

David Robbie and Elspet Couttie

There are records of seven births to David and Elspet, all in the parish of Tannadice in Angus:

06 Dec 1789

David Robbie & his Spouse Elspet Couttie in Elchmuir had a child Bapt. and named Jean.

17 Sept 1790

David Robie & Elspet Couttie at West Auchluchrie had a child bapt. named Isabel

02 Feb 1794. (West Auchluchrie was near Shielhill Bridge.)

David Robie and his spouse Elspet Couttie in ground of Auchnagrey had a child bapt. named John.

12 Jun 1796

David Robie and Elspet Couttie in Auchnagrey had a child bapt. named John.

24 Sept 1797

David Robie & Elspet Couttie at Auchnagrey, Janet.

24 May 1800

David Robie and his spouse Elspet Couttie in Elchmuir had a child Bapt. and named Elspet. (Elchmuir was just west of Burnside of Coull and just north of Strut.)

05 Jun 1803

David Robbie weaver at Clepington & Elspet Couttie his spouse had a son bapt. at Coull & named Alexander.

By 1855 when statutory registration of births, marriages and deaths was introduced, David and Elspet would probably have been in their eighties had they survived. (This in an age when life expectancy was about forty.) The registers have, nevertheless, been searched and re-searched for their deaths but without success.

John's Parents were David Robbie and Elspet Couttie. Nothing definite is known about the ancestors of David and Elspet. The birth of a David is recorded in Tannadice, Angus in 1768:

Frame number 229. Sept 4th David Robbie son to James Robbie in Inshewan and Isabel Straton his spouse. Baptised.

Records exist of other children named David Robbie being born in various parts of Angus around the same time so there is no certainty that James Robbie and Isabel Straton are the correct parents.

For Elspet, there is, if anything a bigger choice of possible births. In the absence of other evidence, such as land ownership records, wills or Estate papers it is not possible to trace the family back further. Several descendants around the world have researched the family, but all have failed to confirm a link to earlier generations.