

# *In search of our Edinburgh Thomsons*

*and their descent from  
Aitkens & Gladstones/Gledstanes*



Memorial Plaque unveiled at Libberton Kirk 2007 - *image courtesy Jean Davidson*

*by*

*Mary Skipworth*

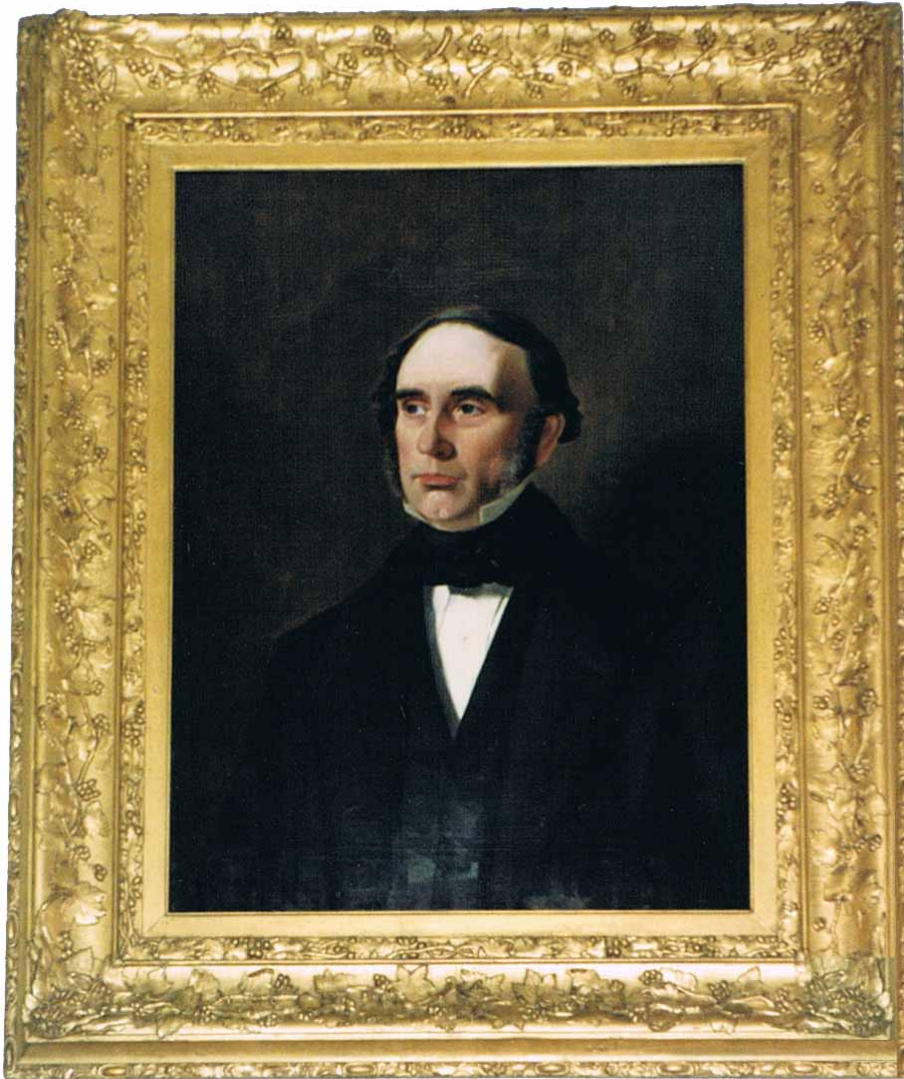
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*Updated 5 March 2011*

## *Introduction*

It is usually the families with less common surnames, located in rural communities, whose histories are the easiest to trace. The combination of THOMSON and Edinburgh was daunting and for many years I put off attacking this line of my ancestry, preferring to concentrate on more promising leads. Little did I know that the story of the Thomsons, Aitkens and Gladstones would be one of the easiest to trace, largely I believe because of the orderly way in which the Scots have cared for their records.

What was already known from family sources?



My emigrant gt grandfather was the son of Murray Gladstone Thomson, I shall call him MGT1.

- MGT1 was an Edinburgh wine and spirit merchant
- The name Gladstone had some connection with Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone
- A large oil portrait of MGT1, painted "for the bank", was brought to NZ
- Around 1860, MGT1's widow lived at Meadow Place, Edinburgh
- When our family was leaving for NZ someone pressed a shilling into 11 year old MGT2's hand and said "never forget you're a Gladstone". [MGT2 was grandson to MGT1, and MGT3, 4, and 5 were son, grandson and great-grandson to MGT2.]

MGT1 sounded "interesting"!

Many years ago I had looked in a current directory for Edinburgh wine and spirit merchants and found J G Thomson & Co. I wrote to enquire if the G stood for Gladstone, but sadly it didn't and they are clearly not related. A pity, as they offered me access to their archives should I come to Edinburgh.

I also read Checkland's family biography of the Gladstones,<sup>4</sup> from which I was able to establish that if there was a connection between the Prime Minister's family and ours then it must have been in the PM's grandparent's generation or even earlier. So it was not pride in the PM's achievements which caused the Thomsons to start using the Gladstone name, though it may have been responsible for them perpetuating it through MGT3, MGT4 and MGT5 in NZ.

When I went to Edinburgh my first step was to look at trade directories of the 1840's and 50's. I quickly found that Murray G Thomson was a "Grocer and Spirit Dealer", which seemed to me quite a step down from "merchant", most grocers being described as "spirit dealers" at that time. The address was 173 Cowgate, and some directories also listed a residential address at 21 Horse Wynd.

Using a combination of parish records, census records and tombstone inscriptions, all freely available in the Edinburgh public library, I was readily able to establish the outlines of the family. These have been further fleshed out with stories handed down to various family members, details of wills at Register House, and background research in libraries.

### ***Acknowledgments***

My first acknowledgment must go to the Gladstone family for the importance they attached to kindred. "Never forget you are a Gladstone" they said, and we did remember, even though it is now almost 250 years since the marriage which brought the Gladstone name into the Aitkens, and hence the Thomsons.

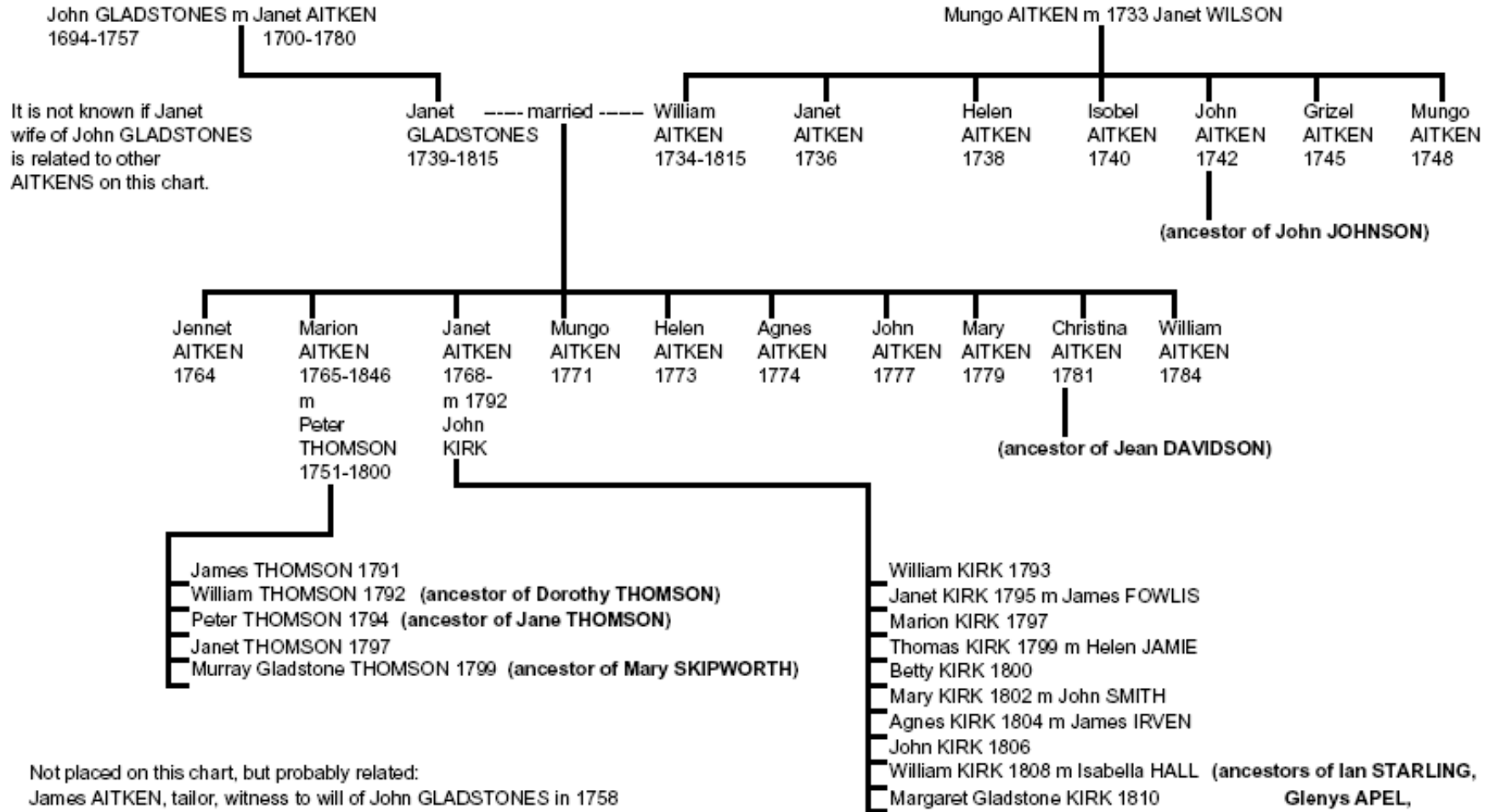
My second piece of good fortune was in finding Checkland's biography in my local university library. Other works on the Gladstones have concentrated on the political theme, with rather sparse family details. Checkland provided me with the clues that led me to Biggar and my third acknowledgement – to Brian Lambie, archivist at the Gladstone Court museum in Biggar, and himself a Gladstone descendant though in a different line. Although I have not met him myself, he has provided the pivot that has brought widely scattered branches of the family into contact with each other, and he has been most generous in sharing his time and expertise.

Finally, through Brian Lambie and through the internet I have made contact with other family genealogists each of whom has brought different scraps of knowledge and experience to enrich the story. I have drawn heavily from Jane THOMSON's *Family History of THOMSON of Edinburgh*, from Dorothy THOMSON's *A tree grows in Edinburgh*, and from Ian STARLING's *From Hazelton Walls to Hazelbank, the Story of William & Isabella Kirk*. Glenys APEL in Queensland has been most generous in supplying copies of published articles and other material, and in providing contacts. Direct or indirect correspondence with Ian JOHNSTON, Roslyn ROBERTS, Jean DAVIDSON, Noeline COTTAM, Cameron GRACEY and John BARBER has contributed in many ways. It is difficult to acknowledge every detail of this text which they have influenced, and I hope this general statement will suffice. Reference to the Gladstone-Aitken Chart on page 4 shows where most of these genealogists fit into the family.

I also acknowledge with gratitude the actions of a New Zealand descendant, who on learning that the portrait of Murray Gladstone Thomson had been sold at public auction, sought out the new owners and persuaded them to sell it back to the family.

**Gladstone-Aitken chart**

[also showing family genealogists who have worked on this story]



Not placed on this chart, but probably related:  
James AITKEN, tailor, witness to will of John GLADSTONES in 1758  
James AITKEN, tenant in Liston Shields Kirknewton Parish in 1816  
(executor of Marion [Gladstone] MURRAY's will)

del. Mary Skipworth 2004

### *Peter of Dalry*

Peter THOMSON, miller of Dalry, Edinburgh is the earliest THOMSON ancestor whose authenticity is certain. His birth record has not been found and his parents are the subject of conjecture. What is certain is that he married Marion AITKEN on 9<sup>th</sup> April 1790.

St Cuthbert's OPR Marriage 1790 Apl 9th:

"Peter THOMSON, miller at Dalrye Mills, and Marion AITKEN residenter there, daughter of William AITKEN, smith in the parish of Bigar, gave up their names for proclamation of bans matrimonial." This was the conventional entry of a marriage record at that time.

Dorothy THOMSON has speculated about Marion AITKEN's residence at Dalry. Why would a single girl from Biggar come to Edinburgh? Dorothy proposes that she probably came to live with her aunt Marion [Gladstone] MURRAY, whose husband James was the superintendent at Dalry Mills. Marion apparently had no children, so it was quite natural that she might have her sister Janet's daughter stay with her.<sup>2</sup> Two years later the pattern was repeated when Janet AITKEN, Marion's sister, "residenter at Dalry Mills" married John KIRK, smith of Colt Bridge.<sup>3</sup>

Jane Thomson found some evidence that Peter may have had a previous wife and two daughters - the St Cuthberts list of inhabitants of 28<sup>th</sup> December 1790 notes a Peter THOMPSON of Dalry with an adult female and two female children in his household.<sup>1</sup> When he married Marion in 1790 Peter would have been aged about 39, making a previous marriage quite likely.

Peter's marriage to Marion was to last only 10 years. He died of "palsye" on 1<sup>st</sup> May 1800, at the age of 49, and was buried in St Cuthbert's kirkyard. Four sons and a daughter were born to Peter and Marion in those ten years. These baptisms are recorded in St Cuthbert's register and are annotated "witness Associate Congregation of Bristo."

Children of Peter and Marion Thomson:

	<b>Born</b>	<b>Bapt</b>	<b>Died</b>	<b>Age at Death</b>
James	23 Feb 1791	25 Feb 1791	17 Sep 1877	86 years
William	13 Dec 1792	2 Jan 1793	14 Oct 1864	71 years
Peter	24 Dec 1795	31 Dec 1795	7 May 1872	76 years
Janet	26 Jan 1797	1 Feb 1797	married Mr Laurie, New York <sup>1</sup>	
Murray Gladstone	17 May 1799	17 Sep 1800	24 Dec 1853	54 years

Jane wondered if Peter was already ill when Murray was born, delaying his baptism till Marion could take him to church.

Another daughter, Christian THOMSON bapt 19 Feb 1795, is listed on the Mormon IGI. However, whereas the above births are from routine extractions of filmed registers, Christian's record has been submitted by a church member. Christian is not included in the list taken from William THOMSON's bible,<sup>2</sup> and I found no trace of her in the St Cuthbert's registers. I have omitted her from the list until further evidence is to hand. As will be explained, Janet as the eldest daughter is "correctly" named for her maternal grandmother. Adding Christian to this list would mean the naming "rule" had not been followed.

### *Dalry Mill*

It is interesting to note that the first paper mill in Scotland (1590) was at Dalry, Edinburgh [refer "The paper industry in Scotland" by A.G. Thomson]. It appears that this site has been used variously over the years for paper-making and corn milling. The Edinburgh Gazette 19, 1699 advertises "... to let .... Dalry Mills, three corn mills, kilns, the garner house, yards and dovecote, with the dwelling house ....." This site is probably in the area now occupied by Murrayfield Rugby Stadium.

The lease was later taken up by Thomas GLADSTONE, merchant of Leith, who appointed James MURRAY, his favourite brother-in-law as superintendent. James in turn appointed Peter THOMSON to be millmaster. At this time the mill was doing well so Peter came at a good time.

At that period, early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the area of Dalry Mills would have been quite removed from the congested old city of Edinburgh, which was still largely clustered along the line between the Castle and the Palace of Holyrood, the area now called the Royal Mile. There were just beginning to be the developments of what was later called the New City along Princes Street and north from there. There were still open fields around the mill and space for children to play. The mill was on a little river known as the Water of Leith, which wound its way through the area until it flowed into the Firth of Forth at the Port of Leith. Here and there today one can view the stream from one of its bridges used by heavy modern traffic.<sup>2</sup>

*Gladstone family* refer to Gladstone chart page 8

At this point we need to digress a little to consider the family of GLADSTONE. The information which follows is a compilation drawn wholly from material supplied by Jane Thomson, Jean Davidson (courtesy Glenys Apel), Checkland's Biography, and a Biggar article supplied by Brian Lambie (courtesy Glenys Apel).

As far back as 1296 Herbert de Gledstane figures in the infamous "Ragman Roll" as one of the Lairds who swore fealty to Edward I. Herbert's descendants for generations held knightly rank and played their part in the adventurous life of the border.



Libberton Kirk, September 2007  
- at unveiling of Gladstone memorial plaque.  
*Image courtesy Jean Davidson*

The parish of Libberton lies near the town of Biggar in the upper ward of Lanarkshire. From early times it appears that a family of GLEDSTANES were connected with a smallholding property in this



parish, from which they took their name. They were GLEDSTANES of Gladstones, or in the Scottish phrase, GLEDSTANES of that ilk. The derivation of the name is obvious enough for anyone who has seen the area. Gled is a hawk, that fierce and beautiful bird that finds its home among the stanes or rocks of the craggy moorlands that surround the fortalice of Gledstanes. Unfortunately the early documents connected with this holding have been lost, and consequently entire certainty regarding the early proprietors cannot now be obtained, but as years went by their estates dwindled, and their social standing underwent a change until by the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century the estate of Gledstanes had been sold.

To the west of Gladstones, in the same parish, is another smallholding called Arthurshiels, and from charters we know that a branch of the Gladstone family possessed it for a considerable period. The following members of the family are mentioned in these charters as occupying it in succession:- viz,

- William, who died previous to 1565,
- George, who died previous to 1623, as in an assignation of the 13th of March of that year, by Robert Chancellor of Shieldhill, he is referred to as the "vinqhile George Glaidstaines of Arthurshiel".
- William, who witnessed a tack dated 9th June, 1641, between Robert Chancellor, younger of Shieldhill, and William Brown, Quothquan, of the lands of Langshot, and is supposed to have died previous to the year 1662, and lastly
- James, who sold the estate to a James Brown and died about the year 1680.



Arthurshiels farmhouse in 2007 - *image courtesy Jean Davidson*

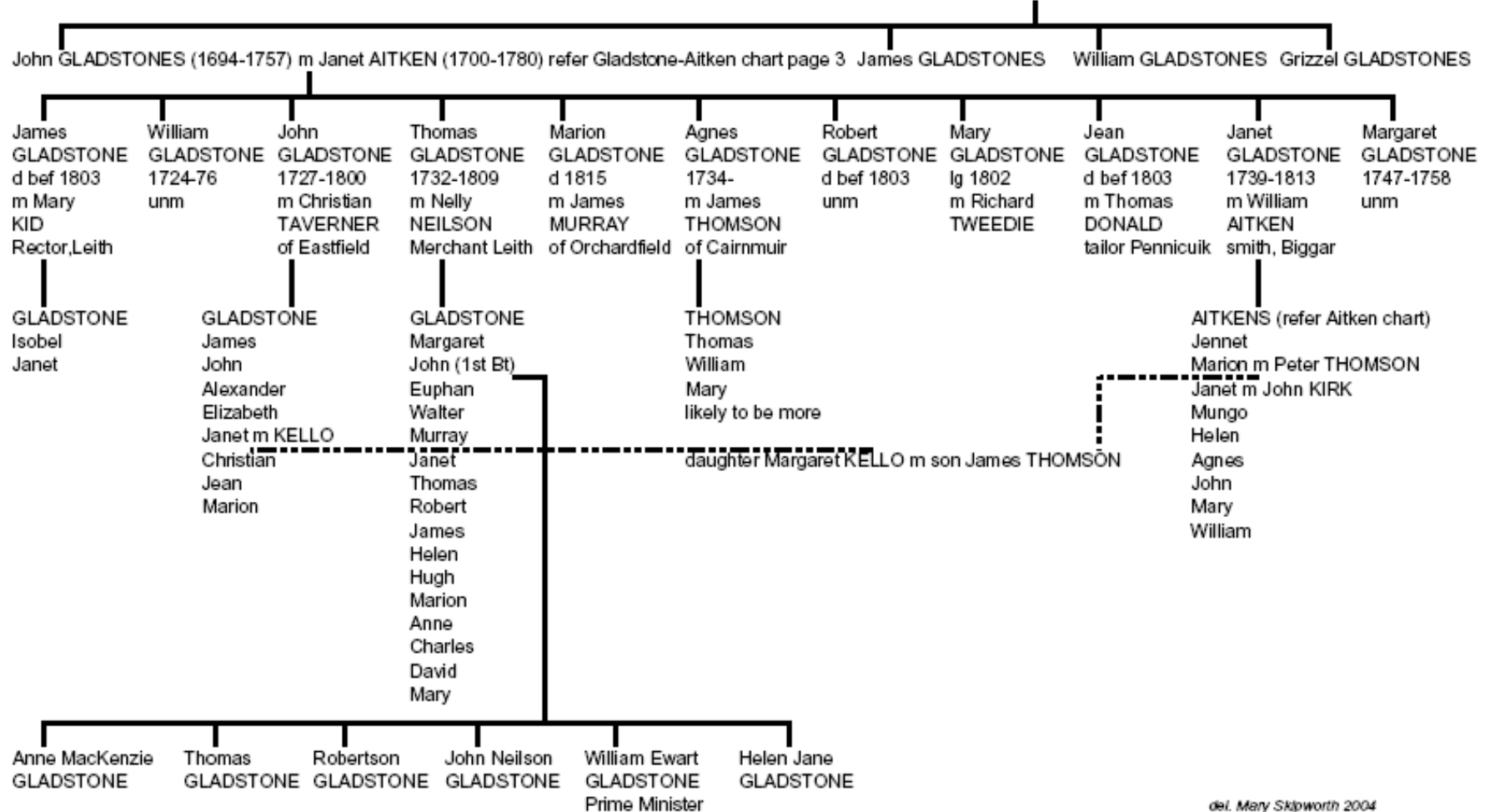
William, a son of the last mentioned Laird of Arthurshiels, having lost his paternal inheritance in the parish of Libberton, set up his domestic establishment in the town of Biggar, and carried on the business of a maltman. At that period almost every household brewed its own ale, a wholesome and invigorating beverage, and the drinking of it seldom led to intemperate habits. Biggar, though a small town, with some 1200 inhabitants, had a number of establishments which malted the barley grown in the district, and supplied the malt to the inhabitants of the town and the country around. William Gladstone died about the year 1728, and was interred in Libberton Churchyard, where his family had a burying ground, as lairds of Arthurshiels. (refer frontispiece)

William, by his wife Christian Brown, had three sons, John, James, and William, and a daughter named Grizzel.

### Gladstone Chart

William GLADSTONES, farmer of Arthurshiel in Libberton, died before 1565  
 George GLADSTONES, farmer of Arthurshiel in Libberton, died before 1623  
 William GLADSTONES, farmer of Arthurshiel in Libberton, died before 1662  
 James GLADSTONES, sold Arthurshiel, died about 1680

William GLADSTONES, maltman of Biggar, son of James of Arthurshiel, died about 1728, bur Libberton, married Christian BROWN



*del. Mary Skipworth 2004*



### *John Gladstones of Biggar 1693-1757*

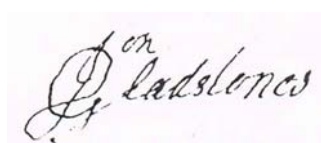
John, the oldest son, was born in 1693. He was also a maltman, and a burgess of the town of Biggar, which indicates that he was proprietor of one of the Burrow lands. A Burrow land consisted generally of 6 or 7 acres of the best land in the neighbourhood of the town, and gave the possessor the right, among other things, to cast peats in the adjacent mosses. Besides attending to his malting operations, he also had charge of the girnæl belonging to the lord of the manor – Lord Fleming, Earl of Wigton. The girnæl was an edifice within the walls of the Castle of Boghall and was used for storing the meal delivered to the Earl by his tenants in the name of multure or rent. The duty of the girnæl man was to preserve the meal from injury, and to dispose of it to the inhabitants of the town and district. For instance, in the records of the Burgh Court of Biggar, we find that Bailie Alex Wardlaw on the 27th July 1720, "descerns the haill tenants, teuars and others, lyable to the Earl of Wigton, to pay moulter and teind all into the girnall, and any that has gotten out meal upon trust to pay John Gledstanes, girnælman, ane pund and fyve shillings ... under the pain of poynding."

John held most of the chief offices of the town of Biggar at various times, being appointed quartermaster when the military were quartered there 'so that none might be wronged', and supervising the division of the peat-moss between the townsmen, a most important function, for peat was the main source of fuel and a matter of frequent argument.

John Gladstone was an active member of the Old Lodge of Biggar free Operatives, now No 167. His name was enrolled in the books of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1737 - that is a year after the Grand Lodge was formed. The meetings of the Lodge were occasionally held in his house. For instance, on St John's Day, 27th Dec 1745, the time of the Rebellion, the Freemasons met at his house at ten o'clock in the morning, and with drums beating and banners flying, marched to the farmhouse of Wolfclyde about a mile and a half distant, and brought the R.W.Master to Biggar, and then having ascended the Crossknowe, drank all the Loyal toasts with great acclamation. This shows that John Gladstones and his confreres were loyal to the House of Hanover.

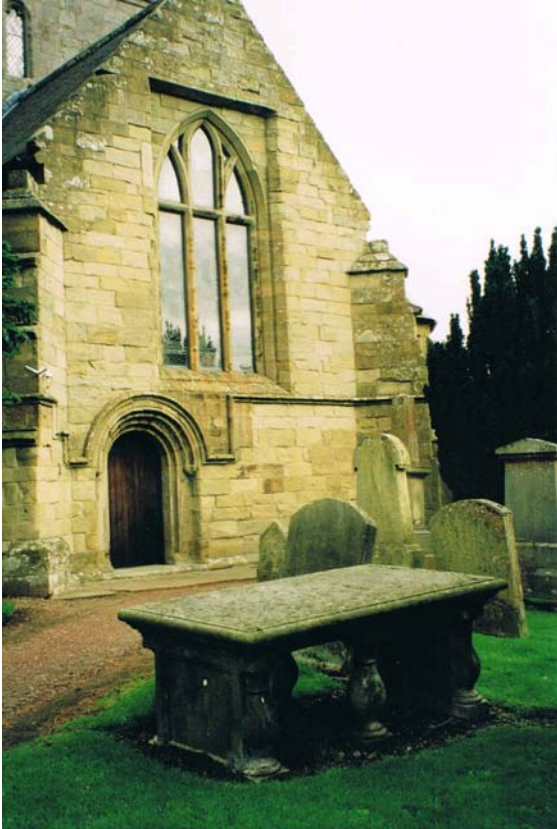
John lived through an era when memories of the persecution of the Covenanters were strong. Sin and punishment were never far from the minds of men like John GLADSTONES of Biggar, to whom preparation for the confrontation with God was the great end of life.

By industry and frugality John acquired considerable wealth, and he was thus able to purchase the farm of Mid Toftcombs, lying a little to the east of the town of Biggar. Here he died on 1st June 1757, leaving behind him, by his wife Janet AITKEN, five sons and six daughters. To each son he left approximately sixty-five pounds, and to each daughter approximately thirty three pounds (the amounts varied according to what each had received in advance). Janet Aitken, his well beloved spouse, was to have the use of his houses in Biggar during the whole term of her life. The will was signed on 20<sup>th</sup> June 1758 and witnessed by James Brown Wright in Biggar & James Aitken Taylor.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'John Gladstones', written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

signature 1758 Jon Gladstones

John had left his landed property and other effects to be divided among his children, and thus the son who accepted Mid Toftcombs needed to pay a due portion of the value to each of the other members of the family. On these terms it was declined by the eldest son James, and by the second son William, but accepted by John, the third son, who had obtained a considerable fortune with his wife, and was thus able to pay off the liabilities with which it was encumbered.



The table tombstone memorial to John Gladstones and some of his descendants in St Mary's churchyard, Biggar. It is a horizontal stone slab supported on six pillars, and is located on the right side of the path from front to side door.

*In memory of*

John GLADSTONE portioner in Biggar who died 1 June 1757\* aged 63 or 65 years

Also Janet AITKEN his spouse who died 3 Feb 1780 aged 80 years

Also William GLADSTONE their son, died 15 June 1776 aged 52 years

Also John GLADSTONE their son and portioner in Biggar who died 20 Feb 1800 aged 73

And Christian TAVERNER his spouse who died 12 Sept 1814 aged 76 years

James GLADSTONE his son died Feb 1772 aged 8½

Also John GLADSTONE watchmaker and portioner in Biggar who was born August 1772 and died 8<sup>th</sup> July 1851 and his family

Marion WYLD wife of John GLADSTONE who died 13 Feb 1822 aged 43 years

And John, Marion, and Christian their children who died in their youth

And of Adam their son who died 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1840 aged 20 years

And of Elizabeth GLADSTONE their daughter and wife of A CHALMERS

And ..... GLADSTONE their daughter who died at Liverpool 13 June 1841 aged 29

And of Alexander GLADSTONE their son who died 24<sup>th</sup> Mar 1845 aged 26 years

And James GLADSTONE their son who died 15 Jan 1861 aged 44 years

And John GLADSTONE their son who died at Liverpool 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 1862 aged 48 years

The following inscription is below on the front upright side

Margaret GLADSTONE their dau, wife of David BROWN died 18<sup>th</sup> Aug 1874 aged 73

Thomas GLADSTONE their son who died at Liverpool on 4<sup>th</sup> April 1876 aged 70 years

\* This date may be misread as his will is dated 1758

As will be explained below, by the marriage of his granddaughter Marion AITKEN to Peter THOMSON of Dalry, John GLADSTONES of Biggar and the ancient lineage of Gledstanes became part of the THOMSON ancestry.

### ***The Rise of the Gladstones***

John's fourth son, Thomas (1732-1809), with no prospects for advancement in Biggar, was sent at age 14 to Leith, the port of Edinburgh, to be apprenticed to a wine merchant and learn the ways of the world of business. Throughout his life he maintained contact with his relations at Biggar, becoming accepted as the man of business of the family.

Thomas soon switched from the wine trade to corn, which seemed more promising, and then began to diversify. He imported grain cargoes from the Baltic, and invested in a syndicate of Greenland whalers. He also had an interest in one of the earliest sulphuric acid plants, for which he imported brimstone from Italy in exchange for cargoes of herring. He remained however a merchant of the second order, not overly ambitious, preferring to do his own bookwork without employing a clerk.

Thomas' eldest son John seems to have been outstandingly talented, both physically and intellectually. He was energetic and ambitious, and unwilling to be limited by the opportunities available in his hometown, Leith. Being on the east coast, the main focus of its trade was with the Netherlands and the Baltic, whereas west coast ports such as Glasgow and Liverpool were better placed to trade further afield. Furthermore the English were doing everything in their power to deny Scottish traders a share in lucrative international markets.

John visited Liverpool and found it booming, the greatest of the slaving ports, handling much of the trade to the West Indies and the Americas. He also saw the industrial vigour of its hinterland when he visited Manchester, selling his father's oil of vitriol to the cotton men. At age 23 John entered into a business partnership in Liverpool and began a business career which was to bring him great wealth and eventually a knighthood. From this Liverpool base Sir John's son, William Ewart GLADSTONE launched a political career that was to culminate in his appointment as Prime Minister of Great Britain.

### ***Gladstone/Thomson connection***

These Gladstones of Leith and Liverpool, though kin are not ancestral to our Thomsons so why include them in the Thomson story? The answer relates to abundant evidence that distant kin were not forgotten in those days. As certain individuals became more affluent, they would look out for the interests of their less fortunate kinsfolk, commonly by offering apprenticeships or positions of responsibility in their businesses. Thus Sir John GLADSTONE (he changed the spelling of the name) gradually found positions for his six brothers in his enterprises, or helped them to establish independent businesses. He also endowed a Scots church in Liverpool, which became the focus of the expatriate Scots community.

We have already seen that Thomas GLADSTONE appointed James MURRAY, husband of his sister Marion, to be superintendent of Dalry mill. It is possible that Peter THOMSON's appointment as miller was another example of family patronage as will be explained in the next section.

### ***Peter of Dalry's parents and in-laws***

Among his many siblings, Thomas GLADSTONE had two more sisters of interest in our story. His sister Janet married William AITKEN, the blacksmith at Hartree by Biggar, and it was Marion, their daughter, who became Peter THOMSON's wife. A stone survives in Biggar churchyard to this couple and some of their descendants. To find it, go past the front door of the church, turn right and stone is near the next corner.

*In memory of*

William AITKEN, smith of Hartree, who died 20th Dec 1822, aged 87 years

Also Janet GLADSTONE his spouse who died 21 Sept 1813 aged 71 years

Also their daughter Mary AITKEN wife of John MITCHELL in Westrow who died 13 Mar 1842 aged 22 years

Also the above John MITCHELL who died 17 Nov 1851 aged 58 [or 68?] years

William WHYTE, born 11 Jan 1795, died 21 Oct 1871

Janet MITCHELL his wife born 15 Sep 1807 died 7 Dec 1870 [or 1876?]

Marion WHYTE his daughter born 28 May 1842 [1840?] died 10 Nov 1877

William and Janet may have been related as Janet's mother was a Janet AITKEN.

Another of Thomas GLADSTONE's sisters was Agnes who married a James THOMSON, and this couple may have been Peter's parents. If this is correct, then Peter and Marion were first cousins, a very close relationship but not unheard of, as there was another first cousin marriage among Peter and Marion's grandchildren. The close relationship would be the more understandable if Marion were Peter's second wife as suggested above. When a widower was left with young children another family member was often brought in to take the mother's place.

James and Agnes THOMSON appear in the OPR for Skirling in the parish of Biggar when the Kirk Session records the payment of 00-14-00 for proclamation of banns on 30 Oct 1759. This date might appear to rule them out as Peter's parents, as he was reported to be 49 at the time of his death in 1800. However 14 shillings was a large sum in those days, suggesting something irregular in this payment. It is possible that payment had been delayed, and it is also possible that Peter's age was incorrectly recorded in the death entry.<sup>1</sup>

In support of accepting James and Agnes as Peter's parents is the choice of James as the name for Peter's eldest son, as expected if Scottish naming tradition had been followed. [Refer to appendix 2] Peter's second daughter would have been expected to bear his mother's name, but unfortunately only one daughter is known to have been born to Peter and Marion so no evidence can be gleaned from that quarter. There were two Agnes THOMSONs among Peter's grandchildren, but it is not clear for whom they were named.

***Marion's widowhood***

When Peter died in 1800 he left Marion with four sons and a daughter under the age of 10. She would have 46 more years before her death at age 81. This was not an encouraging prospect for the children and yet the four sons were all educated and established in their own businesses in due course. So how were they supported?

In a situation like that there were two possibilities: remarriage, or the generosity of the wider family, and here Marion was quite fortunate in her maternal grandparents and uncles, the Gladstones. As suggested above, the Gladstones looked after their own, and supporting evidence is to be found in the will of Marion's aunt, Marion [GLADSTONE] MURRAY, widow of the James MURRAY who was Peter's boss at Dalry. This Marion died in 1815, apparently without children of her own. In a very complex will which named 28 of her relatives, she divided the joint estate of herself and her husband in 26 shares of which 2 were to be divided among the children of Marion AITKEN's parents, and another 2 among the children of Peter THOMSON's supposed parents. In addition Marion received a cash legacy of £15, reinforcing the suggestion above that Marion AITKEN may have been living with Marion MURRAY, as niece/companion, before her marriage. Refer to Appendix 1 for a transcript and interpretation of Marion MURRAY's will.

Add to this the fact that Sir John GLADSTONE, who was well known for his philanthropy, was Marion AITKEN's first cousin and we have another potential contributor to her support.

Marion did eventually remarry in 1805, but by that time the eldest of her children would have been leaving home to take up apprenticeships.

St Cuthbert's registers record the new family:

10 June 1805 David FERRIER, Porter dealer, Fountain Bridge, and May AITKEN also THOMSON residing there gave up their names for proclamation of Banns matrimonial.

12 December 1808 David FERRIER, labourer, Portsborough (Edinburgh) and Marion AITKEN his spouse had a son born 19 Dec 1808 named Robert.

Robert FERRIER was remembered as "my step-brother Rev Robert FERRIER of the Free Church, Thain" with a legacy of 19 guineas from his eldest half brother, James THOMSON.

Marion died at the age of 81 on 20 Nov 1846 and is included on the family memorial of her eldest son James in St Cuthbert's churchyard, Edinburgh.

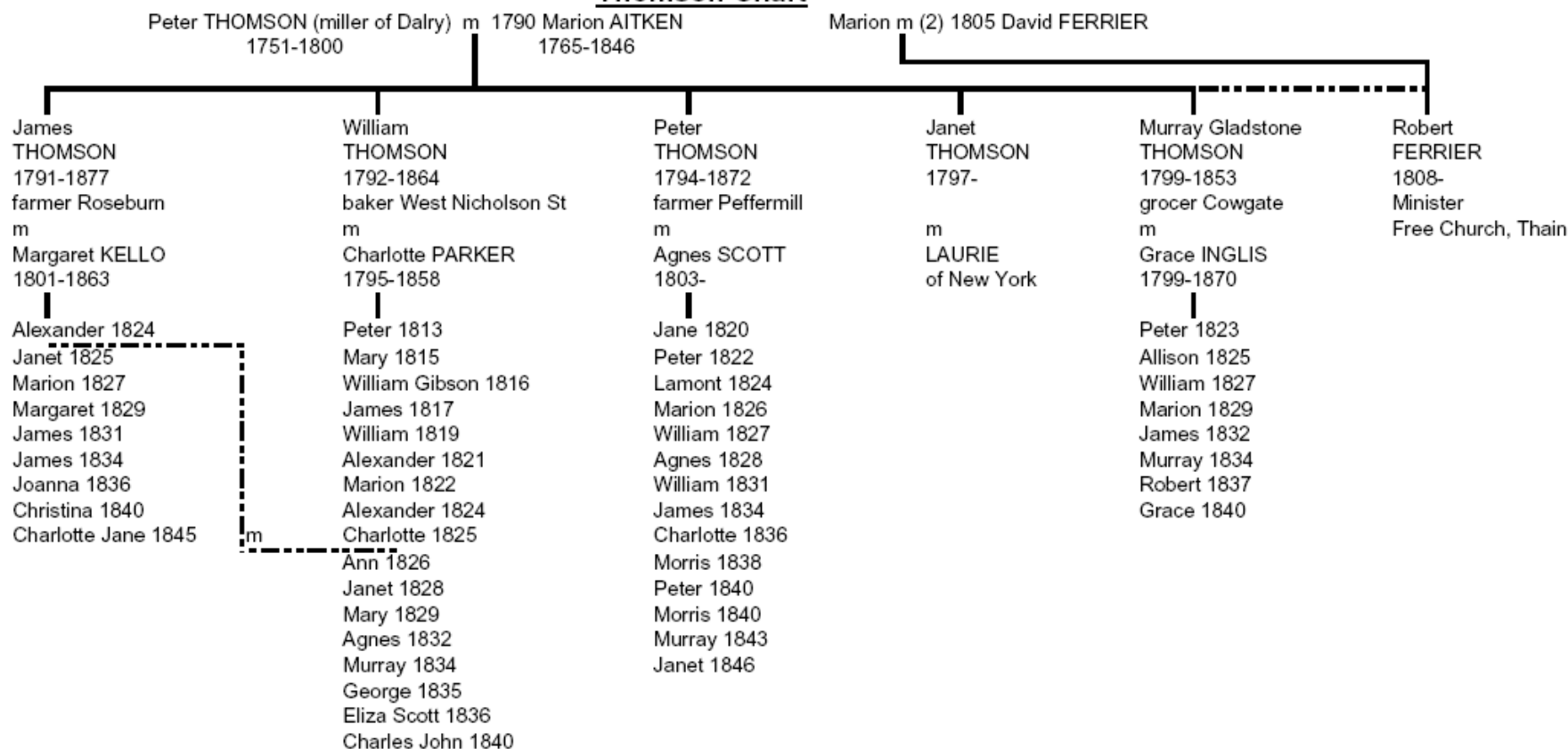
***Peter and Marion's descendants – the eldest son James Thomson*** refer to Thomson chart page 14

James became a farmer of some means and lived in Roseburn House, Murrayfield, Edinburgh. He appears in the Edinburgh Postal Directory of 1840, as a farmer at Roseburn House and Holmes Broxburn. He married his 2<sup>nd</sup> cousin Margaret KELLO (1801-1863), granddaughter of Janet GLADSTONE and William AITKEN, on 4 May 1823, and died in 1877 at the age of 86 with an estate valued at £15,000. His grave is in St Cuthbert's Kirkyard with an elaborate stone mentioning his mother and 7 of his children in addition to himself and his wife. His will mentions legacies totalling more than £6,000, without including the portions of his sons Alexander and James.

James and Margaret had 9 children, of whom 2 sons and 2 daughters survived their parents:

	<b>Born</b>	<b>Died</b>	<b>Age death</b>	<b>Details</b>
Alexander	3 Jan 1824	31 Aug 1892	68 years	Interred at Dalry Minister Free Church Millerston Glasgow Married cousin Charlotte THOMSON 1/2 share residue of father's will
Janet	9 Oct 1825	16 Aug 1861	36 years	Interred at Abernethy Married Rev Robert STEVENSON her dau Mgt rec'd £1500 in James' will
Marion	10 Aug 1827	14 Sep 1858	31 years	Died before her father
Margaret	11 Sep 1829			Married George GILLESPIE, Melbourne received £1500 in father's will
James	10 Sep 1831	17 Jun 1832	8 months	
James	10 Mar 1834	21 Jan 1916	82 years	Married Annie LORIMER Land valuator Roseburn 1/2 share residue of father's will
Joanna	7 Sep 1836			
Christina	16 Sep 1840	30 Apr 1879	39 years	Married John SMITH, grocer, Edinburgh received £1500 in father's will
Charlotte Jane	29 Mar 1845	31 Jul 1900	55 years	Unmarried in 1877, £1700 in James' will Married Rev James PATON Buried Boxhill, Melbourne, Australia

## Thomson Chart



If these 4 brothers were following the Scottish naming pattern:

The eldest sons should all be Peter. James broke the rule, but his first son already had 3 cousins called Peter.

Second sons should be named for their mother's fathers: John KELLO, William PARKER, Lamont SCOTT, William INGLIS. Did James have a son John who died about 1829?

The eldest daughters should be named for the wives' mothers: Janet GLADSTONES, Ann GIBSON, Jean CHAMBERS, Alison DEAN. William broke the rule this time.

2nd daughters should all be named Marion for their father's mother. Correct for all.

3rd sons should be named for their fathers - if that name is already taken an uncle or grandfather could take his place.

3rd daughters should be named for their mothers - correct in all cases.

Looking for clues to Peter's (the miller of Dalry) father's name: James is the most likely, since he named his eldest son James.

Alexander is the 2nd choice, occurring in 2 branches when it seemed to be the father's turn to select a name.

*del. Mary Skipworth 2004*



James and Margaret's eldest son, Alexander, married his cousin Charlotte THOMSON, William's daughter. He was a Free Church minister at Millerston, Glasgow, and had children, was widowed and re-married. He died intestate with an estate valued at £159..18..6d, the value probably indicative of the sacrifices made by those who broke away from the established church. His executors were Charlotte Parker THOMSON and Margaret Kello THOMSON of the F.C. Manse, Millerston.<sup>1</sup>

With his executors being two unmarried daughters his line had probably terminated, which may be just as well given that these girls had parents (Alexander and Charlotte) who were first cousins, grandparents (James Thomson and Margaret Kello) who were second cousins, and possibly great grandparents (Peter Thomson and Marion Aiken) who were first cousins. Thus they descended from three of the children of John Gladstones of Biggar.

James and Margaret's son James II farmed at Carlops (about half way between Biggar and Edinburgh) where his children were born. He lived at "The Cottage", giving rise to further speculation that the James THOMSON and Agnes GLADSTONE (who farmed Cairnmuir, which is nearby) could be possible ancestors. This James II was later an architect and land valuer with premises at 53, afterwards 71 George St, Edinburgh. He lived in Roseburn House after his father, until his own death on 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 1916. His will, dated 13 Sept 1913 named as executors his sons John Lorimer THOMSON of Dundee and James Alexander THOMSON of Jersey. Estate value £3635.<sup>1</sup>

#### ***Peter and Marion's descendants – the second son William Thomson***

I am indebted to the work of Dorothy THOMSON, William's gt grand-daughter, for details of William's life additional to the public records. She was able to consult inscriptions in his family bible and other papers retained by family members in Canada and in England. William married Charlotte PARKER on 20 Aug 1812 in St Andrew's Church, Holborn, London. He was a baker, at Chapel Street Edinburgh to about 1821 then at No 39 West Nicholson Street Edinburgh. The 1851 census shows him to be a Master employing 3 men, one of whom was his son Murray. In his house at that time he had one 19 year old female servant and his daughter Janet, who was a governess. By 1857 he had retired to Charlotte Villa in Murray Street, Sciennes Hill, a relatively new area. The 1861 census records that Charlotte Villa had 10 rooms with windows, so it was quite substantial.

William died on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1864 at the age of 73 and Charlotte his wife on 28<sup>th</sup> March 1858 aged 63. Their grave is in St Cuthbert's Kirkyard with an elaborate upright granite monument. Her death certificate shows that Charlotte had been born in Glasgow, the daughter of William PARKER and Ann GIBSON. William and Charlotte had seventeen children, only six of whom survived both their parents. The list which follows is compiled from St Cuthbert's registers, census returns, and their tombstone inscribed with details of the whole family.

William's will and inventory shows his estate to have amounted to £3884, a considerable sum at that time, to be divided among the six surviving children and the sons of Peter and William who had both predeceased their father. Murray was to inherit the business and also to have his presentation gold watch. Charlotte was to have a silver tea service which had been presented in 1833 by the Union Barm company in recognition of his services as their treasurer. He valued the honour greatly and instructed that the watch and the tea service should be kept as heirlooms. [Barm is a yeast product.]

A photograph survives, showing William as a somewhat bald, elderly man, with thin face, large nose, and deep-set eyes. He appears to be well dressed in the fashion of the time.

*William & Charlotte's children:*

	<b>Bapt</b>	<b>Died</b>	<b>Age death</b>	<b>Details</b>
Peter	born 25 May 1813 bapt 28 May 1813	18 Sep 1846	33 Years	Baker, of Charlotte St, Leith, died of inflammation, buried Rosebank
Mary	born 20 Feb 1815 bapt 25 Feb 1815	April 1823	8 Years	
William Gibson	born 1816	21 Feb 1818	2 Years	
James	born 20 Sep 1817 bapt 26 Sep 1817	Jan 1850	32 Years	cloth merchant in 1841
William	born 31 May 1819 bapt 10 Jun 1819	July 1842	23 Years	baker in 1841
Alexander	born 14 Apr 1821 bapt 11 May 1821	May 1823	2 Years	
Marion	born 14 Oct 1822	May 1823	7 Months	
Alexander	born 14 Apr 1824	Dec 1824	8 Months	
Charlotte	born 9 Oct 1825 bapt 29 Apr 1828	Mar 13 1880	54 Years	m. Rev Alexander THOMSON (cousin)
Ann	born 23 Dec 1826 bapt 29 Apr 1828	21 Feb 1843	16 Years	
Janet	born 7 Feb 1828 bapt 29 Apr 1828	Nov 14 1868	40 Years	governess in 1851 m John GREIG, printer Edinburgh
Mary	born 27 Sep 1829	1831	2 Years	
Agnes	born 4 Mar 1832 bapt 30 Mar 1832	1835	3 Years	
Murray	born 1 Feb 1834	18 Jun 1909	74 Years	baker West Nicholson St
George	born 3 Oct 1835 bapt 30 Jun 1836	12 Jan 1903	68 Years	ironmonger in Manchester grandfather of Dorothy THOMSON
Eliza Scott	born 31 Jan 1837 bapt 30 Aug 1837	12 Dec 1905	68 Years	wife of Robert M DEWAR, draper
Charles John	born 13 Apr 1840 bapt 29 May 1840	2 Jun 1911	71 Years	bookseller in Edinburgh emigrated to Manitoba

William seems to have had a much poorer survival rate among his children than his brothers experienced. He was slow to have the later ones baptised and some seem to have missed altogether.

***Peter and Marion's descendants – the third son Peter Thomson***

Peter, the third son, referred to as Peter of Peffermill to distinguish him from his father, married Agnes SCOTT (daughter of Lamont SCOTT, brushmaker of Edinburgh, and Jean CHAMBERS) on 8 Dec 1819. When James their son registered his mother's death, her mother's name was given as Marion CHAMBERS. James had mixed the names of his two grandmothers.

In the list of Burghers for Edinburgh dated 28<sup>th</sup> Oct 1820 Peter became a "Burgess by right of his wife." This enabled him to trade and he became a Grocer and Spirit Dealer at 281 High Street.

Peter and Agnes' children were as follows:

	<b>Born/Bapt</b>	<b>Died</b>	<b>Age at death</b>	<b>Details</b>
Jane	born 1 Nov 1820 bapt 19 Dec 1820			married John DICKSON the Gun Shop, Edinburgh
Peter	born 1 Mar 1822 bapt 27 May 1822	12 Jul 1839	17 years	
Lamont	born 17 Jan 1824			stationer's apprentice
Marion	born 15 Mar 1826			living, unmarried in 1871
William	born 4 Oct 1827			
Agnes	born 18 Jun 1828			married George MORRISON
William	born 24 Nov 1831			
James	born 18 Apr 1834	17 Sep 1911	77 years	married Anna SPENCE factor for Earl Roslyn, Dysart, Fife
Charlotte	born 20 Mar 1836			married Alex WHITE
Morris	born 1 Apr 1838			Named for his mother's brother ?
Morris	born 30 May 1840			twin, living unmarried in 1871
Peter	born 30 May 1840	3 Aug 1844	4 years	twin
Murray	born 25 Mar 1843			married Annie JONES
Janet or Jessie	born 1 Dec 1846			married Andrew MELVILLE

Agnes bore 14 children in 26 years, the first at the age of sixteen. Eight are known to have survived to adulthood, quite a good record considering the living conditions of those days in The High Street where half of them were born.

In 1822 Peter's address was 259 High Street, in 1824 he had moved to Craigs Close. In the 1833 Edinburgh Postal Directory he is described as merchant. In 1834 Peter moved to farm 80 acres at Peffermill. In 1851 he had 3 labourers, and in 1861 3 men and a boy but only 64 acres, probably due to the building of houses on his land. The 1861 census describes him as auctioneer, and his house had 8 windowed rooms.

In 1866 Peter moved to Bogleys farm, 123 acres, near Dysart, and was presented with a silver teapot inscribed from friends and neighbours "on your removal from Peffermill." The 1871 census described his house as having 9 windowed rooms. Morris aged 30 and Marion aged 40 were unmarried and still at home. Jane THOMSON, his gt gt grand-daughter-in-law, felt that he must have been quite a character and worked hard to achieve so much. It is therefore ironic that he should meet an unfortunate death after many years farming. The local paper went into gory details, suffice to say that "a young spirited bull escaped and was being chased by a man and a boy." Peter arrived on the scene between 7 and 8am and said "leave it to me, he knows me." Unfortunately the bull didn't, as Peter was not completely dressed. "Curtains" Peter! He is buried with his wife in Dysart cemetery.

*Peter and Marion's descendants – the fourth son Murray Gladstone Thomson*



Old houses in the Cowgate near the South Bridge, 1850.

Murray Gladstone THOMSON became a Grocer and Spirit Dealer like his brother Peter. All grocers were described as "spirit dealers" at that time. Edinburgh trade directories of the 1840's and 50's list his shop at 173 Cowgate, and some directories also list a residential address at 21 Horse Wynd.

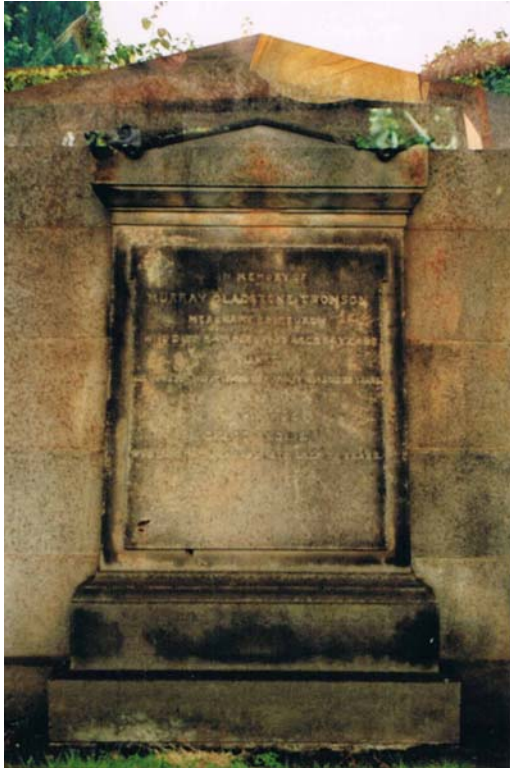
The 1851 census shows it to have been quite a small enterprise, employing one man (and that a son). It also shows the children being educated to their early teens and then the sons being apprenticed. Money for education was apparently available. The Thomsons were the sole occupants of 21 Horse Wynd, unlike the houses in some other Wynds and Closes where a different family lived on each floor. This Horse Wynd has now been demolished and is not to be confused with another of the same name off Cannongate.

The 1851 entry for 21 Horse Wynd (off Cowgate) was as follows:

Murray G THOMSON, head, age 57, grocer, master employing 1 man, b. Edinburgh  
Grace THOMSON, wife, age 57, domestic duties, b. Lanarkshire, Libberton  
William THOMSON, son, unm, age 24, grocer asst, b. Edinburgh  
Marion THOMSON, dau, unm, age 21, domestic duties, b. Edinburgh  
James THOMSON, son, unm, age 19, lithographer apprentice, b. Edinburgh  
Murray THOMSON, son, age 17, chemist apprentice, b. Edinburgh  
Robert THOMSON, son, age 14, scholar, b. Edinburgh  
Grace THOMSON, dau, age 10, scholar, b. Edinburgh  
Helen HERD, servant, age 21

This was the period, 1853, when John Gray, who was to become famous in death through his faithful terrier Greyfriars Bobby, enlisted with the Edinburgh police force. John's beat was the Upper Cowgate, Grassmarket, Greyfriars Kirkyard, Candlemaker Row, the grounds of Heriot's Hospital and the Cattle Market. Jock and Bobby would have been known to Murray Thomson, the grocer. Forbes Macgregor attempts to set the scene in his booklet *Greyfriars Bobby*, referring to the Cowgate as "full of nothing but thieves and worse." Constables patrolled in pairs, each with a watchdog.

The census suggested that Murray had died between 1851 and 1861. Greyfriars burials yielded nothing, so I studied the map and my next guess proved correct. Among the burials at the Southern cemetery, now know as The Grange, was: Murray Gladstone THOMSON, died December 24 1853, aged 54, 8 Meadow Place, of diarrhoea.



Headstone of Murray Gladstone Thomson, died 24 Dec 1853 The Grange Cemetery, Edinburgh

[Stone set into side boundary wall, to the left from main entrance gate.]

Although the provisions of his will were relatively simple, it filled 25 pages of the Register with tedious legal details. His wife, three brothers and eldest son were named trustees and guardians of the younger children.

His widow Grace received his gold watch, household furniture and goods, and the whole estate income provided she did not remarry. The children received one hundred pounds each. The business and stock were to be offered to his son William at valuation with no charge for goodwill. On Grace's death the estate was to be divided equally among the children.

As well as the will there was an inventory SRO Reference SC 70/1/82 page 197.

Inventory 30 Jan 1854 of M G THOMSON, grocer and spirit dealer, Cowgate, who died at Edinburgh, testate on 24 Dec 1853. Stamp 120 pounds

Cash in house		96.02.02
Current a/c Western Bank Scotland		210.03.02
Current a/c Clydesdale Bank		95.02.07
5 Shares Western Bank Scotland @ 71.17.6		359.07.06
171 Shares Clydesdale Banking Co @ 12.5.00		2094.15.00
67 Shares Edinburgh & Glasgow Bank @ 4.13.6		313.04.06
100 Shares Edinburgh & Leith Brewery Co @ 3.3.0		315.00.00
25 Shares Edinburgh & Leith Gas Co @ 32.0.0		800.00.00
Life Policy Scottish Provident Institution (6 May 1839)		700.00.00
Lent to Alexander Ryle (or Kyle), baker Leith, with int		146.06.08
Lent to James THOMSON, Roseburn, Murrayfield		58.06.08
Shop stock, furniture appraised by Peter THOMSON auctioneer		573.18.00
Book debts due to dec'd by:		
George Sleigh, tailor Morningside	3.00.00	
Miss Sime, Kerr St, Edin.	15.06	
William Smith, draper, High St	3.00.00	
Alex Kyle, baker, Leith	1.07.08	
Mr Wright, Dundas St	2.14.04	
James THOMSON, Roseburn	13.02	
Miss McFeely, Blair St	1.01.07	
Millar & Fairley, Horse Wynd	2.03.00	
Black, Morningside	9.09.00	24.04.03
Household furniture, linen, plate etc		287.07.06
Total	[sic]	6113.18.00

Signed Wm THOMSON [one of the trustees], Thomas Inglis, Commissioner appointed for taking of oaths [might be a relative of Grace's? but I noted he signed for the next will registered as well]. Reference to "Settlement executed by him [MGT] on 17th July 1847", which I take to be the date of the will.



What can we learn from the will and inventory? The trustees evidently included his three brothers and it was useful to have addresses for them. Nothing unexpected in the will, but the inventory is a treasure if only we can interpret it in terms of values at that time. Note that it concerns movable property only. If he owned land and buildings these would have been administered separately under Scottish law.

The oil portrait of MGT1 is said to have been painted "for the bank," but banks do not usually require portraits of their customers. Perhaps the inventory throws some light on the question. He certainly held shares in three banks, but £2000 worth is not likely to have brought him a directorship. The best suggestion that I can offer is that his bank shares were doing quite well, and on the strength of this he decided to commission the portrait. It was probably sent out to New Zealand after Grace's death, as it would have been lost in the fire on the *William Brown* if Peter had been bringing it with him.

The debtors in his business are of interest. Three are apparently gentry; two also owed him other money, one probably his brother; and six have addresses well removed from Cowgate. These suggest that the business served more than the crowded tenements off Cowgate/High Street. It certainly seems to have brought him a good income, one which allowed his widow to describe her occupation as "shareholder".



8 Meadow Place from South Meadow Walk (above) and Roseneath Tce (left)

I was able to locate the house at 8 Meadow Place to which he moved in the early 1850's. It is very pleasantly situated with its own small walled garden, looking out across several acres of parkland, The Meadows. Not quite as posh an address as the Georgian squares of the New Town, but definitely respectable. In 1970 it was given B grade listed building status (refer British Listed Buildings website): *dated 1805, a 2 storey terrace of 8 3-bay houses. The properties are enclosed by continuous high coped rubble walls with pedestrian gateways to South Meadow Walk from some of the gardens (including No 8). On the rear (south) side this block fronts onto Roseneath Terrace. The Canmore database provides an alternate address of 4 Roseneath Terrace. It is easier to locate as the latter.*

Murray did not enjoy the more pleasant environs of Meadow Place for long, as the 1861 census shows Grace aged 61 as a widow living with her unmarried son Murray, 27, designated Dr of Medicine, Lecturer in Chemistry.

Murray had married Grace INGLIS, whose christening (as Gressel INGLIS) at Libberton on 1 Nov 1795 is recorded in the parish register, daughter of William INGLIS and Alison DEANS.





Murray and Grace had the following children:

	<b>Born/Bapt</b>	<b>Died</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Details</b>
Peter	born 29 Aug 1823	31 July 1879	56	Printer, emigrated to NZ
Alison	born 25 Mar 1825			Married Andrew FRASER 1848
William	born 28 Feb 1827	4 May 1909	82	Grocer with father, emigrated to Saskatchewan
Marion	born 25 Apr 1829			Married William WHITE 1854
James	born 15 Mar 1832	1858	26	Artist
Murray	born 18 Feb 1834	13 Jan 1895	60	MD, lecturer chemistry, to India
Robert	born 12 Jan 1837			Possibly a Minister
Grace	born 31 July 1840			

***Children of Murray Gladstone Thomson & Grace Inglis:***

***1. Peter Thomson 1823-1856, printer***

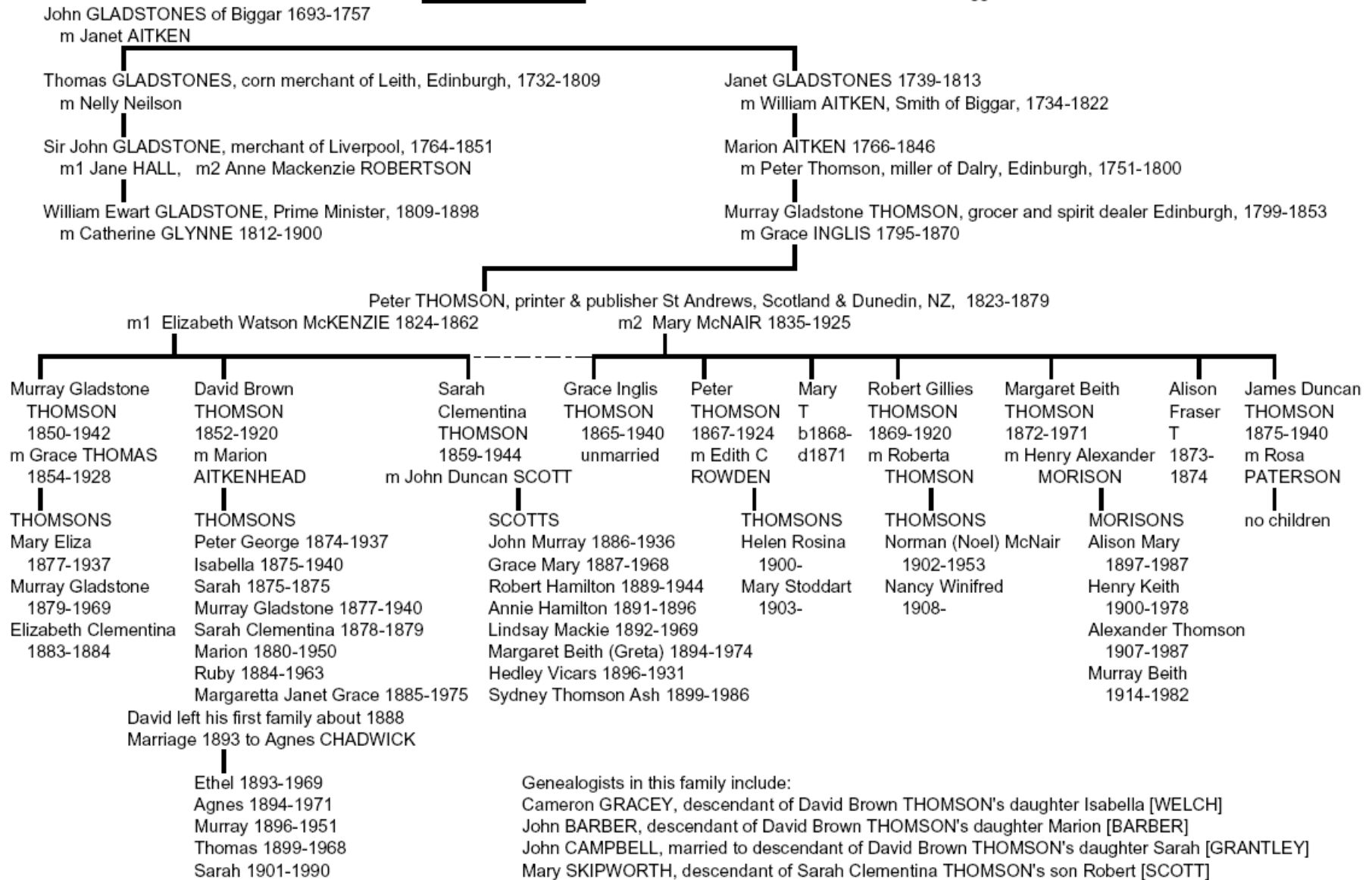
Murray and Grace's eldest son, Peter, was apprenticed printer to Neill & Co, Edinburgh. He was married in Edinburgh on 14 June 1848 to Elizabeth Watson MacKENZIE (more on her family below), by whom he had two sons and a daughter, and lived initially at Roxburgh Place, Edinburgh. About 1854 they moved to Liverpool where they remained only briefly, before moving again to St Andrews about 1856. Here Peter established a printing business of his own and published the "St Andrews Pictorial Magazine." After about three years in St Andrews the family decided to emigrate to New Zealand, seeking some improvement in Elizabeth's health, as she suffered from tuberculosis.

As the family prepared to depart a relative pressed a shilling into young Murray's hand, saying "Never forget you are a Gladstone." Indeed, he did not, for his son, grandson and great grandson in New Zealand were each in their turn given the name "Murray Gladstone THOMSON." But the detail of the relationship was forgotten, only the vague memory surviving that the name referred to the former English Prime Minister. Finally 130 years later the relationship has been verified, and we know that Prime Minister William Ewart GLADSTONE was second cousin to Murray Gladstone THOMSON, grocer and spirit dealer. Ten year old Murray was being reminded that his great great grandmother was the Prime Minister's great aunt, quite a remote connection but worth remembering because of the power and prestige of the Gladstones.

Peter's family story is continued at <http://www.genealogy.ianskipworth.com/pdf/thomsondesc.pdf> and <http://www.genealogy.ianskipworth.com/pdf/peterthomson.pdf>

A chart of his New Zealand descendants, showing their relationship to the Gladstones and Aitkens appears on the following page.

**NZ Thomsons** and their descent from John Gladstones of Biggar



Genealogists in this family include:  
 Cameron GRACEY, descendant of David Brown THOMSON's daughter Isabella [WELCH]  
 John BARBER, descendant of David Brown THOMSON's daughter Marion [BARBER]  
 John CAMPBELL, married to descendant of David Brown THOMSON's daughter Sarah [GRANTLEY]  
 Mary SKIPWORTH, descendant of Sarah Clementina THOMSON's son Robert [SCOTT]

*del. Mary Skipworth 2010*

***Elizabeth Watson MacKenzie (first wife of Peter Thomson, printer) and her family***

The spelling of her surname has varied in the records, but “Mac” has been used more frequently. Her father’s name is established from her marriage entry:

"Registered Proclamations 2 June 1848. Peter THOMSON printer res 21 Horse Wynd in parish Old Greyfriars Edin. & Elizabeth Watson MacKENZIE res No 5 Roxburgh Place dau of John MacKENZIE shopman in Leith".

The 1851 and 1861 census of Edinburgh both show that Elizabeth was born about 1824 at Tain in Rosshire. Her husband Peter entered the exact date 6 Mar 1824 in the Morison Family Bible belonging to Elizabeth’s stepdaughter. In the former census Elizabeth’s sister Clementine is found living with the Thomsons, born in St Cuthbert’s parish, Edinburgh about 1825.

The parish register of Tain records the birth on 4 Mar 1824 of Elizabeth, daughter of John McKenzie and Sarah Brown, a variation of 2 days which we will have to ascribe to Peter’s forgetfulness. No other births to this couple were found at Tain. Looking for a marriage for Elizabeth’s parents we find in the parish register for North Leith the marriage of John McKenzie and Sarah Brown on 31 Jan 1823. This marriage is accepted because of the known association of John McKenzie with Leith, and because of the choice of names for Peter and Elizabeth’s children. Eldest son should have been named for Peter’s father - Murray Gladstone Thomson - correct. Second son should have been named for Elizabeth’s father - John MacKenzie Thomson. In fact he was named for Elizabeth’s mother’s family - David Brown Thomson. Eldest daughter should have been named for Elizabeth’s mother - Sarah Brown Thomson. Since Brown had already been given to David they apparently preferred to recognize Elizabeth’s sister Clementine who lived with them when Sarah was a baby, thus Sarah Clementine Thomson was named.

From the date of her parent’s marriage it is apparent that Elizabeth was their first born child. We can therefore predict that her maternal grandmother should be Elizabeth Watson. Her sister Clementine, born a year later should have been named after her paternal grandmother Clementine MacKenzie. No records were found to support these predictions.

John and Sarah MacKenzie also had a son who emigrated to Nelson prior to 1861, but had by early 1862 moved on to Nelson. His name is not known.

***Children of Murray Gladstone Thomson & Grace Inglis: 2. William Thomson 1827 - 1909***

Murray and Grace’s second son William worked with his father in the grocery business, which he inherited under his father’s will in 1853. He was listed as the proprietor in the 1855 directory. By 1862 Robert Mackintosh had taken over the business at 173 Cowgate. There was a William THOMSON at 2 Leggat's Land, grocer and spirit dealer, but this is probably a different person.

William [of 8 Meadow Place Edinburgh, his mother’s home] married Ann Robertson MARSHALL, daughter of Robert MARSHALL [deceased] and Jemima MARSHALL nee DUNDAS [of 120 Nicolson St Edinburgh] on 24 August 1858. Alex Thomson officiated, possibly William’s cousin.

In 1861 census of Edinburgh [on Ancestry.com] the family was as follows:

William Thomson, head, 34, born Edinburgh, retired gracer [grocer], 17 Archibald Place  
Annie R Thomson, wife, 25, born Kirkaldy, Fifeshire  
William M Thomson son 1 year 10 months, born Edinburgh  
Robert M Thomson 10 months, born Edinburgh  
Jane Smith, 17 servant

In the 1871 census of Edinburgh [on Ancestry.com] the family was harder to find as the surname is listed THOMPSON, and Annie named as Jane. Never-the-less the following is quite a good match:  
William Thompson, head, married, 44, born Edinburgh, Printer reader, 21 Drumdryan St, [St Cuthbert's parish] [William appears to have joined his brother Peter in the printing trade]  
Jane R Thompson, wife, 36, wife, born Kirkealy, Fifeshire  
William Thompson, son, 11, born Edinburgh  
Robert Thompson, son, 10, born Edinburgh

1881 census Edinburgh 27 Oxford Street [image viewed on Scotland's people]:  
William Thomson Head, married 54, Asst Printers Reader, born St Cuthberts Edinburgh  
Annie Robertson Thomson, 46, wife, born Kirkaldy, Fife, Scotland  
William Murray Thomson, unnm, 21, stationer, born St Cuthberts Edinburgh  
Jemima Thomson, dau, 8 scholar, born St Cuthberts Edinburgh  
Grace Allison Thomson, dau, 6 scholar, born St Cuthberts Edinburgh  
[son Robert may have died before 1881, and there may have been other sons who died young to explain the large gap in the family. The two daughters are named respectively for their mother's mother and their father's mother, which would be correct for the two eldest daughters if the Scottish naming pattern was followed.]

William and Ann are known to have had the following children:  
William Murray THOMSON born 1859 - 1927 married Grace Jeanie WHITE (? in Canada)  
Robert Marshall THOMSON 1860 -  
Murray Gladstone THOMSON 1862-1863  
Jemima THOMSON 1873-  
Grace Alison THOMSON 1874-1935 married Albert Thomas WATSON 1901 in Saskatchewan

In 1884 this family emigrated to Canada as evidenced by the 1901 Canadian census, where they are found homesteading at Hayward Saskatchewan. Hayward no longer exists, but was near Lipton, which is about 15 km north of Fort Qu'Appelle, itself about 50km north-east of the city of Regina. By 1901 Jemima had left home, she is said to have married a John WATSON but I have not found any trace of her. Ann died in 1906 and William in 1909. They are buried in Fort Qu'Appelle cemetery with their son William Murray who died in 1927 [section A, row 6, plots 47, 48, 49]. They were brave pioneers to take on the Canadian wilderness when William was already 57.



Fort Q'Appelle cemetery, resting place of William and Ann Thomson

William Murray THOMSON married Grace Jeanie WHITE, probably in Canada as she did not arrive from Scotland until 1889. In 1901 they are listed farming next to William's parents. By 1906 they had moved to Fort Qu'Appelle where William Murray was postmaster for 11 years around 1900, he later became Treasurer of the School District and RM of North Qu'Appelle. To celebrate Saskatchewan's centenary in 2005, the Saskatchewan Gazette reprinted a small selection of notices from around 100 years ago, among them the appointment of William Murray Thomson of Qu'Appelle, to be Notary Public on April 10, 1907.

Two postcards entitled "The Hunter's paradise, Qu'Appelle Valley, Sask." and "Sioux reserve, Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask." which mention William Murray THOMSON can be viewed at <http://library2.usask.ca/postcardsquappelle/vv1xx1252.html>  
<http://library2.usask.ca/postcardsquappelle/fqlxx1209.html>

William Murray and Grace Jeanie had five known children:

Murray Gladstone THOMSON, born 1897, died 1916, buried Ottawa.

Canadian Virtual War Memorial: In memory of Sapper MURRAY GLADSTONE THOMSON who died on January 6, 1916 Military Service Number: 3499 Age: 18 Force: Army Unit: Canadian Engineers

Gertrude M THOMSON b 1900,

Arthur D THOMSON b 1903,

Harold W THOMSON b 1906

Grace THOMSON b 1908

William Murray THOMSON's sister Grace Alison THOMSON married Albert Thomas WATSON in 1901 in Saskatchewan. Grace was the great grandmother of Richard GIOKAS of Edmonton, Alberta, whose genealogy is found on his website

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/g/i/o/Richard-W-Giokas/index.html>

It is worth remarking that Grace's first cousin Peter Thomson had married Elizabeth Watson MacKenzie, wondering whether there might be a link through the Watsons.

#### ***Children of Murray Gladstone Thomson and Grace Inglis: James Thomson 1832 - 1858 , artist***

James, the third son, was apprenticed to a lithographer. He died in London at the age of 26 and is remembered on his father's tombstone. He was probably the son reputed to have been an artist who was a member of the Royal Academy.<sup>6</sup> His sister Grace asked to have her portrait painted, but was told that she was too ugly! He was not the painter of his father's portrait.<sup>6</sup>

#### ***Children of Murray Gladstone Thomson & Grace Inglis:***

##### ***Murray Thomson 1834-1895, MD, analytical chemist, ?missionary in India***

The fourth son, Murray, was apprenticed as a chemist, and then went on to take an M.D. at Edinburgh University. He is listed in "Edinburgh Medical Graduates 1705-1866" list for 1858. His dissertation was entitled "On Sulphureous Mineral Waters", and he received one of three prizes among the 58 M.D.s that year. The title implies that his study was chemistry rather than medicine, and four others that year were in botany or zoology fields, there being no Science degrees at that time. Murray also published "Report .... in virtue of remit made to him in January 1862 to investigate and report as to the cause or causes of the offensive smells in the west side of the city and from the water of Leith," Jan 1863. The 1862 P.O. Directory lists him as "M.D. and F.C.S., lecturer in Chemistry and anal. chemist". At that time he had an office at 8 Infirmary St though he lived with his mother at Meadow Place.

Murray is said in the family to have been a medical student with Simpson of anaesthetic fame. Simpson was 23 years older than Murray so would not have been a student friend, but he was indeed Professor of Obstetrics at Edinburgh University when Murray was taking his degree, so they could have been acquainted. Dr Simpson visited the Thomsons at Meadow Place and wrote a "recipe" for Murray's sister Grace, who suffered from migraines. It went something like: enough quinine to cover a sixpence, and enough ? phenacetin ... etc.<sup>6</sup> It was brought to NZ but is now lost.

Murray spent most of his working life in India. One story in the family is that he founded a medical college in India, another that he was a missionary – which may be closer to the truth. An Indian cookery book and several engraved metal plaques survive in the family, sent by Murray from India. He married **Gertrude HANNAH** (from Ipswich) on 4 Feb 1875 in Roorkee, Bengal, India. Murray returned to England some time after 1891 (not in the 1891 English census) and died at Gypsy Hill Surrey in 1895. By 1901 Gertrude was living with two daughters, Rose and Katherine at Lambeth, London, where they employed a cook and a housemaid. The census shows the girls had been born in 1878 and 1886 at Simla, in the Himalayan foothills, dubbed the summer capital of India as it was much frequented by the British at that time.

The 1901 census also includes two Thomson boys born at Simla, Robert b.1884 and John b.1887. They were at a boarding school at Godalming Surrey and are probably from the same family. I have been told that there was a son who shot himself after losing his mother's money at Monte Carlo.<sup>6</sup>

Bob Scott mentions in his 1918 diary visiting "Aunt Gertrude" [actually great aunt] in London, and I have a postcard sent by Bob addressed to Mrs G Murray THOMSON, 5 Pitt St, Kensington, London, 10/3/1918. [I suspect the G stands for Gertrude in this address, acknowledging her widowhood. Initially I assumed the G was Gladstone, but Gladstone is not included in Murray's name in any of the documents I have found relating to him.]

Katherine, a spinster, eventually lived at Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire, and maintained contact with her New Zealand cousins and their children until around 1944. In a letter written to Katherine in 1932, her cousin Sarah Scott refers to Katherine's cousin Alicia – most likely related on her mother's side. Katherine sent Sarah a bank draft each Christmas, which must have been generous as the gain made on the exchange rate between English and New Zealand pounds was sufficient to be distributed among the Sarah's grandchildren as "chocolate money." I had a book "Our princesses [Elizabeth and Margaret Rose] and their dogs" in which my father placed an inscription "from Cousin Katherine, Hemel Hempstead" which I understand was purchased with this chocolate money.

#### ***Children of Murray Gladstone Thomson & Grace Inglis: Robert Thomson 1837 - , minister?***

Robert THOMSON, the fifth son, was said to have been a staunch Plymouth Brethren, possibly a minister. He visited his brother Peter in Dunedin and presented him with a bible.<sup>6</sup> He may have been the Uncle Robert visited by Bob Scott in May 1916 at 27 York Place, Harrogate, if so he would have been 79 at that time. This Robert's wife's sister was a Mrs McFarlane, Colinton, Edinburgh, wife of Rev McFarlane.<sup>6</sup>

#### ***Other descendants of Murray Gladstone Thomson and Grace Inglis***

The daughter, Grace, has been referred to above, under her brothers, Murray's and James' sections.

The second daughter Marion married William WHITE, missionary of the Church of Scotland to Calcutta, in 1854. It may have been her experience in India which influenced her brother Murray to go out to India. MGT2 told of playing with his cousins from India at his grandparent's home in Edinburgh. The family was introduced to curry on that occasion, which made the Scottish cousins stick their tongues out. The date was no later than 1861.



A daughter is said to have come to Fortrose, NZ. She is supposed to have had a portrait of Mrs MGT1 (Grace INGLIS). Dr Marshall MacDonald, was said to be a descendant.<sup>6</sup> He may have been an ophthalmologist.

Another branch of the THOMSON family came to New Zealand, the parents of Donald MARK and his sister (about 1922). He was an elder at First Church, Dunedin and had an adopted son Bruce Mark killed in WWII. From CWGC website I have verified: No 8246 Sergeant Bruce MARK, 20<sup>th</sup> Bn NZ Infantry, died 7 July 1941 aged 23 and buried at Phaeleron War Cemetery on the outskirts of Athens. Parents Donald Bruce and Mary Jessie Mark of Dunedin.

A story I have been told which makes no sense to me is that “one of the Thomsons was at college with Gladstone.”<sup>6</sup> William Ewart Gladstone was educated at Eton College and Oxford. I feel certain that the sons of Peter Thomson the miller would not have been sent to either of those establishments, and Edinburgh University was the choice for the only grandson known to have gone on to tertiary education.

### ***Never Forget You're a Gladstone***

The name Gladstone was perpetuated among the descendants of Janet Gladstones and William Aitken for approximately 200 years, well into the 20th century when most of the family had forgotten exactly how they related to the 19th century British Prime Minister. In Queensland, there was Edward Gladstone Gilchrist Kirk, OAM, born 1924, and there have been 2 earlier Kirks who bore the name. Dorothy Thomson noted the name was occasionally used among the descendants of Peter (of Dalry) Thomson's second son William in Manitoba, and Mary Skipworth found it used in separate lines from Peter's fourth son Murray in Saskatchewan and in New Zealand. Solving the exact relationship has been an exciting challenge for several current genealogists.

**Appendix A:** [I am indebted to Brian Lambie for drawing our attention to this will]

Will of Mrs Marion Gladstones or Murray, Relict of James Murray of Orchardfield Feb 19th 1816  
Vol 142 Fol 23 *Transcribed by Mary Skipworth 2003, image provided by Scottish Documents*

Cautoner David Watson Writer in Edinburgh dated 17th day February one thousand eight hundred and sixteen years -----

The testament Testamentum and sum of money which was adl debled vesting aruing to Umquhill Mrs Marion Gladstones or Murray Relict of James Murray at Orchardfields near Edinburgh at the time of her descease who died upon the fifth day of February one thousand eight hundred and fifteen years. Made and given up by the defunct herself on the first day of October one thousand eight hundred and two years in so far as it concerns the nomination of her Executors and now made and given up by Thomas Gladstones formerly merchant in Leith and now in Liverpool and James Aitken Tenant in Liston Shields Kirknewton Parish is so far as it concerns the inventory after Written which Thomas Gladstones and James Aitken along with Thomas Gladstones Senior Merchant in Leith and John Ogil Writer in Edinburgh both since deceased the defunct nominated and appointed to be her Executor in mutual settlement executed between her and James Murray on the First day of October one thousand eight hundred and two years and registered in the Burgh Court Books of Edinburgh the fourteenth day of August one thousand eight hundred and four years which is hearafter engrossed.

Follows the Inventory In the first the said Umquhill Mrs Marion Gladstones or Murray had pertaining and belonging to her at the time of her decease foresaid five pound Stirling part of the sum of one hundred and sixty five pounds contained in a receipt at the British Linen Company to Thomas and Hugh Gladstones for behoof of the defunct dated second day of July one thousand and fourteen years. Extending said partial sum of five pounds Sterling herein given up and Confirmed in Scots money to Sixty pounds.

Summa

\*\*\*\*\*

Summa of the Inventory £ x ----- *[Mary Skipworth's comment: value not stated in the original.]*

Follows the Mutually Settlement between the Defunct and the said James Murray Know all men by these presents. We the said James Murray of Orchardfield near Edinburgh and Marion Gladstones Spouse for the love favour and affection which we have and bear for each other and in order to prevent disputes and controversies betwixt our relations after our deaths . Mutually agreed to grant these presents in the manner underwritten. Therefore we do mutually assign and dispone to and in favour of the longest liver in liferent for liferent use of the said longest liver. All and sundry goods geui debts Sums of money heritable and moveable household furniture and plenishing and others whatsoever vesting pertaining and belonging to us or either of us at the time of our deaths by Bond Bill Account or any other manner or way whatsoever with the power to the Survivor of us to pursue for intromet with the said goods and gear debts sums and effects that shall happen to be resting and belonging to the person prediceasing for the purposes of our respective liferents only. But it is hereby expressly conditioned and declared that in the case of the said Marion Gladstones shall survive me the said James Murray in that event she thereby bound and obliged to pay Rachael Murray sister to me the said James Murray the sum of Five pounds Stirling each year during her natural life annually with ligat Annualrent of each terms of payment during not payment of the same And further it is hereby mutually understood betwixt ourselves not withstanding of what is before expressed that immediately after both our deaths our said goods and gear shall be settled in the manner hereafter Specified and for that purpose nominate and appoint Thomas Gladstones Senior and Thomas G. junior both Merchants in Leith James Aitken Tenant in Liston Shields Kirknewton parish and John Ogil writer in Edinburgh and the Survivor or Survivors of them to be our Executors for the special purposes of the payment of the several legacies respectively after mentioned and with the powers hereafter expressed and in the first place in the event of both our deaths we hereby mutually legate bequeath and dispone and make over to the executors beforenamed. All and Sundry goods gear debts Sums of money heritable and moveable household plenishing and furniture and others which shall have been resting pertaining and belonging to us at the time of our decease of the longest liver with the said Executors to insomuch with uplift service and discharge if need be to pursue for the same and to soon as funds are collected they the said Executors or Survivors or survivor of them as said it shall out of the said funds pay the several sums of money and legacies to the persons respectively

aftermentioned and desvagli at the first term of Whitsunday or Martimas that shall happen after the said funds are collected as said is, tuwit, To Marion Gladstones dtr of the late John Gladstones farmer at Eastfield now wife of James Auchinleck Mason in Drumelsior fifteen pounds Stirling To Margaret Gladstones widow of Peter Crawden late shipmaster in Leith twenty pounds Sterling. To Murray Gladstones merchant in Liverpool son of the said Thomas Gladstones senior fifty pounds To Marion Gladstones spouse of the Reverend John Watson at Glasgow dtr of the said Thomas Gladstones senior fifteen pounds. To Marion Aitken widow of Peter Thomson late Miller at Dalry fifteen pounds Sterling and to James Aitken tenant at Liston Shields twenty pounds Stirling, and also to Isobel and Janet Gladstones daughters of the late James Gladstones Schoolmaster in North Leith Ten pounds Stirling and failing any of them by decease to their children equally amongst them and aforesaid legacies are completely paid with Annualrent of the said respective Legacies until payment then we hereby mutually ordain the foresaid Executors to devide the remainder of our means in Twentynine Shares or equal portions amongst the persons after mentioned. Towit four shares of the said remainder of our means and estate to John White son of Alexander White late Tennant in Shirlane in liferent and after his decease to his children equal amongst them or if no children after his decease to the children of Alexander White his brother in fie four shares to Alexander White in liferent all the days of his life and after his decease to his children equally amongst them or if no Children to the Children of John White his brother in fee. Five and one half shares to Isobel White dtr of said Alexander White and spouse of William Proudfoot wright in Thirland in liferent and to her children equally amongst them in fee And also one share to Thomas Crawden eldest son of the late Peter Crawden in fee which fourteen and a half shares we hereby mutually appoint to be paid out and secured by aforesaid Executors for the persons above named but always under the burthen of paying the Interest of these shares to the said Rachel Murray sister of me the said James Murray yearly during her life and after her death the liferent and fee of the foresaid shares shall take place in the manner above dascribed but until the said Rachael's death shall not be apportioned and paid and furthermore appoint two shares of our said means and estate to be paid to Isobel and Janet Gladstones foresaid daughters of the late James Gladstones schoolmaster in N Leith one share to be equally divided amongst the children of the said John Gladstones deceased farmer at Eastfield of Symington. viz To John Gladstones Watchmaker in Biggar to Alexander Gladstones Tennant in Cleugh of Kilbucho Elizabeth Spouse of Robert\*(crossed out) Thomas Pairman Tanner in Glasgow. Janet Spouse of Jo Kello Heritor in Wiston parish. Christian Spouse of William Somerville in Thripland Kilbucho parish equally amongst them To Jean Gladstone a half share and Marion Gladstone spouse of James Auchinlick half a share besides the fifteen pounds legacy allowed her. Two shares to be paid to the children of said Thomas Gladstones senior betwixt them equally. Two shares to be paid to the children of Agnes Gladstones spouse of James Thomson farmer at Cairnmuir equally betwixt them. Further two shares to be paid to Mary Gladstones spouse of Richard Tweedie in Biggar during all the days of her life after her death to be paid to her sons equally and in order the said Mary Gladstones may be paid we hereby empower said Executors to secure said two shares for that purpose. Further two shares to be paid to Janet Gladstones Spouse of William Aitken Smith in Hartree in liferent and to her children equally amongst them in fee the said two shares to be also secured by aforesaid Executors for the liferent of the said Janet Gladstones and further one and a half shares to be paid to the children of the deceased Jean Gladstone late wife of Donald Thomas Taylor in Pennicuik equally betwixt them but which last one and a half share shall not be payable till the said children severally attain the age of twentyfive years complete with legal interest thereof from respective terms of payment till paid, and lastly one share to Thomas Crawden and the other children of Margaret Gladstones foresaid for her liferent and to the Children equally amongst them when they arrive at the age of twentyone years in fee and finally we dispense with the delivery hereof and declare that the same though found lying beside us at the time of our death or in the custody of anyother person shall be valid and Sufficient as dilevered in our own liferent And we Consent to the Registration hereof in the Books of Council and Session. Burgh Courts of Edinburgh of others Competant therein remain for preservation and therefore Constitute.

our Prors In witness whereof there presents written upon this and two preceeding pages of Stamped Paper by Thomas Gladstones.

[more detail about the witnessing and signing has been left out here]

### **Summary of the above will as interpreted by Mary Skipworth:**

First there were some particular legacies to individuals who [I assume] had special needs or to whom the Murrays were obligated:

Rachel Murray [James' sister] 5 pounds per annum  
Marion Gladstones, [dau of John of Eastfield] wife of James Auchinleck Mason 15 pounds [niece]  
Margaret Gladstones [widow of Peter Crawden] 20 pounds [Marion's niece by her brother Thomas]  
Murray Gladstones, [son of Thomas] 50 pounds [nephew]  
Marion Gladstones, [daughter of Thomas senior] wife of Rev John Watson, 20 pounds [niece]  
Marion Aitken, widow of Peter Thomson, 15 pounds [niece]  
James Aitken, 20 pounds [he was the executor]  
Isobel and Janet Gladstones, daughters of James, 10 pounds [nieces]

Then I looked at the division of the estate into 29 shares. I noted that a life interest in 14 1/2 shares was to go to James' sister Rachel Murray. She seems to be the only living Murray sibling. However, after Rachel's decease the 14 1/2 shares she had an interest in were to be divided between the Whites and Thomas Crawden:

4 shares for John White,  
4 shares for Alexander White\*\*,  
5 1/2 shares for Isobel White, wife of William Proudfoot and 1 share for Thomas Crawden.  
From this I have assumed that the Whites and Crawdens were relatives on the Murray side. Possibly the late Alexander White had been married to another Murray sister.

The other 14 1/2 shares went to Marion's [Gladstones] relatives:

2 shares to the daughters of James Gladstones, schoolmaster  
1 share to be divided among five children of John Gladstones, deceased farmer of Eastfield Symington, so John the watchmaker, Alexander of Cleugh, Elizabeth wife of Pairman, Janet wife of Kello, and Christian wife of Sommerville all got 1/5 of a share.  
1/2 share to Jean Gladstones  
1/2 share to Marion Gladstones wife of James Auchinleck  
2 shares divided among the children of Thomas Gladstones senior [2/11<sup>th</sup> share each]  
2 shares divided among the children of Agnes Gladstones, wife of James Thomson  
2 shares divided among the children of Mary Gladstones, wife of Richard Tweedie  
2 shares divided among the children of Janet Gladstones, wife of William Aitken  
1 1/2 shares divided among the children of Jean Gladstones (dec), late wife of Donald Thomas  
1 share divided among the children of Margaret Gladstones, widow of Peter Crawden

There is a slight puzzle about Thomas Crawden getting a mention in the Murray side, and then again with all his siblings on the Gladstone side.

\*\* A little on the Whites. Marion Aitken's granddaughter Charlotte Thomson married an Alex White in 1866 at Libberton. My correspondent Jane Thomson remarked that Alex White "had Gladstone blood". William WHITE who married Marion, 2nd daughter of Murray Gladstone THOMSON, in 1854 may have been another member of this family.

I have attached importance to the order in which Marion dealt with her siblings' lines, and working in conjunction with the IGI birth records I think they are in birth order. I believe it was her intention not to leave anyone out, so if one of her siblings is not mentioned I believe it indicates their line had become extinct by 1802.

### **Appendix 2: Traditional naming pattern used by lowland Scots families**

Eldest son named for father's father  
Second son named for mother's father  
Third son named for father  
Eldest daughter named for mother's mother  
Second daughter named for father's mother  
Third daughter named for mother

**Sources:**

1. Thomson, Jane: *Family History of Thomson of Edinburgh intermarried with Aitken and Gladstone of Biggar* Published privately
2. Thomson, Dorothy: *A tree grows in Edinburgh* Published privately
3. Starling, Ian: *From Hazelton Walls to Hazelbank, the Story of William & Isabella Kirk* Published privately
4. Checkland, SG: *The Gladstones, a family biography 1764-1851* 1971 Cambridge University Press
5. Macgregor, Forbes: *Greyfriars Bobby The Real Story at Last* 1990 Gordon Wright Publishing, Edinburgh
6. Information provided by Stewart sisters, Dunedin (not verified) The Stewart sisters, Molly, Grace and Jean, were unmarried granddaughters of MGT2.
7. Will of John Gladstones 1758, copy from Biggar archives supplied by Glenys Appel.



St Mary's Kirk, Biggar (below) was celebrating its 450th anniversary at the time of my visit. The architectural style, perhaps more reminiscent of an Anglican Parish Church, reflects its pre-reformation origins.



Biggar Kirk - image courtesy Glenys Appel