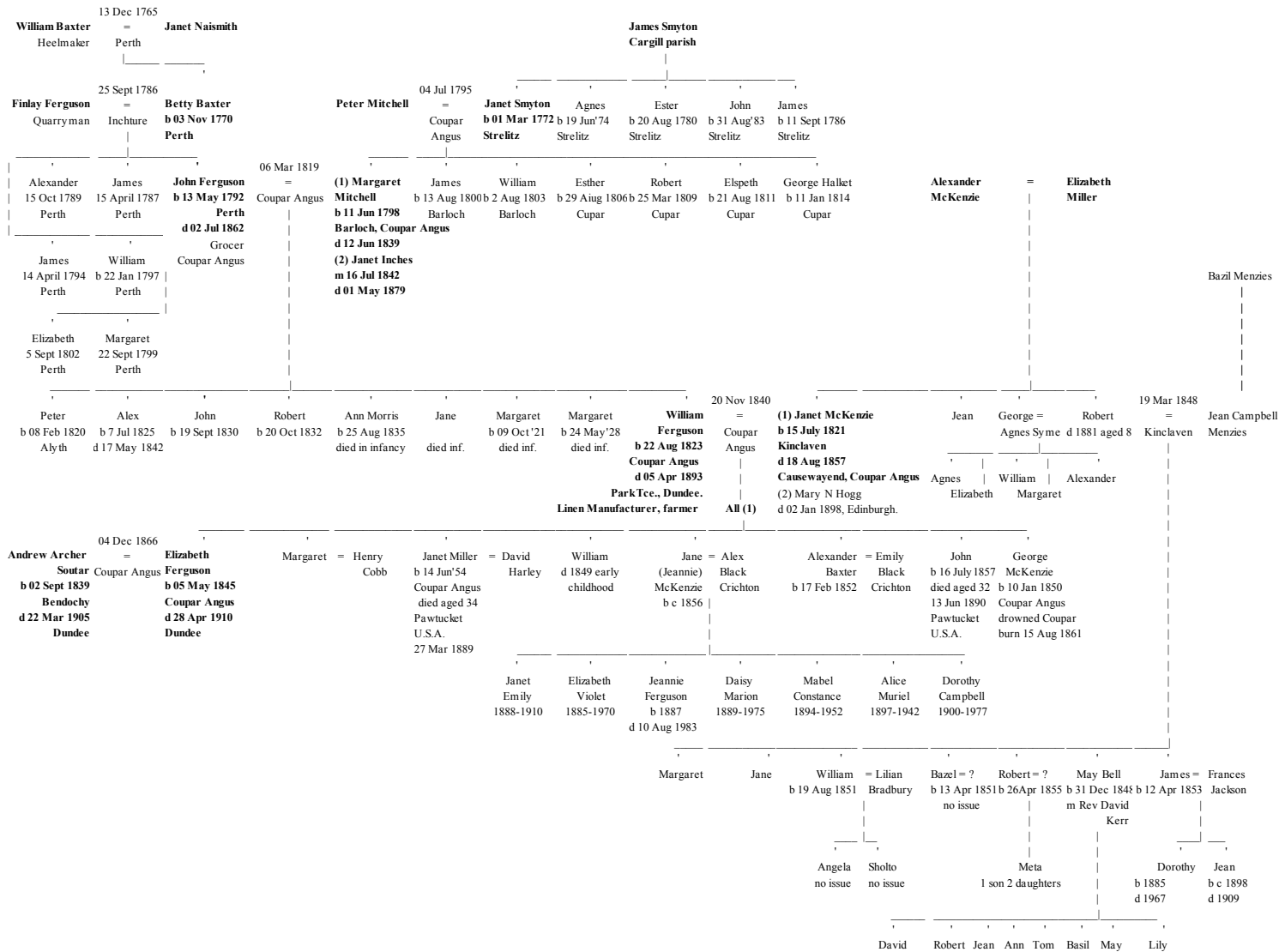


**William Ferguson and (1) Janet McKenzie (2) Mary N Hogg**  
**Various collateral lines.**  
**The Firm of Ferguson Brothers.**



William Ferguson (1) Janet McKenzie  
(2) Mary N Hogg

and The Firm of Ferguson Brothers

William Ferguson married Janet McKenzie at Coupar Angus in Perthshire on 20th Nov 1841. The Old Parish Register records the event as “William Ferguson, molecatcher and Janet McKenzie. Both this parish – three Sundays”

Janet was the daughter of Alexander McKenzie and Elizabeth Miller and was aged twenty. William, the son of John Ferguson and Margaret Mitchell was aged eighteen.

Their children, recorded in the Old Parish Register (OPR) as born before 1851, were: Margaret, born 13 July 1843, Elizabeth, born 05 May 1845, George, born 10 Jan 1850,

The 1851 census sees the family at Causewayend, Coupar Angus:

The headings for the columns in the census are: Name, Relationship to head of house (h = head, w = wife, s = son, d = daughter etc.), male/female, age, trade or profession and Place of birth. The 1891 census has the additional column “Employed?” Which is marked with a cross if the person is employed.

|                    |   |   |    |  |                     |
|--------------------|---|---|----|--|---------------------|
| William Ferguson   | h | m | 27 | Manufacturer employing 18 men & 17 women | Perth, Coupar Angus |
| Janet Ferguson     | w | m | 29 |  | Perth, Kinclaven    |
| Margaret Ferguson  | d | u | 7  | scholar                                  | Perth, Coupar Angus |
| Elizabeth Ferguson | d | u | 5  |  | Perth, Coupar Angus |
| George Ferguson    | s | u | 1  |  | Perth, Coupar Angus |

Post 1851 births in OPR's are: Alex, born 17 Feb 1852 and Janet, born 14 Jun 1854. All the foregoing births are recorded at the one time in 1854 (Fr885) as are the births in many other families in the area and not surprisingly, the Register uses the same form of words to record the birth of each child:

“William Ferguson manufacturer and Janet McKenzie had a lawful child born named --- ---- ”. Perhaps the clerk or minister had become very much behind with his records and, with the coming of statutory registration and the submission of OPR's to New Register House, thought he had better catch up!

Other children whose births are not recorded in OPR's and are only known about only through a gravestone inscription found in Coupar Angus Churchyard. They are:

William, died in early childhood in 1849,  
John, died Pawtucket U.S.A. 13 June 1890 aged 32 years.  
Daughter Janet's death is also recorded on this stone:  
Also Janet, who died in Pawtucket U.S.A. 27 Mar 1889 aged 34 years.

1857 brought the death of Janet at the early age of thirty-six and only one month after the birth of her son John. The cause was recorded as “ulceration of the bowel” of duration two months.

The 1861 census shows the family still at Causewayend in a house, which had 3 rooms with windows. 279 bk 5 pg 12:

|          |                 |         |    |                                  |                     |
|----------|-----------------|---------|----|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Ferguson | William         | h m     | 37 | Manufacturer employing 80 people | Perth, Coupar Angus |
| Ferguson | Margaret        | d u     | 17 | domestic duties                  | Perth, Coupar Angus |
| Ferguson | Elizabeth       | d u     | 15 | domestic duties                  | Perth, Coupar Angus |
| Ferguson | George McKenzie | s u     | 11 | scholar                          | Perth, Coupar Angus |
| Ferguson | Alexander       | s u     | 9  | scholar                          | Perth, Coupar Angus |
| Ferguson | Janet M         | d u     | 7  | scholar                          | Perth, Coupar Angus |
| Ferguson | Jean            | d u     | 5  |                                  | Perth, Coupar Angus |
| Ferguson | John            | s u     | 3  |                                  | Perth, Coupar Angus |
| McKenzie | Agnes           | niece u | 20 | domestic servant                 | Perth, Coupar Angus |

The “domestic servant” is Janet’s cousin employed to help the two older daughters run the home after their mother’s death. The McKenzies were near neighbours to the family in Causewayend.

In 1861, tragedy struck again. On fifteenth August, eleven-year old George drowned while bathing in Coupar Burn. The Blairgowrie Advertiser did not exist until October 1861 and the Dundee Advertiser in its edition of 20<sup>th</sup> August does not record this particular event but does describe the weather at the time “For the last five weeks we have not had 24 hours on end free of rain and it is always getting worse and worse. There is now a great need for a time of dry weather ... It was melancholy to see the River Isla so terribly swollen as it was yesterday and at a season of the year when so much depends on the quality of the weather”

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1867 William remarried. His new wife was Mary N Hogg, the widow of James Smeaton.

The 1871 census shows the family still at Causewayend 279 bk 5 pg 19

|          |         |          |    |                    |                     |
|----------|---------|----------|----|--------------------|---------------------|
| Ferguson | William | h m      | 47 | Linen Manufacturer | Perth, Coupar Angus |
| Ferguson | Mary N  | w m      | 44 |                    | Edinburgh, Penicuik |
| Ferguson | Janet M | d u      | 16 | pupil teacher      | Perth, Coupar Angus |
| Ferguson | Jane    | d u      | 15 | scholar            | Perth, Coupar Angus |
| Ferguson | John    | s u      | 13 | scholar            | Perth, Coupar Angus |
| Smeaton  | Jane B. | step-d u | 12 | scholar            | Perth, Coupar Angus |

The next useful record is a sasine (a register of land ownership, which is pronounced say-seen) dated 29 December 1875 when William withdrew from the partnership of Ferguson Brothers. In this document, William is described as “sometime Linen Manufacturer in Coupar Angus, now residing there”. On Jan 10 1876 a further entry in the Register of Sasines described William as “designed sometime Manufacturer, Coupar Angus, now in America or elsewhere abroad”.

William Ferguson, therefore, left Scotland in early 1876 en route for America. By the 1880 U.S. census, he was established as a farmer in Oregonville North Carolina with his wife, Mary N Hogg and stepdaughter June Smeaton:

Oregonville, Rockingham, North Carolina.

| Name            | Relation | Marital Status | Gender | Race | Age | Birthplace | Occupation    | Father's Birthplace | Mother's Birthplace |
|-----------------|----------|----------------|--------|------|-----|------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Wm. Furgusen    | self     | M              | Male   | W    | 55  | Scotland   | Farmer        | Scotland            | Scotland            |
| Mary N Furgusen | wife     | M              | Female | W    | 53  | Scotland   | Keeps Home    | Scotland            | Scotland            |
| June B Smeaton  | dau      | S              | Female | W    | 22  | Scotland   | At Home       | Scotland            | Scotland            |
| Wm Whitchent    | other    | M              | Male   | B    | 22  | NC         | Works on farm | NC                  | NC                  |
| J Bethell       | other    | M              | Male   | B    | 10  | NC         | Works on farm | NC                  | NC                  |

(In an adjacent household where Rufus Fitzgerald, a grocer and farmer, is head of the household, is Jno. Furguson, 22, from Scotland. His occupation is given as "clerk in store").

Since William had previously been involved with linen production, it seems possible that he might have been attracted to grow cotton, one of the crops in this district. The main crop in the district is, however, tobacco and the U.S. government was subsidising tobacco growing about that time so it is perhaps more likely that he was a tobacco grower.

Shipping lists in Fayetteville, NC were consulted in 2003 without finding the record William's arrival. An enquiry to NC Archives in January 2004 about a possible land grant to William Ferguson in Rockingham County between 1876 and 1885 received the following reply:

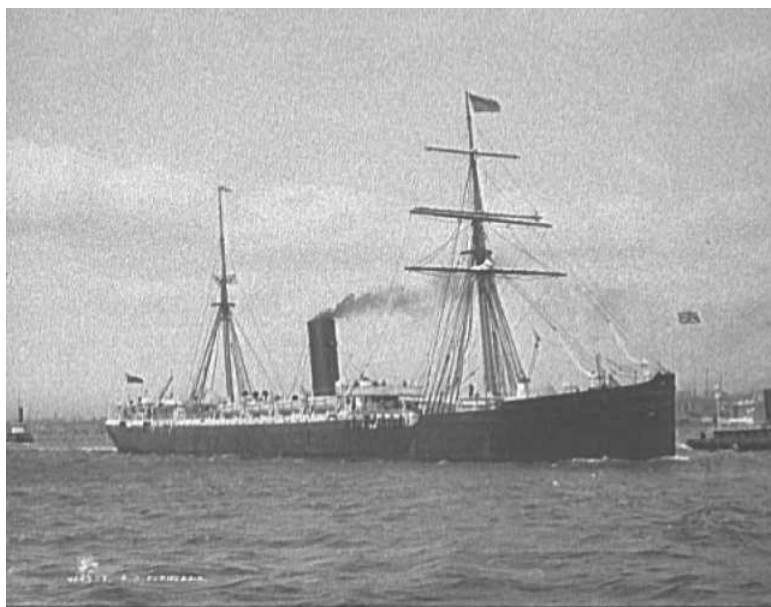
"We have searched Secretary of State, Land Grant Office without finding William Ferguson, various spellings."

The 1890 U.S. census for the Oregonville area has been destroyed and there is no further U.S. information about William and Mary until the death of daughter Janet in Pawtucket in 1889 when the following death notice was placed in the Perth (Scotland) Courier on 23<sup>rd</sup> April:

At Pawtucket, Rhode Island, U.S.A. on the 27<sup>th</sup> ult., Janet Ferguson, age 35, beloved wife of David Harley and daughter of William Ferguson, Ruffin, North Carolina, late of Coupar Angus.

(Ruffin is a small town east of Oregonville.)

William and Mary returned to Scotland on 30 Aug 1892 aboard the Furnessa which is pictured below along with the Passenger list.



# Value Contd.

| Port of Embarkation | NAME OF PASSENGER  | Age of each adult of 12 years and over |    |        |    | Children between 1 and 12 years | Infants | Profession, Occupation, or Calling of Passenger | Ethnicity             |    |         |                       | Sex     |                       |         |                       | Passenger's Status |                       |         |                       | Port at which Passenger Name listed |  |
|---------------------|--------------------|--|----|--------|----|---------------------------------|---------|---|-----------------------|----|---------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
|                     |                    | Married                                |    | Single |    |                                 |         |   | Adults between 1 & 12 |    | Infants | Adults between 1 & 12 | Infants | Adults between 1 & 12 | Infants | Adults between 1 & 12 | Infants            | Adults between 1 & 12 | Infants | Adults between 1 & 12 |                                     |  |
|                     |                    | M.                                     | F. | M.     | F. | M.                              | F.      | M.  | F.                    | M. |         |                       |         |                       |         |                       |                    |                       |         |                       |                                     |  |
|                     | 52 Mrs. A. Brown   | 61                                     |    |        |    | 1                               | 2       | Teacher   |                       |    |         |                       |         |                       |         |                       |                    |                       |         |                       |                                     |  |
|                     | 3 Mrs.             |  |    |        |    |                                 |         | id  |                       |    |         |                       |         |                       |         |                       |                    |                       |         |                       |                                     |  |
|                     | 1 Mrs. S. G. Black | 72                                     |    |        |    |                                 |         |   |                       |    |         |                       |         |                       |         |                       |                    |                       |         |                       |                                     |  |
|                     | 1 John             |  |    |        |    | 5                               |         |   |                       |    |         |                       |         |                       |         |                       |                    |                       |         |                       |                                     |  |
|                     | 1 Harriet Dickson  | 31                                     |    |        |    |                                 |         |   |                       |    |         |                       |         |                       |         |                       |                    |                       |         |                       |                                     |  |
|                     | 4 Mrs.             |  |    |        |    | 5                               |         |   |                       |    |         |                       |         |                       |         |                       |                    |                       |         |                       |                                     |  |
|                     | 1 Mrs.             |  |    |        |    | 6                               |         |   |                       |    |         |                       |         |                       |         |                       |                    |                       |         |                       |                                     |  |
|                     | 1 John             |  |    |        |    |                                 |         |   |                       |    |         |                       |         |                       |         |                       |                    |                       |         |                       |                                     |  |
|                     | 1 John             |  |    |        |    | 4                               |         |   |                       |    |         |                       |         |                       |         |                       |                    |                       |         |                       |                                     |  |
|                     | 1 John             |  |    |        |    | 2                               |         |   |                       |    |         |                       |         |                       |         |                       |                    |                       |         |                       |                                     |  |
|                     | 1 Mrs. Ferguson    | 68                                     |    |        |    |                                 |         | Farmer  |                       |    |         |                       |         |                       |         |                       |                    |                       |         |                       |                                     |  |
|                     | 1 Mrs.             | 66                                     |    |        |    |                                 |         | id  |                       |    |         |                       |         |                       |         |                       |                    |                       |         |                       |                                     |  |
|                     | 1 Mrs. J. Ireland  | 33                                     |    |        |    |                                 |         |   |                       |    |         |                       |         |                       |         |                       |                    |                       |         |                       |                                     |  |

There is no further information about William until his death in Dundee, Scotland in 1893:

1893 Dundee, Scotland (282/5) No. 91

|            |   |    |                       |                   |           |             |
|------------|---|----|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------|
| William    | M | 69 | 1893                  | John Ferguson     | Catarrhal | Alex Baxter |
| Ferguson   |   |    | April 5 <sup>th</sup> | Grocer (master)   | Pneumonia | Ferguson    |
| farmer     |   |    | 9h 15m p.m.           | (deceased)        | 14 days   | present     |
| married to |   |    | 4 Park Tce.           | Margaret Ferguson |           |             |
| Mary Hogg  |   |    | Dundee                | M.S. Mitchell     |           |             |

The death is recorded in The Blairgowrie Advertiser of Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> April 1893:

At 4 Park Tce., Dundee, on 5<sup>th</sup> inst. William Ferguson, of Ruffin, North Carolina (formerly of Coupar Angus), aged 69.

The same announcement appeared in The Dundee Advertiser with the addition of:  
“(American papers please copy)”.

Note: Park Terrace, Dundee is between 259 and 271 Blackness Road. The only Ferguson listed at these houses for this time in Dundee Directories is an Alexander, described as a manager (possibly William's son occupied the house). This may be the same Alexander who, from 1886-1889 is listed at Dunmore Villa, Baldovan as “of Ferguson Brothers” and later at 3 Park Tce. as “Manager, Johnston Street Factory” (this is more properly called the Lindsay Street Mill). Hilda Allan had a clock which had been presented to Alexander and which is inscribed:

“To Alexander Ferguson from his workmates at London Spinning Mill 15<sup>th</sup> September 1887”. This company were jute merchants, spinners and manufacturers in Stratford, Essex. Alex later lived in Carnoustie.

No executor was confirmed to William's estate although, when his widow died intestate on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1898 her daughter, Jane, who had returned to Scotland sometime before the 1891 census, was appointed executor:

1898

Ferguson, Mary Hogg or Smeaton or. 2 Lauriston Park Edinburgh, widow, died 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1898 at Edinburgh, intestate, Confirmation to Jane Seaton, 2 Lauriston Park daughter. Value of estate £378-7s-6d. (2 Lauriston Park was the home of Mary's brother.)

There is also a gravestone in Coupar Angus, Scotland with the following inscription:

Wm. Ferguson manufacturer, Coupar Angus, who died 5th April 1893 aged 69 yrs.

His wife Janet McKenzie who died 18 Aug 1857 aged 35 yrs. Their children:

Wm. who died in early childhood 1849.

Janet died in Pawtucket U.S.A. 27 Mar 1889 aged 34 years.

John died in Pawtucket U.S.A. 13 June 1890 aged 32 yrs.

George who was drowned in Coupar Burn 15 Aug 1861 aged 11 yrs.

Mary N Hogg widow of the above Wm. Ferguson d 2.1.1898.

There appear to be several possible lines of enquiry that might yield further information:

(1) William might have purchased a farm **prior** to going to U.S. In that case any Land Grant would not be recorded in the period searched by the Archives. (NC Archives restrict enquiries to ten years at a time.) (2) Had William retired and moved from Oregon Hill (as it is now called) to Ruffin, shortly after it came into existence in 1887? If so there might be a record of the sale of the farm and purchase of something else. An index to all

Land Grants in Rockingham County is due to become available on fiche but 'phone calls to the North Carolina State Archives indicate some confusion about when this will happen. (3) Did William intend being in Scotland on a temporary or permanent basis when he died? (He is not listed in Dundee Directories at this time.) If temporary there may be a record of a land sale in U.S. after his death. (There is of course the possibility that the farm was never purchased but was leased.) (4) There was a downturn in the economy in 1893 so perhaps William was an early victim of the downturn. (5) William's son, John, who had been living close by in Oregonville in 1880 died in Pawtucket, in 1890. Other members of William's family remained in Pawtucket after this date. This might have influenced his movements.



This picture is thought to be of Mary N Ferguson with her daughter, Jane Smeaton and stepdaughters Elizabeth, Margaret, Janet and Jean Ferguson.



Causewayend 1999



O.P.R. Perthshire, Kinclaven.

15 July 1821. Janet, daughter to Alex. McKenzie and Elizabeth Miller, Newhouses born. Bapt. Sabbath following.

O.P.R. Angus, Coupar Angus.

22 Aug 1823. John Ferguson, molecatcher Barloch and Margaret Mitchell had a law. child bapt. called William.

O.P.R. Angus, Coupar Angus.

20 Nov 1841. William Ferguson, molecatcher and Janet McKenzie. Both residing in this parish – 3 Sundays.

1857 Birth Coupar Angus 279/54

|               |   |   |                                       |
|---------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| John Ferguson | 1857 M<br>July 16 <sup>th</sup><br>7h p.m.<br>Causewayend | William Ferguson<br>linen manufacturer<br><br>Janet Ferguson<br>M.S. McKenzie | William Ferguson<br>father<br>present |
|---------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|

1857 279/31

|   |   |    |   |  |   |                             |
|---|---|----|---|--|---|-----------------------------|
| Janet Ferguson<br>Married<br>Wife of<br>Manufacturer<br>(linen) | F | 36 | 1857<br>Aug 18 <sup>th</sup><br>Causewayend | Ulceration of<br>the bowel<br>2 months | Alexander<br>McKenzie<br>(deceased)<br>Elizabeth<br>McKenzie<br>M.S. Miller<br>(deceased) | William Ferguson<br>husband |
|---|---|----|---|--|---|-----------------------------|

Marriage 1867 685/5 No. 42 (Newington, Edinburgh)

|  |   |    |   |
|--|---|----|---|
| 1867<br>On 23rd January<br>At 125 Causewayside<br>Edinburgh after banns<br>According to the United<br>Presbyterian Church. | William Ferguson<br>manufacturer<br>widower | 43 | John Ferguson<br>merchant<br>deceased<br>Margaret Ferguson<br>M.S. Mitchell |
|  | Mary Nelson Hogg<br>Widow                   | 40 | James Hogg<br>merchant<br>Jane Hogg<br>M.S. Ballantyne                      |

Witnesses: James Campbell, Christina B Hogg.

1893 282/5 No. 91

|  |   |    |   |  |                                   |                                    |
|--|---|----|---|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| William<br>Ferguson<br>farmer<br>married to<br>Mary Hogg | M | 69 | 1893<br>April 5 <sup>th</sup><br>9h 15m p.m.<br>4 Park Tce.<br>Dundee | John Ferguson<br>Grocer (master)<br>(deceased)<br>Margaret Ferguson<br>M.S. Mitchell | Catarrhal<br>Pneumonia<br>14 days | Alex Baxter<br>Ferguson<br>present |
|--|---|----|---|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|

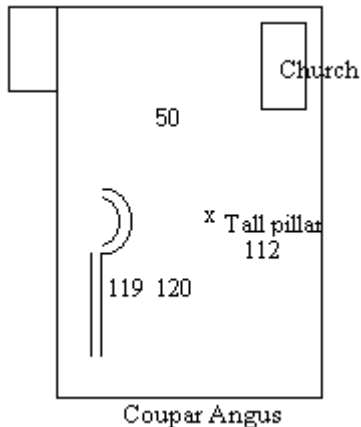
1898

|  |   |    |   |  |                            |                                   |
|--|---|----|---|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mary Ferguson<br>Widow first of<br>James Smeaton<br>Coal merchant<br>Second of William<br>Ferguson, farmer | F | 73 | 1898<br>Jan 2 <sup>nd</sup><br>1.30a.m.<br>No 2 Laurieston<br>Park, Edinburgh | James Hogg<br>grocer<br>(deceased)<br>Jane Hogg<br>M.S. Ballantine<br>(deceased) | Aortic disease<br>of heart | Thomas B Hogg<br>brother, present |
|--|---|----|---|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|

1861 279/30 (or 3)

|  |   |    |   |  |   |                               |
|--|---|----|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| George<br>McKenzie<br>Ferguson<br>(single) | M | 11 | 1861<br>August<br>fifteenth<br>3h 15m pm<br>Coupar Burn | William<br>Ferguson<br>Manufacturer<br>Janet<br>McKenzie<br>(deceased) | Drowned<br>while bathing<br>in Coupar<br>Burn | William<br>Ferguson<br>father |
|--|---|----|---|--|---|-------------------------------|

#### Coupar Angus stones:



#### No. 120 on plan:

Wm. Ferguson manufacturer, Coupar Angus, who died 5th April 1893 aged 69 yrs.  
His wife Janet McKenzie who died 18 Aug 1857 aged 35 yrs. Their children:  
Wm. who died in early childhood 1849  
Janet died in Pawtucket U.S.A. 27 Mar 1889 aged 34 years  
John died in Pawtucket U.S.A. 13 June 1890 aged 32 yrs.  
George who was drowned in Coupar Burn 15 Aug 1861 aged 11 yrs.  
Mary N Hogg widow of the above Wm. Ferguson d 2.1.1898.

#### No. 119 on plan:

Erected by John Ferguson Coupar Angus  
wife Margaret Mitchell d 12 June 1839 aged 40 yrs.  
also their children:  
Janet, Margaret and Ann who died in infancy Alexander d 17 Mar 1842 aged 16 yrs. the above John Ferguson d 2 Jul 1862 in his 71st year.

No. 50 :

Helen Inches 12.9.1888, 88. fa. James Inches manufacturer Coupar 2.5.1827. mo.  
Annie Jeffrey d 2.1844 84, bro. John d 3.1820, 24, sis. Janet Inches d 2.5.1879 aged 80  
(widow of John Ferguson mert here), bro. Thomas 4.1.1881 77.

Near the bottom end of the plan and not numbered on the above plan:

In loving memory of Margaret Ferguson wife of Henry Cobb who died 14 Dec 1911 also  
their daughter Georgina who died 7 Apr. 1887 aged 13 years and the above Henry Cobb  
died 26 Oct 1928 aged 74 years also their daughter Jessie died 22 July 1940 aged 62  
years and their son Harry died 16 Feb. 1943 aged 59 years beloved husband of Grace  
McKenzie died 27 June 1976 aged 90 years also their son Henry James Cobb died 10  
Nov. 1988 aged 69 yrs. In Manchester.

Beside this stone:

Sacred to the memory of our father George Cobb who died 15 Oct. 1868 aged 36 years  
and our mother Mary Morris died 5 Dec 1895 aged 66 years also in affectionate  
remembrance of our brother and sister David and Maggie who died in infancy.

Ferguson Brothers.

William had four brothers, Peter, born 08 Feb 1820, Alex born, 7 July 1825 (who died age 16), John, born 19 Sept 1830 and Robert born 20 Oct 1832. Peter, William and John play a part in the development of a family business.

In the 1841 census, only Peter and William are old enough to be working and both are described as molecatchers, the same employment as their father had been in for much of his early life. This work involved moving around the country and it seems that both became involved in combining molecatching with a sideline of delivering the local hand loom weavers' cloth from their cottages to the stamp office in Coupar Angus. There, Government officials or inspectors, would measure the web, stamp it in the name of the sovereign if of satisfactory quality and impose tax on it. (Normally, a web was 146 yards in length and any extra was cut off and confiscated by the official). The agent or 'manufacturer' would then have the responsibility for selling the web, deducting his own commission and paying the weaver.

The Statistical Account of 1843 says "The chief employment of the labouring classes is weaving, principally of the coarser articles of linen manufacture. In the present depressed state of trade, the remuneration is extremely small. Able-bodied men cannot earn, on average, above 5s. or 6s. Per week. The privations which this imposes are borne, with a most praiseworthy spirit". (At this time the average wage of a ploughman qualified to work a pair of horse was £12 a year in money, 35 lbs. of oatmeal per week and three chopins (old measure) of milk per day. Good day-labourers could earn, in season, as much as 10s for a ten-hour day). In this climate, it would make sense that weavers were away from their looms as little as possible, and, having someone to carry out the delivery, even for a small charge, would enable them to continue working. This was a fairly common means of starting a considerable number of businesses all over Scotland and the 'manufacturers' or 'agents' did much to regulate the trade.

If the births of all the Fergusons had been recorded in the OPR's at the correct times, rather than all together in 1854, more information about their progress from molecatchers to 'manufacturers' might have been gleaned. The detail given in the 1851 census shows that the one-time sideline has developed to the stage where William is described as a "Manufacturer employing 18 men and 17 women" and at the same time, his brother, Peter is a "Linen Manufacturer employing 40 weavers". For both, this occupation would now, most likely, involve not only collecting the finished cloth and arranging the stamping and sale of it, but would probably extend to purchase of the spun yarn and its supply direct to the weavers. It is also possible that they passed through a stage of owning weaving sheds fitted out with hand looms and employed weavers to operate them. From the wording of the census this latter is perhaps more likely. Their brother, John, is described in the Coupar Angus census of 1851, as a "miller wright (apprentice)"

The coarse linens produced in the Angus towns catered, in the early stages of development of the linen industry, for markets in sail canvas, "soldiers 'sarking' (i.e. coarse linen shirts for soldiers) and clothing for Negro slaves in America. The Crimean

War of 1854-56 lent impetus to the industry with demand for tents, sails and soldiers' clothing.

In 1860 in Slaters Directory, under Manufacturers of Linen in Coupar Angus are listed: Ferguson, William; Causewayend and Ferguson, Peter, Barlatch Street as well as MacKenzie, George; Causewayend (the brother of Janet McKenzie, William's wife).

By 1861 John has become an "engineer fitter" in Dundee. In view of subsequent developments, it seems likely that this must have been in one of the Dundee power loom factories. Peter in 1861 is a linen manufacturer employing 16 men, 28 women and 20 more partially employed while William is described as a manufacturer employing 80 people.

American Civil War (1861-65), which cut off imports of cotton from Southern States to the Northern States of America, led to increases in demand for linen (and also jute) from North America.

Power loom weaving was late to develop in Coupar Angus. As the land round the town is relatively flat and some of it subject to flooding, little head of water was available for waterpower. The only indigenous source of fuel was peat, which had been worked out before the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This ruled out steam power at least until the coming of the railway, which reached Coupar Angus in 1837, enabling supplies of coal (often English) to be imported to the town.

In 1866, three power loom factories were built. This would change the town dramatically. The new found prosperity arising from the many jobs the mills created led to a rapid increase in house and shop building.

Mrs Margaret Laing of Blairgowrie, in an unpublished manuscript says:

"New roads were constructed and old ones upgraded, while some had a change of name. What had formerly been referred to as "The New Road" was now Union Street, Barlatch Street became George Street, The Timber Market became George Square and The Wynd was changed to Trades Lane. Most houses in the town now had mains gas since a gas holder had been built in Campbell Street as early as the 1830's and streets too were now lit by gas."

Peter, William and John Ferguson built the first of the 1866 factories. Thus William and Peter's knowledge of the linen trade was combined successfully with John's knowledge of engineering. The Valuation Roll (1866) describes the factory as being 'Near the Railway Station'. This sketchy address later became Union Street. William left 'Ferguson Brothers' in 1865/6 and Peter & John continued to run the business under this name until 1880 when they sold out to James Campbell and John Smith. After another change in ownership, the factory converted to jute production and continued in this line under various owners until 1940 when it was destroyed by fire. An extract, below, from the Blairgowrie Advertiser of Friday 2nd April 1940 describes this event.

# COUPAR ANGUS MILL DESTROYED BY FIRE.

## Over 50 Workers Thrown Idle. Damage Estimated at £15,000.

Over 50 people were thrown out of employment, and damage estimated at £15,000 was caused, by a fire that destroyed Messrs Durie & Miller's Station Works, Coupar Angus, last Friday.

The disastrous blaze deprived the town of its main industry.

During the past few months the works have been busy carrying out Government contracts, providing sandbags, &c.

The works have been steadily engaged for a long period.

It is understood there is little likelihood of the mill resuming for about eight months.

The building, a single-storey structure, was completely gutted, though it was thought some of the machinery may be again fit for use.

The fire started about 7 a.m. Workers coming along the street saw the sky lit by the glare and found on arrival that their place of employment was blazing.

So fierce was the heat that telephone wires near the building, which is situated close to Coupar Angus Station, were melted.

Quite close to the blazing building was a power sub-station belonging to the Grampian Electricity Co., Ltd.

It was thought for a time that the station with its 11,000-volt cable might become involved, and workers stood by ready to shut off the power.

Large premises and stores almost adjoining the factory and belonging to the Eassie & Balkeerie Supply Co. were also at one time in danger, but fortunately the efforts of Perth Fire Brigade and local fire fighters were successful in preventing the fire from spreading.

The fire had a firm hold of the mill and part of the roof had fallen in by the time the brigade arrived.

From the entrances at the railway siding they poured in water while burning rafters crashed among the ruined machinery. Jute cloth bags, machinery, and bobbins were a blazing mass, with which the firemen were busy for most of the day.

Auxiliary firemen helped the Perth brigade and assisted in retrieving from the office the petty cash and a number of books and papers.

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Hook Side, 2/3, 2/6, 3/6, and 4/6, 6/6.

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Busk, Wrapround, 2/3, 2/6, 3/6, 4/11, 5/11, 6/6, 6/11.

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Few only Men's Wool Helmets and Mitts, Khaki, Navy, and Air Force.

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Hairdresser

Brushes



Ferguson Brothers factory on Union Street and adjacent to the railway sidings.

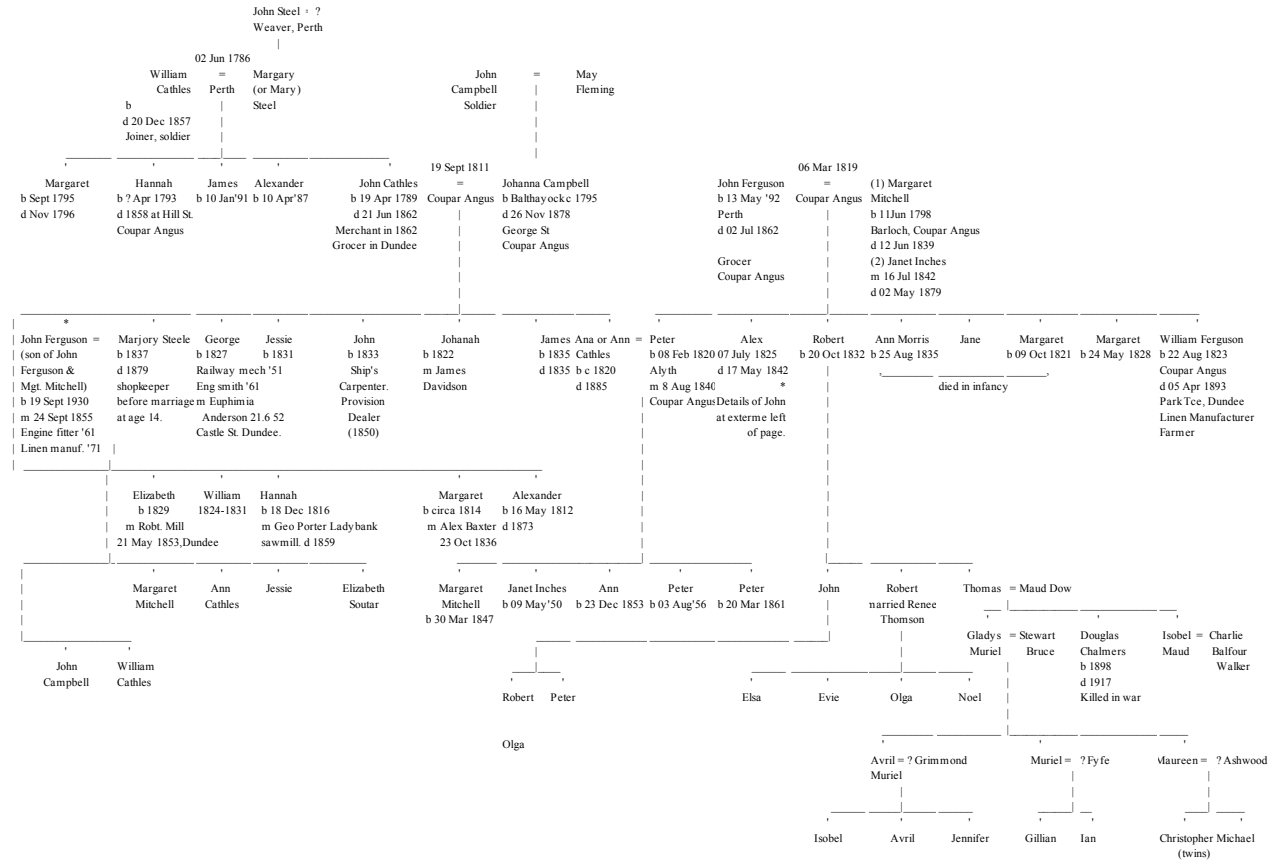


Coupar Angus from the air c 1920. The factory chimney is clearly visible towards the right near the plume of smoke from the railway engine.



Site of the linen factory in 1999. The wall behind the parked cars and a similar one out of sight to the right appear to be the only surviving parts of the factory.

## The Cathles connection





## The Cathles Connection

Brothers Peter and John Ferguson married sisters Ann (or Ana) and Marjory Cathles (see previous page). In 1987, a descendant of one of these couples, Sheila Mearns (nee Malcolm), who had emigrated to Australia and whose researches into her ancestry had revealed that some forebearers had emigrated there many years before looked in the Australian Telephone Directories for anyone of the name Cathles. There were only four so she wrote to all of them. Her letter and a reply are reproduced below. All letters are copied exactly with blanks left where they were illegible. The parts in italics were originally hand written.

(Mrs Sheila Mearns)  
11 Dover Court  
Howrah, Tasmania 7018

12 June 1987

Dear Sir/Madam

I am a member of the Tasmanian Genealogical Society and also a member of the Tayside Family History Society (Scotland).

I am interested in the name CATHLES/CATHELS which is not very common and wonder if your name Cathles comes from the same area as one of my family names Cathles/Cathels which I have traced to Dundee and Perthshire, Scotland in the early 1800's.

There was also a connection with the name Crichton, also from Dundee. (Emigrated from Dundee, Scotland around 1870's to settle in Melbourne).

I am from Dundee, Scotland, my family still live there and my sister who is on the committee of the Tayside Family History Society is interested to follow up some 'loose ends' in the family tree.

If you are interested in any of the above names, please contact me.

Yours faithfully

SHEILA MEARNES

*Dear Mrs Mearns,*

*In response to your letter, I am enclosing copies of old letters held in my family for many years. As you will see by reading them, my forebearers apparently originated from Knnoull Hill, Perth in Scotland.*

*I hope that the letters might help you.*

*Any information you are able to provide for me concerning the history of the Cathles family would be appreciated.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Ian Cathles  
43 Somerville Street,  
Doncaster 3108 Vic*

11 Dover Court  
Howrah, Tasmania 7018  
10 July 1987

Dear Ian Cathles

Thank you so much for your letter along with the enclosures – I was fascinated reading the letters – what a wealth of social history there. – Also what a wealth of knowledge of the time William Cathles had instilled into his family – the need for the children to read and to get schooling and also his concern that they should all keep corresponding with each other. He must have had a good character and also his family had from their letters.

I think our families are related – I will elaborate a little further a little later on.

My grandmother lived until she was 96 and died in 1980. (Katy Bruce – Mrs Easton).

She used to tell us stories about her family ad nauseam and I grew up with the knowledge about where they all lived – where they came from – who married who – most of the time not paying all that much attention – until I grew up and moved away from home – first to England then to Australia.

My mother eventually wrote down many of the things that ‘Ma’ told us and now I am very glad of all that information as now I realise that I am one of the few who know in detail the family names of all my great great grandparents- even before I began, along with my sister to trace them in detail.

Everything that my grandmother said has been proven in fact – even the ‘bad’ bits.

My Gt gt grandmother Johanna Campbell Cathles was born in Kinloch, not far from Coupar Angus, Perthshire. The railways were starting up and people were getting new employment away from the Woollen Handloom weaving and Linen Weaving which abounded in that area – Perth was famous for woollen weaving. Johanna Cathles used the railways to travel around the district visiting her relatives and that was where she met her husband John Davidson. Their family were born at various stages all along the railway line (where they lived in railway houses), until eventually they moved to Dundee.

“Ma” came from a good family she said – they were all busy, respectable people, hardworking & god fearing and they all had to learn to read and write – before the compulsory schooling came into being in 1882? – which meant they had to send their children to small private schools.

We also have letters written about 100 years ago – showing that they were all well read and could read and write.

They seemed to insist that all the children were put into trades (which was very respectable in those days).

Ma also said that they were shop people and we did indeed trace them to a shop in Dundee – Grocer’s.

Johanna Cathles was trained as a midwife & used to accompany the local doctor on his visits in a carriage to his patients. Her first child ANN, was

born out of wedlock – her father – (yes I even know that) – was a rich farmer whose wife was an invalid. After the child was born he paid for its upkeep, acknowledged it and paid for Johanna to be trained as a midwife – which she continued to do until she was an old lady – and earned quite a bit of money on this. Ann was accepted into the family and well liked by her stepbrothers and sisters. She in turn ran a shop from her home and was also a busy person.

My gt grandmother ANN (Mrs Davidson) told of her Aunt coming from Coupar Angus to visit them – she was dressed in long black dress – came in a carriage and gave each of the children a sixpence – they were the well-off relations from Coupar Angus who were in business as linen manufacturers.

Johann's two sisters married two brothers who were in this business – you will see from copies of attached.

The John Cathles & Family in Dundee who had a visit from your William Cathles are – I am sure – my John Cathles and Johana Campbell & their family.

I presume HANNAH (mentioned in your letters) is a sister of your WILLIAM Cathles. According to the Census of 1851 she was born in Perth and lived in Coupar Angus – a Handloom Weaver.

The name Hannah turns up in our family as well.

I and my sister think that:

Your WILLIAM CATHELS and My JOHN CATHLES (spelling is irrelevant) are first cousins

Your William refers to them as “our relatives in Dundee).

He also refers to the people in Coupar Angus who were our relatives also. If Hannah is your William's sister – she was a handloom weaver and unmarried. She could have worked in the Linen works.

Your William Cathles was probably born in Perth – Hannah was born in Perth – Our John was born in Perth – So we are looking for a generation back which will be difficult.

Your William died in 1857 – my sister will trace his death certificate and that will give his parents – we may get a lead from there and be able to search the Old Parish Register in Perth.

We will be able to get a lead from your William Cathles being a Sergeant – most likely in the army – so we have a few leads to get us back into a further generation.

John Cathles & Johanna Campbell Cathles who settled in Dundee, were buried in Coupar Angus.

*I hope you find this of interest*

*Kind regards*

*Sheila Mearns*

Gate House, Kinnoull Hill  
31<sup>st</sup> August 1855

Dear Son and Daughter,

We received your very welcome letter of the Sixth March with the so far gratifying intelligence of your safe arrival at the end of your long voyage and in your ordinary state of health and that you have Stood that long voyage pretty well with the exception of poor little Mary when passing the Line but we were Consoled to think she was Spared to you and has quite recovered her health and Strength. So far all is favourable but it was Certainly a very sorrow disappointment to have Landed in the midst of such a Commercial Crash and all Occupation at a Stand and nothing but Strangers in a Strange Country around you but I trust that State of -----continued long and that they will have some what recovered before this reaches you and that you have found some kind of Suitable imployment. And as health was your main object in going to that Country it has allways been impressed on my mind that with some kind of suitable occupation in the Country you had a mouch better Chance of health than being confined in a shop in any Town so that I should not be very sorrow to hear that you had to go up the Country. I sent your letter to Coupar we had a visit of Agnes's father some time in the early part of January. They were all well then but we have heard nothing from Coupar since that. I have wrote to Glasgow your Aunt Family are all well with the exception of James and he is very poorly. We had George Hear at the New Year all the visitors we had for the season. Your Mother declared she would keep the New Year on the ----- Monday till we heard of the safety of those that were away so no one came to us nor we them. I also wrote to Edmund acquainting him of your safe arrival. We had a visit of Edmund, his wife and young Son here about a mounth back they were in Glasgow I sent him the address for you I shall write to Dundee some day soon.

We left Jacks ----- on the 14<sup>th</sup> Nov. Saturday after your mother came home getting ready to flitt and it was fortunate we did remove that day as we got the only fair day that was for some Days before and for some Ten days after. I think we shall be very wellhere after getting yoused to it a little longer. Not seems quite at home yet. Have about half an Acar of land hear besides our garden and we shall keep a Cow as soon as the grass comes up in the wood but everything is late this season. We have had the most Severs and longest Winter in my remembrance in Short it is the winter yet we have had but few Mild Days and just now it blows a most ----- North East Wind with Hale Showers. Your Mother and I have often made the observation that we was afraid you could not have Stood this winter in Glasgow. Your mother had a rather severe turn of her yusuall headach in the mounth of January but got quite well again. Otherways we have stood the storm of this winter pretty well. We are both affected with the Cold ----- but nothing serious. I am now finally discharged from the Staff and placed on the Pintian lest at fivence per Day no great affair but with that and Nine Shillings a Week for this place no rent to pay and other advantages I think we can make a shift for a whill yet though rather a Serious reduction in Income. We have had tow letters from William since they landed all safe and well at Portland on the 6<sup>th</sup> of Oct. Wm. and the children were quite well on the voyage Eliza was poorly nearly all the way and had another Son that Night they landed but according to his last letter the boy (James he calls him) and her were quite well he says in better health than she had been for years before. He also says it was fortunate he did not go to Melbourn as things were not so bad in Portland and States that he has been in Constant imployment since he landed with the exception of the first week but considering he had got an additional Son that week your mother thinks he did not require any other imployment but you most likely have heard all about that before this reaches you.

I also had a letter from Bob since we came here inquiring after his money but as I had despatched a Letter to him before receiving his informing him everything about the mouny I have not wrote him since but shall do next mail. Nor have I received any further accounts from him. We are beginning to ----- know if has continued to obtain imployment in Melbourn or has been thrown out in the Midst of the Crash he had Imployment when his Letter left but stated that many were going idle

according to the latest accounts things had at ----- considerably for the better at Melbourn but whether it has reached the Working man I am unable to Judge. Trade in most lines hear has been very flat all winter more particularly in the manufacturing line in all its branches and many has passed a most miserable Winter as the Storm Stopt almost all outdoor labour for nearly Tow Mounths. In short with the exception of those employed in the production of war material everything els has been flat and had it not been for Emigration and the many thousands that has gon to the Army in Some Shape or other I do not know what would have been the Consequeses. Young Men are entering the Army very fast still they have raised the Bounty to Ten Pounds. There is little to speak of hear at presant but the war and its Incidents and how it may terminate. ----- and with dul tread we ----- dear provisions, the 14<sup>d</sup> per peck the loaff 9<sup>d</sup> the butter 13<sup>d</sup> per lb. sugar and tea getting up to the war prices altogetther things is not very pleasant except with the farmers. ----- there is some appearance of Trade reviving a little again. I hope it is with you also. According to the last letter we had from your Aunt in Glasgow Georges Master had failed and he was out of imployment. We have not heard as yet whether he has got in again or not. You mention the arrival of the Vessel that Robert Whittet went out in. I expect a letter from either him or William next Mail but I am Sorrow to say that his Son David Died of Colhara at ----- before the troops went to the Crimea in short he was gon before they left this Country. In my letter to Wm I desired him to let Whittet know of this. McIntyre is still alive and well has passed through it all without a days sickness or a Wound. The Tow Mclaggans Wm is hom and Thomas Died of Fever at Balacklava in the Course of the winter among our Friends and intimate acquaintances nothing has taken place that Calls for remark except perhaps that Isa Millar got married to a young man belonging to New Scoon he is at presant Stock Man to John Hay and thay are living in the House with her Father and Mother.

My dear Sister Suisan was most happy to hear of your Safe arival at the end of your long Journey and that you was well and had been fortunat in getting a place and we shall be glad to hear that you have been equaly fortunat in getting a Comfortable place with a humin and good Master and Mistress. It is fortunat that all has not met such a disapointment as James has met with I hope he had obtained Some kind of imployment before this time we are expecting his Second Letter by next Mail when we hope for better accounts. Our Dundee friends are all well by last accounts that I had and our Coupar relations are all well when Agnes's father was hear in January. I have not heard from them since.

First of June 6 o'clock morning. I must draw this to a conclution as I have to go down to Perth this forenoon to draw my first quarters Pintian and hear the War News. I hear there is a Tellagraff Despach come in Stating that the -----had gained some importionate advantage in the Crimea but I have heard no details nor of what they consist. Now in the fond hope that this will find you all well and in good health and that you have cause for being in better Spirit than when your letter left and that from altred Circumstances you have more indusment to be reconsiled to your newly adopted Country for I still hop it is the best Field for Labour any whare to be found at presant and is likely to be for a long time to come for this Crash in Trade has extended to all Trading Countrys in America it has beine mouch worse than ether hear or Australia. Write freqantly and do not stick on always receiving an imeadit answer. Most Sincerely wishing you all good health and prosperity --- -----I conclude with ashuring you that we remain your most affesionat Father and Mother

William Cathels

Address  
Gate House Kinnoull  
Hill Perth

Gate Lodge, Kinnoull Hill.  
July 7<sup>th</sup> 1857

Dear James,

Inn this oportunity of writing to you I have to state in the first place that we received both your letters the first dated 21<sup>st</sup> January we received in April the second dated 19<sup>th</sup> April we received on the 19<sup>th</sup> June with the draft for Ten Pounds all Safe and tight. And as you wished to know what was don with it we added Six Pounds to it and purchased another Cow we have at presant Three of them but we intend Selling one of them in Two or three weeks as She is getting rather old. You will see by the above date that it was not in my power to acknowledge your Letter and Draft by the June Mail, as the Mail was gon before I received it.

I am happy to be eable to inform you that your Mother and I are both in the injoyment of our ordinery good health but your Aunt Jean who is still with us has been poorly for the last three Months it is the effects of Old Age and infirmity rather than any particular disease. Aunt Bell and family are all well. She has taken up a small provision shop. Some way in the neighbourhood of the Gushet house how she may get on we do not know.

Andrew Roberts is now first mate on the Steemer between Grangmouth and Rotterdam. John Roberts has gon to be Erind boy in a baker's shop. Our Torryburn relations are all well. On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June I treated myself to a Two days jaunt to Coupar Angus and Dundee I left Perth by the six o'clock train on Tuesday morning remaining in Coupar that day and went to Dundee by the last train in the evening. Stopped there all night and the next day but took the fast train to Perth that night I am very sorrow to say that Agnes's oldest brothers oldest boy was lying a ----- while I was there and was to be interred next day but as they told me they were to write you by the July Mail it is unessary for me to desend to particulars. Our other relations in Coupar were all well and defers to your remembrance.

As for our Dundee relations thay are all well and was very happy to hear of your weelfear and prosperity. Thomas Robertson's family are mouch about as you left them with the exception of Nancy being in a House of his Owen the others are still in the Old House and Old Tom still employed in the mill in Scouringburn. Anny Pattan is still with Leslys people as contented and kinde hearted as ever but there is a considerable difference from the time I saw her last in her appearince of helth and stringth. John Cathels family are all well and defers to your remembrince.

The Jacksons of Corsie hill were very mouch Surprised as well as intertaned to hear of Charles King. Sarjant Jamison was highly gratefied when I told him that King had a greatfule remembrance of him as giving a Bible. You ask if Nelson the Smith is in Perth. Harres the Smith and Nelson and Frasier the Wright have Set up as Coach Builders in Duncald as a Compy and Some Say thay are getting on well others say they are not but I think that thay are all too fond of the Whisky to getton lang very well. As for your old landlady Jean Stuard She is still in the Bank and quite Well and never fails to enquire about William and you every time she sees ether your mother or me.

By the Mail with the Columbian we received through Mrs. McLaughlan the five pound as a presant to your mother from Robert for which we were very greatfull with the Ten pounds from you and the five from Robert and adding a pound to it that purchased our Cow for which we paid Sixteen Pound they have been very high priced for a long time back. If you are writing to Bob let him know that we have received his presant and what it was applied to as it will not be in my power to write to him by the Mail. We hear by McLaughlans letter that Bob is in Melbourne in Concequance of having their tent burned down. Charlot McLaughlan Says Bob is to be married soon and She is to be best maid at the wedding. When you wrote Bob I wish you would take him to task for not writing to William last Letter I had from William he says he has not heard from Bob for a Twelve Month and appears to be a good dale hurt at being so neglected. Will though seemingly indifferant

*appears to feel any neglect of that kind very keenly in my last letter to Bob I took him to task for not writing to Will and Said among other things that though you had all been very exemplary in the writing to us which was a very great pleasure to us it was equally a great pleasure to us to hear that you all corresponded with one another.*

*We are very much pleased with your financial statement and think indeed you have done very well whatever others may have done and I am of Opinion that you are wise in not being in a hurry to sink your money on Property till you acquire a little more of it and have considered the Situation and other requisites of where you are to pitch your Camp. William writes me that as Soon as he Saves a little Money he is for some way of doing in the Bush and Says he is saving as fast as he can by the way we had a draft for ten pounds about four months ago from William Five pounds as a present to your mother and five to Mrs. Cochran Elizie's Mother and I can assure you that your mother was quite proud enough of Such a present from one she once considered her prodigal Son.*

*At the same time he Said he was able to Send me the money he got from me when leaving Home but wished a little more time as he did not like to be without a little in hand for whatever might happen in a Strange Country that time I granted him as a Matter of Course.*

*You will find inclosed with this for Aunt Susan an address for her cousin Susan Nicol or Mrs. Forsyth who left Manchester for the Salt Lake her Husband is a Mormon but it appears he had Stopt Short in time and Settled in the State of Iowa and according to their relations in Dundee they have Land of their own and are doing very well and Some of their family will----- in their Neighbourhood tell Susan that she is indebted to Anny Patty for this information and address and I think she would do well to remember that this is not the only act of kindness She is obliged to Anny Pattan for and in the abundance of her Riches to remember that Anny Pattan is an old Woman Four Score of these years and still toiling to a Master for a scanty Subsistence when in Dundee the other day She told me that she remembered my Father and Mother's wedding. I am now nearly 73 years of age So you may Judge what Anny Pattan is.*

*We have had a very long Winter this last Season in Short I may say up to the month of May then the month of June has been oppressively hot but owing to the heat of June and the winter Sapp not being out of the ground every kind of crop has pushed up an extraordinary late and at present we have the appearance of an abundant crop to everything and of grass in particular the Hill could grass Five or Six Cows this season were we able to Manage them but both your mother and I are getting less and less able for hard work there is nothing in which I am more sensible of Old age than in my inability to Stand hard labour. Now in this month of July we have a complete change of Weather Cold East Winds with a great quantity of Rain.*

*I have nothing remarkable to State as occurring with us Tread in the Manufacturing and Iron lines move on in an ordinary way but the building trades are very slack owing to the Scarcity of Money. You in your letter of January spoke of the Hon. Arthur Hey getting the Dunblane Estates and not Lord Dupplin's Second Son the reason why is that it is Lord Kinnoull's Second Son that it goes to and not Lord Dupplin's had Lord Kinnoull been gone and Lord Dupplin the Earl of Kinnoull his Second Son would have got it to the exclusion of his Brothers Lord Dupplin has not only a Second Son but a Third and Two Daughters. We had Lady Dupplin with her Two oldest sons and oldest Daughter at the Hill about Three weeks back and Spent the most part of an afternoon.*

*I shall conclude this with our kindest Love to you all and by saying that we are most happy to hear that Mary and Bella are thriving Children and we trust that neither Agnes or you will let them forget they have Grand Fathers and Grand Mothers that often think of them notwithstanding the great distance between us I do not recollect of you saying that Mary was at any school. I trust that you in your eagerness for her would you will not neglect to give them useful Education. William tells me that his Oldest Boy and girl are at school and the boy promising to be a good Schooler and that is more than ever could be Said of his father.*

*Now in hopes of hearing from you Soon and often without to receiving an answer to every Letter for I most again remind you that I have less time to either Read or Write than I had before coming here there is perpetually Some One or Some thing that you cannot avoid taking up your attentions.*

*Again with our best wishes for your wellbeing,  
I remain your affectionate Father*

*William Cathels*

*Dover 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1858*

*Dear James,*

*The receipt of my last letter will have so far prepared you for the melancholy intelligence of the death of poor father which took place on Sunday morning the 20<sup>th</sup> Decr at 6 o'clock. After writing you I continued to receive letters telling me of his rapid decline, and from the last letter I received on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> I determined to start on Monday morning which I accordingly did arriving in Perth at 7 o'clock Tuesday evening.*

*I first learnt of his death in the store. He was coffined evening, the men bring the coffin about an hour after my arrival. John Young, David Cochrane, James Brown, Old Mrs Cochrane and Davids wife as also Mrs Mill, Janet Stuart and Mrs. ----- were present. All the Perth Friends were unremitting in their kindness throughout, especially so were John Young (whom my father sent for before his death and entrusted with the management of the melancholy matters relating to the funeral), James Brown and D. Cochrane. John Young, J. Brown and D Cochrane has sent funeral letters to all acquaintances. The funeral took place on Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> at 1 o'clock. Notwithstanding the distance from Perth there were a large and highly respectable assembly numbering nearly seventy, a large number of whom I did not know. Among the number were Mr. Turnbull of Bellwood, ----- ---Campbell and all the Staff I believe. There were also Mr. Robertson Agnes father and Andrew Roberts from a distance and Robert Brown and John Hodge from Duplin, with Mr. .Mill D. Robertson and the intimate Perth friends. He was buried in Kinnoull Kirkyard a pretty spot. Besides myself there were John Young, D Roberts, Mr. Young Agnes father, Mrs. Robertson, John Young who performed the sad duty of lowering his remains into their last resting place.*

*Hannah was there a fortnight before his death and stayed till last week. Mrs. Robertson came the day before the funeral others the morning of the funeral. As he could not be wanted they returned that evening and D. Roberts next day.*

*My father was aware from the first of his lying down that his end was fast approaching and a few days before his death said he had only a few days more. He was throughout quite composed and tranquil except that he was once or twice slightly carried before he got too low. He died in the kitchen, he would not go into the room to lie. Mother asked if he would like to see me. He said he should like very much but the distance was too great. She also asked him if he had anything to say to any of you and he replied nothing. He expressed a desire to see John Young when he found himself going fast. John came that day about dinner time. In the afternoon he said to mother your not making John a cup of tea to let him away, he had previously told John to come back again tomorrow. My mother replied that the kettle was on the fire for the tea. John again said to him that whatever he had to say he had better say it then, there were no one present and we knew what tomorrow might bring forth. He then told John of his bank book telling him to get the contents transferred in Mothers name, and without mentioning the funeral though alluding to it said that he did not want anything extravagant but nothing to be mean. He just wanted things done in a respectable way.*



*It was necessary in the transferring of the money that he should sign the transfer or put his mark in the presence of two witnesses. He put his signature in full though sadly altered was the writing. He complained of no headache or pain but just slept and wakened getting drinks and going off to sleep again.*

*At the time your letters arrived he got up in the morning till the bed was made. That morning he said get the letters and opened them all out on the table at the fireside, but before he began reading them he said I think I will get into bed again out of your way. He got in and was propped up with pillows while he read them all to himself not being able to read aloud.*

*Mother poor body was in a sad state and will feel more left alone now that Hannah is gone, and the bustle of people coming about over. She has a girl for the cows which will be company for her while she remains there, which of course cannot be long.*

*I stayed till Monday afternoon leaving Perth by the Mail train for London. Being our busiest time I could not possibly stay any longer.*

*I did all I could towards arranging matters about the house, preparatory to mother's removal – I also went to Dupplin on Saturday and saw Mr Lorimer. Later saw Mr Wood by chance who had always been very friendly with my father. I purposely went to see Mr Lorimer to see about mother's removal and also to see if there was much prospect of her getting a cottage which she much deserves. Going to Dupplin to see John ----- and other friends before seeing Mr Lorimer I saw Mr Wood and explained to him the loss and inconvenience it would for my mother to remove just now inasmuch as the cows (there are two) would fetch very little and the winter's forage would also be comparatively thrown away, whereas in a few months the cows would have eaten up all the turnips etc. and fetch a good price. That he perfectly understood and said he would do everything in his power to enable mother to stay till whitsuntide, and that he would speak to Lord Dupplin that very evening. He also told me that he would tell Lord Dupplin that anyone that was appointed could either lodge in Bridgend or with his mother till the term. When I called on Mr Lorimer he was exceedingly frank taking me in, when I had a long chat with him and Mrs Lorimer and getting a glass of wine from him. He desired me to tell mother not to, part with her cows or anything till she heard from him, and on my speaking of a cottage he said that at any rate he thought he could manage a room in a cottage for her which will be all she will require. Mrs Lorimer being a little deaf and not hearing all we said, he said to her that mother wanted a house to be near her, so from that it is there that mother will probably get the house.*

*I should like that as I believe she would be a good deal about Mrs Lorimer which would be a source of slight occupation to her, which would be better than doing nothing.*

*And as she says herself if she only got her meat when there it would be an advantage. If she be fortunate enough to get a house she will also get milk free from the dairy and have a piece of garden which will be as much of a help that she can manage without any other assistance – at any rate from them. When removed from the hill and fairly settled she is going to Glasgow to Andrew Roberts Mother who now keeps a small shop, and stay there till she wearies. She can also go to Dundee occasionally to Mrs Robertson for a few days. If she should not get a house she will be very much disappointed and grieved as she dreads going Perth to pay rent and taxes with her limited means. If I recall aright there is £130 in the Bank but I forget whether that includes a year's wages which my father drew from Mr Lorimer shortly before his death. At any rate we calculated that if the cows thrive and fetch a fair price that the total amount in mother's possession will be about £180. That calculates on a little to be got for things about the house that she won't require any longer. William sent £10 in his letter in part payment of the money he borrowed with the promise that he would send the balance (which we also included in the £180) when he heard of the safe arrival of the cheque for that.*

*Father was being far from well when he went to Aberdalgie to pay Mr Lorimer some money and to receive his salary, and Mr Lorimer brought him into Perth in his carriage with him and asked all about all of us. He seemed very ill about fathers death.*

*I am glad to say that we are all quite well which I trust you also are as well as Aunt Susan to whom you will of course read this.*

*I saw Mr Alex Stuart in Perth several times, you might write him occasionally. He says he has quite lost sight of you now. At the same time that I write this I also write William and Robert. The Mail does not leave till the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. so I may hear from mother before then I will keep this open till posting time. We will endeavour to find an opportunity of sending each of you some relict in memory of poor father .I also propose when a little richer to erect ----- stone at his grave in Kinnoull Kirkyard.*

*I am glad to say I like this situation well and health granted am likely to better my condition when I leave here in the course of two or three years. Agnes's father kindly promised to call again to see mother in the course of a week or two.*

*I have no doubt you will all write to mother immediately on the receipt of this. She looks for you all doing so. If you address to Dupplin it will be sure to find her. I should also, like to hear from you soon again. I forgot to say that father was 73 years of age. Mother and him have lived together 43 years.*

*Saturday Evening 9 January*

*I have just received a letter from mother written by James Brown on New Years day at the Hill (he will write for mother in future).*

*I am to say mother is quite well. She has received no word of removal yet which I don't expect she will for some months. It is reported that George ----- is to get the place which I should be glad of. Hannah has left but by the kind attention of the Perth friends who call on her she is not so lonely as she would otherwise be.*

*Elize joins me in love to Agnes yourself and the family and heartily wishing you a prosperous and as happy a New Year as can be expected under existing circumstances. I am very affectionately yours,*

*E. S.Cathlels*

*P.S. Be good enough to write me soon.*

*Gas Works, Dover.  
13<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1859*

*Dear James,*

*I yesterday received your welcome letter addressed to Mother accompanied by a "Sydney Morning Herald" as also at the same time a letter from Bob. The first I have received from him since fathers death. I was glad to hear of all your wellbeing. Bob appears to be in good spirits and is apparently doing well at the hammer. I presume that now he is settled in life that he has abandoned the idea of the diggings. I think it is wisdom. It seems there are no "picanninies" yet.*

*You have written under the impression that Mother was here but such is not the case. She was to have come by sea in the end of the year before the stormy weather set in but George*

-----not being able to clear off the price of the cows and she could not come until he could. He has now done so some two month ago but still she has not started. It being then the middle of winter I suppose she was afraid to undertake the journey then. I have written her and promised to send a pound to help pay the fare and meet her in London if she will promise to come. I therefore expect that she will be with us before this reaches you. I am really as ignorant of her intentions about going to Australia as you are and therefore cannot enlighten you on that matter. I would have written you months ago but I have kept postponing expecting other to come.

I have little to say now, nothing of importance having occurred or at any rate come to my knowledge since I last wrote, with the melancholy end of poor Andrew Cochrane whose death you probably already have heard. It seems he sometimes got on the "spree" and on these occasions was in the habit of wandering about by himself; and sometime about Christmas he had been drinking and had wandered and stumbled into the Tay his body having been got some days afterwards jammed against one of the piers of the Railway Bridge. It would be a great shock to them all especially his poor old mother with whom he lived. He was a fine quiet obliging inoffensive fellow – his own worst friend us people say, though sometimes taking a drop too much. If I make this rather a short letter I will write at greater length when Mother comes when I will no doubt be able to write you much about Perth friends that will be interesting to you.

I may mention that the 2<sup>nd</sup> Perth Co-operative Store has ceased to exist. Mr. Mill it appears had made them an offer for the stock and business which was accepted. It seems to have been a rather languishing condition for some time. Although glad that it had fallen into William Mill's hands I was nevertheless a little sorry to hear of its breaking up. It seemed like losing an old friend so many early and dear associations were clustered round the old shop.

If you have not already heard you will learn with much regret that poor Willie Drummond died in the fall of the year in Edinburgh Infirmary of decline leaving a wife and at least one child. I thought he looked careworn and thin and old like when I saw him last winter but little dreamt he was going so fast.

In political matters you will see by the papers that John Bright has framed a Reform Bill and that the Derby government has also promised a Reform Bill (?) which they will stave off like Lord Palmerston trusting no doubt to the rather unsettled state of European affairs when a war breaking out in Italy or anything else sufficient for an excuse for shelving it may then enable to keep their place for another session without doing anything in the matter of Reform. Louis Napoleon evidently means mischief somewhere notwithstanding his assurances to the contrary. His cousin Napoleon Bonaparte has married the daughter of the King of Sardinia, a rising ambitious Italian State and it is believed they mean a crown for the "dearly loved cousin".

I am glad that you are pleased with the tombstone and inscription. Health etc. permitting I hope to see it in the summer of 1860. Touching myself the prospects I have definitely that I have at times entertained of seeing you in Australia. Not that there is anything so very tempting in prospect in England but still I think all things considered I would be throwing away certainty for uncertainty. I have contrived to shake clear of work – labouring manually – and I have little relish for encountering it in Australia. I progress though slowly – still I do get on and I have got another £10 to my salary making it now £110. We have not saved any money yet but I think in the course of twelvemonth if all be well we may then be able to make a beginning. I must contrive to make it £150 before long somehow – that is the first landing place of my ambition. Mr Anderson was in treaty about erecting Works at Dieppe in France where I was to have gone but they could not come to terms. I should like to get into some of the metropolitan works under the Chief Engineer. Anderson is making a fortune rapidly. I know that last year he cleared 1000 after housekeeping and everything else deducted – and he knows how to take care of it. Our two youngsters thrive and grow apace. Your Mary will be getting a nice big girl now.

*I am sorry to hear that Nancy Robertson Dundee is still in delicate health she is troubled with a bad leg. I have not written Thomas for a long time I must really do so soon. Anderson I understand anticipates getting a situation on some of the railways that are being made in Russia.*

*You will have heard from Portland from William no doubt since I last heard from him. They were then all well and apparently in good spirits. I wont write him by this mail but you will perhaps kindly let him know that you have heard from me. I intend to write Bob by this mail which by the bye is announced to be a week later of leaving than usualy this month.*

*I will send you a newspaper containing a n account of some of the immortal Burns' festivals.*

*Robert tells me that he sometimes sees the Howisons and that Andrew and Archy are in good situations – and also that Andrew Philps is still in the diggings but has not yet made his fortune. He deserves to do he has stuck most perseveringly to it.*

*I am glad to say that William Mill has fairly recovered again.*

*Feb 25<sup>th</sup>.*

*The mail is made in London tomorrow. Since writing the above I have heard from Perth. I wrote to other and the letters crossed on the way. She says that William is anxious for her to go to Portland and recommends her to take passage in a Dundee ship that sails from London at the end of summer. She will be here I expect in the course of a month when I will again write you and give you the details.*

*War between France and Austria is more imminent every day. Lord Cowley passed through here on Wednesday night en route to Vienna on a special mission – no doubt to try to make matters up. Austria appears more plucky than Louis Napoleon expected.*

*Trusting this will find you all well. Best respects to Aunt Susan and husband.*

*I am your ever affectionately,*

*E.S. Cathles*