

David Fraser Janet or Jessie McIntosh

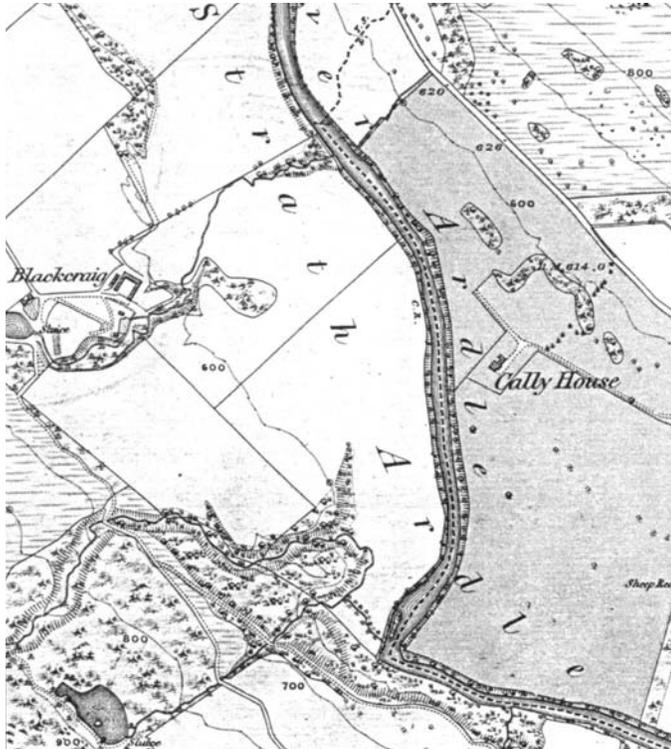
David Fraser and Janet (often known as Jessie) McIntosh married around 1845 although no record of the marriage has been found. He had been born at Little Dunkeld on 12 Sept 1810, to John Frazer and Margaret Black. No record of her birth has been found although she has been found in the 1841 census. David has not been found in the 1841 census despite a search of Blairgowrie, Lethendy & Kinloch and Little Dunkeld. He may have been in North America – see “Ancestors of David Fraser”.

The 1843 Statistical Account for Blairgowrie notes that “In the upper district of the parish the Gaelic language is still spoken by the common people; but there are none who cannot speak English. The Gaelic is however gradually disappearing; and it is likely that in a short time, it will be altogether disused”.

The 1851 census for Blackcraig, Blairgowrie335 (formerly 285) book 1 shows:

Fraser	David	h	m	40	Ag. Lab	Perth, Lethendy
Fraser	Janet	w	m	45		Perth, Blairgowrie
Fraser	Margaret	d	u	5	scholar	Perth, Blairgowrie
Fraser	James	s	u	2	at home	Perth, Blairgowrie
Fraser	David	s	u	5mo		Perth, Blairgowrie
Young	Ann	wife-d	u	10	scholar	Perth, Blairgowrie
Mitchell	James	vis	u	26	Ag. Lab	Ireland

Strathardle area in 1860. Scale six inches to 1 mile.



The Old Parish Register for Blairgowrie (335/4 Fr 1154) records the births of all these children in 1855. As this date is some considerable time after the events, the dates may not be reliable. This is most noticeable in the case of Ann:

Jessie McIntosh had an illegitimate child born August 14 1830 and named Ann Young.

David Fraser labourer in Blackcraig and his wife Janet McIntosh had a child baptised Feb 17 1846 named Margaret.

The last named couple had a child baptised September 18th 1848 named James. They had another born October 8th 1850 named David. They had another born March 7th 1854 named Jessie Buttar.

The last child, and the only one young enough to be registered under the statutory registration system, was John, born at Blackcraig on 26 June 1856. Problems must have arisen shortly after this because on 1st February 1858, in the minute for the meeting of the Committee of the Blairgowrie Parochial Board is the following entry:

“David Fraser’s wife. The inspector reported that this woman had become insane and that it would be necessary to send her to the Asylum. Inspector instructed to make further inquiry into the case and if necessary to have her removed to Montrose or Perth Asylum”.

No further entries regarding Janet are to be found in the Board minutes in the months following and there are no clues to her whereabouts until, according to the records, she was admitted to Perth and District Asylum at Murthly when it first opened on 1st June 1864. Here she became number 153 in the records. Records for this Institution are in Perth Archives. She remained there until the end of her life. Did the family have any further contact with her? She is named as married to David in 1866 both on his death certificate and on the burial ground record. On her son, John’s, death certificate in 1883 it is apparent that they knew she was still alive. When she died on 28th February 1886 a telegram was sent from the Asylum presumably to the family. These, admittedly slim pieces of evidence may indicate that there was at least minimal contact.

Census records for the Asylum have been found for 1861, 1871 and 1881.

In 1861 James Murray’s Royal Lunatic Asylum, Parish of Kinoull, Perth.

Vol. Page line

Janet Fraser patient married 45 wife of labourer born Blairgowrie. Neither deaf, dumb or blind.

In the 1871 census Enumeration District for Perth District Lunatic Asylum at Murthly
Vol 373 Page 5 line 23:

Janet McIntosh or Fraser, patient, Married, 62. Occupation: outdoor worker. Birthplace: unknown.
Lunatic.

In 1881:

Census place: Little Dunkeld, Perth, Scotland Vol 373, Dist. 9 Page 4.

Perth District Lunatic Asylum.

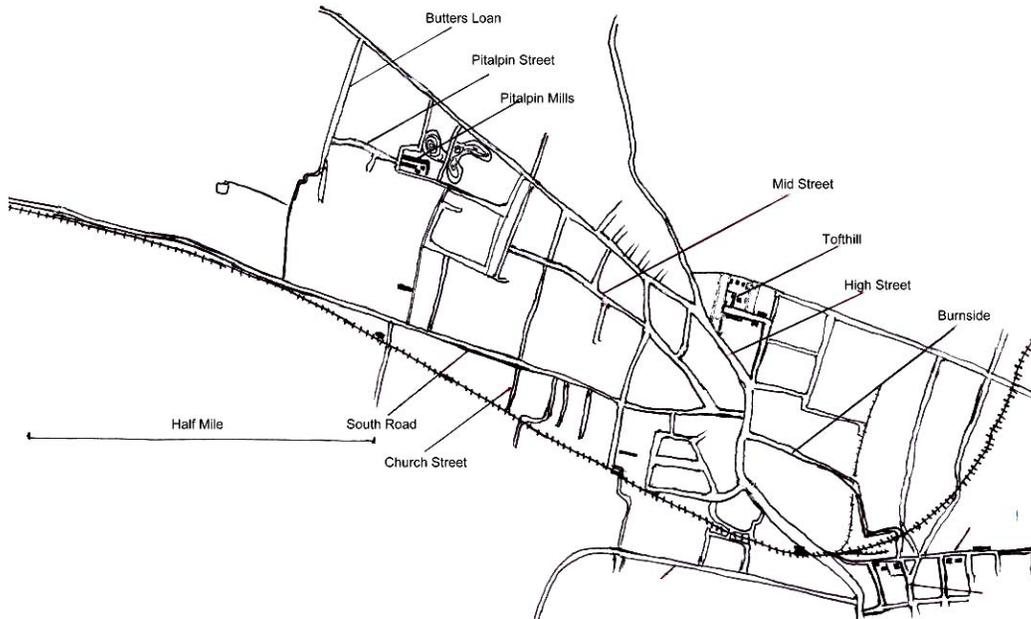
Janet McIntosh or Fraser, Married, 73, F, Born Blairgowrie.

Pauper patient, Outdoor worker. Handicap – lunatic.

By 1861 (the year the railway came to Lochee with a service of six trains a day) David and the family had moved to Pitalpin Street in Lochee. A few years previously the hamlet of Pitalpie had been described as eight thatched houses occupying a most beautiful position, surrounded by some of the finest scenery in the area and was indeed a holiday resort for better off Dundee families. After 1840 however, the rise in the jute trade led to tenements being built in the area with little attention being paid to good design and this was Pitalpin Street.

The 1861 census, overleaf, shows Jim is missing from the family home. At age 12 he could easily be working away from home, perhaps in stables as we know from his death certificate in 1883 that he was later employed as a stableman.

1861				282/5			
Pitalpin St. Mitchell Land							
Fraser	David	h	m	50	labourer		Perth, Blairgowrie
Fraser	Margaret	d	u	15	weaver		Perth, Blairgowrie
Fraser	David	s	u	9			Perth, Blairgowrie
Fraser	Jessie	d	u	7			Perth, Blairgowrie
Fraser	John	s	u	4			Perth, Blairgowrie
Young	Ann	step	d u	20	weaver		Perth, Blairgowrie



Sketch plan of Lochee

In Lochee, David worked as a labourer, probably initially in Pitalpin Works, a spinning and weaving establishment powered by two engines, together of 70 horse-power, driving 1802 spindles, 85 power looms and employing 300 hands. All the family followed him into the mills. In 1866 a spinner could have earned 8/6 (flax) or 10/- (jute), a weaver 12/- all being weekly rates. Weekly house rent was probably slightly under £2 this meant that many families took boarders although not apparently the Frasers. (8/6 = eight shillings and six pence. 12 pennies = 1 shilling, 20 shillings = 1 pound).

The D.R.I. Admissions Record, below, showing that David was recommended for admission to the infirmary by "Cox" almost certainly means that he was employed at Cox's Mill by the time of his death. The wage books which could have confirmed this are missing from Dundee University Archives which has Cox's wage books for other periods.

David was admitted to Dundee Royal Infirmary on 01 May 1866 (although the admission register calls him James). The following information is given:

2748 James Fraser. Age: 52. Labr. Occupation: mill. Residence: Lochee.
 Recommended by: Cox. Admitted: May 1st. Date of Demission: May 31st.
 30 days in Infirmary.
 Disease: Gangrene of scrotum. Medical, Surgical or Fever?: S. Result: died.
 After 1866, the family continued to live in Pitalpin Street:

Census 1871	252/5					
45 Pitalpin St						
Fraser	David	h	u	19	jute worker	Perth, Blairgowrie
Fraser	Jessie	sis	u	17	jute weaver	Perth, Blairgowrie
Fraser	John	bro	u	14	jute weaver	Perth, Blairgowrie
Young	Annie	half s	u	28	jute weaver	Perth, Blairgowrie
Young	Mgt Ann	n	u	8	scholar	Lochee
Young	Eliz.	n	u	5	scholar	Lochee

David (junior) married on 29 December 1876.

O.P.R Perth, Little Dunkeld: September 1810. David Fraser lawful son to James Fraser and Margaret Black in the Parish of Lethendy was born 12th last and baptised 16th.

Janet's birth not found.

Marriage of David and Janet circa 1845 not found. (Perhaps there was no formal marriage.)

Death Dundee 1866

David Fraser	M	57	1866	John	Strangulated	Ann Young
labourer			May 31 st	Fraser	hernia	step daughter
married to			Dundee Royal	weaver	gangrene	Lochee
Janet McIntosh			Infirmary	(deceased)	of scrotum	
			U.R. Lochee	Margaret		
				Black		
				(deceased)		

Gangrene of the scrotum was fairly common in the mills. It was caused by friction, the dust and lack of washing facilities.

Eastern Necropolis, Dundee

1866 June 1, 3727, David Fraser, Place of residence: Infirmary, Birth Blairgowrie, Male, age 57, Died 31 May, cause unknown. Married: Janet McIntosh. Parents: John Fraser and M. Black. Interred in No. 126 RG W. 6d.

The assistant at Dundee city Leisure and Recreation, where burial records for the town are kept, thought that what looked like RG was probably PG and stood for poor ground.

Death 1886 Little Dunkeld 373 no. 9

Janet Fraser	1886	F	77yr	No entries in parents columns	Fatty degeneration
Outdoor worker	Feb 28				of arteries.
(married)	7h 30m a.m.				many years.
	Perth District				syncope.
	Asylum, Parish				
	of Little Dunkeld.				

Blaingowrie 1. February 1853
At a Meeting of the Committee of the
Penitentiary Board.

Present Dr Mackenzie Lamm: Chapman
David Grimond George Soutar
John Baxter William Spalding
Thomas Forbes Thomas Mitchell
do Clerk

Thomas Wilson's Wife. Temporary relief continued till
next meeting

Janet Ogilvy. Relief continued till next meeting
George Robertson. The Inspector reported that he had
been obliged to give relief to this woman's man at the rate of 2/- per
week. Relief to this family reduced to 4/- per week.

James Haman. Admitted to the Roll at 2/6 per
week

James Hutchison. Clerk reported that this man
had been liberated on agreement to pay 2/- per week.

Alex MacLachlan. Inspector instructed to continue
allowance of 1/- per week till next meeting in provisions

James Martin. His man's Daughter applied for
some clothing for her. Father allowed to the extent of 10/-

Angus Robertson Applied for increase of his
allowance. Allowed increase of 6^d per week.

David Fraser's Wife. The Inspector reported that
this woman had become insane & that it would be necessary
to send her to the Asylum. Inspector instructed to make further
inquiry into the case & if necessary to have her removed to
Montrose or Perth Asylum

30

Parish of Bargarvie

Nov 15	To Balance	117				
1	To quarters Board 15 Patients	99 10				
30	No. 1607 Peter Macrae	off 5 9 9	1881	By cash	104 15 8	
1900	St. Paul's expenses	4 4	July 27			
Dec 11	No. 1623 Robert McLaren	5 8	Feb 15	By balance due	5 8	
		105 1 4			105 1 4	
Dec 11	To Balance	5 8	July 15	By 1591 to Rattray	6 10	
	To quarters Board 17 Patients	110 10	Mar 2	By cash	104 5 8	
28	153 Telegram 9 ^d Reg death	1 16 2	Feb 28	By unexhausted Board 153 who died today	5 6 10	
Mar 4	Funeral 35/-	3 10 8				
	To remitted Inspr.	116 2 6			116 2 6	
May 25	To quarters Board 16 Patients	97 10	May 17	By unexhausted Board	6 6 10	
17	No. 1578 to James Rutherford to mourning	1 1	June 18	By cash	92 4 2	
July 3	No. 1663 Mrs Mary Malcolm	3 7 3				

The above taken from the ledger of Perth District Lunatic Asylum. The entries in the middle section read:

1886					
Feb 15	To balance	5-8	Feb 15	By 1591 to Rattray	6-10-
	To quarters Board of 17 Patients	110-10-	Mar 2	By cash	104-5-8
28	153 Telegram 9 ^d Reg death 5 ^d		Feb 28	By unexhausted Board 153	
	Funeral 35/-	1-16-2		who died today	5-6-10
Mar 4	To remitted to Inspr.	3-10-8			116-2-6
		116-2-6			

(Janet was number 153.)

Janet was admitted to Murray Royal on 30th Aug 1858. The entries from the Physicians Case Book Vol 6 are:

Janet McIntosh or Fraser. Act 42; adm; August 30th 1858 G.R. 1152

Mania,
Chronic,
Religious.

Belongs to Blackcraig in the parish of Blairgowrie but is married and now resides with her husband, who is a labourer, in Barlatch Street, Coupar Angus. Her married name is Fraser, she is the mother of a family. Before marriage, employed as a domestic servant. She belongs to the Baptist Church. In few families is such a strong hereditary predisposition to insanity observed as would appear to exist in this; none of her husband's relatives have been known to be insane, but in the family of McIntosh, an aunt, two uncles and a sister, have all been affected, and the last named, is at present under treatment in this asylum; Janet McIntosh like her sister,

Mrs ~~Ann~~ Jackson G.R. 840 Ann has had repeated attacks, this present one being the fourth. These must have followed very closely one on the other for she was only thirty six years of age when she had the first; hitherto she has been treated in her husband's home at Coupar Angus. The presentation dates from January last and is supposed to have been excited or if not excited, aggravated by the contemporaneous affliction of her sister in a similar way. Dangerous symptoms would appear to have manifested themselves within the last few days when she had several times threatened to commit suicide. Her Mother and daughter report that she made attempts with that intention by means of scissors and articles available for hanging, She would seem also to have become suddenly possessed of strange sagnant notions as this morning she made attempts to escape and make for America to see her sister. She is not Epileptic nor in any way dangerous to others Dr Lowe of Coupar Angus certifies that she "Talks of various matters at random, without any connection between them. Fancies she sees mice and that they are possessed with some charm etc. etc." John Lowe surgeon in the same place states that she is "talking incoherently on several subjects such as seeing her sister arrive from America in a balloon this morning and would not be allowed to speak to her; ill treatment from her husband and daughter etc."

August 1st 1861 For some time after admission she kept pretty quiet and was engaged in the workroom where she proved pretty useful. By and by, she began to get restless, annoying the other patients by her wailing and general despair. She laid herself on the cold stones and refused to move stating that such a position was good enough for her. After she stated that she was lost and clung to the D^{rs}. arm beseeching him to assist her out of her spiritual difficulties; and demanded home to look after her family she was restless and sleepless at nights and is and noisy and desponding during the day.

Mrs. Jessie Fraser, Crieff She is noted at this time (1858) as having "fissured palate, which has healed spontaneously" and likewise enlarged tonsils. She was sometimes refractory (unruly, unmanageable, obstinate) and required the use of a private airing court. year she required feeding with a stomach pump her refractory conduct was marked. She became afterwards an assistant in the Malcolm G. where she

was and still is of some service notwithstanding her obstreperous
Dee Fraser Language and conduct which occasionally requires the solitude of the
(1859) refractory court. She calls herself the wife of Christ Jesus and various other
scriptural personages. Curses Matron as a harlot and thief and accuses her
of wearing her clothes, and using language the most outrageous and
indecent. Me, she christens as none of her clan, and is violently enraged
that she hear the name. She is pretty kind to her neighbours. Some
attempts were made by the JP to remove her but proved abortive. Physical
condition excellent.

Vide D.C. Book¹ 1858pps.

204.207.209.210.214.217.219.325.328.329.333.357.358.364.365.367.368.
385.386.405.410.414.419.442.

1859pps.24.27.90.101.125.126.128.205.

207.210.211.213.215.219.221.250.260.261.266.306.307.314.332.370.381.
384.396.

1860pps11.17.

January 1st 1862 A useful assistant in her gallery and generally saluting
us at visit with a volley of mingled indecency and religious averring that
we shall all go to hell and such like localities. At the catamenial periods
she is excessively filthy and manustuprates² most eagerly seated on her
knees in the airing court as vociferations rise higher and higher until her
voice fails her and she commences again. Her voice is hoarse and
booming and she has a development of the lower jaw, which apparently
affects her speech. Her delusions of her religious position remain as
above. Her physical health has been good. Habits dirty and degraded.

Vide DCB 1860-61 pp 24.20.217.284.406.411.455. 1861-2 10.17.

January 1st 1863. Noisy as before and a frequent rotary? to
manustupration when in the latter state she openly practices the art and
requires to have dresses sewn up in front, Even when so shut up she often
manages to undo stitches and indulge her habits. Physique excellent. Vide
DCB 1861-2 pp131.199.358.391.395.396.420.430. 1862-3 p171.

September 30th 1863. Janet has continued noisy as ever sometimes for
days making the court resound with her very unmusical voice and that in
a most indecent manner mingling obscenity and religion together. At
other times she made herself very useful in the gallery brushing but when
the matron happened to go in she immediately made the usual filthy
salutations. She sometimes declared that she was God and that she made
me & c---. She still continues to indulge in her filthy habits and in fact is
much the same as last report. Today she was transferred to Montrose
Royal Asylum and on being told she was going away she seemed very
well pleased, shook hands with me and was led to the cab and got in very
quietly saying she would be back at night- see D.C. Book pp

267.285.375.376.454.456- pp23.45.49. 51.72.79. 81.99.101.

113.114.

Unimproved

1. Daily Case Book. 2. stuprate: to ravish, to violate.

The meaning of the notes in the left hand margin is not clear.

The clinical records for Montrose Asylum for the required period are not in Dundee
University Archives with the rest of the records. In 1864, she was transferred to
Murthly Asylum where the Physicians casebook 1864-65 has the following
information:

Mrs Janet McIntosh or Fraser. Age 56. Adm: 1st June 1864. Register 153.

Mania

Religious

Nymphomania

She is a married pauper of the parish of Blairgowrie, a transfer from the Montrose Lunatic asylum; and was admitted on the 30th August 1858 into Murray's Asylum Perth. The date of her admission into Perth is not given. She is not an epileptic, neither is she suicidal or dangerous to others. Dr. Howden certifies that "she labours under chronic mania. She believes herself to be God Almighty." And that she is in good bodily health.

At Perth she conducted herself in a somewhat troublesome manner and was dirty in habits both by night and day. Periods of excitement occurred very frequently, during which she "manustupated" intensely. She assisted occasionally in the coarse work of the gallery, but generally in so noisy a manner as to render her industry more troublesome than her idleness. The doors suffered severely from her habit of violently dashing them about, but she only smashed panes on one occasion, on which she severely cut her wrist and wounded an arterial twig. Her bodily health was on the whole good, & she was seldom under medical treatment except for wounds, scalds and other traumatic causes.

Au^g 1st 1865, She occasionally does a little work: her time, however, being chiefly spent in marching about the Gallery or Court, repeating terrible anathemas, which she hurls at all and sundry. She is noisy, clean and never dangerous.

1st January 1866. Continued cleanliness in habits characterizes the present condition of this Patient; who also gets through a good deal of scrubbing & is often engaged in mending dresses. She was tried in the laundry, but though inclined to work, she was too apt to wander from one tub to another, and of course, could not be corrected. She works well in the Gallery, if allowed her own time & manner of overtaking the labours.

1st January 1868. Continues industrious but occasionally very noisy. Her health is good. When irritated by her noisy neighbours she becomes very violent, pushing them off their chairs and declaring that she will murder them. She is constantly carrying on dialogues in which she speaks for both parties. She often refers to herself as "Lord God Almighty".

1st January 1869. No change has occurred in the mental condition of this patient, She continues very industrious but occasionally very noisy when irritated by the noise of her neighbours. Her bodily health continues excellent.

1st January 1870. This patient who is constantly cursing herself, gets very wrath when she hears any of the other patients using bad language and often attacks them savagely. At times she holds out her hand to shake yours in a friendly manner, at others hurls imprecations on your head. Bodily health good.

1st January 1871. Her general behaviour is unchanged. She has been guilty of several assaults, and one committed on Janet M^cEwan was of an aggravated character. She does a little dusting and window cleaning in a boisterous & demonstrative manner.

1st January 1872. Is still an occupant of Birnam where she holds forth in good style upon any occasion that she may be interfered with. She never now assaults anyone but is frequently very noisy. She enjoys good bodily health but does not improve mentally.

1st January 1873. Mother (as she is called) remains in all respects as at last entry. She is subject to fits of excitement during which she takes great pleasure in executing

a grotesque kind of war dance and after this is done she usually is seen to vociferate loudly weeping all the time.

1st January 1874. A marked improvement is noticeable in this case. She now works daily in the sewing room & does a fair amount of knitting. She is still noisy and is apt to respond to any observation made by her neighbours in a very loud and boisterous manner, her favourite exclamation being “I, God swear.” She then interrogates herself as to the cause of her swearing and responds in a most emphatic manner. She never assaults now, but is sometimes the victim of some of her more violent neighbours. She weeps to see windows broken or other damage to “her” house and anathematizes the transgressors with much power of lungs. Physically she is in excellent health.

1st January 1875. “Mother” is the best scrubber in the house and does about as much as any other two. She also knits in the sewing room: and accompanies all her labours by talking to herself. She frequently apostrophises, and often recites Scriptural phrases & texts, her favourite books being the Songs of Solomon & Proverbs. In the Chapel this apostrophising sometimes comes in rather shout. When excited, she dashes her washing cloth or stocking down to the ground. She refuses to wear any headdress. In the Dining Hall she has sheet iron dishes as she dashes them about and smashes ordinary earthenware. Her physical condition is good.

1st January 1876. This patient who goes by the name of ‘mother’ has continued to be a very good scrubber, In the sewing room she is employed in darning stockings. Her mental feature is unchanged. Is free from bodily ailments.

1st January 1877. Mentally this patient remains unchanged. Her time is usefully employed in scrubbing, cleaning and darning socks in the sewing room. Her bodily health has been good.

1st January 1878. The remarks about her industry still apply and she is of much value on the female side in such occupations. Her most objectionable habit is that of interfering with the contents of the water closets, which she appears to think ought to be cleaned out & accordingly tosses them out of the windows. She occasionally enjoys a walk outside & has been at a picnic or two. Her bodily health is excellent.

1879 Jan^y 1st. “Mother”, as she is called, remains very much as above noted. She is very industrious, and darns most of the stockings herself. She occasionally makes an awful swear if her humour be crossed in any way, literally roars & swears at the top of her voice, which is not by any means a soft or sweet one, but very decidedly the reverse. She is very fond of wandering through the house when she gets the chance of an open door. Her bodily health has been excellent throughout the past year.

1st January 1880. This patient continues to take an active interest in the affairs of the house. She is most industrious and is a most useful scrubber & cleaner. She seems to take the darning under her special charge & may be seen any day at visit squatting on the floor surrounded by an enormous pile of stockings, with one of which she is usually busy. If irritated in any way, she scolds furiously – and makes a great noise owing to the peculiarly man-like voice of which she is possessed. At these times she looks most dangerous & a stranger would expect – if he had incurred her anger – instant and severe punishment but the outburst ends as it began with “words, words, words” – she appears to be in robust health.

1st January 1881. “Mothers” reputation is still maintained as being the “Scrubber” & “Darnier” of the House. She is a most industrious worker, in the morning washing floors, & scrubbing, afterwards sallying forth to the Sewing Room, with her hair parted neatly at the side of her face and her hands carefully washed. There she is in her element surrounded by a huge pile of stockings, darning. If any remarks are addressed to her she rejoins in fearful anathemas, the Deity being freq^{ly} invoked her everted lower lip & masculine voice being shewed off to a great advantage.

Jan^y 1st 1882. No change has transpired in this case at all during the year; she is quite the same as mentioned above. Her bodily health has continued excellent.

Jan^y 1st 1883. To the sobriquet of “mother” she responds far more than her real name. She has not altered any during the year, her bodily health has been good and she has been most industrious in the Sewing Room & also as a scrubber in the Galleries. Her speech is much that of a ranting enthusiast.

Jan^y 1st 1884. No change has taken place in her mental condition, she exhibits still the same peculiarities stated above, About 4 months ago she had a rheumatic attack & intense hyper aesthesia but rapidly recovered. She is not quite as stout as she was.

Jan^y 1st 1885. This old lady still rejoices in the name of “Mother” and answers to it more readily than to her own name. She has enjoyed fairly good bodily health during the year, but as age advances her facial aspect becomes even more forbidding, as she develops a tendency to hang out her tongue. She has continued fairly industrious at her old occupation of darning, and is still very fond of washing floors etc.. She is usu^{ly} quiet, but occas^{ly} breaks out into noisy declamation.

Jan ^{1st} 1886. This patient has spent a year of history repeating itself. She has maintained her old position in the Sewing Room darning stockings, and has also helped in Gallery work. Her facial aspect is very striking. She has enjoyed fairly good health, with the exception of toothache. She still breaks out into attacks of noisy excitement at times.

Feb. 28th 1886. Mother was in the lavatory combing her hair this morning before breakfast & suddenly fell down unconscious, medical assistance was at once obtained, but on the writer going along she was quite dead. A P.M. Examination was made & death found due to syncope³.

Died.

³ syncope - fainting most likely a cerebral haemorrhage or embolism.