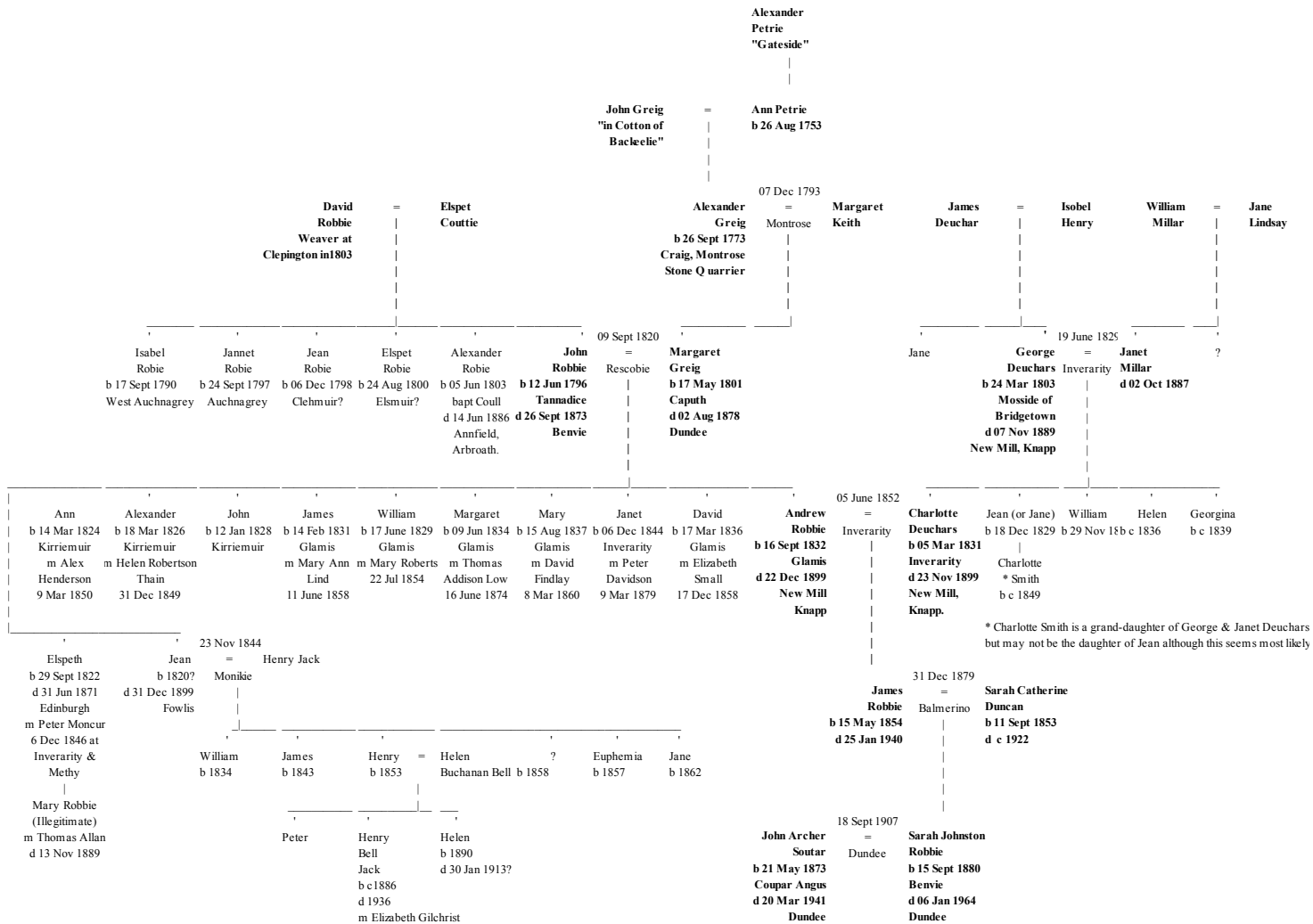


Andrew Robbie and Charlotte Deuchars



Below, the south end of Skare Wood in 1986



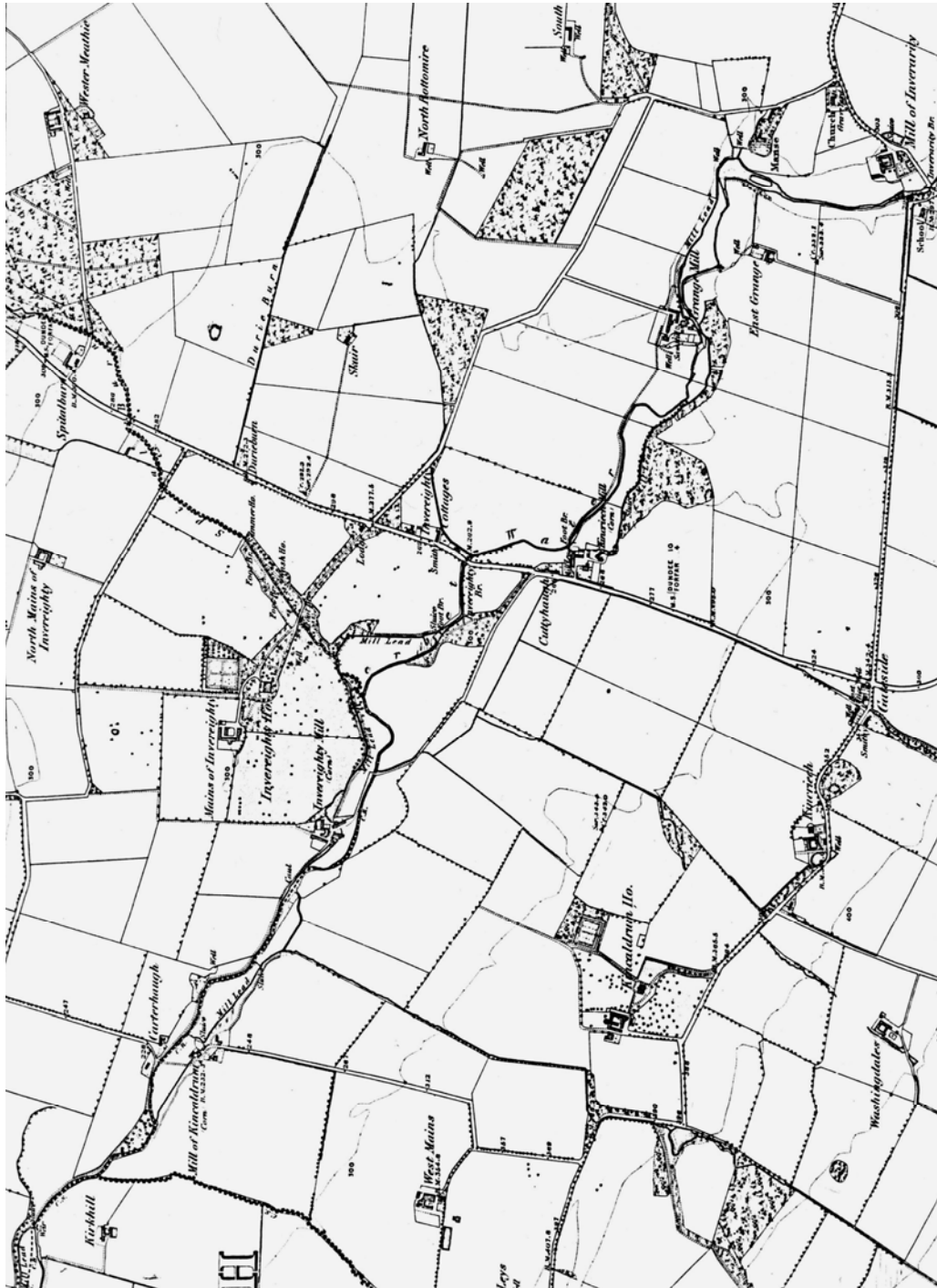
In 1986, the farmer could remember four small fields being combined into the present-day one field and the last house in Skare, which stood in the centre of this picture, being demolished. The stones were used to build the dyke at the extreme right.

The track from the main road to Skare (which is shown on the map overleaf) was ploughed up at the same time.



Two views of Kincreish Mill in 1986.





In the Second Statistical Account, the annual production of oats, barley and wheat of Inverarity parish in 1835 was estimated as 12,290 bolls. A number of the mills in which this grain would have been processed are shown in the 1865 map above.

There were two schools in Inverarity parish, the parochial one and a private one, taught by a female. John and James would not have been old enough to start their education in the parish school before the young family moved from Inverarity and Methy to Benvie (around 1855). By 1861, Andrew, Charlotte and their family are to be found in Benvie Mill:

Angus, Benvie 1861 district 301 bk 1 pg 5

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.

Benvie Mill

Robbie Andrew	h m	27	meal miller, journeyman	x	Forfar, Glamis
Robbie Charlotte	w m	29	millers wife		Forfar, Inverarity
Robbie John	s	8	scholar		Forfar, Inverarity
Robbie James	s	6	scholar		Forfar, Inverarity
Robbie Henrietta Jack	d	4			Forfar, Liff & Benvie
Robbie Mary Morton	d	1			Forfar, Liff & Benvie

At this point they had one room with a window. At the same time, his parents are in Benvie Cottage, which has four rooms with windows:

Bk 1 pg. 6

Robbie John	h m	64	meal miller employing 1 man	x	Forfar, Tannadice
Robbie Margaret	w m	59	millers wife		Perth, Clunie
Robbie Jessie	d un	16	millers daughter		Forfar, Inverarity

In December 1863, Andrew and Charlotte's younger daughter, Mary died and less than three weeks later, her older sister, Henrietta also died. Both these deaths were caused by an epidemic of scarletina (scarlet fever) which killed seven children in the Benvie & Liff area in a period of four months. Following these tragedies, the Robbies had two further children, William in 1864 and Catherine in 1866. The people recorded in the census of 1871 were:

1871 Benvie 301 dist. 1 pg. 12

Benvie Mill

Robbie Andrew	h m	37	Miller		Forfar, Glamis
Robbie Charlotte	w m	39			Forfar, Inverarity
Robbie William	s	6	scholar		Forfar, Liff & Benvie
Robbie Catherine	d	5			Forfar, Liff & Benvie

Sons James and John are missing from the family home at this census. It is probable that they are serving apprenticeships elsewhere but at present their whereabouts at this time is unknown.

In one of the Benvie Cottages at this time are Andrew's parents:

Dist 1 pg. 12

Robbie John	h m	75	Miller		Forfar, Inverarity
Robbie Margaret	w m	71			Perth, Clunie

Two rooms with windows

At the next census ten years later the family members in Benvie were:

1881 Benvie 301 dist. 1 pg. 5

Benvie Mill

Robbie Andrew	h m	48	Miller (Master, corn & Barley) employing 1 man & 1 boy.		Forfar, Glamis
Robbie Charlotte	w m	50			Forfar, Inverarity
Robbie William	s u	16	Miller Apprentice		Forfar, Liff & Benvie
Robbie Catherine	d	15	Milliners apprentice		Forfar, Liff & Benvie

Three rooms with windows.

1881 Benvie Cottage

Robbie James	h m	26	Miller, Corn & Barley	Forfar, Inverarity
Robbie Sarah C	w m	27		Fife, Balmerino
Robbie Sarah J	d	6mo		Angus, Liff & Benvie

Two rooms with windows

In 1882 Andrew Robbie was ordained and inducted as an elder of Liff Church. (Eight years later in 1890, his son, James also became an elder in the same church).

Later but still in the first half of the 1880's, Andrew and Charlotte moved to New Mill of Knapp and there the family celebrated the marriage of Catherine to Tom White on June 9th 1890. Tom was a footman at nearby Knapp House. The young couple emigrated shortly after to New Zealand where they had a daughter, Lottie. Catherine died in 1894 at the age of twenty eight but the family here kept in touch with Tom and Lottie (now Mrs Pullar), until the 1960's.

At the 1891 census in New Mill House, Knapp. Dist. 377 bk 4 pg 7 are:

Robbie Andrew	h m	58	Farmer and miller (employer)	Forfar, Glamis
Robbie Charlotte	w m	60		Forfar, Inverarity
Lowe, Jane	visitor u	32		Forfar, Dundee

Nearby, at Knapp cottage is their son, William and his family Dist. 377 bk. 4 pg. 6:

Robbie William	h m	26	Miller (employed)	Forfar, Liff & Benvie
Robbie Susan	w m	30		Forfar, Airlie
Robbie Charlotte	d	5		Perth, Longforgan

Back at Benvie Mill in 1891, James and his family have moved into the Mill:

Liff Dist.301 book 1 pg. 3

Benvie Mill

Robbie James	h m	27	Miller, meal & flour	Forfar, Inverarity
Robbie Sarah C	w m	28	Millers wife	Fife, Balmerino
Robbie Sarah J	d	10	scholar	Forfar, Benvie
Robbie Charlotte D	d	9	scholar	Forfar, Benvie
Robbie Catherine Sime	d	7	scholar	Forfar, Benvie
Robbie Andrew	s	5		Forfar, Benvie
Robbie Agnes	d	1		Forfar, Benvie

They had four rooms with windows.

James's brother, John was the enumerator so it seems strange that both James and Sarah have aged only one year since the last census when James was enumerator!

There is a family tradition that a second floor was added to the mill house during the Robbie's tenure there.



Taken at New Mill of Knapp circa 1886

Back row L-R: James Robbie, Sarah Duncan with Andrew, Thomas & Kate White, John & Agnes Robbie, ?,?,?.
 Middle row: Charlotte Deuchars with Charlotte, (possibly Janet Millar, George Deuchars), Andrew Robbie with Andrew.
 Front: ?, ?, Sarah Robbie, Kate Robbie.

At the time of writing this, more than one hundred years have passed since these events and only one piece of information that has been passed down through the generations. That is that Charlotte was a jolly soul who was quite capable of going off gathering flowers, completely forgetting about making meals for the family.

Charlotte and Andrew died within a month of each other in 1899. She on 23 November and he on 22 December.

Confirmation:

1900 Robbie, Andrew the Knapp parish of Longforgan died 22 December 1899 at the Knapp aforesaid, Intestate. Confirmation granted at Perth to John Robbie, gardener Ancrum Road, Lochee, James Robbie, miller Benvie near Dundee and William Robbie, miller, the Knapp aforesaid executors dative qua next of kin. Value of estate £398:11s:10d Sc12/3/1900

Inventory of the personal estate of Andrew Robbie

1 Scotland

Cash in house

£3:00:00

Value of livestock, crop and grain, implements and other effects belonging to the deceased at the date of his death situate at New Mill, Knapp, Longforgan according to inventory thereof made by David M Johnston, licensed valuator, Dundee dated 4th Jan 1900

£190: 9: 9

Book debts due to the deceased

£205: 2: 1

total estate of the deceased all situate in Scotland

£398:11:10

No land was owned by Andrew.

Births:

O.P.R. Angus, Inverarity & Methy.

05 Mar 1831. Charlotte Deuchars to George Deuchars and Jannet Miller his spouse.

O.P.R. Angus, Glamis.

16 Sept 1832. To John Robbie and Margaret Greig, Millton. Andrew.

Marriage.

O.P.R. Angus, Inverarity & Methy.

05 Jun 1852 Andrew Robbie and Charlotte Deuchars, both this parish were married.

Deaths.

1899 377 No. 23

Charlotte Robbie Married to Andrew Robbie Miller	1899 Nov 23 rd 10h a.m. Knapp Mill	F 69	George Deuchars joiner (master) deceased Janet Deuchars M.S.Millar deceased	Ovarian tumour	William Robbie son.
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1899 377 No. 26

Andrew Robbie Master miller Married to Charlotte Deuchars	1899 Dec 22 nd 11h 30m p.m. Knapp Mill	M 67	John Robbie miller deceased Margaret Robbie M.S. Greig deceased	Congestion of lungs 5 days	William Robbie son.
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Death 1863 301 Liff & Benvie no. 19

Mary Robbie single	29 Dec 1863 8h 45m a.m. Benvie village Parish of Liff & Benvie	F 4	Andrew Robbie meal miller journeyman Charlotte Robbie M.S. Deuchars	scarlatina 5 days	Andrew Robbie (present)
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Death 1864 301 Liff & Benvie no. 2

Henrietta Robbie single	09 Jan 1864 8h 0m a.m. Benvie, Parish of Liff & Benvie	F 7yrs	Andrew Robbie meal miller journeyman Charlotte Robbie M.S. Deuchars	scarlatina 10 days	Andrew Robbie (present)
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Marriage 1890 Longforgan 337 no.4.

1890 09 th June at Knapp Longforgan	Thomas John White footman bachelor	29	Knapp House Longforgan	Thomas White edge tool maker Elizabeth White M.S. Keyford
	C.S. Robbie Housekeeper spinster	24	Knapp Mill Longforgan	Andrew Robbie miller, farmer Charlotte Robbie M.S. Deuchars

Witnesses: Orville A Duncan, Marrion Robbie

Gravestone in Liff churchyard.

In memory of
Andrew Robbie
Who died at New Mill of Knapp
22nd Dec^r 1999 aged 67 years
and his wife
Charlotte Deuchars
Who died 23rd Nov^r 1899, aged 70 yrs
Also their children
Catherine Sime
Wife of Thomas White
Who died 2nd Nov^r 1894, aged 28 years
Henrietta
Who died 9th Jan^y 1864 aged 7 years
Mary
Who died 20th Dec^r 1863 aged 4 years.



Back L-R: ?, James Robbie, John Robbie, ?.
Front: Charlotte Deuchars, Andrew Robbie



Left:
Douglas J. Soutar at New Mill
of Knapp 1993.



Back of New Mill of Knapp house 1993



Idealised New Mill of Knapp by J McIntosh Patrick

John Robbie Agnes Russell



Family of John Robbie L-R: William Russell, Charlotte, Marion, John, Agnes, Rose, Andrew, Betty, John.

John had been missing from his parents' home in the 1871 census and was not in the immediate vicinity either. As he married in Edinburgh a few years later, it is likely that he was apprenticed to a gardener in that area. He married Agnes Russell, a widow with twin daughters, on 03 July 1874. He was the gardener and she an assistant housekeeper at 13 Moray Street, Leith Walk, where they both lived and were they were married. This, presumably, is where they were employed. According to their grave stone in The Western Necropolis, Dundee, (Balgay Cemetery as it is commonly known) an infant daughter died in Edinburgh. Finding this daughter's birth and death certificates would help to track the family's movements.

By 1881 John and his family were living at Gardeners Lodge, Craigsanquhar near Leuchars in Fife where John was gardener.

445 Dist 4 page 29

Robbie John	h m	29	gardener (domestic servant)	Forfar, Inverighty
Robbie Agnes	w m	31	wife	West Calder, Edinburgh
Robbie Marion	d	10	scholar	Edinburgh, Edinburgh
Robbie Rosia	d	10	scholar	Edinburgh, Edinburgh
Robbie Charlotte	d	6	scholar	Edinburgh, Edinburgh
Robbie Andrew	s	8mo		Fife, Leuchars

By 1891 John, now 39, was back in Benvie area, staying in Grey Lodge and working at Grey House as gardener and domestic servant. Two of the daughters, Rose (20) and Charlotte (16), both of whom had been born in Edinburgh, were working as jute

weavers although where they worked is not known but it would most likely be in Lochee, where the nearest jute works were situated.

Three other children, Andrew (10) Betsy (9) and John (7) had been born in Leuchars. The youngest, William (4) had been born after the family came to Benvie.

1891 Census Liff & Benvie 301 dist. 1 page 1.

Grey Lodge

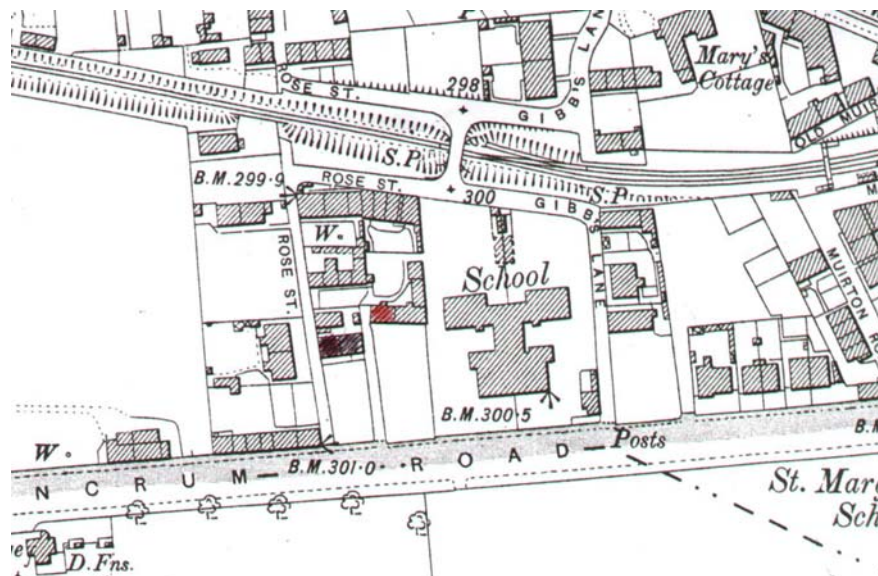
Robbie John	h m	39	Gardener, domestic serv.	Forfar, Inverarity
Robbie Agnes	w m	42	Wife	West Calder
Robbie Rose	d un	20	Jute weaver	Edinburgh
Robbie Charlotte	d un	16	Jute weaver	Edinburgh
Robbie Andrew	s	10		Fife, Craigsanquhar
Robbie Betsy	d	9		Fife, Craigsanquhar
Robbie John	s	7		Fife, Craigsanquhar
Robbie William	s	4		Forfar, Liff

Two rooms with windows

The enumerator for the district at this census was none other than John Robbie who covered an area including Gray Lodge, Gray Walk, Benvie, Flockloans, Ladyfield, Balruddery, Gray House, Kirkton of Liff, Village of Liff, (including the manse, the inn and the school) and Loch of Liff.

Marion, who was missing from the family home on the night of the census, was in service at 17 Strawberry Bank, Dundee with Joseph Ainslie, a retired accountant and his niece-housekeeper, Jemima McKay. (282/1 dist. 21, page 1.)

In later years, John set up in business for himself with a market garden in Ancrum Road, Dundee. The family lived in the cottage (marked in red) near Ancrum Road School at the corner of Ancrum Road and what is now Peel Street but what was then an un-named lane. John is recorded on the voters roll as having a market garden and byre in nearby Rose Lane.



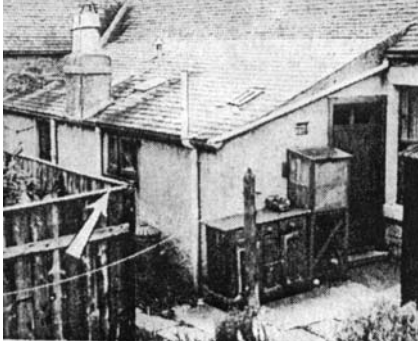
The whole family was musical and at one time formed a dance band. Rose (Robina) and Bet later taught music. In their later years these two lived in Monifieth where

they died in 1958 as the result of a gassing tragedy which was reported in the Dundee Courier on Friday 20 June:

Sisters gassed at Monifieth

Two elderly sisters were found gassed in their home at 23 Well Street, Monifieth yesterday morning. Miss Robina Robbie (80) was dead and her sister, Miss Elizabeth Robbie (78) was taken to Dundee Royal Infirmary with severe gas poisoning. Late last night she was still unconscious and seriously ill.

Mrs Ann Allan, who lives next door saw a paper in the letter box and a milk bottle at the door about eleven o'clock. She received no reply to her knocking.



Mrs. Allan told the "Courier": The woman next door to the Robbies, Mrs. Petrie, is in the habit of looking in to see how they are every morning, but she is on holiday just now."

Mrs. Allan had the key for the back gate and at the back of the house noticed a strong smell of gas. She could not get in and phoned for the police.

Through window

Entering by the front window they found the Misses Robbie lying on the kitchen floor with gas escaping from the cooker.

Miss Elizabeth was a music teacher and the couple had lived in Well Street for about 30 years. There is a brother in Blairgowrie and another in Canada. The one in Canada was home last year.

(Note: There were in fact two brothers in Canada.)

In 1901 or 1902, Agnes and John's son, Andrew emigrated to Canada, establishing himself in Montreal. His family is detailed in the chart on page 512. His brother, John followed him from Lochee to Canada in 1904. John was employed by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway when he arrived in Montreal and was transferred west to Rivers Man in 1908, moving to Edmonton later in 1908.

Andrew never returned to Scotland but John returned while serving in the 49th Edmonton, Alberta, Battalion as an infantryman during the Great War. He became reacquainted with Jessie Warden of Panmure Street, Monifieth, and when the war ended they married and settled in Edmonton and had two children, Jean and Ian. Ian was killed fighting with the Royal Canadian Air Force in the second world war. During his posting in Britain he had visited his parent's city several times.

John Robbie died in 1974, surviving his wife by 24 years. During his latter years, when Daughter, Jean would ask him if he would like a nap he would reply "I'll go if the gang is going". A phrase which she did not understand until she found that the family had lived at Knapp Mill at one time.

Charlotte, who was the last surviving member of John & Agnes's family still in Britain, died 19th March 1964.