874
*Agnes Black Banks	20 Aug 1846	Edinburgh	-	12 Apr 1847
*Agnes Lawson Banks	05 Aug 1847	Edinburgh	Walter Dixon	19 Jul 1874 England
*George Banks	30 Aug 1850	Edinburgh	-	13 May 1869
*Janet 'Jessie' Banks	22 Oct 1852	Edinburgh	unknown	aft 1871
*Thomas Milner Hill Banks	17 Jan 1855	Edinburgh	-	15 Jul 1888 New Zealand
*Charles Blair Banks	14 May 1857	Edinburgh	Emily Tiptaft	30 Dec 1900 England
*Francis Johnstone Banks	26 Apr 1859	Edinburgh	-	18 Nov 1884 Australia

In 1861, George was absent from the house and we find him boarding in Stirling. Their four-year-old son Charles was also in Stirling, but on census night, he was staying with Janet's older sister Agnes. John the eldest son, at the age of 22, was therefore described as the head of the house.

CENSUS RECORD SHEET				
DISTRICT: Edinburgh St Cuthberts, Midlothian				YEAR 1861
STREET 9 Grange Road				
NAME	DESIG	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
John A Banks	head	22	classical tutor M A Edinr	Stirling
Janet Banks	mother	44		Whitburn
Margaret S Banks	sister	19	daily governess	Stirling
William B Banks	brother	17	ap clerk (ins)	Edinburgh
Agnes S Banks	sister	12	scholar	Edinburgh
George Banks	brother	10	scholar	Edinburgh
Jessie Banks	sister	8	scholar	Edinburgh
Thomas Hill Banks	brother	6	scholar	Edinburgh
Francis J Banks	brother	1		Edinburgh

⁵ The second John Aexander was baptised on 8 July, after the death of the first one. They would have changed his name on being baptised.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

DEATH AND BURIAL

Janet died on 24 January 1864 and George died on 28 January 1870. Their burials are not located.

In 1871, with both parents dead, Margaret, the eldest daughter was the head of house and she was also employed as a daily governess. Of the thirteen children, most died before they were 30 and we can confirm marriages for only two. The cause of death recorded in the cemetery registers was generally consumption.

JAMES BLACK

Residence - Canada

James became a Canadian farmer, having sons and daughters.

James was born on 6 February 1821 in Whitburn. We can't find him in Canada and after many readings of *Melodies and Memories* we have decided (rightly or wrongly) to interpret JB's reference to the 'pressman in Trenton, Nebraska' as being this James's son

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*James Lawson Black	abt 1850	Canada	unknown	unknown

CHILDREN OF JOHN BLACK AND JANET STRATHEARN

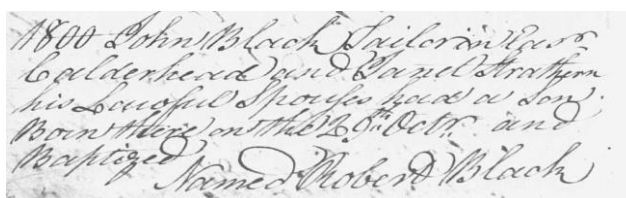
ROBERT BLACK AND VIOLET WOODROW

Residence - Glasgow, Lanark

Robert, architect, Glasgow

ROBERT BLACK

Robert was born at Harthill, Shotts on 29 October 1800.



Parish baptism records - Shotts, Lanark.

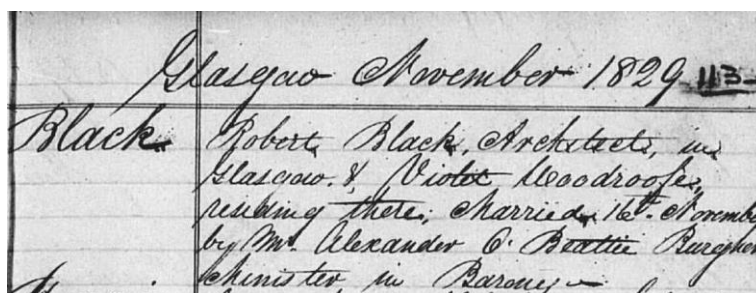
VIOLET WOODROOFE

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

Violet was born about 1803 in Glasgow. Her birth was not found but her marriage showed her name to be Woodroffe however variations of Woodrow and Woodroop and also Wood were used on other documents.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

Robert and Violet married on 26 November 1829 in Glasgow, and their six known children were born there also.



Parish marriage records – Barony, Lanark.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Violet Woodrow Black	20 Oct 1830	Gorbals	Henry Cozens	27 Jul 1917 England
*John Hamilton Black	04 Jun 1832	Gorbals	Elizabeth Carpenter	26 Dec 1880 Australia
*Janet 'Jessie' Black	20 Nov 1834	Gorbals	James Maxwell Palmer	16 Apr 1877
*Robert Black	27 Jan 1837	Gorbals	-	02 Aug 1838
*Robert Black	11 Jul 1839	Barony	Margaret Couper Law	30 Oct 1911
*Hamilton Black	15 May 1845	Glasgow	Caroline Mary Brown then Euphemia Andrew	09 Nov 1916

Robert was an architect so is well documented.

There is no record of his training but his early work, particularly the Bank in Stirling, is very close in style to the later work of David Hamilton. As he named his youngest son Hamilton just after that architect's death, some association with him, whether as apprentice or assistant, can be inferred. Black commenced practice in Glasgow in the late 1820s. By 1838 he had become architect to the Union Bank. In 1843 he formed a partnership with James Salmon (born 1805), who had obtained an apprenticeship with John Brash and commenced practice in Glasgow, reputedly in a Trongate basement, c.1825. Black lost his Union Bank position to William Railton of Kilmarnock in 1852, and his partnership with Salmon was dissolved in or about the following year. Thereafter Black entered a short-lived partnership with civil engineer Alexander George Thomson. Black remained in practice until his death from paralysis and bronchial problems on 6 December 1869 at 116 Sauchiehall Street which was both house and office. He was buried at Glasgow Necropolis, Omega lair

17. His wife Violet Woodrow had predeceased him on 24 February 1852, aged 40. They had six children, Violet, John who emigrated to Australia, Janet (usually known as Jessie), Robert who died aged 1 year, Robert (named after his deceased sibling) and Hamilton who died 9 November 1919. 'The Architect's Engineer's and Building Trades Directory' (1868) recorded him as having designed 'upwards of twenty churches', of which only six have been identified.⁶



Importantly, Robert in 1840, designed the Longridge Church; the place of worship of so many of his cousins. The spire (later removed) was reportedly exceedingly high. The building is now a private home.

Longridge Church. Longridge-online.co.uk

CENSUS RECORD SHEET			
DISTRICT: Barony, Lanarkshire			YEAR 1841
STREET 16 Grafton St			
NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
Robert Black	40	architect	Lanarkshire,
Violet Black	35		Lanarkshire,
Violet Black	10		Lanarkshire,
John Black	9		Lanarkshire,
Jessie Black	6		Lanarkshire,
Robert Black	2		Lanarkshire,
Margaret Oswald	20		Scotland

CENSUS RECORD SHEET				
DISTRICT:				YEAR 1851
STREET Baker Street				
NAME	DESIG	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
Robert Black	Head	50	architect	Whitburn
Violet Black	wife	48	architect wife	Glasgow
Violet Black	daughter	20		Glasgow
John Black	son	18		Glasgow
Jessie Black	daughter	16		Glasgow

⁶ http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=200493

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

Robert Black	son	11	scholar	Glasgow
Hamilton Black	son	6	scholar	Glasgow
1 servant				

DEATH AND BURIAL

Violet died on 15 February 1852, luckily before seeing her husband go to jail for non-payment of his debts. Interestingly her name was given as Wood not Woodrow.

DEATHS.

At 16 Grafton Street, on the 15th instant, Violet Wood, wife of Mr Robert Black, architect.—Friends will please accept of this intimation.

In 1861, Robert was residing in the North Prison in Glasgow; he was described as a debtor with the occupation of architect. His birth place was given as Shotts and he was 57. Robert died on 6 December 1869.

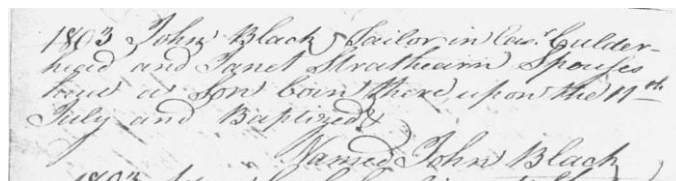
JOHN BLACK AND MARY ROBERTSON DALTON

Residence – London, England

John of Bell & Black, match manufacturers, London. John Rankine Black, B.A., Barrister of Inner Temple, being son of last named John Black.

JOHN BLACK

John was born on 11 July 1803, Harthill and he trained as an accountant.



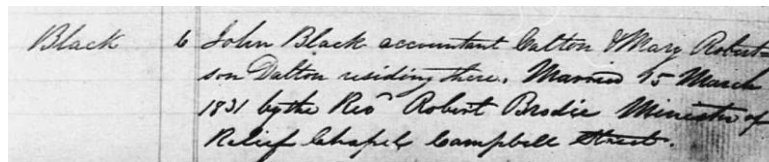
Church records – Shotts, Lanark.

MARY ROBERTSON DALTON

Mary, despite marrying in Scotland, claimed on the census she was born in England around 1811 but this birth isn't found.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

John was 27 when he married Mary Robertson Dalton in Barony in 1831. She was twentyish.



Church records – Barony, Lanark.

The couple moved to London and it was here that their three children were born. When their first son was born in 1832, John was a coal merchant and they were living at Shoreditch.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PLACE	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
^John Rankine Black	12 Jun 1832	London	-	20 Jul 1870
^Margaret Jane Quarrier (Mary Ann) Black	28 May 1834	London	John Garrett Morten	02 Mar 1858 England
*Robert Black	Dec Q 1837	London	-	Sep Q 1843 England

John then entered a partnership with Richard Bell.



In 1832 Richard Bell began a match business in London which in one form or another, and in one country or another, still flourishes to this day. It was most likely his matches the pioneers brought with them in the 1840s and it was his matches they largely carried on using all the way through,

along with one or two other brands. Richard Bell had a partner in the earlier years and the resulting Bell and Black boxes represent 13% of all matches imported between 1870 and 1894 when New Zealand's own match industry was set up. After about 1880 the use of the name "Black" was found to be discontinued and the inscription on the match box lids then read simply "R Bell and Co. London."⁷

John Black	35		PL		S
Mary Tutton Do		30			S
John R Do	9			Y	
Mary Ann Do		7		Y	
Robert Do	4			Y	

1841 census – Tower Hamlets – South Hackney.

Their youngest son Robert died in the September Quarter of 1843. By 1851 John had the occupation 'Vesta light manufacturer'.

⁷ http://www.ohinemuri.org.nz/journal/37/nz_matches.htm

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

175	High Street	John Black	Head	Mar	15	Apia Light Manufacturer	Scotland
		Mary Do.	Wife	Mar	10		England; part S. A.
		John R. Do.	Son	11	18	Student of University College	Whitcomb, London
		Margaret Do.	Daughter	11	16		Do.; Do.
		Caroline Lenhard	Son	11	19	General Clerk	Do.; Do.

1851 census – Tower Hamlets – South Hackney.

Their only daughter Margaret married John Garrett Morten, a lawyer, in 1855 and she had two children: Mary Dalton Morten in 1856 and William in 1857. Margaret died in 1858 and her widower married her first cousin, once removed, Wilhelmina Milroy Black. John and Mary cannot be located in 1861.

DEATH AND BURIAL

John Black died a wealthy man on 2 October 1866.

DEATHS.
BLACK.—On the 2d inst., at the Pier Hotel, **Erith John Black,**
 in his sixty-fourth year.

BLACK John. Effects under £12,000. <i>Proven at the Stamp Office</i> <i>November 1867 Under £10,000.</i>	7 November. The Will with two Codicils of John Black formerly of the Priory Homerton in the County of Middlesex and of 15 Bow-lane in the City of London but late of Woodbury Lodge Stamford Hill in the County aforesaid deceased who died 2 October 1866 at Erith in the County of Kent was proved at the Principal Registry by the oaths of Mary Robertson Dalton Black of Erith aforesaid Widow the Relict John Rankine Black of Erith aforesaid Esquire the Son and John Archibald Fullarton of Edinburgh in North Britain Publisher the Executors.
--	---

Probate – John Black.

Mary died two years later. She left her estate to her only surviving child John Rankine Black. John may have been buried in Hackney but Mary's burial place is unknown.

BLACK Mary Robertson Dalton. 6 November. Effects under £4,000.	Letters of Administration of the Personal estate and effects of Mary Robertson Dalton Black late of 19 The Villas Erith in the County of Kent Widow deceased who died 31 May 1868 at 19 The Villas aforesaid were granted at the Principal Registry to John Rankine Black of 19 The Villas aforesaid Esquire the Son and only Next of Kin of the said Deceased he having been first sworn.
--	--

Probate – Mary Robertson Dalton Black.

WILLIAM BLACK, JANET YOUNG AND MARY SMITH

Residence Unknown

William, a joiner, was third Harthill son

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

WILLIAM BLACK

William, born 6 March 1806 at Shotts, was difficult to locate but we are now sure we have the right person. Some *Ancestry* trees have him marrying Mary Boyle but marriage and death certificates show this was **not** our William.

JANET YOUNG

Janet was born about 1810 but nothing else is known of her.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The marriage appears in the indexes twice, one for Glasgow and one for Barony but both were dated 9 September 1834. William would have been 28. Three children were found.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PLACE	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Janet Black	abt 1836	Glasgow	unknown	aft 1851
*John Black	abt 1838	Glasgow	unknown	aft 1861
*Violet Black	Feb 1841	Glasgow	-	bef 1855

Violet was an unusual name at the time but as this was the name of William's sister-in-law we believe this is the correct family. In 1841 William was a wright. We don't have the original census but William should have been recorded as 35 and we doubt five year old Janet was born in England.

CENSUS RECORD SHEET			
DISTRICT: Gorbals, Glasgow, Lanarkshire			YEAR 1841
STREET Eglinton Street			
NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
William Black	25	wright	Scotland
Janet Black	25		Scotland
Janet Black	5		England
John Black	4		Lanarkshire,
Violet Black	4 mo		Lanarkshire,
Janet Gibb	15		Lanarkshire,

By 1848 Janet had died and William had remarried.

MARY SMITH

Mary was the daughter of James Smith and Agnes Nisbit but her birth in Glasgow around 1825 is not found.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

William married the much younger Mary on 30 January 1848 in Bothwell. The first of their ten known children were also born there.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PLACE	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Robert Black	abt 1849	Bothwell	unknown	aft 1861
*Agnes (Ann) Black	abt 1850	Bothwell	unknown	aft 1881
*James Black	abt 1852	Glasgow	-	aft 1861
*Elizabeth Black	11 Jul 1856	Bridgeton	-	bef 1866
*Isabella Smith Black	21 Jul 1858	Anderston	unknown	aft 1871
*William Black	17 Apr 1860	Anderston	unknown	aft 1881
*Mary Smith Black	09 Nov 1862	Anderston	-	bef 1871
*Thomas Black	03 Jul 1864	Anderston	-	1868
*Elizabeth Black	30 Jul 1866	Bridgeton	-	bef 1871
*Hugh Reid Black	18 Apr 1868	Anderston	unknown	aft 1881

By 1851 his daughter Janet had died or left home and two of Mary's children had been born. William was correctly 45 not 41 as recorded.

CENSUS RECORD SHEET				
DISTRICT: Chapelhill, Bothwell, Lanarkshire				YEAR 1851
STREET Hardhill				
NAME	DESIG	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
William Black	Head	41	journeyman wright	Shotts
Mary Black	wife	26		Glasgow
John Black	son	14	at school	Glasgow
Violet Black	daughter	9		Glasgow
Robert Black	son	2		Bothwell
Agnes Black	daughter	1		Bothwell

By 1861 William was finally described as a joiner (as JB had stated) and four more children had been born, however some had also died in the interim including Violet. The family had returned to Glasgow. William's age was transcribed as 45 but should be 55.

CENSUS RECORD SHEET				
DISTRICT: Anderston, Barony, Glasgow, Lanarkshire				YEAR 1861
STREET 50 Richard Street				
NAME	DESIG	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
William Black	Head	45	joiner	Shotts
Mary Black	wife	35		Glasgow
John Black	son	23	box maker	Glasgow
Robert Black	son	12	scholar	Chapelhall
Agnes Black	daughter	11	scholar	Chapelhall
James Black	son	6	scholar	Glasgow

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

Elizabeth Black	daughter	4		Glasgow
Isabella Black	daughter	2		Glasgow
William Black	son	11 mo		Glasgow

Three more children were born after this census including the youngest Hugh Reid Black. As William's youngest sister Mary was married to Hugh Reid, we can again confirm we are on the right track with this family. Hugh was also a joiner so we wonder if these two men worked together.

DEATH AND BURIAL

Mary died on 4 June 1870 at the age of 44. William was described as a joiner but we can't read what is in brackets. Agnes their daughter was the informant.

Mary Black	1870	44	James Smith	Wife of the	Agnes Black	1870
	June	4		deceased	Daughter	June 6
	10.50m. AM		(deceased)	James Smith	(deceased)	10.50m. AM
William Black	1870		Agnes Smith	Resident		
James (son)	1870		John Smith	Resident		
			(deceased)	John Smith		

Death certificate - Mary Black nee Smith.

We found William the following year with two daughters and a son. Agnes was recorded as Ann and William was 65 not 60.

CENSUS RECORD SHEET				
DISTRICT: Anderston, Barony, Glasgow, Lanarkshire				YEAR 1871
STREET 18 Sharps Lane				
NAME	DESIG	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
Wm Black	Head	60	furniture dealer	Shotts
Ann Black	daughter	20	carpet weaver	Glasgow
Isabella Black	daughter	23	scholar	Glasgow
Hugh Black	son	3		Barony, Glasgow

After that the trail goes cold, though three children (Agnes as head, William and Hugh) were probably living at 47 Walkinshaw Street. Finding William's death certificate would be the icing on the cake to confirm our research.

JAMES BLACK AND UNKNOWN

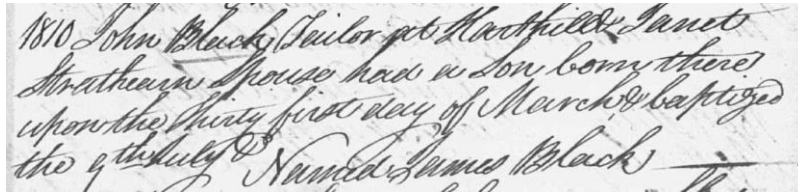
Residence – possibly Shotts, Lanark and Glasgow

...then **James**...

Robert, a son of James mentioned above, with his family, lives in Glasgow, and possesses many facts, figures, and relics pertaining to his kindred, who, at home and abroad, have earned a goodly share of credit.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

James's birth was found in Shotts in 1810.



Parish baptism records – Shotts, Lanark.

In 1841 he was likely living in Glasgow with the occupation of shoemaker and boarding with the Wood family. Due to the burial entry below, we haven't recorded a marriage to Margaret Barrowman, though *Melodies and Memories* states James did marry and had a son Robert living in Glasgow in 1909. If any descendants can enlighten us, we would love to solve this conundrum.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Robert Black	abt 1844	unknown	unknown	aft 1909

DEATH AND BURIAL

This James died in 1845 aged 34 however there was no mention of his wife on the burial records.

1845		Mortcloths
Mar 18	James, Son of John Black, Tailor, Harthill aged 34 years	"2"10

ELIZABETH BLACK, JAMES MILLER AND JAMES DUNLOP

**Residence – Shotts, Lanark
Bothwell, Lanark**

Elizabeth came next...

ELIZABETH BLACK

Elizabeth, who was born around 1812, married a Mr Miller and she appeared on the 1851 census with this surname living with her father.

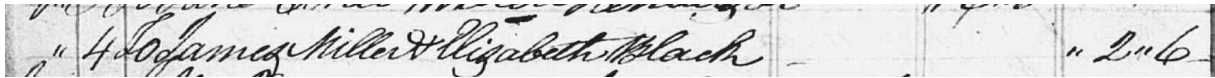
JAMES MILLER

Mr Miller later proved to be James and he was also born around 1811.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

Elizabeth's marriage to James Miller was found on 4 July 1830 in Shotts when she was seventeen. Four children were located.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL



Parish marriage records – Shotts, Lanark.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Janet (Jessie) Miller	14 Jun 1830	Shotts	Hugh Rodger	17 Jul 1913
*James Miller	abt 1832	Shotts	unknown	aft 1841
*Elisabeth Miller	25 May 1833	Shotts	unknown	aft 1841
*Agnes Miller	abt 1835	Shotts	unknown	aft 1861

In 1841 the family were living in Bothwell.

CENSUS RECORD SHEET			
DISTRICT: Bothwell, Holytown, Lanarkshire			YEAR 1841
STREET Greenfield			
NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
James Miller	30	mason	Lanarkshire
Elisabeth Black	30		Lanarkshire
Jess Miller	10		Lanarkshire
James Miller	9		Lanarkshire
Elisabeth Miller	7		Lanarkshire
Agnes Miller	5		Lanarkshire

James died and was buried on 21 February 1849 in Shotts.

JAMES DUNLOP

Nothing more can be found about James, who claimed to be born around 1813 in Glasgow.

MARRIAGE

Elizabeth second marriage was in 1859 to James Dunlop, a spirit merchant. In 1861 she was living in Glasgow with her new husband and her daughter Agnes Miller. In 1871, Elizabeth was a visitor in the home of her sister Mary Reid. In 1881, She was probably the lady's nurse in Glasgow.

DEATH AND BURIAL

Elizabeth died on 31 December 1886 in Shotts.

AGNES BLACK AND WILLIAM PATE

Residence – Harthill, Whitburn, Lanark

...followed by Agnes...

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

Agnes was born on 11 November 1815 in Shotts.

WILLIAM PATE/PEAT

William Pate/Peat shows on the census to be slightly younger but that's because Agnes seems to show herself as older than she was on these documents. He appears to have been born around 1812 in Shotts also. His likely parents were John Pate and Mary McArthur. There is a Pate's Hill south of Addiewell which may be connected to his family.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

Agnes and William married on 16 March 1834 in Shotts when they were around the age of eighteen. Their first child was born before they married and baptised before the nuptials. There was a 24-year span between their eldest and youngest child. The children in later life used Peat despite being registered as Pate.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*William Pate	05 Mar 1833	Shotts	Elizabeth Stewart	02 Dec 1878
*Agnes Pate	13 Feb 1835	Shotts	John Mair	10 Jan 1907
*John Pate	abt 1837	Shotts	Margaret Orr	06 Feb 1923
*Robert Pate	abt 1840	Shotts	Agnes Law	29 Mar 1915
*James Pate	abt 1842	Shotts	Margaret Stephenson	1929
*Janet (Jessie) Pate	11 Feb 1847	Shotts	David Spence	1897 England
*Alexander Pate	18 Mar 1849	Shotts	-	aft 1891
*Thomas Pate	abt 1852	Shotts	Joan Walker Yuill	11 Jul 1931
*Mary Black Pate	09 Jun 1855	Whitburn	-	20 Aug 1867
*Anderson Pate	16 Nov 1858	Whitburn	Janet Meek	10 Aug 1915

CENSUS RECORD SHEET				
DISTRICT: Shotts, Lanarkshire				YEAR 1861
STREET Harthill Village				
NAME	DESIG	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
William Pate	Head	46	stone quarrier	Shotts
Agnes Pate	wife	48		Shotts
William Pate	son	28	engine fireman	Shotts
Janet Pate	daughter	14		Shotts
Alexander Pate	son	12		Shotts
Thomas Pate	son	9	scholar	Shotts
Mary Pate	daughter	5	scholar	Shotts
Anderson Pate	son	2		Shotts

DEATH AND BURIAL

William died on 21 June 1866 at Whitburn and Agnes died on 13 January 1898.

—Page 6.—								
DEATHS in the Parish of New Scotland in the County of Lanark								
No.	Name of Deceased.	When & Where Died.	Sex.	Age.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father.	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.
16	Wm. Pat Mother of William Pat Son of Wm. Pat	1891. January Shortlands at 3 AM PM	M	50 years	John Pat Wm. Master G. McCann Robert Pat W. Strathman Deceased	Chorea Brachitis Small Pox ascertd by James Kirkland Phys & Surgeon	Anderson Robt. Same Present	1891. January 11th at Shortlands G. Anderson Registrar.

THOMAS BLACK

And we can add little more than JB, except to say his birth has been estimated around 1817.

MARY STRATHEARN BLACK AND HUGH REID

**Residence - Ardrossan, Ayrshire
Glasgow, Lanark**

Mary Strathearn, married to **Hugh Reid**, their descendants being now in Glasgow.
The above lady died in 1904, aged eighty-three years.

MARY STRATHEARN BLACK

Mary was born about 1821 in Harthill, Shotts.

HUGH STIRRAT REID

Hugh was born on 2 August 1824 to parents John Reid and Mary Stirrat.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

In March 1851, at the age of 28, Mary was single, living with her elderly father in Shotts and was a straw-hat maker, but by 1861 she had three children, having married Hugh Reid in October 1851. They were living at 8 Bute Place, Ardrossan; Hugh was a carpenter employing five others. We wonder if Mary told Hugh she was younger than what she was, as she lowered her age on subsequent census records. Five children were located.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Janet Strathearn (Jessie)	25 Nov 1853	Glasgow	-	29 Apr 1933

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

Reid				
*Mary Stirrat Reid	10 Apr 1856	Ardrossan	-	21 Sep 1934
*John Sommerville Stobbs Reid	04 Jan 1858	Ardrossan	Emmeline Eliza Pullar	27 Apr 1925
*Robert Black Reid	28 Oct 1861	Ardrossan	Margaret Shearer McNair	29 Dec 1935
*Eliza Jane Reid	26 Oct 1864	Ardrossan	-	1876

By 1871 the family had returned to Glasgow where the eldest child had been born.

CENSUS RECORD SHEET				
DISTRICT: Glasgow Lanarkshire				YEAR 1871
STREET 117 Watt Street				
NAME	DESIG	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
Hugh S Reed	Head	36	joiner	Darby
Mary Reed	wife	44		Shotts
Jessie Reed	daughter	17	dressmaker	Glasgow
Mary S Reed	daughter	14	scholar	Ardrossan
John S Reed	son	13	scholar	Ardrossan
Robert B Reed	son	9	scholar	Ardrossan
Elizabeth Reed	daughter	6	scholar	Ardrossan
Elizabeth Dunlop	visitor	60	dressmaker	Shotts

The visitor, Elizabeth Dunlop (previously Miller) was Mary's older sister.

DEATH AND BURIAL

Hugh died in 1872 in Glasgow. The claim made in *Melodies and Memories* that Mary was 83 when she died in 1904, aligns with the death notices.

REID.—At 9 Regent Park Terrace, Strathbungo, on 14th inst., Mary Strathearn Black, widow of Hugh Reid (formerly of Ardrossan), and youngest daughter, and last survivor of the family, of John Black, Harthill, parish of

Hamilton Herald.

CHILDREN OF JAMES BLACK, CATHERINE LEVIES AND CAROLINE CONNING

James's death certificate listed fifteen children to his two wives but only six lived to adulthood and only his son William was named by JB.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

ROBERT BLACK AND ELIZABETH SCOTT

... [James Black's] family of sons and daughters...[Robert]

ROBERT BLACK

Robert was born on 16 July 1812 in Cathcart, Glasgow. He became a tailor like his father.

ELIZABETH SCOTT

Elizabeth was born in Glasgow around 1821. But nothing is found.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

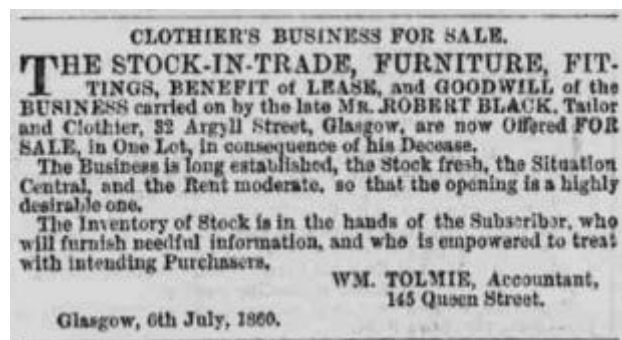
The event in Glasgow occurred on 12 October 1835 and only one child was found.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Ann (Annie) Black	02 Oct 1836	Glasgow	George Lindsay	aft 1905

The 1841 census is not located for this family but in 1851 they were at 12 Trongate and Robert was a tailor and clothier. His father was at living at number 22 and then later at 33 Trongate Street.

DEATH AND BURIAL

By 1855 the family were at 32 Argyll Street and that is where Robert had died by July 1860.



Glasgow Daily Herald - 9 July 1860.

In 1881 and 1891 Elizabeth was found living with her daughter Annie, and Annie's children at 5 Great Hamilton Street. Elizabeth died in 1895.

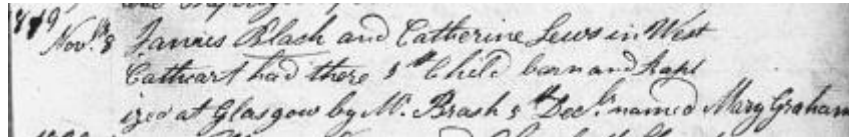
MARY GRAHAM BLACK AND JAMES LINDSAY

... [James Black's] family of sons and daughters...[Mary Graham]

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

MARY GRAHAM BLACK

The second surviving child was the second daughter named as Mary Graham Black. She was born on 8 November 1819 in Cathcart.



Parish baptism records - Cathcart, Glasgow.

In 1841 she was living with her father and his second wife.

JAMES LINDSAY

Andrew Lindsay and Mary Boyd were the parents of James, born 26 August 1819 in Loudon, Ayrshire.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

They married on 12 November 1843 in Gorbals, Glasgow and two daughters were located

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Catherine Lindsay	abt 1845	Coatbridge	-	12 Feb 1861
*Mary Boyd Lindsay	09 Oct 1846	Coatbridge	Archibald Glen	01 Mar 1935

DEATH AND BURIAL

Both parents had died by 1851; Mary's death was recorded in Glasgow on 30 April 1847 when she was 27. The girls were found living with an aunt and uncle in Loudon, their father's home parish.

JAMES BLACK AND JANET GLEN MONTGOMERY

... [James Black's] family of sons and daughters...[**Wilhelmina**]

JAMES BLACK

The eldest son James died nearly twenty years before his more distinguished brother but some traits of his character were preserved by Black in his portrait of James Drummond the hero of Madcap Violet. **William Black, Novelist: A Biography Wemyss Reid**

James was more correctly the half-brother of William Black and was born or baptised on 23 March 1824 in Gorbals. He followed his father into the clothing industry.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

JANET GLEN MONTGOMERY

Janet Montgomery was also born in Glasgow on 18 July 1828.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

They married on 4 July 1855 in Glasgow. The story of Janet's father in Tennessee would be an interesting diversion.

At 79 Great Hamilton Street, on the 4th instant, by the
Rev. Alex. M'Leod, Strathaven, Mr. James Black, jun., to
Janet Glen, daughter of William Montgomery, Esq. of White-
ville, Tennessee, U.S.

Five children were found.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Janet (Jessie) Black	04 May 1857	Glasgow	-	1869
*James Black	23 Apr 1859	Glasgow	-	05 Apr 1903 England
*Catherine Lavis (Kate) Black	28 Jun 1861	Glasgow	-	05 Jan 1931 England
*William Montgomery Black	13 Jul 1863	Glasgow	Edith Harriet Mosley	21 Jan 1919 England
*Mary Black	21 Mar 1868	Glasgow	-	14 Nov 1949 England

By 1871 the eldest Jessie had died at the age of eleven.

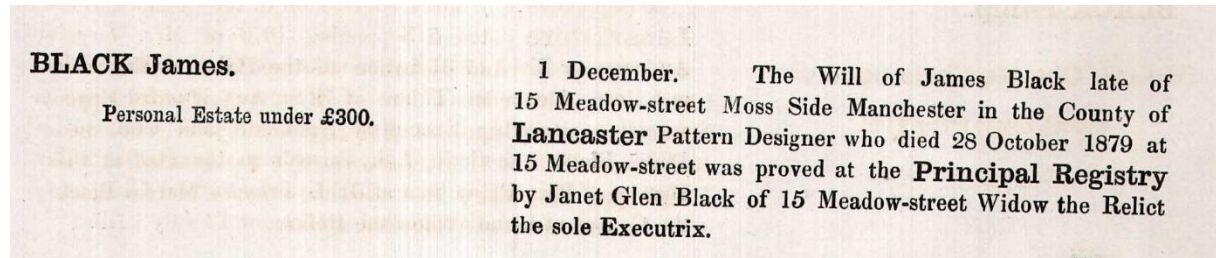
CENSUS RECORD SHEET				
DISTRICT: Glasgow St George				YEAR 1871
STREET 30 Scotia Street				
NAME	DESIG	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
James Black	head	47	pattern designer	Glasgow
Janet Black	wife	42		Glasgow
James Black	son	11	scholar	Glasgow
Kate Black	daughter	9	scholar	Glasgow
William Black	son	7	scholar	Glasgow
Mary Black	daughter	3		Ardrossan

The family then moved to England.

DEATH AND BURIAL

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

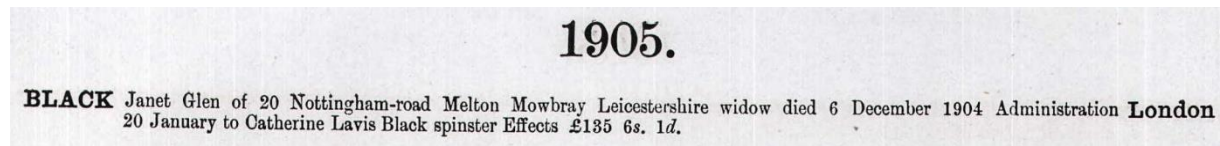
James died on 28 October 1879 at Moss Side, Manchester. His brother's biographer claimed James died nearly twenty years before William so this date fits.



Probate – James Black.

In 1881, his family were still at Moss Side and Janet was a widow aged 52. William Black the author (information follows) left £300 to Janet Glen Black in his will.

Janet died at Melton Mowbray on 6 December 1904.



Probate – Janet Glen Black, nee Montgomery.

WILHELMINA MILROY BLACK AND JOHN GARRET MORTEN

Residence - Chem, Surrey, England

... [James Black's] family of sons and daughters...[**Wilhelmina**]

WILHELMINA MILROY (MINA) BLACK

Mina was baptised on 16 April 1837 in Glasgow.

[The eldest was a boy named James while between him and William came a sister [**Wilhelmina**] whose character in the coming years was to be drawn for the outer world by Black himself in the person of Queen Tita. **William Black, Novelist: A Biography Wemyss Reid**

JOHN GARRETT MORTEN

John was born on 18 December 1832 in London to William Morten and Sarah Honnor.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

Mina married the widower of her second cousin, once removed, Margaret Jane Quarrier Black on 21 March 1859 in Glasgow

MORTEN—BLACK.—On the 21st inst., at Glasgow, by the Rev. John Edmond, John Garrett Morten, of Broad-street-buildings, London, to Wilhelmina Milroy, daughter of the late Mr. James Black.

Morning Post

Mina raised Margaret's two children as well as her own four children.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
^John Garrett Morten	1860	Cheam Surrey	Jessie McPherson Galbraith	17 Nov 1926 England
^Violet Honnor Morten	13 Nov 1861	Cheam Surrey	-	11 Jul 1913 England
*Hamish Dhu Morten	1864	Darenth Kent	Elizabeth Martha Speers	8 Sep 1918 Canada
Vivian Morten	1866	Darenth Kent	-	26 Jan 1899 England

In 1871, the three youngest were boarding at Carshalton, a school in Epsom. In 1881 they were living a comfortable life in Epsom and visitors to the home were her sister-in-law Eveline Black, and her three children.

<i>The Leeches</i>	1	<i>John Garrett Morten</i>	<i>head</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>Solent</i>	<i>Witch's</i>
		<i>Wilhelmina M.</i>	<i>wife</i>	<i>44</i>		<i>Scottish</i>
		<i>William</i>	<i>son</i>	<i>24</i>		<i>London</i>
		<i>John Garrett</i>	<i>son</i>	<i>21</i>		<i>Surrey</i>
		<i>Violet G.</i>	<i>daughter</i>	<i>19</i>		<i>Cham</i>
		<i>Eveline M. Black</i>	<i>visiting</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>Arthur's wife</i>	<i>Burton</i>
		<i>Martha A.</i>	<i>daughter</i>	<i>6</i>		<i>London</i>
		<i>Honour J.</i>	<i>daughter</i>	<i>5</i>		<i>Surrey</i>
		<i>Violet Muriel</i>	<i>daughter</i>	<i>3</i>		<i>London</i>
		<i>Larsh Longstone</i>	<i>servant</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>(Domestic servant)</i>	<i>Scotland</i>
		<i>Matilda Adams</i>	<i>servant</i>	<i>24</i>		<i>Perth</i>
		<i>Miriam Jones</i>	<i>servant</i>	<i>21</i>		<i>London</i>
		<i>Mary Baker</i>	<i>servant</i>	<i>16</i>		<i>Wolfe</i>

1881 census - Bastead, Epsom.

DEATH AND BURIAL

John Garrett Morten died on 1 January 1900. Mina died in 1907.

1907.

MORTEN Wilhelmina Milroy of Gothic-house Petersham-road Richmond Surrey widow died 30 August 1907 Probate **London** 11 November to George Arthur Drought Goslett gentleman Effects £2146 2s. 10d.

Probate - Wilhelmina Milroy Morten.

Her daughter Violet Honnor Morten was a remarkable young woman who never married, and her story is told below.

Morten, (Violet) Honnor (1861–1913), nurse and journalist, was born at Mayfield House, Cheam, Surrey, on 13 November 1861, the only daughter among the four children of John Garrett Morten (1833–1900), a wealthy solicitor, and his second wife, Wilhelmina Milroy, née Black (1837–1907). She was a niece of the novelist William Black. She had two half-siblings by her father's first marriage. As a child she enjoyed playing billiards with Herbert Spencer, a family friend. She reached adulthood in ‘an old Stuart palace’, Ivy Hall, Richmond, Surrey, but eventually rejected the life of ‘a fine lady with nothing to do but pay great attention to dress, fashion, and society’ (Friedrichs, 304)

Aged twenty, Morten began nurse's training at the London Hospital under Eva Lückes, practised as a volunteer from 1885 to 1888, and came to accept nursing as her central calling. She gained the midwifery diploma of the London Obstetrical Society. In 1895 she began a course in scientific hygiene at Bedford College, London, and qualified for the certificate in 1896; her highest mark was her physics paper, reflecting her study of astronomical physics just after leaving school. In her later Who's Who entry she listed only astronomy and socialism as her recreations. A steady schedule of journalism, speaking, and international travel characterized Morten's life. She contributed to *The Hospital*, *Daily News*, and other periodicals. She also published several classic nursing manuals: her *Nurse's Dictionary of Medical Terms and Nursing Treatment* (1891) reached an eighth edition by the time of her death. In 1889 she founded the Women Writers' Club with offices in Fleet Street. In the early 1890s she founded a nurses' co-operative and the Association of Asylum Workers. About this time she began to lecture widely on infant care, first aid, family health, and women's rights. Her audiences ranged from Women's Co-operative Guild chapters to the London Ethical Society, and even women prisoners at Wormwood Scrubs—prison reform being another of her causes. About 1896 Morten took up residence in the inner London district of Hoxton. Here she and two college friends established a small settlement along ‘unsectarian and socialist lines’. The settlers, both male and female, lived like their neighbours, and kept house for themselves. In her autobiographical *From a Nurse's Notebook* (1899) she exulted at the local curate's terror of her Chianti, cigarettes, and unorthodox religious views. During these Hoxton years Morten stood, in 1897, for election to the London school board, a powerful body responsible for educating about 660,000 pupils and employing 15,000 teachers. Only twenty-nine women (of a total membership of 326) served on the board during its existence from 1871 to 1903. She came in first among the candidates in her district of Hackney but wisely switched to represent the City when one of her constituents spotted her publicly smoking and raised an outcry. On the school board she advanced radical positions: equal pay for women employees, school nurses in the poorest schools, and better facilities for retarded children. She founded the School Nurses' Society to provide free nursing care for London children. Morten's vigorous campaign to abolish corporal punishment in the schools earned her adverse coverage in teachers' publications.

About 1905 Morten established Oakdene, a Tolstoy-inspired settlement in Rotherfield, Sussex, which was partly funded by donations from Aylmer and Louise Maude, the English translators of Tolstoy's *Resurrection*. According to a friend the house followed a rule that ‘insisted on silence at the breakfast table—on the principle

that people are never amiable at breakfast' (Porritt, 136). The settlement was both a country holiday home for disabled children from inner London, each of whom was cared for by an adult settler, and a retreat for adults.

Like others of her generation devoted to serving the poor Morten caught 'the St. Francis spirit' in the 1890s (Porritt, 135). Her religious faith was that of a high-church 'firm Protestant', but she was rather secretive about it. She started writing a life of the Catholic martyr Edward Colman and published anonymously a 'little devotional book' entitled *The Enclosed Nun*, only revealing its authorship in a later book on St Francis's friend and disciple, St Clare (1912).

Morten, 'militant in spirit' (Votes for Women, 18 July 1913, 621), was a non-militant suffragist. She protested against the disenfranchisement of women by refusing to pay taxes, suffering instead the confiscation and public auctioning of some of her property. According to her friend the journalist Arthur Porritt, Morten submitted to more than one of these auctions in the months just before her death, of throat cancer, at Oakdene on 11 July 1913.

WILLIAM BLACK, AUGUSTUS WENZEL AND EVELINE WALDEN SIMPSON

**Residence - London, England
Brighton, England**

The most notable of his family of sons and daughters was **William**, who, after beginning his literary career on the staff of the *Glasgow Evening Citizen*, migrated to London, and, as journalist and author of many novels, gained an immortal name as an exponent of Scottish life and scenery.

WILLIAM BLACK



William was the famous author mentioned in *Melodies and Memories* and was also the subject of a biography by Wemyss Reid. As a whole tome has been written about him we need only summarise a few details here. William was born in Glasgow in 1841. He started work as a bookbinder before becoming a fulltime writer.

AUGUSTE CHARLOTTE WENZEL

Auguste was born in Heidelberg, Germany on the 13 December 1842. Her father was Martin Wenzel and her mother Louise Sons.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

William and Auguste married in England in 1865 but sadly Auguste died soon after childbirth at the age of 23.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Martin Wentzel Black	May 1866	London	-	29 Mar 1871 England

In 1871 William was a journalist in London and his brother David was living with him. His son Martin had died just five days before the census was taken. Also in the house was Mary Dalton Morton aged fourteen, his niece.

H No	1	William Black	Head	Widow	29	Journalist	Glasgow
		David Black	Brother	Widow	21	Commercial Clerk	Scotland Glasgow
		Michael W Bony	Visitor	Widow	28	Commercial Clerk	Cork, Youghal
		Larry D Scott	Visitor		14		Liverpool London
		Jane Green	Housekeeper		36	Housekeeper	London, Perth
		Jane Green	Daughter		10	Housekeeper/Owner	Liverpool London
		Mary Anderson	Servant	Widow	18	General Servant	do London

1871 census – Lambeth, London.

EVELINE WALDEN `EVA` SIMPSON

Eva was born in Darlington on 2 October 1841; her father was Wharton Simpson a journalist.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

William and Eva married on 9 April 1874 in London.

Page 30

874. Marriage solemnized at the Church of St Paul in the Parish of Islington in the County of Middlesex

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
59	April 9 th 1874	William Black	32	Widower	Author	166, Cambewell Grove	James Black	Deceased
		Eveline Waldie Simpson	24	Spinster		36, Canonbury Park North	George Wharton Simpson	Editor

Married in the Church of St Paul, Islington, according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Licence as after by me

is Marriage solemnized between us, { William Black: } In the Presence of us, { George Wharton Simpson }
{ Eveline Waldie Simpson } { Mary Dalton Morton }

H. Dixon, Curate

Marriage certificate – William Black and Eveline Waldie Simpson.

They had three children.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Mabel Annie Black	17 Jun 1875	Brighton	Richard Malcolm Ansell Edlundh	01 Sep 1924 England
*Norman James Black	11 Jun 1876	Brighton	-	02 Dec 1916 England
*Violet Muriel Black	11 Jul 1877	Brighton	William Claud Horton	03 Sep 1930 England

In 1881, William's wife and children were staying with his best friend John Garrett Morten. Morten had married William's sister on the death of his first wife (who was also a member of the Black family). This census record was shown on a previous page. William wrote a book entitled *Madcap Violet* in 1775. The heroine may have been named after his niece and the following year he named his own daughter Violet. William was residing in Scotland in both 1881 and 1891, and in the later year, John Garret Morton was in the house also.

DEATH AND BURIAL

William died on 10 December 1898 and Eveline died on 14 February 1912. Both are buried in St Margaret's Churchyard, Rottingdean.

BLACK William of Paston-house Paston-place Brighton author died 10 December 1898 Probate **London** 21 January to John Garrett Morten esquire and Colin Hantes esquire A.R.A. Effects £29625 13s. 6d.

Probate - William Black.

Press

2 July 1901

THE WILLIAM BLACK MEMORIAL BEACON.

The 'William Black Memorial Beacon,' which has been erected on the eastern coast of Mull, was lighted on May 12th, and on that night shone over the Highland seas for the first time. The following is a copy of the telegram which was sent by Mrs Black to all the members of the Committee:—"William Black Memorial Beacon. Lit to-day at three p.m. Thank you.—Black." There was no ceremony, but the following lines, entitled, 'The Silence AH,' were written for the occasion by Lord Archibald Campbell, and dedicated to the daughters of William Black:—"Here mid the splendour of the dying day, We consecrate this Light in. Love's own way, In silence all.

"It is in silence that the day is born; It is in silence that the day—well worn—. Sinks into night. I'st not in silence that deep love is born? It is in silence that deep grief is born- In silence all."

An article in the *Christchurch Press* (NZ) heralded the erection of a memorial to William Black. With a number of relations in New Zealand we wonder how many realised they were reading about a Black from the Breich Water



William Black Memorial Beacon, Duart.

Wikipedia has the following entry;

William was born to James Black and his second wife Caroline Conning. He was educated to be a landscape painter, a training that influenced his literary life, and as a writer he became celebrated for the detailed and atmospheric descriptions of landscapes and seascapes in novels such as *White Wings: A Yachting Romance* (1880).

At the age of twenty-three he went to London, after some experience with Glasgow journalism, and joined the staff of *The Morning Star*, and, later, the *Daily News*, of

which journal he became assistant-editor. He wrote a weekly serial in "The Graphic". During the Austro-Prussian War he acted as a war correspondent.

His first novel, *James Merle*, appeared in 1864, and had little success. Black later disowned the novel and reputedly bought copies to destroy them. Two further early novels *Love or Marriage* (1868) and *The Monarch of Mincing Lane* (1871) did little to advance his career, and all three were omitted from the collected edition of Black's works issued by the publishing firm Sampson Low from 1892.

It was the publication of *A Daughter of Heth* in 1871 that at once established his popularity. It is the story of a young girl brought up in Catholic France, who comes to live with her more austere Protestant relatives in southern Scotland, and ends with personal tragedy. The travel story *The Strange Adventures of a Phaeton* followed in 1872, and in 1874 *A Princess of Thule* was another big success and was later adapted into a musical play, *The Maid of Arran*, by a young L. Frank Baum.

Retiring from journalism the next year he devoted himself entirely to fiction. Several collections of short stories and a further 22 novels followed; the last – *Wild Eelin* – in 1898, just before his death on 10 December of that year.

During his own lifetime Black's novels were immensely popular, and were compared favourably with those of Anthony Trollope, though some critics complained that his writings revealed too much his interest in hunting and fishing. However, his fame and popularity did not survive long into the twentieth century. His works were bootlegged in the United States, not being protected by copyright laws. He teamed with such well-known authors as Rudyard Kipling, Thomas Hardy, and Walter Besant to abolish this procedure, resulting in the passing of new laws in 1891, but unlike the others, he held no grudge against those who sold unauthorized copies of his books while it was legal to do so, which made relations easier and friendlier between him and his American publishers. Baum's play was written without regard to copyright courtesy when such was legal: it is uncertain if Black was even aware of its existence, as Reid never mentions it in his biography.

Among his later novels may be mentioned two further "tragic" tales: *Madcap Violet* (1876) and *Macleod of Dare* (1879); *Sunrise* (1881) a novel of international political intrigue; *Shandon Bells* (1883) largely set in Ireland; *Yolande* (1883) which in part deals with drug addiction; *Judith Shakespeare* (1884) a historical novel featuring the playwright's daughter; and *The New Prince Fortunatus* (1890) a novel of London theatrical life. Friendship with actor Mary Anderson resulted in him stage acting twice, with mute roles known as "thinkers" (in *Romeo and Juliet* and *The Winter's Tale*), but his nervousness interrupted the performance.

Black also produced the volume *Goldsmith* (1878) for Morley's *English Men of Letters* series.

Black is remembered by a lighthouse built in the form of a Gothic tower "on a spot that he knew and loved, by his friends and admirers from all over the world," as recorded on a carved plaque over the door. The building was erected in 1901 and is still in use as a lighthouse. It stands a mile or so south of Duart Castle, at the eastern extremity of the Isle of Mull.

A collection of sketch-stories, including portions of the suppressed *James Merle* were published posthumously as *With the Eyes of Youth, and Other Sketches* (1903).

Family

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

Black's first wife, Augustus Wenzel, died on 14 May 1866 of a fever contracted not long after the birth of their son, Martin. They had only been married since 8 April 1865. Martin would die on 29 March 1871.

He first met his second wife, Eva Simpson, daughter of Wharton Simpson, a fellow journalist and fellow member of Whitefriars Club, in 1869. He saw her again in 1872 and used her as the basis for Bell in *The Phaeton*. They were married in April 1874 and she was still alive when Wemyss Reid, who had offered Black a contributor's role on the *Leeds Mercury*, published his biography. From 1879 until his death he lived at 1 Paston Place, Brighton.

PUNCH'S FANCY PORTRAITS.—No. 24.



"BLACK" ART.

THE ATMOSPHERIC NOVELIST COMING OUT WITH "SUNRISE," IN WHICH HE DOES NOT TRY TO "POINT A MORAL," BUT "A DAWN A TALE."

Punch – date unknown.

DAVID BLACK AND JESSIE EDMOND

**Residence - London, England
Glasgow, Lanark**

... [James Black's] family of sons and daughters...[David]

DAVID BLACK

David, born on 13 April 1848. In 1871 David was a commercial clerk, aged 21, living in England with his brother William, who was by then a widower. William's only child had died five days before this census so we are not sure if this was a permanent arrangement.

JESSIE EDMOND

Jessie was the daughter of a Presbyterian minister John Edmond and his wife Agnes McLeod. She was born in Stirlingshire on 2 May 1850.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The marriage took place in Highbury on 27 October 1874 and the officiant was the bride's father. Two children were found.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*James Edmond Black	29 Jul 1875	Islington	Helen Greenlees Mitchell Gauld	17 Sep 1947 England
*Kenneth McLeod Black	22 Oct 1879	Islington	Ethel Violet Marriott	06 Sep 1951 England

DEATH AND BURIAL

By 1901 Jessie was recorded as a widow but there is no obvious death for David. In his will, William Black (his brother) forgave David a £500 debt but was he already dead by the time William died?

His three pictures by Colin Hunter, A.R.A., he bequeathed to his sister, Mrs. Morton; his MS. of "Sunrise" he leaves to Colin Hunter. The Testator bequeaths, free of legacy duty, 300*l.* to Janet Glen Black, and 500*l.* to his brother David Black, already lent to him. The residue of his property, real and personal, the Testator leaves in trust for the benefit of his widow and for his children, in equal shares, after

The Standard - Wednesday 25 Jan 1899

Jessie died in 1933.

FOURTH GENERATION

CHILDREN OF THOMAS PORTEOUS BLACK AND HELEN BRYCE

WILLIAM BLACK AND ISABELLA MILLER

**Residence - Whitburn, West Lothian
Mid Calder, Midlothian**

William, the eldest, had nine sons and five daughters, several of the former being railwaymen.

WILLIAM BLACK

William was born 15 March 1836 at Longridge.



ISABELLA MILLER

The mother of William's fourteen children was not mentioned by JB, but she was Isabella Miller (also spelt Millar) baptised on 26 July 1846 to Gavin Miller and Janet Bryce.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

They married on 5 July 1864 in Whitburn when William was 28 and Isabella eighteen. Exactly as listed in *Melodies and Memories* nine sons and five daughters were found and all lived into adulthood.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
^Thomas 'Tom' Black	15 Mar 1865	Whitburn	Annie Jane Tolhurst	10 Sep 1926 Australia
^William Black	16 Aug 1866	Whitburn	Margaret Hunter	25 Nov 1953
*Janet (Jessie) Black	20 Jan 1869	Whitburn	William Stewart	1946
*Alexander Black	21 Nov 1870	Whitburn	Jeanie Scott Elder	aft 1919
*Helen 'Nellie' Black	16 Sep 1872	Whitburn	-	28 Aug 1951
^John Black	05 Jul 1874	Whitburn	Margaret (Maggie) Burton	07 Sep 1949
*Isabella Black	1876	Whitburn	-	aft 1919
*Robert Black	1878	Mid Calder	unknown	1929
*Marion Black	1879	Mid Calder	-	09 Dec 1961
*George Black	1881	Mid Calder	unknown	aft 1951
*Margaret Lithgow Black	05 Aug 1883	Mid Calder	Robert Soutar Barbour	1951
*James Black	1887	Mid Calder	unknown	aft 1919
^Henry Bryce (Harry) Black	1889	Mid Calder	-	25 Jan 1915 France 
^Arnot Hepburn Black	1893	Mid Calder	-	19 Sep 1918 Greece 

William was a signalman in the railways, an occupation he no doubt preferred to working in a coalmine in Whitburn, as he had been in 1871.

CENSUS RECORD SHEET				
DISTRICT: Mid Calder Midlothian				YEAR 1891
STREET Newpark Rail Cottage				
NAME	DESIG	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
William Black	head	55	railway signalman	Whitburn
Isabella Black	wife	44		Whitburn
Helen Black	son	13	dressmaker	Whitburn
John Black	son	16	pit labourer	Whitburn
Robert Black	daughter	13	scholar	Mid Calder
Marion Black	son	11	scholar	Mid Calder
George Black	daughter	9	scholar	Mid Calder
Margaret L Black	daughter	7	scholar	Mid Calder
James Black	son	4		Mid Calder
Henry B Black		2		Mid Calder

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

William died on 4 February 1896 leaving a young family.

BLACK, William, Signalman, Caledonian Railway, residing at New Park near West Calder, died 4 February 1896, at New Park aforesaid, intestate. Confirmation granted at **Edinburgh**, 27 March, to Isabella Millar or Black, New Park aforesaid, Executrix dative *qua* relict. Value of Estate, £98, 15s.

Probate - William Black.

Isabella later went to live in Glasgow. Probably because her son Arnot had not left a will, Isabella in 1919 was required to give a declaration on the current ages and whereabouts of all her children. All but Harry (and of course Arnot) were alive and only Thomas was living out of Scotland.

Degree of relationship	NAME IN FULL of every relative now living in each degree enquired for (see note above).	ADDRESS IN FULL of each surviving relative opposite his or her name.
Widow of the Soldier ...	<i>None</i>	
Children of the Soldier and dates of their births...	<i>None</i>	
Father of the Soldier ...	<i>William Black</i>	
Mother of the Soldier ...	<i>Isabella Miller Black</i>	<i>117 Smith St Govanhill Glasgow</i>
Brothers of the Soldier	Full blood ... <i>Thomas Black</i> Age <i>23</i> <i>James Black</i> Age <i>21</i> <i>Robert Black</i> Age <i>19</i> <i>Harry Black</i> Age <i>17</i> Half blood ... <i>None</i>	<i>117 Smith St Govanhill Glasgow</i> <i>117 Smith St Govanhill Glasgow</i> <i>117 Smith St Govanhill Glasgow</i> <i>117 Smith St Govanhill Glasgow</i> <i>117 Smith St Govanhill Glasgow</i>
Sisters of the Soldier	Full blood ... <i>Isabella Black</i> Age <i>21</i> <i>Isabella Black</i> Age <i>19</i> <i>Isabella Black</i> Age <i>17</i> Half blood ... <i>None</i>	<i>117 Smith St Govanhill Glasgow</i> <i>117 Smith St Govanhill Glasgow</i> <i>117 Smith St Govanhill Glasgow</i> <i>117 Smith St Govanhill Glasgow</i>
If no Relatives in the degrees above are now living the following particulars should be given:-		
	Names of those now living.	Addresses in full.
Grandparents of the Soldier ...		
Nephews and Nieces of the Soldier ...		
Uncles and Aunts by blood of the Soldier (not Uncles and Aunts by marriage) ...		

DECLARATION.

I hereby declare that the above is a true and complete Statement of all the Relatives of the late Soldier now living in the degrees enquired for.

Relationship to the Soldier *Mother*

Address in full *117 Smith St Govanhill Glasgow*

I hereby certify that the above Statement and Declaration made by *Isabella M. Black* signed in my presence is complete and correct, to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Dated at *Glasgow* this *10* day of *Dec* 19 *19*

Signature of Minister *W. H. Drummond* Qualification *Minister of the Gospel*

Address *117 Smith St Govanhill Glasgow*

Arnot Hepburn Black's Army records.



DEATH AND BURIAL

Isabella lived another forty years and died in 1937. Both William and Isabella were buried in the Kirk of Calder cemetery along with two of their unmarried daughters. Their two sons who had died in WW1, were also commemorated on their headstone.

In Memory of William Black, Signelman, Newpark Station Beloved Husband of Isabella Millar D. 4.2.1896 Aged 59, Their Sons Henry Bryce, Pte. 1st Scots Guards Killed At La Basse 25.1.1915 Aged 26. Arnot Hepburn, Pte. 8th Royal Scots Fusiliers Killed At Salonica 19.9.1918 Aged 25. the above Isabella Millar D. 14.9.1937 Aged 91, Their Daughter Helen D. 28.8.1951 Aged 78. Also Their Daughter Marion D. 9.12.1961 Aged 82.

MARION BLACK AND JOHN HEPBURN

Thomas Porteous ... With a family three daughters. [Marion]

MARION BLACK

Marion was unnamed by JB but she was Thomas Porteous's eldest daughter born on 2 December 1837 in Whitburn. By 1851 she had gone to live with her father's sister Agnes Black in Stirling. In 1851 she was a thirteen year old scholar but by 1861 she was a milliner's assistant working, and still living with her aunt.

JOHN HEPBURN

John was born in 1836 in Kirkcaldy. His father was Arnot Hepburn and his mother Mary Pearson. John was a bookseller.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

John and Marion married on 27 December 1861 in Stirling. Five children were found.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Arnot Hepburn	15 Nov 1862	Stirling	-	20 Oct 1877 England
*Thomas Hepburn	20 Feb 1864	Stirling	-	1867
*Helen Hepburn	22 Jun 1866	Stirling	-	bef 1881
*John Hepburn	30 Jul 1870	Glasgow	unknown	aft 1881
*William Alexander Hepburn	12 Dec 1872	Glasgow	-	1874

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

In 1871 they were in Glasgow.

CENSUS RECORD SHEET				
DISTRICT: Glasgow Anderston				YEAR 1871
STREET 180?				
NAME	DESIG	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
John Hepburn	head	35	bookseller and stationer	Linktown
Marion Black	wife	33		Whitburn
Arnot Hepburn	son	8	scholar	Stirling
Helen Hepburn	daughter	4		Stirling
John Hepburn	son	9 mo		Glasgow

DEATH AND BURIAL

John died aged 39 on 4 October on 4 October 1875 in Kelvin, Glasgow.

JAMES SCOTT

James was born about 1836 in Scotland. We assume he was widowed, as he appears to have at least one son, Joseph Fleming Scott. James was a ship's carpenter.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

Marion and James married in Glasgow a year after John Hepburn died. They moved to Lancashire and young Arnot died here in 1877. By 1881 they were living in Liverpool and Marion had two children to her new husband.

1	James Scott	Head	mar	45	Ship Carpenter	Scotland
	Marion "	wife	"	42		"
	James "	son	Unm	4	scholar	Lanc: Kirkdale
	Marion A "	Daughter	"	1		"
	John Hepburn	Stepson	"	10	scholar	Scotland
	Joseph Fleming Scott		"	21	Elect. Ironmonger	"

1881 census - Kirkdale, Liverpool, Lancashire.

From her first marriage, only John Hepburn, now ten, was living in the household.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*James Scott	Mar Q 1877	Lancashire	unknown	aft 1881
*Marion Agnes Scott	Sep Q 1879	Lancashire	unknown	aft 1881

Having traced them to England the scent goes cold and it is possible the family next went to America.

ALEXANDER BLACK AND AGNES CHERRY

Residence – Whitburn, West Lothian

5/05/2025

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**Livingston, West Lothian
Uphall, West Lothian
Bothwell, Lanark**

Alexander had two sons in railway service.

ALEXANDER BLACK

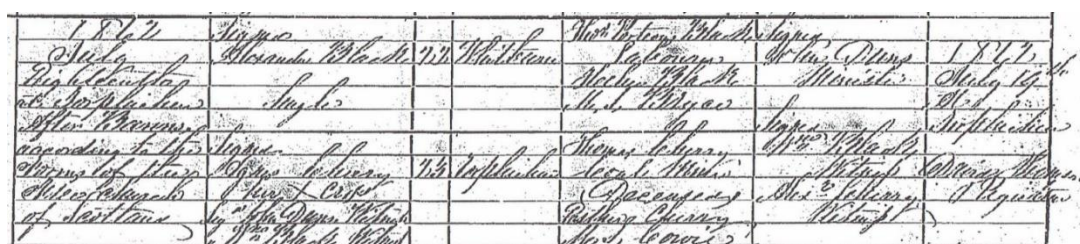
Alexander was born on 8 April 1840 at Longridge.

AGNES ROBERTSON CHERRY

Agnes's birth was not found, but in 1841 she was at Torphichen aged four. Her parents were Thomas Cherry and Esther Cowie. She later gave her birthplace as Bathgate and sometimes used the middle name Robertson.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The couple married on 18 July 1862.



Marriage certificate – Alexander Black and Agnes Cherry.

We can find seven children but only three survived, and yes, the 1881 census indicated that there were two sons in the railway service.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
^Thomas Porteous Black	15 Aug 1862	Whitburn	Sarah Ann Wenlock	19 Dec 1949 Canada
^James Cherry Black	10 Jun 1864	Whitburn	Margaret Wilson Russell	1910-1915 USA
*Alexander Black	19 May 1865	Whitburn	-	22 Jul 1866
*William Black	13 Aug 1867	Whitburn	Agnes Ann Rowland	28 Dec 1949
*Male Black	02 Jan 1870	Livingston	-	02 Jan 1870
*Female Black	23 Jan 1871	Livingston	-	23 Jan 1871
*Robert Black	08 May 1872	Uphall	-	09 Jun 1872

CENSUS RECORD SHEET

DISTRICT: Bothwell, Lanarkshire

YEAR 1881

STREET Woodend

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

NAME	DESIG	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
Alexander Black	Head	40	railway signalman	Whitburn
Agnes C Black	wife	41		Bathgate
Thomas P Black	son	18	railway porter	Whitburn
James Black	son	16	railway lamp lighter	Whitburn
William Black	son	13	scholar	Whitburn
Esther Cowie	mother-in-law	84		Ireland
Alexander Ross Black	nephew	3		England

The nephew, Alexander Ross Black's mother, was the unwed Agnes Black, Alexander's sister. (In 1901 young Alexander was described as their son.)⁸

DEATH AND BURIAL

Alexander died in 1897 in Bothwell. Agnes later went to live with her son William and his family in Hamilton. She died on 12 February 1918.

ROBERT BLACK, CAROLINE A 'MAGGIE' PALMER AND SARAH JANE FRONABERGER

**Residence - Wisconsin, USA
Michigan, USA
Pope, Arkansas, USA
Oklahoma, USA**

Robert went long ago to Arkansas, served in the civil war, and has filled many public offices. He had many sons and daughters.

ROBERT BLACK

Robert was born on 24 July 1842 according to an American census record. He was found on the 1851 census in Scotland but left when he was thirteen for America. We are told his Uncle Robert Black offered an opportunity to one of his nephews, and it was young Robert who put up his hand to go. The two didn't know each other in Scotland as his uncle had left for America before young Robert was born. The date of 1855 was confirmed on his naturalisation application and an 1855 Wisconsin State Census for Lisbon, Waukesha, Wisconsin, indicates that Robert was by then living with his uncle and his wife. He remained with the couple until at least 1865 and was recorded in their household on the 1860 census. Robert enrolled in the 48th Wisconsin Infantry at Lisbon on 14 February 1865 to fight for the Union. He was discharged on 19 February 1866 when Company B of the 48th Regiment was disbanded. Robert at this point was 24.

CAROLYN A 'MAGGIE' PALMER

⁸ Alexander Ross Black may have ended up in New Zealand. He married in 1901 in Scotland and had a son by the same name who died in New Zealand.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

Carolyn was the daughter of King Hiram Palmer and Gertrude Jane Vanderhoff. She was born in Wisconsin on 1 October 1847.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

Robert and Maggie married on 13 October 1866 in Waukesha, Wisconsin and Robert gave his parents as Thomas P Black and Ellen on the documentation. Within the next four years he moved from Wisconsin and we find him on the 1870 census farming in Rapid River, Michigan with two of the five children from that marriage.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	STATE	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Mary Ellen (Nellie) Black	10 Jul 1867	Wisconsin	Jacob Fronaberger	1940 USA
*William Marion Black	17 Jul 1869	Wisconsin	Tennessee Smith	23 Sep 1939 USA
*Thomas Hiram Black	30 Sep 1871	Michigan	Jasper Chapell then Winifred Virginia Osborn	05 Aug 1933 USA
*Jane Black	27 May 1873	Michigan	unknown	unknown USA
Margaret Black	01 Oct 1875	Michigan	-	bef 1880



When Maggie died, Robert married for the second time. His new wife was Sarah Jane Fronaberger. His age was recorded as 25 but he was 35. He and Sarah had five more children in Galla Rock, Pope, Arkansas where he farmed. Pope was a thousand miles south from Michigan so we don't know why he made the move.

Robert Black.
Luellablack10 collection.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

Black & State of Arkansas do hereby certify that on the 16th day of Sept-
County of Pope & Marriage; 1877
You are hereby commanded to celebrate the Rite & publish the
Banns of Matrimony between Mr Robert Black of Athens in the County
of Pope and State of Arkansas aged twenty five years and Miss
Sarah Monaburg of Wilson Township in the County of Pope
and State of Arkansas aged twenty two years according to law,
and do you officially sign and return this license to the parties
herein named.
Witness my hand and Official Seal this 18th day of
Sept- 1877
A. J. Bayless clerk
By B. F. Bayless J.C.
I W. J. Bellock do hereby certify that on the 16th day of Sept-
A.D. 1877 I did duty, and according to law, as commanded
in the foregoing license, solemnize the rite and publish the banns
of Matrimony between the parties therein named.
Witness my hand this 16th day of Sept- A.D. 1877
W. J. Bellock J.C.
Filed October 2nd 1877, and Recorded December 15th 1877
A. J. Bayless clerk

Marriage records – Galla Rock – Arkansas - USA.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	STATE	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Phillip Jackson Black	27 May 1878	Arkansas	Ruth A Smith	1936 USA
*Mary A Black	21 July 1882	Arkansas	William Beckies	1959 USA
*Sarah Evaline Black	June 1886	Arkansas	unknown	unknown USA
*George Franklin Black	May 1889	Arkansas	Nora Garner	15 Jan 1949 USA
*Fannie Elizabeth Black	Oct 1891	Arkansas	-	1944 USA

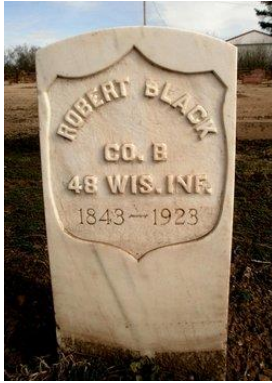
57 88	Black Robert	Head	W 31 July 1842 57 22	Scotland	Scotland	Scotland	W 20 0 0	Farmer	0 0 0	Yes Yes Yes
	Sarah J.	Wife	W 5 1853 44 22 11 6	North Carolina	North Carolina	North Carolina				Yes Yes Yes
	Mary	Daughter	W 6 July 1852 17 3	Arkansas	Scotland	North Carolina				Yes Yes Yes
	Evaline	Daughter	W 5 June 1856 13 5	Arkansas	Scotland	North Carolina		At School		Yes Yes Yes
	George	Son	W 14 May 1859 11 6	Arkansas	Scotland	North Carolina		At School		Yes Yes Yes
	Fanny	Daughter	W 8 Oct 1871 8 8	Arkansas	Scotland	North Carolina				Yes Yes Yes
58 89	Black, Homer	Head	W 17 Oct 1871 28 7 0	Michigan	Scotland	Wisconsin		Farmer	0 0 0	Yes Yes Yes
	Jackey	Wife	W 5 Oct 1861 18 7 0	Arkansas	Arkansas	Illinois				Yes Yes Yes

1910 census - Pope, Arkansas.

Although recorded as a farmer, Robert had masonry skills and he built a stone house for his family and helped build many of the downtown buildings in Pope. He also helped establish and build the Presbyterian Church and was a charter member of the local Masonic Lodge. Robert was able to go back to Scotland to visit his family twice: once with Thomas, 16 July 1910, and again in May 1913 with oldest son William.

DEATH AND BURIAL

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL



Robert and Sarah later moved to Oklahoma where Sarah died in 1916, Robert died on 27 October 1923. His headstone was paid for by the military and his daughter Fannie applied for it to be erected.⁹

MARGARET LITHGOW BLACK AND WILLIAM MACNAIR

Thomas Porteous ... With a family three daughters. **[Margaret]**

MARGARET LITHGOW BLACK



Margaret's birth was not found and so we were initially unaware that she used a middle name. Her birthdate comes from family and was on 24 October 1844 in Fauldhouse.

Margaret Lithgow Black.
Nancy Roberge collection.

WILLIAM MACNAIR

William was born in Clackmanshire on 18 July 1843, to parents Alexander and Isabella Morrison. The spelling MacNair seems a more common version than McNair though their children were registered with both variations.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

Margaret and William married on 19 November 1864 in Stirling. Perhaps, like her sister Marion, she had been living with her aunt Agnes Black.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Helen McNair	01 Sep 1868	Abbey	-	04 Oct 1870
*Alexander McNair	10 Mar 1871	Abbey	Janet Fairburn Letham	10 Jul 1930
*Isabella McNair	12 Feb 1872	Paisley	-	08 Nov 1961
*Thomas Porteous Black McNair	09 Feb 1874	Paisley	-	20 Dec 1874
*Margaret Lithgow	06 Nov 1875	Paisley	-	11 Aug 1963

⁹ Some family claim he was Robert Jackson Black, but we haven't seen this middle name used anywhere.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

MacNair				
*Rebecca Bruce MacNair	20 Oct 1877	Paisley	-	13 Dec 1961
*Williamina Morrison (Mina) MacNair	14 Sep 1880	Paisley	George Mitchell	07 Feb 1963
*William McNair	16 Dec 1882	Paisley	-	19 Feb 1884
*Marion Bryce McNair	03 Nov 1889	Hamilton	John Tassie Slater	10 Aug 1971 USA

In 1891 they were in Paisley and William was a commercial traveller.

CENSUS RECORD SHEET				
DISTRICT: Paisley Abbey, Renfrewshire				YEAR 1891
STREET Espedair Street, 4 Hillview				
NAME	DESIG	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
William McNair	head	47	commercial traveller	Tillicoultry
Margaret McNair	wife	46		Longridge
Alexander McNair	son	21	grocers assistant	Paisley
Isabella McNair	daughter	19	booksellers shopwoman	Paisley
Margaret McNair	daughter	15		Paisley
Rebecca McNair	daughter	13		Paisley
Williamina McNair	daughter	10	scholar	Paisley
Marion McNair	daughter	1		Paisley

DEATH AND BURIAL

William died on 10 January 1901, before the 1901 census and the eldest son, Alexander, was shown as the head of the house. William was probably buried at Paisley Laigh Kirk. Margaret died on 12 March 1933.

AGNES BLACK AND UNKNOWN RELATIONSHIP

Thomas Porteous ... With a family three daughters. [Marion]
--

AGNES BLACK

Agnes was born on 21 February in Longridge. In 1871 she was living with her sister Margaret McNair, then in 1879, she gave birth in Lancashire to a son who she named Alexander Ross Black. Alexander was raised by his uncle, also Alexander Black.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Alexander Ross Black	1879	England	Agnes Thomson Rankin	aft 1913 New Zealand

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

In 1881 Agnes was a nurse in the Duncan Street Infirmary but she is not found again after that date.

THOMAS PORTEOUS BLACK AND JANE KATE IRNSIDE

Residence - Cortachy and Clova, Angus

Thomas went many years ago, as schoolmaster, to Forfarshire, having one son and two daughters.

THOMAS PORTEOUS BLACK

Thomas was born on 19 February 1849 at Longridge.

JANE KAIE IRNSIDE

Birth details were not located for Jane but she appears to have been born around 1849 in Aberdeen to parents William Ironside and Jane Fraser.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

Thomas's marriage to Jane Kaie Ironside took place in her hometown of Aberdeen on 9 October 1873 when they were both around 24. Thomas and Jane moved to Cortachy where all their children were born and where Thomas lived out his working life as a school teacher. Their first child died in the same year of birth so JB would have been unaware of this child's existence when writing his book.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Thomas Ironside Black	21 May 1874	Cortachy & Clova	-	22 May 1874
*Male Black	Feb 1875	Cortachy & Clova	-	Feb 1875
^Helen Grace Bryce 'Ellen' Black	17 Jul 1876	Cortachy & Clova	William Hunter	03 Sep 1944 Australia
^Jeanie Fraser (Jane) Black	04 June 1879	Cortachy & Clova	-	03 June 1920 China
*Maggie McNair Black	02 Jan 1882	Cortachy & Clova	-	22 Apr 1883
*Female Black	Dec 1884	Cortachy & Clova	-	25 Dec 1884
^William John Black	1886	Cortachy & Clova	Jessie Tarbat Wishart	23 Aug 1939

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

CENSUS RECORD SHEET				
DISTRICT: Cortachy and Clova, Angus				YEAR 1881
STREET Schoolhouse				
NAME	DESIG	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
Thomas P Black	head	32	schoolmaster	Whitburn
Jane K Black	wife	32		Aberdeen
Ellen G B Black	daughter	4	scholar	Cortachy
Jane F Black	daughter	1		Cortachy

The 1891 census was not located, and in 1901, Thomas's age was transcribed incorrectly as he was 52 not 38. Jane his wife had died by then.

CENSUS RECORD SHEET				
DISTRICT: Cortachy and Clova, Angus				YEAR 1901
STREET Cortachy Schoolhouse				
NAME	DESIG	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
Thomas C Black	head	38	schoolmaster	Whitburn
Jane F Black	daughter	21		Cortachy
William J Black	son	14	scholar	Cortachy



DEATH AND BURIAL

Jane died 27 April 1897 and Thomas died 11 October 1913. The words are illegible from the photograph, but their son William was also buried at Cortachy.

BLACK.—At Cortachy Schoolhouse, Kirriemuir, on 11th October, THOMAS PORTEOUS BLACK, aged 64. Public funeral on Tuesday, 14th October, at 2 P.M., from the Schoolhouse to Cortachy Cemetery. Carriages leave Arms Hotel, Kirriemuir, at 1.15 P.M. (South African papers please copy.)

BLACK, Thomas Porteous, Schoolmaster, Cortachy, Kirriemuir, died 11 October 1913, at Cortachy aforesaid, testate. Confirmation granted at **Forfar**, 9 December, to Jane Fraser Black, Schoolhouse, Cortachy aforesaid, Executrix nominated in Will or Deed, dated 22 August 1913, and recorded in Court Books of Commissariat of Forfar, 6 December 1913. Value of Estate, £885, 7s.

Probate - Thomas Porteous Black.

GEORGE BANKS BLACK AND MARGARET GIBSON BROWN

Residence - numerous places in Scotland and England

George has long served the C.R. Coy., being now District Superintendent at Aberdeen, having three sons and six daughters living.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

GEORGE BANKS BLACK


George was given the middle name Banks after an uncle by marriage. He was born on 3 June 1853 in Whitburn; his aunt Janet had married George Banks twenty years earlier.

MARGARET GIBSON BROWN

Margaret was born on 31 December 1852 in West Calder to parents William Brown and Mary Fordyce.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

George and Margaret married on Christmas Day in 1873. We found seven daughters (not the six in the text).

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Mary Ann Black	08 Oct 1874	East Kilbride	William MacLagan	06 Dec 1955 England
^Helen (Nellie) Bryce Black	06 Jul 1876	Calder	-	05 Mar 1945 England
^Thomas Porteous Black	08 Nov 1878	Shotts	Agnes Edward Dickson Mackie	9 Aug 1915 Gallipoli 
^William Brown Black	11 Feb 1880	Carluke	Dorothy Eveline Armstrong	11 Nov 1957 England
*George Banks Black	Apr 1882	Carstairs	-	23 Sep 1882
*Margaret Brown (Maggie) Black	19 Nov 1883	Carluke	-	03 Oct 1914
*Jessie Brown Black	31 Aug 1885	Old Machar	William Alexander Ogg	12 Sep 1963 USA
^Alexander John Black	23 Dec 1887	Aberdeen	Lilian Frances Ritchey	26 Feb 1954 England
^Agnes Black	01 Feb 1891	Darlington	-	1963 England
*Fordyce Brown Black	13 Jun 1895	Newcastle	Sydney Frederick McKinnon	26 Apr 1974 England

In 1881 the family were living in Carluke where George was the station master. Living with them was George's younger brother John. By 1891 the family had moved to Darlington, Durham where we also find them in 1901.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

George B. Black	Head	M.	47	Head of Agent	Worker	Scotland.
Margaret do.	Wife	M.	48 48			do.
Mary A. do.	Daughter	F.	26			do.
Helie B. do.	Daughter	F.	24			do.
Thomas P. do.	Son	M.	22	Student		do.
William B. do.	Son	M.	21	Dental		do.
Margaret B. do.	Daughter	F.	17	Pupil Teacher		do.
Jessie B. do.	Daughter	F.	15			do.
Alexander J. do.	Son	M.	13			do.
Agnes do.	Daughter	F.	10			Durham, Darlington
Fredyce B. do.	Daughter	F.	6			Newcastle & Tyne

1901 census - Darlington, England.

George returned to Scotland in 1905 and was employed as the district superintendent of the Caledonian Railway in Aberdeen. In 1910 a lengthy biography (too long to print here) was published in the Midlothian Advertiser on 18 February 1910. The writer was none other than JB himself.

DEATH AND BURIAL

George and Margaret moved to Aberdeen and this was where George died on 26 May 1915 and was buried in Aberdeen.

BLACK George Banks of 117 Whinhill-road **Aberdeen** died 26 May 1915 Confirmation of Margaret Brown or Black widow. Sealed **London** 17 July.

Probate – George Banks Black.

Margaret went to live with her unmarried daughters and she died at Golders Green, London in 1938.

BLACK Margaret Brown of 33 St. Marys-road Golders Green **London N.W.11** widow died 28 May 1938 Probate **Wakefield** 24 February to William Brown Black and Alexander John Black dental surgeons and William MacLagan secretary of a limited company. Effects £659 1s. 3d.

Probate – Margaret Brown Black.



George Banks son of George B Black and Maggie Brown died at Law Junction the 25/9/1882 aged 5 months.

Whitburn cemetery.

JOHN BLACK

Residence - numerous places in Scotland and England

John, from a humble capacity, became Station auditor in the C. R. service.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

John was born in November 1859. In 1881 he was a railway clerk living with his brother George in Carlisle. In 1891 he was aged 32 and a Railway Audit Inspector in Glasgow boarding with a married couple.

DEATH AND BURIAL

John died on 18 March 1896 at the age of 37 and was buried at Whitburn with his parents.

BLACK, John, Railway Audit Inspector, 107 M'Aslin Street, Glasgow, died 18 March 1896, at Glasgow, testate. Confirmation granted at **Glasgow**, 7 May, to George Banks Black, Railway Officer, 36 Rothbury Terrace, Heaton, Newcastle-on-Tyne, his brother, Executor nominated in Will or Deed, dated 18 February 1896, and recorded in Court Books of Commissariat of Lanark, 7 May 1896. Value of Estate, £195, 6s. 6d.

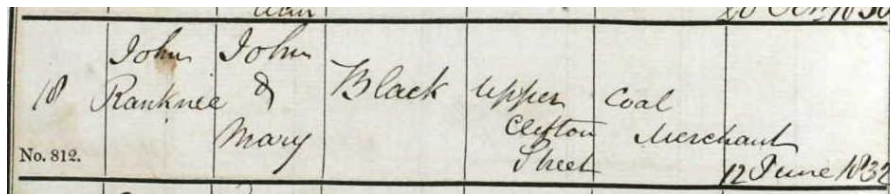
Probate - John Black.

CHILDREN OF JOHN BLACK AND MARY ROBERTSON DALTON

JOHN RANKINE BLACK

Residence - London, England
Lochgailhead, Argyllshire

John Rankine Black, B.A., Barrister of Inner Temple, being son of last named John Black.



Parish baptism records – St Leonards, Shoreditch, London.

John was born on 12 June 1832 in London. He trained as a barrister and was admitted to the bar at the Inner Court, London. He later moved to Lochgailhead but never married.

DEATH AND BURIAL

John died at Lochgailhead at the age of 38. He left his estate to his niece Mary Dalton Morten in the trust of her father.

BLACK John Rankine. 30 September. The Confirmation under Seal of the Commissariat of **Argyle** dated 23 September 1870 of John Garrett Morten Solicitor of 2 Bond-court Walbrook London as Executor Dative quâ Curator and Administrator in Law to Mary Dalton Morten one of the Representatives of the Next of Kin of the late John Rankine Black Barrister-at-Law sometime residing at Donich Lodge Lochgoilhead in the County of **Argyll** who died at Lochgoilhead aforesaid 20 July 1870 was sealed at the **Principal Registry London.**

Probate – John Rankine Black.

MARGARET JANE QUARRIER BLACK AND JOHN GARRETT MORTEN

Residence - London, England

MARGARET JANE QUARRIER BLACK

Margaret was born on 28 May 1834 and baptised on 7 December of the same year. She was not mentioned by JB but her story is here as she is connected to the family in several ways.

No. 1332.	Margaret Jane Quarrier Mary Robertson Dalton	John & Mary Black	St John the Baptist Place East	Bankers W. L. Turner born 28 May 1834
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Parish baptism records – St John the Baptist, Hoxton, London.

JOHN GARRETT MORTEN

John Garrett Morten, a lawyer, was born in London on 18 December 1832.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

The couple married on 11 December 1855 and had two children.

Dec. 11, at Upper Clapton, John Garrett Morten, Esq, solicitor, younger son of William Morten, Esq., Amersham, to Margaret Jane Quarrier, only daughter of John Black, Esq., Priory, Lower Clapton.

Bicester Herald.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Mary Dalton Morten	03 Oct 1856	Hackney	-	20 Sep 1935 England
*William Morten	28 Nov 1857	Hackney	Dorothy Grey Wright	16 Aug 1943 England

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

DEATH AND BURIAL

When Margaret died on 2 March 1858, at the age of 24, her husband married Wilhelmina Milroy Black, her first cousin once removed.

FIFTH GENERATION

CHILDREN OF WILLIAM BLACK AND ISABELLA MILLER

THOMAS (TOM) BLACK AND ANNIE JANE TOLHURST

William, the eldest, had nine sons ...[Tom]... several of the former being railwaymen.

THOMAS (TOM) BLACK

Tom, born at Whitburn on 15 March 1865, was a railway clerk on the 1881 census, aged sixteen and boarding with another family. Before 1891 he went to Australia.

ANNIE JANE TOLHURST

Annie was born in 1871 in Bathurst to George Tolhurst and Eleanor Stinger.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

Tom and Annie married in 1892 in Sydney. They had two known children.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Rupert Selby Black	1892	Sydney	Elizabeth Bulmer then Viola Eileen Thew	22 Aug 1942 Australia
*Tom Frederick Black	1894	NSW	Rita May Lound	31 May 1979 Australia

DEATH AND BURIAL

Tom died on 10 September 1926 and Annie lived until 1952.

WILLIAM BLACK AND MARGARET (MAGGIE) HUNTER

William, the eldest, had nine sons ...[William]... several of the former being railwaymen.

WILLIAM BLACK

William was born on 16 August 1866 in Whitburn.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

MARGARET 'MAGGIE' HUNTER

Maggie was the daughter of William Wallace Hunter and Jane Penman and was born in Beith, Fife in 1878.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

William was 31 and Maggie 19 when they married in Dunfermline in 1897. Three children were found.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*William Black	25 Feb 1899	Leslie	Myrtle Irene Neely	10 Aug 1967 USA
*Henry Hunter Black	26 Mar 1901	Dunfermline	Emma Clay	3 Aug 1972 USA
*Thomas Porteous Black	1908	Dunfermline	-	1909



In 1901 William was a commercial traveller. By 1919 he was living at Easter Cottage in Charleston, Fife. The home is unique and was built as the manager's house for the salt pans. We assume therefore William was employed in this capacity.

DEATH AND BURIAL



William died on 25 November 1953 and Maggie in 1964. They were buried in the old churchyard at Rosyth, Fife.

Rosyth Churchyard.

JOHN BLACK AND MARGARET (MAGGIE) BURTON

William, the eldest, had nine sons ...[John]...several of the former being railwaymen.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

JOHN BLACK

John was born on 5 July 1874 in Whitburn.

MARGARET (MAGGIE) BURTON

Margaret was the daughter of John Burton and Isabella Johnstone and was born in Mid Calder in 1874.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The couple married in 1900 in Livingston. Only one child was found and she did not live to adulthood.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Isabella Johnstone Black	Jan 1902	Mid Calder	-	2 July 1906

In 1919, John's mother gave their address as Harbour Cottage, Charleston, Fife.



DEATH AND BURIAL

Both John and Maggie died in Dunfermline and they were buried in Rosyth churchyard. Maggie died in 1932 and John in 1949.

Rosyth Churchyard.

HENRY BRYCE (HARRY) BLACK

William, the eldest, had nine sons ...[**Henry**]...several of the former being railwaymen.

Harry was born in 1889 in East Calder. By 1901 he was living with his six siblings and his widowed mother in Govanhill, Glasgow. Private 10008 enlisted with the National Scots Guards, on 1 September 1914 aged 25 and was reported missing after the fighting on 25 January 1915 at the Battle of la Bassee, France. He is commemorated on Le Touret Memorial and is listed simply as Harry Black. He is also commemorated on his parent's headstone, shown earlier in this document.

ARNOT HEPBURN BLACK

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

William, the eldest, had nine sons ...[Arnot]...several of the former being railwaymen.

Arnot was the youngest of the fourteen children and born in 1893 in Mid Calder. After Harry was killed in France, Arnot enlisted on the 27 September 1916 at the age of 22 from Glasgow. He was a shipping clerk and joined the Royal Scots Fusiliers in the 8th Battalion. Arnot died on 19 September 1918 at the age of 26. He is commemorated as simply 'A. Black' on the Dorian Memorial in Greece and also on his parent's headstone in Rosyth.

Note: William Black and Isabella Miller had fourteen children. Only five have been outlined here. Four of the girls did not marry and we currently know very little about the others.

CHILDREN OF ALEXANDER BLACK AND AGNES ROBERTSON CHERRY

THOMAS PORTEOUS BLACK AND SARAH ANN WENLOCK

Alexander had two sons in railway service. [Thomas]

THOMAS PORTEOUS BLACK

Thomas was born on 15 August 1862 in Whitburn.

SARAH ANN WENLOCK

Sarah was born on 2 February 1864 in Perth to parents John Wenlock and Ann Burns Campbell.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

They married in Old Monkland on 29 September 1882 and had seven known children.

(Page 78.)

MARRIAGES in the Middle District of *Old Monkland* in the County of *Leicestershire*

When, Where, and How Married.	Signatures of Parties. Rank or Profession, whether Single or Widowed, and Relationship (if any)	Age.	Usual Residence.	Name, Surname, and Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	If a regular Marriage, Signatures of officiating Minister and Witnesses. If Irregular, Date of Declaration, Decree of Declaration, or Sheriff's Warrant.	When & Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
1002. on the 29th Sept 1882 at 6 Waddell's Lane Whitburn	<i>signed</i> Thos P Black Railway Porter Bachelor	20	66 West Mission Street Glasgow	Alexander Black Railway Workman James Black Mrs Cherry	<i>signed</i> William Robertson Minister of Gospelark	1002. October 2nd
After Publication According to the Form of the Ch of Scotland	<i>signed</i> Sarah Ann Wenlock Domestic Servant Spinster	19	66 West Mission Street Glasgow	John Benjamin Wilson Wenlock Carrier (Driver) John Gilbert James Wilson Mrs Jamieson	<i>signed</i> James Black Witness Maggie Ford Witness	at Coalbridge Edward Conroy Registrar. Full

Marriage certificate – Thomas Porteous Black and Sarah Ann Wenlock.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Ann Black	1883	Blantyre	unknown	aft 1911

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

				Canada?
*Agnes Black	1885	Old Monkland	John James Foley	aft 1911 Canada?
*Isabella Black	1887	Whifflet	unknown	aft 1901
*Alexander Black	09 Apr 1889	Glasgow	Elizabeth Ingram McLean	26 Nov 1956 USA
*Thomas Black	1890	Irvine	Agnes McGinn then Wilhelmina Campbell	1958 Canada?
*William Black	21 Jan 1892	Irvine	Sine Nikoline 'Cecelia' Skipper then Mary Unknown	1967 Canada
*Sarah Ann Black	06 Oct 1903	Ardrossan	Clellan Hill Crofford	03 Dec 1987 USA

After the last child was born the family went to Canada in 1911. Thomas and Sarah settled in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan where he became the owner of a movie theatre. Later some of their children settled in the States.

DEATH AND BURIAL

Thomas died on 19 December 1949 in Moose Jaw. Sarah died on 1 June 1951.

JAMES CHERRY BLACK AND MARGARET WILSON RUSSELL

Alexander had two sons in railway service. [James]
--

JAMES CHERRY BLACK

James was not registered with the middle name Cherry but adopted it later. He was born on 10 June 1864 at Whitburn.

MARGARET WILSON RUSSELL

The birth records show Margaret was the daughter of John Russell and Marion Cruickshanks, born on 19 May 1867 at Bothwell.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

They married on 31 January 1894 at Belshill. In 1901 they were living in Glasgow with no children and James was a railway guard. *Ancestry* trees claim they had several children but nothing fits well currently

DEATH AND BURIAL

They went to New York around before 1905 and James died before 1910. Margaret died in 1948 and may have remarried.

CHILDREN OF THOMAS PORTEOUS BLACK AND JANE KATE IRONSIDE

HELEN GRACE BRYCE BLACK AND WILLIAM HUNTER

Thomas ... having two daughters. [Helen]

HELEN GRACE BRYCE BLACK

Helen was born in 1876 in Cortachy and Clova.

WILLIAM HUNTER

William was born on 19 April 1871 in Dundee. His father was also named William Hunter and his mother was Betsy Helen Reid. Both men were master mariners. William was a widower when he married Helen. His wife (Mary Spink Brough) had died in Shanghai three years earlier.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

Helen and William married in 1906 in Shanghai.

1906 MARRIAGE solemnized at SHANGHAI, CHINA.


No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
227	17 th September 1906	William Hunter	35	Widower	Master Mariner	Shanghai	William Hunter	Master Mariner
		Helen Grace Bryce Black	30	Spinster		Shanghai	Thomas Porteous Black	Schoolmaster

Married in the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England, by me, *Reginald J. Walker, M.A., Dean*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *William Hunter* and *Helen Grace Bryce Black* in the Presence of us, *Reginald J. Walker, M.A., Dean* and *Wm Hunter*

Marriage certificate – Helen Grace Bryce Black and William Hunter.

They had one son.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Stanley William Hunter	16 Sep 1910	Shanghai	-	07 Feb 1942  Papua New Guinea

DEATH AND BURIAL

We find Helen's death in Brisbane in 1944. Her probate was filed in England in 1950 and her niece in Scotland confirmed the probate.

BLACK or HUNTER Helen Grace Bryce of 15 Ascog-terrace Toowong Brisbane Queensland **Australia** died 3 September 1944
Confirmation of Jean Fraser Black.
Sealed **London** 9 September.

Probate - Helen Grace Bryce Hunter nee Black.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

Her only known son had died two years earlier in Papua New Guinea while he was serving as a Private with the Australian Imperial Force. He is buried in the Raubal War Cemetery.

JEANIE FRASER BLACK

Thomas ... two daughters. [**Jeanie**]

Jeanie was born on 4 June 1879 in Cortachy and Clova. She trained as a nurse and her conduct was recorded as exemplary.

ROLL No. 4588		NAME <i>Black, Jeanie Fraser</i>				
Reference from Probationers' Register } . . .		Date of Appointment as Queen's Nurse } . . . 1 JAN 1913				
Badges 1900		Certificate Awarded <i>Be Recognition, June 20, 1916</i> <i>Good & Conduct Very Satisfactory</i>				
Received 1st Gratuity } from Benefit Fund } . . .		Leaving Badge granted . . .				
Date of Birth <i>June 12, 1879</i>		Single or Widow <i>Single</i>				
Religious Denomination . . . <i>United Free Church</i>		Occupation of Father . . . <i>Schoolmaster</i>				
Where Educated <i>Harvie Academy, Dumfries</i>		How employed before } entering Hospital } . . . <i>at home</i>				
Hospital Training <i>Whitehaven and West Cumberland Infirmary, Oct. 1906 to Oct. 1909</i>						
Other Hospital and Nursing Experience <i>Private Nursing Home, Dumfries, Nov. 1909 to Mar. 1912</i>						
RECORD OF WORK AS QUEEN'S NURSE.						
Nature of Appointment.	Where Serving.	Date Entered.	Date Left.	Cause of Leaving.	1st Inspection.	2nd Inspection.
<i>Nurse returned</i>	<i>Edinburgh</i>	<i>1899. 12. 12</i>	<i>Dec. 31, 1913</i>	<i>On leave till July 1, 1914.</i>		
<i>-</i>	<i>Larwick</i>	<i>Jan. 1, 1914</i>	<i>Sept. 3, 1914</i>	<i>Dismissed from post. To go abroad.</i>		
<i>Subt. for Scottish Branch reports - An excellent nurse in every respect. Conduct - all that could be desired.</i>						

Scottish nursing records.

She resigned on 30 June 1916 to go abroad but did not sail until 16 January 1917. This was war time and she was going to China. She sailed on the *Fushimi Maru* when she was 37. Her older sister had married in Shanghai in 1906 but we are not sure if Helen was still there when Jeanie sailed.

William Charlotte Wacker	1 st	do	Angem Nurse	36	1	China
Jeannie F. Black	2 nd	Shanghai	Sick Nurse	37	1	China
Rev. Henry Leonard Bieby	2 nd	Yokohama	Missionary	49	1	Japan
Mrs. E. S. Bieby	2 nd	do	—	31	1	do
Miss. H. M. Bond	2 nd	Shanghai	Missionary	28	1	China
Miss. Florence Collins	1 st	Yokohama	Nurse	30	1	China

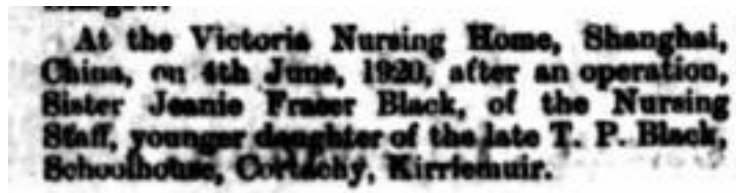
Passenger list – Fushimi Maru 1917.

Jeanie obtained employment at the Victoria Nursing Home.

DEATH AND BURIAL

Three years after arriving in China Jeanie died after an operation on 4 June 1920 at Shanghai. She was 41.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL



Kirriemuir Observer – 6 August 1920

BLACK, Jeanie Fraser, sometime of Cortachy School House, Kirriemuir, thereafter of Edinburgh, late of Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, China, died 4 June 1920 at Shanghai, testate. Confirmation Edinburgh, 21 October, to William John Black, Tientsin Pukow Railway, Pukow, Nanking, China, her brother, Executor. Will dated 8 March 1920 recorded Edinburgh 19 October 1921. Value of Estate, £462:1: -.

Probate - Jeanie Fraser Black.

WILLIAM JOHN BLACK AND JESSIE TARBAT WISHART

Thomas ... having one son ...[William]

WILLIAM JOHN BLACK

William was born in 1886.

JESSIE TARBAT WISHART

Jessie was born in Arbroath in 1890; her parents were John Tarbat Wishart and Helen Clounas Dorward.

MARRIAGE

They married in 1918 in Arbroath and soon after William became the third person in his family to leave for China. He was working on the railways and in 1920 was employed in Nanking. We found only one child to this couple.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Jean Fraser Black	1920	Arbroath	Donald Angus McMaster	18 Dec 1995

DEATH AND BURIAL

William died on 26 August 1939 in Dundee and was buried with his parents. Jessie lived until 14 April 1984 and was buried in Arbroath.

CHILDREN OF GEORGE BANKS BLACK AND MARGARET GIBSON BROWN

MARY ANN BLACK AND WILLIAM MACLAGAN

George ... having ... six daughters living. [Mary Ann]

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

MARY ANN BLACK

Mary was born on 8 October 1874 in East Kilbride.

WILLIAM MACLAGAN

William was the son of John McLagan and Janet Stewart and was registered as McLagan on 8 June 1874 in Perth.

MARRIAGE

The marriage in Aberdeen was in 1906 but by 1911 they were living in Heaton, Northumberland.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.
William MacLagan	Head	26	James Fordyce	—	—	Chartered Accountant	—	—	—	—	—	—	County of Perth	524	—	—
Mary Ann MacLagan	Wife	26	James Fordyce	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	County of Perth	519	—	—

1911 census – Heaton, Northumberland, England.

In 1939 they were living in Rotherham, Yorkshire and William was a company director and secretary. They had a live-in maid.

DEATH AND BURIAL

William died first on 8 January 1950 and Mary Ann who had been using the additional Christian names of Fordyce Tolmie, died on 6 December 1955. They appear to have had no children.

MACLAGAN Mary Ann Fordyce Tolmie of Morenish Sledgate-lane Wickersley near Rotherham **Yorkshire** widow died 6 December 1955 Probate **Wakefield** 25 January to John Fergusson Galbraith MacLagan sales manager and Charles Redfern solicitor. Effects £1675 6s. 3d.

Probate – Mary Ann Fordyce Tolmie MacLagan nee Black.

HELEN BRYCE (NELLIE) BLACK

George ... having ... six daughters living. [Helen]
--

Nellie was born on 6 July 1876 in Calder. In 1911 she was an art mistress living alone in Cardiff. We learn from the 1939 Register that she was by this time a part time art mistress living in Hendon, London with her sister Agnes.

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

ADDRESS.	SCHEDULE.		SURNAME AND OTHER NAMES.	O, V, S, P. or I.	M. or F.	BIRTH-		S, M, W. or D.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION.
	No.	Sub. No.				Day.	Year.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
33 St. Marys Road	250	1	Black Nellie Bryce	-	F	6 July	76	S	Modeling, Mending, Dressing
		2	Black Agnes	-	F	1 Feb	91	S	Older Brother's Pastry Time Headmaster's

1939 register – Hendon, Middlesex.

Nellie died on 5 March 1945 at Golders Green.

BLACK Nellie Bryce of 33 St. Marys-road Golders Green Middlesex spinster died 5 March 1945 Administration Llandudno 27 August to William Brown Black dental surgeon. Effects £589 15s. 6d.

Probate - Nellie Bryce Black.

THOMAS PORTEOUS BLACK AND AGNES EDWARD DICKSON MACKIE

George ... having three sons ... [Thomas]

THOMAS PORTEOUS BLACK

Thomas was born on 8 November 1878 at Shotts. He was a bright man and went to Darlington Grammar School and then graduated with a Master of Arts, a Master of Science and then a PhD in physics from Strasbourg in 1905. He became the registrar at Nottingham University College in 1911.

AGNES EDWARD DICKSON MACKIE

Agnes was born in Scotland in 1883. Little is known about her short life.

MARRIAGE

The couple married in 1909 in Aberdeen.

DEATH AND BURIAL



Agnes died in February 1914 and Thomas enlisted after her death. He was given the rank of Captain in the Sherwood Foresters regiment. He was killed at Gallipoli on 9 August 1915.

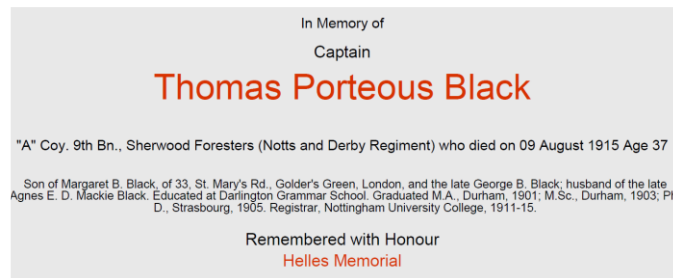
‘Black’s body may also have had to be abandoned in the action after his death as the battalion withdrew and consolidated its position, and as no record of his burial survives he is today commemorated at Gallipoli on the Memorial at Helles. He is remembered too on the Nottingham University war memorial, the Durham

5/05/2025

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SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

University Roll of Service, and in the windows and plaque to the fallen in Ferryhill parish church (formerly Ferryhill United Free church), Aberdeen. Nottingham University also established a research scholarship in his name¹⁰



BLACK, Thomas Porteous, Captain, H.M. Army, of 60 Ebers Road, Nottingham, died on active service, 9 August 1915, at the Dardanelles, testate. Certificate endorsed by Commissary Clerk of Edinburgh, 3 November, on Probate of the Will, granted at **Nottingham**, on 19 October 1915, to William Brown Black, the brother, the sole Executor. Value of Estate, £1753, 4s.

Probate - Thomas Porteous Black.

WILLIAM BROWN BLACK AND DOROTHY EVELYN ARMSTRONG

George ... having three sons ...[**William**]

WILLIAM BROWN BLACK

William was born on 11 February 1880 in Carluke, he was a dental surgeon and was appointed as the executor for most of his sibling's wills.

DOROTHY EVELYN ARMSTRONG

Dorothy was much younger having been born on 4 April 1895 in Durham, the daughter of Henry Armstrong and Emmaline Ann Huntley.

MARRIAGE AND CHILD

William was 40 and Dorothy 25 when they married in 1920 in Durham. One child was found.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Derek Porteous Black	28 Apr 1923	England	Valerie Margaret Titley	21 Jan 1994 England

DEATH AND BURIAL

Dorothy died in 1941 and William on 11 November 1957 .

¹⁰ <https://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/roll/register/#d19150809>

BLACK William Brown of Dunvegan 342 Heaton-road **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** died 11 November 1957 Probate **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** 31 December to Derek Porteous Black chartered civil engineer and Henry Dryden retired bank accountant. Effects £4253 11s. 9d.

Probate - William Brown Black.

MARGARET BROWN (MAGGIE) BLACK

George ... having ... six daughters living. [Margaret]

Margaret was born 19 November 1883 in Carstairs and died in Aberdeen on 3 October 1914.

Deaths.
BLACK.—Suddenly, on October 3rd, Margaret Brown Black, beloved daughter of Margaret and George B. Black (late district superintendent, Caledonian Railway), 117 Whinhill Road, Aberdeen. Funeral to Allenvale Cemetery on Tuesday, 6th inst., at Three o'clock.

Aberdeen Evening Express.

She was 30 and not married.

JANET BROWN (JESSIE) BLACK AND WILLIAM ALEXANDER OGG

George ... having ... six daughters living. [Janet]

JANET BROWN 'JESSIE' BLACK

Jessie was born on 31 August 1885 in Lanarkshire. This date is from a family tree and the exact place is unknown. She does not appear to have been registered with the middle name Brown.

WILLIAM ALEXANDER OGG

William's father was John Ogg and his mother Jane Kynoch. He was born on 15 June 1884 in Aberdeen.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

Jessie and William married in Aberdeen in 1910 and probably sailed immediately for America. The children's information below may not be complete.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Jean Ogg	abt 1911	Massachusetts	unknown	aft 1930 USA
*George Black Ogg	29 Jan 1913	Massachusetts	-	16 Feb 1913 USA

SON-5-ROBERT BLACK AND AGNES SOMMERVEL

*Margaret Ogg	abt 1915	Massachusetts	unknown	unknown
*Evelyn Emerson Ogg	22 Jul 1918	Massachusetts	Howard Phillip Fischbach	21 Jan 1998 USA
*William Alexander Ogg	10 Jul 1921	Massachusetts	Wilda Muriel Luster	25 Jul 2003 USA

DEATH AND BURIAL

William died on 3 June 1955 in Massachusetts and Jessie on 12 September 1963 in Maine.

ALEXANDER JOHN BLACK AND LILIAN FRANCES RITCHEY

ALEXANDER JOHN BLACK

George ... having three sons ...**[Alexander]**

Alexander, also a dental surgeon, was born on 23 December 1887. It was a surprise to find him marrying at the age of 64.

LILIAN FRANCES RITCHEY

In 1939 Lilian was caring for her father. She had been born in Durham on 17 April 1897 to Peter Ritchey and Elizabeth Henderson.

MARRIAGE

The two married in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in 1952. Neither had been married before.

DEATH AND BURIAL

Alexander died on 26 February 1954.

BLACK Alexander John of 342 Heaton-road **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** died 26 February 1954 at 217 Chillingham-road Newcastle-upon-Tyne Probate **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** 25 May to Lilian Frances Black widow. Effects £12982 17s. 11d.

Probate - Alexander John Black.

Lilian died on 12 May 1976.

AGNES BLACK

George ... having ... six daughters living. **[Agnes]**

Born on 1 February 1891 in Darlington, Agnes also never married. The 1939 Register (shown earlier) states she was a senior mathematics teacher. She died in 1974 in Golders Green.

DESCENDANTS UNABLE TO BE TRACED FROM MELODIES AND MEMORIES

There was a son of John's named **Thomas**, regarding whom there are no particulars. **Robert**, a son of James mentioned above, with his family, lives in Glasgow, and possesses many facts, figures, and relics pertaining to his kindred, who, at home and abroad, have earned a goodly share of credit. Various other descendants of John, of Harthill, also have their abode in Glasgow.