

FAMILY TREE

James Gray

Birth: 14 Jan 1908

Forgue, near Huntly, Aberdeenshire, Scotland

Death: 28 Dec 1989

Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Scotland



The Gray Family

L to R: James (Jim), Barbara Alexena (Ena), James (Jimmy), Margaret (Marge)

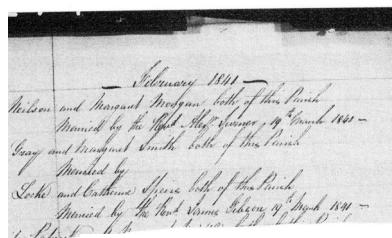
Photograph taken about 1957.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

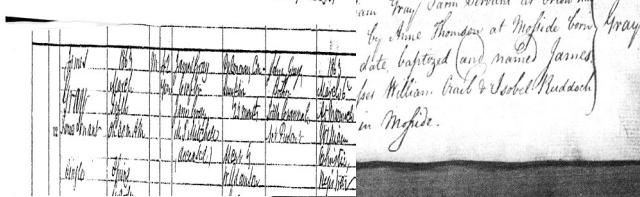
	PAGES
FRONT COVER	
TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
ROSEMARY SIMPSON LETTER	3
HISTORY OF "GRAY" SURNAME, CREST, MOTTO, COAT OF ARMS, AND TARTAN	4
JAMES GRAY (1908-1989)	
GRAY (FATHER) FAMILY PEDIGREE	5-10
RIDDELL (MOTHER) FAMILY PEDIGREE	11
BARBARA ALEXENA CHISHOLM (1907-1989)	
BARBARA ALEXENA CHISHOLM GRAY WITH FAMILY	12-15
HISTORY OF "CHISHOLM" SURNAME, CREST, MOTTO, COAT OF ARMS, AND TARTAN	16
CHISHOLM (FATHER) FAMILY PEDIGREE	17-18
BOYLE/SMITH (MOTHER) FAMILY PEDIGREE	19
PHOTOS SHARED BY LIVING ANCESTERS	20
UNEXPECTED FINDS	21

SOME GENEALOGY TOOLS

' JAMES (Old Parish Registers Marriages 644/2 70 286 Gorbals) Page 286 of 570
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1889 GRAY, JAMES Statutory registers Deaths 161/ 12
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RAY, JAMES (Old Parish Registers Births 185/ 20 277 Rothiemay) Page 277 of 462
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Genealogy and the Gray Family Tree

Dear Gray Family,

Herein is the very first draft of the Gray Family Tree. I say “first” draft because a family tree will never end. A very good friend of mine said it was better to have been given some information about your ancestors, correct or incorrect, than none at all.

You start a tree, by entering what you already know, then collect all the certificates: birth, baptism, marriage, family (census), death and anything else out there left to you by the ancestor. Sometimes there may be very little to go on. You just have to follow the clues you can find and hope in the end you get it right. So many families back in the day, continued to use the same first name generation after generation. Quite often you find many of the same names born the same year in the exact same place and you have to determine which one belongs to your tree.

Back in the day, some families kept a running tally of date, name, and the event in the family bible. To have this today is like finding gold. Local churches kept track of their members baptisms, marriages and deaths. Data collected was scarce. Two handwritten lines per event that would include a few names, a date, and witnesses. Sadly much of this data was lost in parts of Scotland when the “Highland Clearances” forced eviction of the people off their land and churches were burned to the ground. Today people have been hired to index all the stones in graveyards which is a great help to those of us trying to find an ancestor.

The United Kingdom (UK), its cities and shires began in 1837 to formally collect data. Then in 1874 it became compulsory. Over time data collected has been fine tuned. In the UK the very first census began in 1841 and has continued every 10 years except the 1941 Census did not take place due to WW2. And no records exist for England for the 1931 Census because the returns were destroyed by fire. Countries release census records differently. United Kingdom waits 100 years, so the next census out is 1921 and in the USA it waits 72 years, so the next census out is 1950.

I use Ancestry.com, My Heritage, 23 and Me, Finding my Past, Scotland’s People, and so many other free resources to collect data. There is a lot of sharing of information between genealogists. In the end, some of it may be correct and some of it may be “good guesses” or be absolutely wrong. I chose not to include all the citations within the pages of this document. It would add many pages and I am not sure important at this stage to have. It is my hope that this informal document will be retained within the family and shared generations on. I am sure there will be many more drafts of this document, expanding on what is already known, and what is yet to come.

I have tried my best to tell the story of the James Gray’s side of his family and the Barbara Alexena Chisholm side of her family as simply as possible focusing only on the direct Lines. To include more, at this stage, may be too much. There is so much more to share than is in this document. If you would like to know more, please contact me. Ancestry allows members to give permission to family members who want to view specific online trees.

I am honored to have been allowed to follow in the steps of your ancestors. This document only shows the “tip of the iceberg”. There is so much to be proud of and so much to tell. The Gray/Riddell, Chisholm/Boyle and Smith ancestors for sure have spread their wings around this amazing world we each call our home.

If you have questions about what is written here, please let me know. Rosemary Simpson, rosemary.simpson5@gmail.com

History of "Gray" Surname (Including Crest, Motto, Coat of Arms and Tartan)

Gray Clan

Fulbert de Gray was Great Chamberlain to Robert, Duke of Normandy, and owned lands in Picardy. There is a tradition that his daughter Arlotta was the mother of William the Conqueror and that the family arrived in England in 1066 with the Norman Conquest.

The name first appears in Scotland in 1248 and Henry Gray of Fife rendered homage to Edward I in 1296, but, like many other established families of the time, followed Robert the Bruce when the timing was right. It was Sir Andrew Gray who scaled the rock of Edinburgh Castle to recapture it from the English in 1312, and he was rewarded with lands at Longforgan in Perthshire. In 1377, the lands of Fowlis also passed to the Gray family through marriage to a daughter of the powerful de Maule family, and in 1444, Sir Andrew's descendant, also Sir Andrew, and a loyal supporter of James I and II, was created 1st Lord Gray. (For much more go to, "<https://erenow.net/biographies/robert-bruce-our-most-valiant-prince-king-and-lord/10.php>"

Thereafter the Grays remained close to the ruling House of Stewart. Patrick, son of the 2nd Lord Gray, was a Gentleman of the Bedchamber to James II. The 3rd Lord Gray was Lord Justice General of Scotland in 1506. Patrick, 5th Lord Gray, was taken prisoner at the Battle of Solway Moss in 1542 and ransomed for £500 sterling, a princely sum at the time. Patrick, 6th Lord Gray, was caught up in the intrigues surrounding the fall of Mary Queen of Scots and although tried for treason, was released and exiled. Andrew, 7th Lord Gray, followed the Marquis of Montrose. In 1639, he resigned his honours to obtain a new patent in favour of his daughter Ann who had married her kinsman William Gray, younger of Pittendrum. William was killed in a duel with the Earl of Southesk in 1660 and the title passed to the earls of Moray, but on the death of the 14th Earl of Moray passed to his niece who became Baroness Gray in her own right.

David Gray (1838-61), born in Kirkintilloch, was a prominent Scottish poet.

Places of Interest:

Huntly Castle, Longforgan, Perthshire was built in 1452 for Lord Gray of Foulis.

Broughty Castle, Dundee, Perthshire. Five storey tower built by Lord Gray of Foulis in 1490. Owned by Historic Scotland.

Surname distribution in Scotland: The Gray name is widespread throughout all areas of Scotland with particularly high concentrations in Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Caithness, Shetland (Zetland), Perth and Kinross, Stirlingshire, Lanarkshire and the Scottish Borders.

Scotsconnection.com

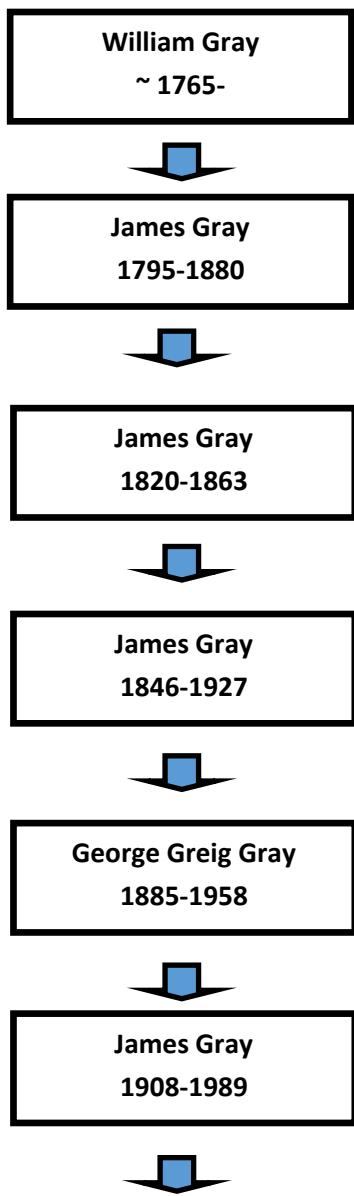


Left: Gray Family Motto, Crest and Coat of Arms

Right: Tartan Flag, Clan Badge, House Flag

Above: Scottish Flag

Gray Family Pedigree
Direct Family Tree for James Gray—1908-1989



5 GENERATIONS BELOW STEMMING FROM JAMES GRAY, 1908-1989 AND BARBARA ALEXENA CHISHOLM, 1907-1989:

Margaret Alexena Gray (Simpson), 1937- and James Alexander Gray, 1938-2020.

Stephen John Simpson, 1957-; Paul Martyn Simpson, 1960; Lesley-Anne Simpson, 1962-2012; David Andrew Simpson, 1966-; Jacqueline Patricia Gray, 1960-; Amanda Gray, 1961-; and Andrew James Gray, 1966-.

Lauren Simpson, 1982-; Jennifer Ashley Simpson, 1985-; Krystal Rose Simpson, 1982-; Christine Marie Simpson, 1979- ; Michelle Lee Miranda, 1982-; Gavin Alexander Simpson, 2001-; James Andrew John Hunter, 1985-; Alexander John Hunter, 1991-; Jonathon Howarth, 1981; Simon Howarth, 1985-; Ella Gray, Twin1, 2005-; and Keira Gray, Twin2, 2005-.

Samuel Paul Braggins, 2017-; James David Braggins, 2019; Mackenzie Leonard, 1915-; Teagan Leonard, 1917; Zachary Michael Leonard, 2021; Lloyd Shawn Sanchez, 1977-; Gabriel Michael Sanchez, 1999-; Chloe Elizabeth Cunningham, 2004-; Quinn Michael Cunningham, 2008-; Tyler Hunter, 2007-; Freya Hunter, 2013-; Amelia Grace Hunter, 2014-; Thomas James John Hunter, 2020-; Christian Howarth, 2006.

Eisley Jai Sanchez, 2021-

Gray Family Pedigree
William Gray, 1765-XXXX to James Gray 1908-1989

4th Great Grandfather: William Gray. Born about 1765, Rothiemay, Banffshire, Scotland. Occupation: Farm servant. **Married:** Anne Thomson, date and place unknown. They had two sons, John Gray, 1793-; and James Gray 1795-1880 (see below). In 1795, William is found working on a farm, Orton, Rothiemay. Death unknown.



3rd Great Grandfather: James Gray. Born 11 March 1795, Rothiemay, Banffshire, Scotland. Lived in Rothiemay. Later moved to Marnoch to work on farms. Occupation: Farmer and Crofter of 4 1/2 acres. Year and Farm Place: 1841, Moss Side; 1851, Liab Cranna; 1861, Spring Garden; and, 1871, Lythbrae. **Married:** Jane Mitchell, date and place unknown. They had 4 sons and 3 daughters all born in Rothiemay: William Gray, 1818-; James Gray, 1820-1863 (see below); John Gray, 1824-1900; Jane Gray, 1826-1910; Alexander Gray, 1831-1870; Anne Gray, 1835-; and Elizabeth Gray, 1839-1924. Death: 14 November 1880, Marnoch.



2nd Great Grandfather: James Gray. Born 18 December 1820, Rothiemay, Banffshire, Scotland. Baptised 24 December, 1820, Rothiemay. Occupation: Farm servant. In the 1861 census James is found working as a ploughman on Spring Garden Farm. He lived in Rothiemay. **Married: Margaret Smith.** Date and place of marriage unknown. They had 2 sons and 2 daughters: John Gray, 1843-; Ann Gray, 1844-; James Gray 1846-1927 (see below) and Jane Smith Gray, 1854-. Death: 5 March, 1863, Marnoch.



Great Grandfather: James Gray. Born 10 June 1846, Marnoch, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Lived mainly in Forgue and Marnoch. Occupation: Farm servant, labourer, railway surfaceman. **Married:** Jane Greig on 11 February, 1871, in Marnoch, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. They had 6 sons and 3 daughters: William Gray, 1869- (emigrated to Toronto); James Gray, 1871-; John Gray, 1873-1945; Robert Brodie Gray, 1874-; Elizabeth Jane Gray, 1878-1923; Jane Smollett Gray, 1880-1923; Mary Hendry Gray, 1883-; George Greig Gray (see below); and Henry Gray, 1889-. Death: 9 June 1927, 111 North Street, Aberchirder, Banffshire.



Paternal Grandfather: George Greig Gray. Born 24 September, 1885, Cobairdy, Forgue, by Huntly, Aberdeenshire. Age 5 he is living with parents and siblings in 1891, Collithie Cottage, Gartly. Occupation: Roadman, Farm Servant, Ploughman on Farm. 1901 census, age 15, working and living on a farm, Knowhead, Marnoch; and at age 19, he is living in Comalegie, Drumblade. **Married:** Margaret Riddell, 10 Aug 1907, 29 Gordon Street, Huntly—Witnesses were Agnes Riddell, Hendry Gray. They had 7 sons and 10 daughters: Maggie Ingram Riddell Gray, 1906-1968; James Gray 1908-1989 (see below); Jane Greig Gray, 1909-1997; Mary Hendry Gray, 1910-1994; George Gray, 1911-1985; Elizabeth Gray, 1912-2002; Mattie Gray, 1913-1994; Marion Gray, 1917-1961; William Scott Gray, 1918-1995; Agnes Gray, 1920-2002; Robert Gray, 1921-1942; Walter Gray, 1922-1940; Jessie Ann Gray, 1923-2008; Dora Gray, 1926-2002; Peter Benjamin Gray, 1927-2004; Philip John Gray, 1930-; and Barbara Alexena Gray, 1932-2014. George enlisted and served in the UK Royal Air Force, WWI, July 1917-1918. (Two of his children, Robert and Walter died serving in WW2.) Death: 20 Oct 1958, Forgue, Aberdeenshire. NB: The 17 children, between them, had at least 62 children.



Father: James Gray. Born 14 January, 1908, Forgue, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Occupation: Postman. **Married Barbara Alexena Chisholm,** 25 February, 1936, Woodside, Aberdeen. Lived in Aberdeen: 50 Marquis Road, Woodside; 159 Hardgate; Holburn; 42 Gray Court; and Nazareth House, Claremont Street. They had 2 children, Margaret Alexena, 1937-; and James Alexander, 1938-2020. James enlisted and served in WW2. See Pages 8-9. Death: 28 December, 1989, Aberdeen. Buried: Trinity Cemetery.

Wives of Gray Family Pedigree

William Gray, 1765-XXXX to James Gray 1908-1989

4th Great Grandmother: Anne Thomson. Born about 1770, Rothiemay, Banffshire. Parents and siblings unknown. **Married William Gray**, date and place unknown. They had two sons. Only Anne's name is listed on the 1841 census, age 70. Occupation: a pauper living at the Merges of Aberchirder Middle Street, Marnoch. Death: date unknown.



3rd Great Grandmother: Jane Mitchell. Born 30 June, 1798, Rothiemay. Parents were William Mitchell and Jean Bonnyman. Siblings unknown. **Married: James Gray**, date and place unknown. They had four sons and three daughters. Death: about 1855.



2nd Great Grandmother: Margaret Smith. Born about 1832, Banffshire. **Married: James Gray.** They had two sons and two daughters. Death: before 1861 based on last census she is not listed, Marnoch, Banffshire, Scotland. Firm details on Margaret for birth, her parents, siblings, marriage, and even death, have yet to be found.



Great Grandmother: Jane Greig. Born 19 June 1850, Nether Comisty, Forgue, Aberdeenshire. Baptised 12 July 1850. Her father, John Greig, 1805-1892, was 45 and her mother, Jane Smollett, 1812-1880 was 38. Parents had 11 children, 5 sons and 6 daughters, Jane was their 9th child: George Smollett Greig, 1833-1911; Margaret Greig, 1835-1903; Mary Greig, 1836-1896; Robert Calder Greig, 1838-1904; Alexander Cruickshank Greig, 1841-1923; John Greig, 1844-1923; Ann Greig, 1844-1917; James Milne Greig, 1846-1923; Jane Greig, 1850-1909; Isabella Greig, 1852-1925; and Jessie Greig, 1855-1933. Family lived in Scotland, except for the eldest child, George, who moved to Devon, England. **Married: James Gray**, 11 February 1871, Marnoch. They had 6 sons and 3 daughters. Death: 11 December, 1909, 28 Gordon Street, Forgue, Huntly, Aberdeenshire.



Paternal Grandmother: Margaret (Maggie) Riddell. Born 1 November 1884, Macduff, Banffshire. Her father, Peter Riddell, 1855-1899, was 29 and her mother, Margaret Finnie, 1856-1935, was 28. Parents had 2 sons and 5 daughters, Margaret was the second oldest: Jeannie Riddell, 1883-1942 (emigrated to Canada); Margaret Riddell, 1884-1975; Agnes Gray Riddell, 1886-1972 (emigrated to Canada); Annie Lily Burnie Riddell, 1887-1979 (emigrated to Canada); Mary S. Riddell, 1890-1901; Peter Alexander Watson Riddell (died in WW2, age 27), 1890-1918; and Francis Jane Riddell, 1893-1901. In 1906 Margaret Riddell, 1884-1975, and Charles Ingram had a daughter, Margaret Ingram (1906-1968), out of wedlock. **Married: George Greig Gray**, 10 August, 1907, Huntly, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. They had 7 sons, 10 daughters, including Margaret Ingram. Death: 23 December, 1975, at her daughter Elizabeth's home, Sunnybrae, Bucksburn, Aberdeenshire.



Mother: Barbara Alexena (Ena) Chisholm. Born 8 February, 1907, Elgin, Moray. Her father, Peter Alexander Chisholm, 1882-1918 was 24, and her mother, Margaret Anne Boyle, 1884-1953, was 22. The family lived in Fosterseat, Pluscarden, Elgin. They had one son and four daughters: Barbara was the eldest: Barbara Alexena Chisholm, 1907-1989; Mary Elizabeth Chisholm, 1908-1975; Sarah Chisholm, 1909-1994; Margaret Theresa Fowler Chisholm, 1913-1968; and Peter Alexander Chisholm, 1914-1915. **Married: James Gray**, 25 February, 1936, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Woodside, Aberdeen. They had one son and one daughter. Lived in Aberdeen: 50 Marquis Road, Woodside; 159 Hardgate, Holburn; 42 Gray Court, Eday Road; and Nazareth House, Claremont Street. Death: 26 June 1989, Aberdeen, Scotland.



James (Jimmy) Gray

Birth: 14 January 1908, Forgue, Huntly, Aberdeenshire, Scotland
Parents: George Greig Gray and Margaret Riddell
Occupation: Postman
Marriage: 25 February, 1936, Woodside, Aberdeen, Scotland
To: Barbara Alexena Chisholm, 1907-1989, age 82
Children: Margaret Alexena Gray, 1937
James Alexander Gray, 1938-2020, age 81
Death: 28 December 1989, age 81
Aberdeen, Scotland
Buried in Trinity Cemetery

About:

When James Gray was born, his father, George, was 22 and his mother, Margaret, was 23. James was the second born and the eldest son of 17 siblings. He was born in Forgue, a hamlet, that lies 35 miles NW of Aberdeen and 8 miles NE of Huntly.

James served one year with the First Battalion, Gordon Highlanders, and then 8 years in India and Palestine. After returning to Britain he served five years with the RAF on stations throughout the country reaching the rank of sergeant motor transportation.

James married Barbara Alexena (Ena) Chisholm on 25 February 1936, Woodside, Aberdeen. They were married in St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church by Priest Thomas MacLaughlin. Witnesses were James' siblings, Mary Hendry Gray who lived at 240 Holburn Street, Aberdeen and William Gray, from Downies, Inverkeithing.

In 1936, James and Ena were living in 50 Marquis Road, Woodside. Soon joined by daughter, Margaret Alexena in 1937 and then son, James Alexander in 1938.

In 1940 father James started work as a postman for the Aberdeen Crown Street Post Office and would have worked various shifts. Perhaps to make travel to and from work easier, the family, in 1950, moved from Woodside to the top floor of 159 Hardgate. In 1965, James retired from the General Post Office after 26 years of service.

In 1980, the couple moved from the Hardgate to sheltered housing, 42 Gray Court; and then again to Nazareth House, Claremont Street where Ena passed away 26 June 1989 and soon thereafter followed by James, 28 December 1989.



159 Hardgate, Holburn, Aberdeen.
Few cars in those days. The Grays lived on top floor.



Only a two minutes walk from Marquis Road, James would have caught the tram at the Woodside Fountain to take him to work.



Crown Street Head Post Office, 1907-1989.
James would have worked in this building, sorting and then delivering the mail.

James Gray 1908-1989



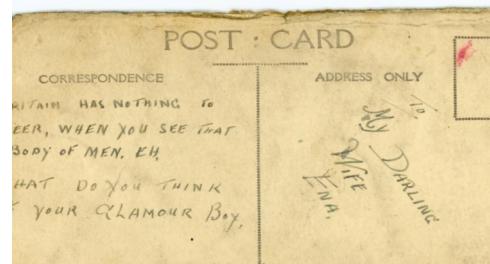
James Gray at work

Top: James is standing next to an army car. He was deaf in one ear and had flat feet thus disqualified to serve on the war front.

Top Right: James with his army colleagues outside the Eidsforth House Hotel, Marine Road Central, Morecambe, England. I assume this was the soldiers sleeping quarters.

Right: Jim was "tricky" with a great sense of humor. See postcard he sent from Morecambe "To My Darling Wife, Ena.....Britain has nothing to fear when you see that body of men. Eh! What do you think of your Glamour Boy?"

Below: James Gray with his bosses at the Post Office.
Right: See article published in local newspaper along with medal received.



Article published in the Aberdeen Press and Journal, 1965

An Aberdeen postie (postman/mailman) with 26 years' service was presented with the Imperial Service Medal by Aberdeen's head postmaster, Mr. H. M. Morrow, today.

Mr. James Gray of 159 Hardgate, retired in May this year.

Formerly of Huntly he was one of a family of 17. He served for 1 year with the 1st Battalion of the Gordon Highlander's and spent eight years in India and Palestine.

After returning to Britain, Mr. Gray left the Army – to join the RAF, and served for five years on stations throughout the country, reaching the rank of sergeant, motor transport.

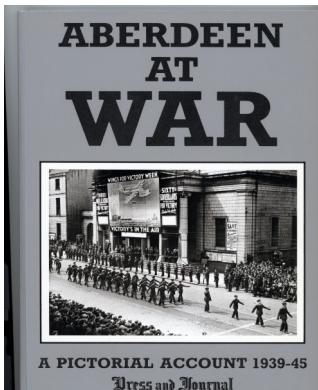
Mr. Gray has a married daughter, Mrs. George Simpson, living in Washington, USA and a married son, James, in Lancashire, England.

Picture shows Mr. Gray being presented with the medal by Aberdeen's head postmaster, Mr. H.M. Morrow. Looking on are (left to right) – Mr. L. Cowie, overseer; Mr. E. Alexander, assistant head postmaster and Mr. C.



This Gray ancestor's story was first published in the Aberdeen Press and Journal Newspaper and then later, included in a book published by the same, "Aberdeen at War, A Pictorial Account 1939-45", collated by Paul Harris, May 1987.

Paragraph taken from Page 10:



"One of the more extraordinary stories of an Aberdonian at war must be that of Corporal W. Gray of the 2nd Battalion Gordon Highlanders who was captured by the Japanese on the fall of Singapore. In captivity, he was fortunate enough to acquire a duck which, although actually female, was not unreasonably christened, Donald. Unfortunately, the keeping of pets was strictly forbidden by the Camp Commandant and it looked as though hapless Donald would be put to the sword (or more likely the cooking pot). With great presence of mind, Corporal Gray advised the Japs that Donald was, in fact, a sacred duck held in great reverence by the prisoners and, to make their point, they went on their knees each morning to Donald! The Japs were duly impressed by this, the duck survived, lay 163 eggs whilst in captivity and ultimately returned home with his owner at the end of the war where, it is recorded, Donald mated with an Aberdeenshire duck and, allegedly, produced offspring with slit eyes!"

Photo was originally taken at the Aberdeen Railway Station when William arrived home after the war. In his arms he held his pet, Donald Duck. Family was there waiting to greet him.

CORPORAL WILLIAM GRAY

William Scott Gray was born on 18th May, 1918, Upper Dallachy Cottages, Boyndie, Banffshire, Scotland. His parents were George and Maggie Gray. He was the ninth child born out of a family of 17.

When his brother, James Gray and Barbara Alexena Chisholm were getting married in Aberdeen, February 1936, William was one of the couple's two witnesses. At that time William was living in Inverkeithing, Fife.

William left Aberdeen to serve in WWII. He was in the 2nd Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders.

He was 24 years of age when he was captured by the Japanese on 15 February, 1942, in Singapore.

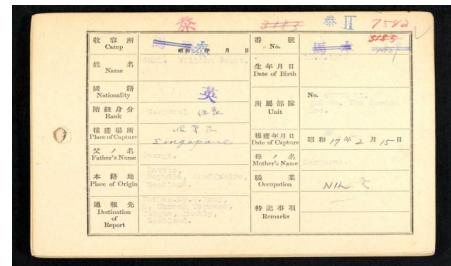
William married and had one child. Names unknown!

Later they moved to England. His address was 22 Devonshire Bungalows, Millom, Cumbria. He died there on 30 July 1995, age 77.



Page 119, photo #222:

"August 1945 and **Corporal William Gray** of the 2nd Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders arrives back from a Japanese POW camp with Donald Duck, his wartime companion. His Mother, **Maggie Riddell Gray** and Sister, **Marion Gray**, look on."



Above is William's Prisoner of War card completed by the Japanese soldiers. Unfortunately, on William's card what was written can no longer be seen.

Margaret Riddell, Mother of James Gray 1908-1989 — Riddell Tree 1758-XXXX to 1884-1975

Patrick Peter Riddell, 1758-XXXX and **Mary Craigie**, 1760-XXXX were married December 1784, Monymusk, Aberdeen. Patrick was a master blacksmith. They had ten children: Jean, 1785-; William, 1787-; Margaret, 1788-; Peter, 1790-1851; Catherine, 1791; Isobel, 1794-; Alexander, 1796-; James, 1797-1890 (see below); Joseph, 1799-; and, Elizabeth, 1801-.

James Riddell, 1797-1890 married twice: First, **Elizabeth Gordon**, 1822-1847 were married 1834 (yes, age 12 and allowable back then), Crathie, Braemar, Aberdeenshire. James was a farmer of 12 acres and also a blacksmith. They had five children: Cameron, 1832-; Elizabeth, 1835-1897; James, 1840-1893; Jane, 1842-1910; and Catherine, 1844-. Second, **James and Margaret Coutts**, 1821-1897 were married May 1848, Glenmuick, Tulloch, Aberdeenshire. They had seven children: William, 1848-; Margaret Coutts, 1849-, Jessie, 1852-1932; Peter, 1855-1899 (see below); Anne, 1856; Isabella, 1858-1896; and John, 1865-1931.

Peter Riddell, 1855-1899 and **Margaret Finnie**, 1856-1935 were married July 1884, Inverkeithny, Banffshire. Peter was a sheepherd. They had eight children: Jeannie, 1883-1942; Margaret, 1884-1975 (see below); Agnes Gray, 1886-1972; Annie Lily Burnie, 1887-1979; Mary S., 1890-1901; Peter Alexander Watson, 1890-1918 (killed in action); Francis James Riddell, 1893-1901; and Alexander Watson, 1895-1918 (killed in action).

Margaret Riddell, 1884-1975 and **George Greig Gray**, 1885-1958 were married August 1907, Huntly, Aberdeenshire. They had 17 children: Maggie Ingram Riddell Gray, 1906-1968; James Gray 1908-1989; Jane Greig Gray, 1909-1997; Mary Hendry Gray, 1910-1994; George Gray, 1911-1985; Elizabeth Gray, 1912-2002; Mattie Gray, 1913-1994; Marion Gray, 1917-1961; William Scott Gray, 1918-1995; Agnes Gray, 1920-2002; Robert Gray, 1921-1942; Walter Gray, 1922-1940; Jessie Ann Gray, 1923-2008; Dora Gray, 1926-2002; Peter Benjamin Gray, 1927-2004; Philip John Gray, 1930-; and Barbara Alexena Gray, 1932-2014.



Above: James with his Gray Family sitting to the right of his mother, front row. Everyone is there to celebrate their parents, George Gray and Maggie Riddell's, 50th wedding anniversary. The couple was married in Huntly on 10 Aug 1907.

Right Top: Four generation family photo: James, Maggie holding baby Stephen, and Marge.

Right Bottom: Maggie and George enjoying the sun in their back garden.

Barbara Alexena Chisholm—1907-1989



Barbara Alexena Chisholm

Birth: 8 February 1907, Elgin, Moray, Scotland
Parents: Peter Alexander Chisholm and Margaret Anne Boyle
Marriage: 25 February, 1936, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Woodside, Aberdeen. By Father McLaughlin.
To: James Gray
Children: Margaret Alexena Gray, 1937
James Alexander Gray, 1938-2020, age 81
Death: 26 June 1989, age 82
Aberdeen, Scotland
Buried in Trinity Cemetery

About:

When Barbara Alexena (Ena) Chisholm was born on 8 February, 1907, in Elgin, Moray, Scotland, her father, Peter, was 24, and her mother, Margaret (Maggie), was 22. Barbara was the eldest child, followed by Mary Elizabeth, 1908-1975; Sarah, 1909-1994; Margaret Theresa Fowler, 1913-1968; and Peter Alexander, 1914-1915.

Father, Peter Chisholm was a gardener. In 1891 he is working at Calcots Cottage, Moray. In the 1912 census, the family is living in Fosterseat Cottage on the land of a big country estate, Fosterseat House, built and named after Alexander Hay, Lord Fosterseat. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Hay,_Lord_Fosterseat. In 1918, Barbara's father Peter went off to serve his country and did not return. He died on 22 July 1918 and is buried in the Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, Pas de Calais, France. Losing a husband could not have been easy for Margaret (Maggie). Barbara was 11 years and the youngest Margaret, was only age two. Note: Pluscarden built a War Memorial to commemorate the soldiers who did not return from the war. (See page 18 for more).

After the war, Barbara's family lived in Crianlarich, Perthshire. Their home was on Strathfilan Terrace. It was from there that Barbara left and married James. They were a close and loving couple. They adored their daughter, Margaret and soon after a son, James. Many years after they rejoiced as they met and spent time with grandchildren. Margaret had four and James had three.



St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church built in 1842 and still in service today.



Father McLaughlin (left front) served the parish from 1927-1952.



Barbara and James' grave, Trinity Cemetery, Aberdeen.

James Gray (1908-1989) and Barbara Alexena Chisholm (1907-1989) - Family Photos



Above: Margaret, Barbara and James.



Margaret and James



James and Margaret with cousins.



The Aberdeen Ancient Stone Circle has yet to be discovered.
Photo on the left is the Castlerigg Stone Circle thought to be one of the most visually impressive prehistoric monuments in Cumbria, NW England.



Doris Simpson, James and Barbara Gray visiting the Simpsons. Photograph taken at the door of 26 Springhill Terrace.



The Gray and Simpson families lived in the Hardgate (off Holburn Street, Aberdeen). The Grays at #159 and the Simpsons at #151. Surrounding photos were taken between 1950-1955 and all before Margaret and George married in 1956: Left to Right: James and Margaret. Holburn Street Home #159. George, Rosemary, Margaret and James. Robert with James on his shoulders.



Barbara (Ena) and James (Jim) Gray

Photos taken over the years of daughter, Margaret, husband, George Simpson and their family



Married 8 September, 1956, Aberdeen, Scotland.



Only visit to the USA. Jim and Ena with grandkids.



Stephen, Lesley-Anne, David and Paul Simpson.



Stephen and Mikki with their family. Lauren, Dave, Jennifer and Mike and 3 grand children. In 2022 they have 5.



Lesley-Anne's daughter, Christine with her sons, Shawn and Gabriel.



Lesley-Anne's daughter, Michelle, husband, Pat, and children, Chloe and Quinn



Paul with daughter, Rose.

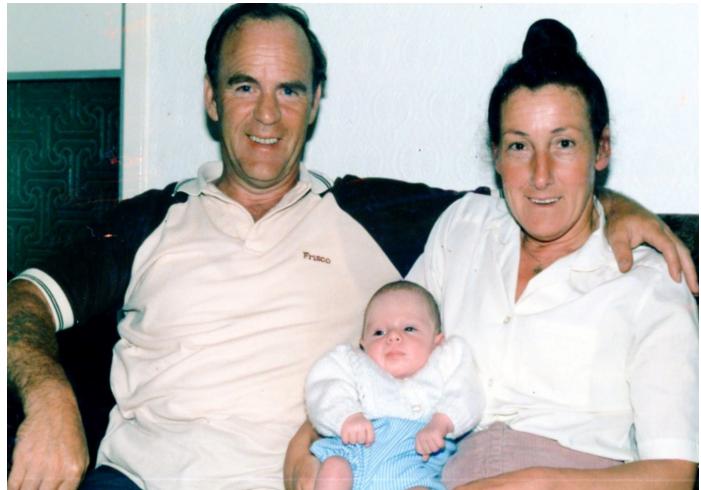


Taken in Las Vegas, youngest son, David with his family.

Barbara (Ena) and James (Jim) Gray - Photos taken of son, James, his wife, Hilary and their family.



Married 1 August 1959, St. Helens, Lancashire, England.



James and Hilary with baby.



James and Hilary with their three children.



Family grown up: Jacqueline, James, Hilary, Andrew and Amanda.



James and Hilary Gray—Family Photo



James and Hilary Gray—Family Photo taken about 2019.

History of "Chisholm" Surname (Including Crest, Motto, Coat of Arms and Tartan)

Clan Chisholm

John de Chesholm of Berwickshire and Richard de Cheshelme of Roxburghshire rendered homage to Edward I of England in 1296. However, there is evidence to suggest that the Highland and Lowland Chisholms descend from a common ancestor. Robert de Chisholme was taken prisoner at the Battle of Neville's Cross in 1346, but was later ransomed and became Constable of Urquhart Castle on the shores of Loch Ness. He was also appointed Sheriff of Inverness and Justiciar of the North. His son Alexander married Margaret, Lady of Erchless in Kintail, daughter and heiress of Wyland of the Aird, and through this union, Erchless Castle became the seat of Clan Chisholm. From Alexander's son Thomas, born in 1403, sprung the Chisholms of Comar and Strathglass. The Chisholms of Kinneries and Lierty, of Knockfin, and of Muckerach are also branches of the Highland clan.

From the Lowland family originate the Chisholms of Stirches and the Chisholms of Cromlix in Perthshire, three of whom became Bishops of Dunblane, the latter also becoming Bishop of Vaison in France. In the 1715 Uprising, two hundred men of Clan Chisholm fought under the Earl of Mar at the Battle of Sheriffmuir. Although two of The Chisholm's sons fought with the Government troops at the Battle of Culloden, the Clan generally supported Prince Charles Edward Stuart during the 1745 Jacobite Uprising. When the Prince escaped and went into hiding in Strathglass, he was accompanied by Alexander, Donald and Hugh Chisholm.

The Highland Clearances of the 18th and 19th centuries drove large numbers of clans folk overseas, many to Nova Scotia where large numbers of the name are still to be found at Pugwash. In 1887, the chiefship passed through the female line to James Gooden-Chisholm of Surrey whose descendants have now abandoned their English middle name in recognition of the current chief.

Surname distribution in Scotland: The Chisholm surname is most commonly found in Highland Region (incorporates the historic counties of Caithness, Inverness-shire, Nairnshire, Ross and Cromarty and Sutherland), and Lewis in the Western Isles.

Places of Interest.

Chisholm, near Hawick, Roxburghshire was the original seat of the lowland Chisholm Family.

Corriedoe, Glenmoriston, Inverness-shire. Location of the cave in which Prince Charles Edward Stuart hid in 1746 with the "Seven Men of Glenmoriston," three of whom were Chisholms.

Erchless Castle, Strathglass, Invernesshire 15th century seat of the Chisholms.

Urquhart Castle, Loch Ness, Inverness-shire. Robert de Chisholm, founder of the northern line of Chisholm, married the daughter of the Constable of Urquhart Castle and, in turn, became Constable himself during the 14th century.

Scotsconnection.com

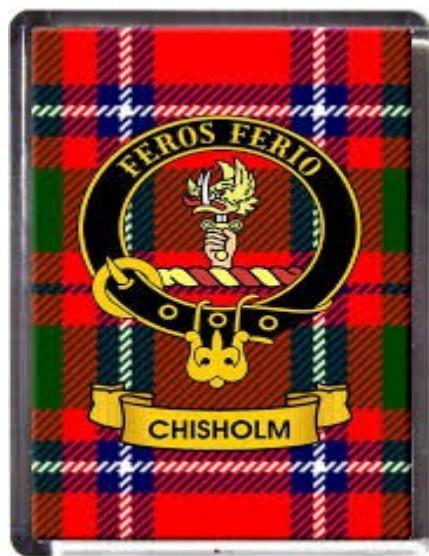
Chisholm Motto: Feros Ferio (I am fierce with the fierce



Left: Chisholm Crest A hand holding aloft a dagger through a boars head



Above: Chisholm Coat of Arms, plus motto on top



Right: Chisholm Tartan with Clan Badge

Peter Alexander Chisholm, Father of Barbara Alexena Chisholm, 1907-1989 — Chisholm Tree 1730-XXXX to 1882-1918

Thomas Chisholm, 1730 and “Mother” Clark had a child, Alexander Chisholm, 1757-1845 (below).

Alexander Chisholm, 1757-1845 and **Isobel Gregor**, 1762-1841 were married 1783, Knockando, Moray, Scotland. Alexander was a woolen hand loom weaver and later a farmer. They had six children: Alexander Grigor, 1792-1847 (below); John, 1795-1875; Isobel, 1800-; and William, 1801-. James Hay, 1803-1884; and Ann, 1819-.

Alexander Grigor Chisholm, 1792-1847 and **Helen Tulloch Cant**, 1787-1866 were married 1783, Knockando, Moray. Alexander was a farmer. They had two children: Janet Hay, 1803-1884 and James Chisholm, 1823-1883 (below).

James Chisholm, 1823-1883 and **Janet Watson**, 1831-1922 were married May 1856, Dallas, Moray, Scotland. James was a farmer Of 30 acres of land. They lived in Elgin. Had eight children: Hellen, 1856-1940; Andrew, 1823-1870; James, 1860-1923 (below); Jane, 1861-1941; Jessie, 1863-; Alexander Watson, 1865-1938; William, 1867-1957; and Isabella, 1871-1912.

James Chisholm, 1860-1923 and **Sarah Fraser**, 1855-1918 were married Nov 1881, New Duffus, Moray, Scotland. Peter was a carpenter, cart wright and a farmer. They had five children: George Fraser, 1878-1960; Peter Alexander, 1882-1918 (below); James, 1884-; Sarah, 1886-1954; William Fraser, 1894-1917. Lived in Elgin. (See next page for details on this family and the Pluscarden War Memorial.)

Peter Alexander Chisholm, 1882-1918 and **Margaret Anne Boyle**, 1884-1953 were married Oct 1906, Kirkmichael, Banffshire, Scotland. They had five children Barbara Alexena, 1907-1989; Mary Elizabeth, 1908-1975; Sarah, 1909-1994; Margaret Theresa Fowler, 1913-1968; and Peter Alexander, 1914-1915.



Major Alexander Watson Chisholm

Alexander Watson Chisholm 1865-1938, son of **James Chisholm** and **Janet Watson**, was born in Thistleflat, Pluscarden, Moray, Scotland. At the age of 15 he is working as a servant for Wester Fosterseat Farm, Elgin. Occupation: master mason; barrack master and promotion to major. In 1882 Alexander enlisted in the 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, and took part in the Anglo-Egyptian War, for which he was awarded the Khedive's Star. In 1888, Sergeant Chisholm, 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders, took part in the Black Mountain Expedition on the North-West Frontier of India. He was awarded the Indian General Service Medal, with Hazara Clasps. From 1888 to 1916 he continued to serve in India receiving many medals of service. In 1889 he married **Clara Maria Patterson Neely**. They had five children all born in India: Harold, 1890-1962; Douglas, 1895-1968 (see below); Graham, 1899-; Moira, 1908-; and Sheila, 1910-1934. Wife, Clara, died 1910 in Meerut, India. When his service ended Alexander and his family returned to Moray. In 1935 Major (Ret'd) Alexander Watson Chisholm J. P., also Provost of Burghead, was awarded the King George V's Silver Jubilee Medal. In May 1937 the Major was awarded King George VI's Coronation Medal. On 11th March, he died, aged 72, in Winchester Nursing Home, Elgin, Moray. His brother, William, was present. Alexander was later interred in Burghead Cemetery.

Alexander Watson Chisholm's son, **Captain Douglas William Charles Chisholm**, was awarded an MBE for service to the Banffshire Army Home Guard by King George VI in his 1943 New Year Honours. Photo on the right is of the Captain and his family:

Right: Back row: son, Douglas Roy Chisholm 1923-1978, Captain Douglas William Charles Chisholm 1895-1968; and daughter, Sheila Patterson Chisholm 1921– 2003.

Front row: grandson, Brian Douglas Chisholm 1953-2021 and mother Amy Theodosia Cobbett 1893

The Major was awarded 13 medals. A few photos below:



Chisholm Family
The Roll of the Fallen—Pluscarden War Memorial, Moray

Two members of the Chisholm family were among the eleven names listed on the Pluscarden War Memorial. These men died 1914-1919. The Memorial is in the form of a cairn made of cut blocks with engraved central plaque commemorating the men of Pluscarden who died in WW I.

Peter Alexander Chisholm M.M. Recorded in the Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, 57) as follows: 'No. 265511, Sgt., 1/6th Seaforths; born at Duffus, Sept. 13th, 1882; joined at Elgin, Oct., 1914; served in France; killed in France, 22nd July 1918; awarded Military Medal. Son of James and Sarah Chisholm, Fosterseat, Pluscarden. Occupation, gardener.' Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being buried at Terlincthun British Cemetery, Wimille, Pas de Calais, France, section XVII row B, grave 8. Medal Roll in National Archives notes him being awarded British War and Victory Medals with no date of entry into a theatre of war. Formerly Sergeant 1888 of the 6th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders. Award of Military Medal announced in the Supplement to the London Gazette of 6 August 1918, page 9235 – '265511 Cpl. P. Chisholm, Seaforth Highlanders. (Elgin.)' Reported in The Northern Scot of 17th August 1918 of the following: 'Roll of Honour. Died of Wounds. Sergt. P. Chisholm, M.M., Pluscarden. Mr Chisholm, Fosterseat, Pluscarden, has been informed that his son, Sergeant P. Chisholm, M.M., Seaforths, has died of wounds received in action. Enlisting in 1914, Sergeant Chisholm had seen over two years' active service. This is the second son Mr. Chisholm has lost in the war, while a third has been badly wounded. The sergeant leaves a widow and four children.' Also commemorated on the Elgin and Tomintoul War Memorials. (*RJS Note: Third son mentioned: George Fraser Chisholm, survived the war, right wrist was disabled, discharged from Seaforth Highlanders, 1918. Moved to Yorkshire, England.*)

William Fraser Chisholm. Recorded in the Morayshire Roll of Honour (1921, 58) as follows: 'No. 45028, Pte., Army Service Corps; born at Pluscarden, 12th June 1894; joined at Banchory, Kincardineshire, March, 1915; served in France; killed in France, 1st Dec. 1917. Son of James and Sarah Chisolv, Fosterseat, Pluscarden. Occupation, sawmiller. Commonwealth War Graves Commission notes him as being of the 15th Battalion Highland Light Infantry, commemorated on the Tyne Cot War Graves Memorial, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium, Panel 131/132. Son of James and Sarah Fraser-Chisholm, of Fosterseat, Pluscarden; husband of **Isabella Black Fraser**, 1872-1952, of St. Machar, Banchory, Kincardine-shire. Medal Roll in National Archives notes him being awarded British War and Victory Medals with no date of entry into a theatre of war. Noted as formerly Pte 48239 Royal Scots attached 20th I.B.D, attached 5th entrenching battalion, formerly 45028 15th Battalion Highland Light Infantry. Soldiers Died in the Great War notes him as formerly 2265 of the Army Service Corps (ASC). Reported in the Northern Scot and Moray & Nairn Express of 29th December 1917 of the following: 'Private W. T. Chisholm. Mr and Mrs Chisholm, Fosterseat, Pluscarden, have received intimation that their youngest son, Private W. T. Chisholm, Highland Light Infantry (HLI), was killed in action on December 1. Private Chisholm enlisted into the ASC in 1915, but was afterwards transferred to the HLI, proceeding to the front in June last. He was 24 years of age, and served his apprenticeship with Messrs Wink & Mackenzie, solicitors, Elgin. When war broke out, he was working in Banchory.'

Pluscarden War Memorial, Moray



<https://www.clanchisholmsociety.org/public/index.php>
Clan Chisholm Society published the "Great War Centenary Project, Roll of Honour.". 50 Chisholms are highlighted. Including the above.
See Volume 4, France Part II, page 46.



Pluscarden Parish Church. The Chisholm Family



A Pew in the church still has their name plate in place

Peter Smith, 1728-1815 to Barbara Alexena Chisholm, 1907-1989

4th Great Grandparents. Peter Smith, 1728-1815 and Mary Simpson, 1750-1819, were married on February 1764, Tomintoul, Banffshire, Scotland. James was a farmer. They had two children, James, 1770-1865 (see below) and Elspet, 1771-.

3rd Great Grandparents. James Smith, 1770-1865 and Anne Riach McIntosh, 1774-1857 were married September 1802, Inveravon, Banffshire. James, a tenementer, fener, worked on 3 acres of land. They had 7 children: Peter, 1803-1876; Margaret M., 1807-1864; Elizabeth, 1809-1902; Donald Gow, 1811-1891 (see below); Ann, 1813-1813; John 1815-1898; and Mary, 1818-1854.

2nd Great Grandparents. Donald Gow Smith, 1811-1891 married twice, first to Margaret McDonell on February 1831, Tomintoul, Banffshire, Scotland, and, had one son, Peter Smith, 1832-. No details is known on Margaret. Second marriage, Elisabeth Margaret L. MacLachlan, 1826-1856 on Jan 1851, Kirkmichael, Banffshire, Scotland. They had four children: Barbara Smith, 1851-1925 (see below); James MacLachlan Smith, 1852-1935; Paul MacLachlan Smith, 1855-1929; and John Smith, 1856-1856.

Great Grandparents. Barbara Smith, 1851-1925 and William Boyle, 1853-, were married February 1876, Liverpool, Lancashire England. Barbara was a Housekeeper, Crofter and Dairy Keeper. They had three daughters: Mary Elizabeth 1877-1930; Margaret Anne, 1884-1953 (see below); and Willamina (1886-1982). They inherited a child, born in Glasgow, James, 1879-1933.

Maternal Grandparents. Margaret Anne Boyle, 1884-1953 and Peter Alexander Chisholm, 1882-1918, were married on October 1906, Kirkmichael, Banffshire. First child Barbara Alexena Chisholm, 1907-1989 married James Gray, February 1936. They are the parents of Margaret and James Gray.

William Boyle, Margaret and James Gray's great grandfather, has stopped us in our tracks. You will see from the family pedigree document that the Boyle Tree starts and stops with him. At the time of his marriage, he is 25 years old and a ship steward. Later he is promoted to ship officer. Marge's mother told her that William Boyle drowned at sea. Few hints to go on, no one has managed to trace this man nor his Irish family. He was at sea when each Tomintoul 10 year census was taken. It's an important document. Lists all the people in the home, relationship, year and place born. Barbara Smith and William Boyle's marriage license did glean additional hints, They married in St. Francis Xavers Church, Liverpool, he was a catholic, was from Irish descent, and lived at 17 Haplon Street, Everton. His father's name was James and he was a porter. One major hint is that Barbara indicated on a census that she was a widow. So William died between 1901-1911.



St. Francis Xavers Church, Liverpool
opened its doors in 1848



Meet, Joseph Roy Cade 1950-, standing in front of the homes of **Barbara Smith**, 1851-1925. Victoria House and Victoria Cottage are attached and still in place today in the Square, Tomintoul. Barbara, when she died, left the House and everything in it to her daughter, Mary Elizabeth and granddaughter, Barbara Alexena Chisholm. The cottage and everything in it she left to her other daughters, Margaret Anne Boyle and Willamina Boyle.

Joseph Cade is the grandson of Vincent Cade, 1889-1957, and Willamina Boyle, 1886-1982. They married in 1912, Vancouver, BC, Canada, later moving to the USA. Two children were born, Muriel Ellen Cade, 1913-1996; and, Vincent Roy Cade, 1917-2013.

Joseph Cade managed to track down his 2nd cousin, Marge Simpson, many years ago, and they have kept in touch ever since.

Photos Shared by Living Ancestors



Above and middle: Graeme Arthur Noel Chisholm (1899-) is the son of Alexander Watson Chisholm (1865-1910). To his right is a photo of Graeme's family, Ian, Jennifer and wife, Henrietta Lefebvre 1912-

Jessie Ann Gray (1923-2008) is the daughter of George Greig Gray and Margaret Riddell. She married Carlton Arthur Hire (1909-1985).



Margaret Anne Boyle, 1884-1953, daughter of Barbara Smith and William Boyle.



Muriel Ellen Cade, 1913-1996 with husband, Bernard Murray and her mother, Willamina Boyle, 1886-1982, daughter of Barbara Smith and William Boyle.



Isabella Barron, (1765-) with great grandchildren Leslie and Jessie Gordon. Her son James Watson 1823-1883, had a daughter Janet, who married James Chisholm in 1856, Moray, Scotland. These children belong to their daughter, Jessie, born 1863, Elgin.



Left: "Erchless" Castle. Built 1600. "Traditional seat of the Chisholm Family." Sold when the last Chisholm died 1937. The Castle is still occupied. **Middle and Right:** Lands were passed to the Grays by marriage in 1377. Baron Gray of Fowlis erected and lived in "Fowlis" Castle (middle) until family moved to the larger Castle "Huntly" (right) in 1452. Fowlis Castle remained the property of the Grays until it was sold in 1669. https://electricscotland.com/history/kenneill/huntly/the_people.htm.

Unexpected Finds



MORAY DISTRICT COUNCIL
MUSEUMS INFORMATION SHEET
No 11
TOMINTOUL'S BLACKSMITHS



"The Smiddy" Interior 1985 after 15 years disuse.

Alexander, 4th Duke of Gordon is generally accepted as the developer in 1766 of the planned village of Tomintoul. However, it was in 1766 that William "Glenbucket" Gordon, then feuar of the Duke's lands, advertised for probably the first blacksmith in the "Aberdeen Journal". He wanted and obtained by 1770 a smith "qualified for Country Work".

Tomintoul did not substantially develop until the early 19th century, and by the 1841 census there were three blacksmiths residing in the village, indicating the demand for their services. One, John Smith, aged 25, was born in the parish, married twice and had fifteen children. In the 1881 census, Smith was still in his Main Street smithy, sited near the Dufftown Road junction. It was the main Tomintoul smithy for most of the 19th century. In 1881 the Tomintoul smithy was run by various apprentices and journeymen. By 1861 it appears that he was joined by Peter Fraser, a blacksmith aged 28, also born in the parish. Fraser remained with Smith, possibly as partners, and by 1881 they had been joined by Fraser's son, also named Peter and then aged 19. We do not know from the currently available records when John Smith died, but Peter Fraser senior died in 1883 aged 52. From the evidence available, it seems that Peter junior remained as village blacksmith in Main Street, but by 1884 the smithy had closed. Oral evidence records that Peter suffered the loss of an arm, possibly causing the closure of the smithy, and he spent the rest of his life as the rural postman for Glenlivet. Peter Fraser died in 1912 aged 59.

The other village smithy, "The Smiddy", situated on Back Street, on the property of 107 Main Street, was almost certainly run through demand and about the time that the Smith-Fraser smithy closed (circa 1880). It does not exist in the 1881 census returns, but appears on an Ordnance Survey map of 1894. It is from "The Smiddy" that the Tomintoul Museum display is formed.

"The Smiddy" certainly from the 1890's was worked by James Cameron, general blacksmith. In 1914 "The Smiddy" was rented from Cameron by Peter Macintosh (McIntosh), then aged 25. Peter Macintosh (1889-1963) was born at Inverchor about four miles from Tomintoul. He served his apprenticeship at Tonnavaulin Smiddy in Glenlivet under Sandy Irvine, who himself had been apprenticed to Cameron at Tomintoul. In 1919 Peter Macintosh bought "The Smiddy". He described himself as a "General Blacksmith, Implement maker and Cycle Agent". In the 1920's and 1930's, Peter who was known as "Brookie" to the villagers, had the aid of three other smiths: Davy Pitt who went to work in Glasgow; Robert McPherson who took over the smithy at Glass; and Edward Innes who



"Brookie" Macintosh outside "The Smiddy" circa 1950.



Raymond Macintosh photographed in "The Smiddy" by J. Macintyre, 1964.

DID "FATE" PLAY A ROLE?

John Simpson married Elizabeth Isabella (Bella) Mustard in 1906. He was a farm servant. They lived in "Little Rettie", a cottage tied to Rettie Farm, Boyndie, Banffshire. They had three sons, John, William and George. Father, John, died 1913, aged 29, of tuberculous peritonitis. In those days, no working farmhand in the home, Bella and her family would have been forced to leave "Little Rettie". In 1915 Bella had a fourth son, James. He was born in Loanhead Cottage, Boyndie. Collecting hints for direct ancestors I find out that James Gray, 1846-1927, and Jane Greig, 1850-1909, note that on family birth certificates their third born child, John Gray, 1873-1945 and his wife, Isabella Gordon, 1880-1937, had lived in Rettie, Parish of Boyndie, since 1907 and, they were living in Loanhead Cottage. Further, two of their last born children had "Simpson" for their middle names: George Simpson Gray, 1916-1942 and Helen Panton McGillivray Simpson Gray, 1919-2003. No documentation yet to prove if Bella and her family lived in Loanhead with the Grays, but her baby was born there, and for sure Bella must have made an impact on the Grays for them to honor her by using the "Simpson" name for two of their own.

Speed on 40 plus years and in 1950 Margaret Gray and George Simpson's families were living only a few doors away, Gray's at 159 and Simpson's at 151, the Hardgate. One day George and Margaret's paths crossed in the street where they lived and fate took over from there. When Margaret and George were married in 1956, no Gray nor Simpson at that wedding were aware that neighbors John and Isabella Gray had stepped in to help George's grandmother, a young woman with a lot against her at the time.

As a side note what happened to the two Grays' with "Simpson" in their names?

George Simpson Gray, born in 1916. Age 26, he died in Malaya, presumed killed in action.

Helen Panton McGillivray Simpson Gray, born in 1919, married Frank Bertram Shipley in 1940, Lossiemouth. In 1940 she served in the WAAF and Frank served in the RAF. In 1948 they left the UK for South Africa. The ship "Athlone Castle" manifest lists Shipley, FB., age 32, occupation "decorator"; Mrs., age 27 and a Miss M.A., age one. In 1957, they had a son, Thomas Shipley, he died 1977, age 20, in Zambia. Frank died age 58 in 1974 in Zimbabwe. No details on when Helen returned to the UK. She died age 83, in Ashbourne, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, England. Also, no details, so far, on their daughter mentioned on manifest.

JOHN SMITH—A SUCCESSFUL BLACKSMITH

The Smith/Chisholm families lived in Tomintoul. Alexander, 4th Duke of Gordon, was the developer in 1766 of the planned village of Tomintoul. His land manager was William "Glenbucket" Gordon and he was responsible for hiring the first blacksmith in 1770. Tomintoul did not substantially develop until the early 19th century and by 1841 there were three blacksmiths working in the village.

Our ancestor, **John Smith**, 1815-1898, son of **James Smith** and **Anne Riach McIntosh**, born in Tomintoul, married twice and had 15 children. His blacksmith business was on Main Street and was there for most of the 19th century. Over time, John Smith, was joined by various apprentices and journeymen.

His life is well documented in the "information sheet on the left, a free document obtained from Moray District Council, Museums Information Sheet, Number 11, "Tomintoul's Blacksmiths".