

## **FAMILY TREE**

### **Charles Henderson Laird**

**Birth 23 Oct 1907**

Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland

**Death 1977**

Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Scotland



Charles Laird, 2nd Baillie of the City of Aberdeen and  
Freeman of the City

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## Genealogy and the Laird Family Tree

Dear Laird Family,

Herein is the very first draft of your Family Tree. I say "first" because in genealogy new hints keep on coming. 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. So here we go.....

We start a tree by entering what is known by the family. In this case, The **father's parents are Frederick Joss Laird and Elizabeth Mary Ann Strachan**. The **mother's parents are Francis Alexander Hepburn and Barbara Gibb McGunigal**. From there you go on to collect all the certificates: birth, baptism, marriage, family (census), death and anything else left to you by the ancestor. Sometimes there may be very little to go on. You just have to follow the clues 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 an event in the family bible. To have this today is to have gold. Local churches kept track of their members baptisms, marriages and deaths. Data collected was scarce. Two handwritten lines per event is all you have, a few names, a date, and perhaps 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 grave stones in graveyards which is a great help.

Each tree is made up of four families: Surnames of each of your parents. In the case of Charles Laird, surnames are: Laird and Strachan and Hepburn and McGunigal.

Up front, I wish to acknowledge the wonderful support of Sheila Simpson who has given so much of her time to help me with this document. Also taking time to find old family photos that can be found throughout this book.

It is not a cheap hobby. I used Ancestry.com, My Heritage, 23 and Me, Finding my Past, Scotland's People, and so many other free resources to collect information. There is a lot of sharing between genealogists world-wide. In the end, some of it may or may not be correct. I chose not to include citations within the pages of this document for it would add many pages and I am not sure important at this stage important to have. It is my hope that this informal document will be retained within the family and shared generations on. I am sure lots more information will come out and will be included over time.

I am honored to have been allowed to follow in the steps of your ancestors. This document shows just the "tip of the iceberg". There is so much to be proud of and so much to tell.

If you have questions about what is written here, or want to see more, please let me know.

Rosemary Simpson, [rosemary.simpson5@gmail.com](mailto:rosemary.simpson5@gmail.com)

## History of "Laird" Surname (Including Crest & Coat of Arms, Motto and Tartan)

The Scottish surname of LAIRD was an official name 'the Laird' a landlord or owner of land and houses. The name was derived from the Old English word 'laverd'. The use of fixed surnames or descriptive names appears to have commenced in France about the year 1000, and such names were introduced into Scotland through the Normans a little over one hundred years later, although the custom of using them was by no means common for many years afterwards. During the reign of Malcolm Ceanmor (1057-1093) the latter directed his chief subjects, after the custom of other nations, to adopt surnames from their territorial possessions, and there created 'The first erlis that euir was in Scotland'. Early records of the name mention Roger LAWIRD of Berwick, who made an agreement with the Abbey of Kelso, relating to his land of Waldefgat, Berwickshire in 1257. Thomas le LOUERD of Peeblesshire, was documented in the year 1296. Later instances of the name include John LAIRD who married Elizabeth Monk at St. George's, Hanover Square, London in 1781. John LAIRD and Catherine Jones, ibid, 1782. At first the coat of arms was a practical matter which served a function on the battlefield and in tournaments. **With his helmet covering his face, and armour encasing the knight from head to foot, the only means of identification for his followers, was the insignia painted on his shield, and embroidered on his surcoat, the draped and flowing garment worn over the armour.** A notable member of the name was MacGregor LAIRD (1808-61) the Scottish explorer and merchant, born in Greenock. He first travelled to the lower Niger with an expedition from 1832 until 1834, and was the first European to ascend the Benue River. In 1837 he started a transatlantic steamship company for which the 'Sirus' became the first ship to cross entirely under steam in 1854. Over the centuries, most people in Europe have accepted their surname as a fact of life, as irrevocable as an act of God. However much the individual may have liked or disliked the surname, they were stuck with it, and people rarely changed them by personal choice. A more common form of variation was in fact involuntary, when an official change was made, in other words, a clerical error.

**Motto: Spero Meliora"**  
**("I hope for the better")**

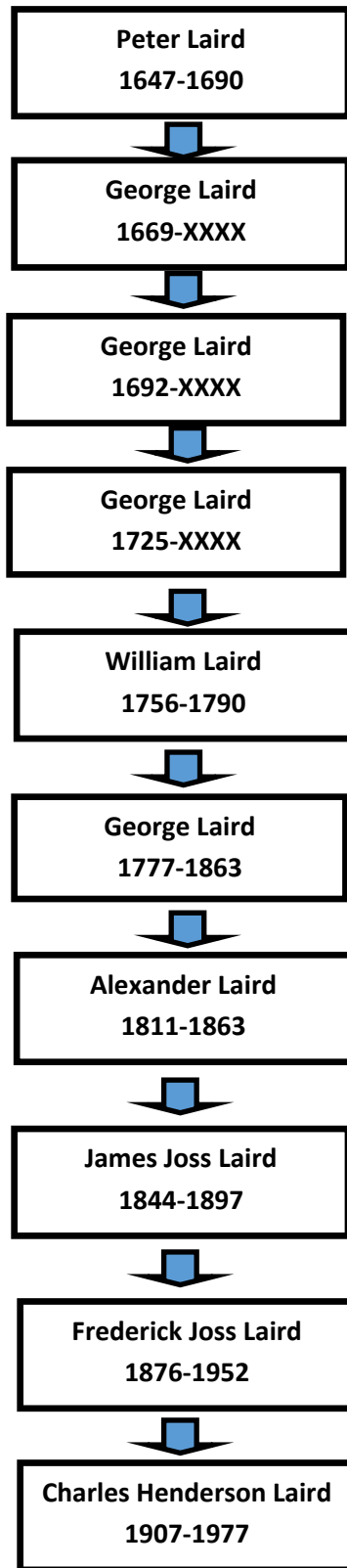


Left: Laird Motto. Below a stock image of a knight in full armour

Above: Crest & Coat of Arms: Boars' heads on the coat of arms signifies fierce fighters.

Right: Laird Tartan

**Laird Family Pedigree**  
**Direct Family Tree for Charles Henderson Laird—1907-1977**



**3 GENERATIONS BELOW STEMMING FROM CHARLES HENDERSON LAIRD, 1907-1977 AND MARGARET HEPBURN, 1912-1993:**

Sheila Margaret Laird (1943-)

Scott Iain Simpson, 1974-; and Stuart Martain Simpson, 1979-

Christina Elsie Simpson 2008-.

## Laird Family Pedigree

### Peter Laird, 1647-1690 to Charles Henderson Laird, 1907-1977

**8th Great Grandfather. Peter Laird.** Born 1647, Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany. Married **Salome Happes**, 9 June 1668, Altenheim, Baden, Preuben, Germany. They had 3 sons and 1 daughter: Valentin, 1665-; George, 1669-;(see below); Hans Peter, 1670-; and, Anna Maria, 1674-. Died on 30 April 1690, age 43, Aglasterhausen, Baden, Preuben, Germany.



**7th Great Grandfather. George Laird.** Born 20 December 1669, Heddesbach, Baden, Germany. Married: **Agnas Robsone**, 7 July 1690, Huntly, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. They had 2 sons and 3 daughters: Margaret, 1691-; Kathren, 1691; George, 1692- (see below); Agnes, 1695; and Alexander, 1696-. Lived in Huntly. Death: Unknown.



**6th Great Grandfather: George Laird.** Born December 1692, Huntly. Married: unable to read online document. He had a son, George, 1725, New Deer, Aberdeenshire (see below).



**5th Great Grandfather: George Laird.** Born 30 Apr 1725, New Deer, Scotland. Lived in Gamrie, Banffshire, Scotland. He married **Barbara Bruce** on 21 October, 1752, Gamrie, Banffshire. They had 6 sons and 1 daughter all born in Gamrie. Margaret, 1751-James, 1753-1803; William, 1756-1790; John, 1758-; Twin1-George, 1761-1841; Twin2-Peter, 1761-; and, Alexander, 1766-. Date of death unknown. Died in Gamrie.



**4th Great Grandfather: William Laird.** Born 9 February, 1756, Gamrie, Aberdeenshire. Married **Isabella Mair**, 1775, Aberdour. They had 3 sons and 4 daughters: Isobel, 1776-1781; George, (see below); William, 1779-1790; Barbara, 1781-1871; Elizabeth, 1782-1799; John, 1786-1857; and Marjory, 1788-1851. Died on 1 April, 1790, age 34, Peathill, Pitsligo.



**3rd Great Grandfather: George Laird.** Born 5 August, 1777, Coburty, Aberdour, Aberdeenshire. Farmer and merchant. Married **Margaret Fowlie**, no date found as yet. They had two sons and 4 daughters. Margaret, 1806-1896; Isabell, 1808-1874; Alexander, (see below); Jean, 1813-1897; George, 1815-1859; and Marjory, 1815-1852. Died 1863, age 85, Aberdour.



**2nd Great Grandfather: Alexander Laird.** Born 4 March, 1811, Coburtie, Aberdour, Aberdeenshire. He was a crofter and farmer managing 60 acres of land. Married **Elizabeth Philips** on 30 August 1842, Old Machar, Aberdeenshire. They had 3 sons and 4 daughters: Elizabeth Anne, 1841-; Mary Anne, 1842-; James Joss (see below) Margaret, 1847-1931; Alexander, 1851-1919; Barbara, 1855-; and, William, 1859-1917. Died of chronic bronchitis on 11 May 1863, age 52, Peathill, Pitsligo.



**1st Great Grandfather: James Joss Laird.** Born 11 February, 1844, Aberdour, Aberdeenshire. He was an able seaman. He married **Anne Stephen** on 5 November 1870, 11 Frithside Street, Fraserburgh. Lived in Fraserburgh. They had 4 sons and 1 daughter. Caroline, 1873-1904; John Stephen, 1876-1955; Frederick Joss (see below); Henry, 1879-; and Philip Thornton (1888-1917-died, WW1). Died 22 April 1897, age 53, Fraserburgh.



**Grandfather: Frederick Joss Laird.** Born 4 March, 1876, Fraserburgh. He was an orthopedic shoemaker and later Branch Manager, Dunns Shoe Shop. Married **Elizabeth Mary Ann Strachan** on 18 July 1911, 79 Frithside Street, Fraserburgh. They had 4 sons and 5 daughters. Twin1-Charles Henderson (see below) Twin2-Thomas Alexander, 1907-; Caroline, 1913-2007; Beatrice, 1914-1956; Elizabeth Margaret, 1916-; Freda, 1918-2007; Marion, 1920-; James, 1923-; and, Philip Thornton, 1927-2016. Died 4 November 1952, age 76, Powis Place, Aberdeen.



**Father: Charles Henderson Strachan Laird.** Born 23 October, 1907, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire. Born minutes after his twin brother, **Thomas Alexander Laird**. Charles was a baker, journeyman. Married **Margaret Hepburn** on 21 September, 1938, Congregational Church, Belmont Street. A daughter, **Sheila Margaret Laird** was born on 28 August, 1943 in Aberdeen. With an interest in politics, Charles later served on the City of Aberdeen Town Council. He died 1977, age 69, Aberdeen.

**Wives of Laird Family Pedigree**  
**Peter Laird, 1647-1690 to Charles Henderson Laird, 1907-1977**

**8th Great Grandmother: Salome Happes:** Born 1649, Toss, Zurich, Switzerland. No information is available on parents or siblings. Death: 10 March 1710, age 60, Brombach, Odenwald, Germany.



**7th Great Grandmother: Agnas Robsone.** Born 1669, Kelso, Roxburghshire. No information is available on parents or siblings. Married: **George Laird**, 7th July 1690, Huntly, Aberdeen. Death: Unknown.



**6th Great Grandmother: Unknown!**

**5th Great Grandmother: Barbara Bruce:** Born 27 June 1727, Minnonie, Gamrie, Banffshire. Her parents were **James Bruce**, 1711– and **Jean Brown**, 1711–. Barbara was the eldest of five sons and three daughters: Barbara, 1727; Isobel, 1749; Alexander, 1750; James, 1752; William, 1754; Jean, 1755; John, 1758; and, David, 1760. Married: **George Laird**, 21 October 1752, Gamrie,. They had 6 sons and 1 daughter. Death: 1 November, age 61, Gamrie, Banffshire.



**4th Great Grandmother: Isabella Mair:** Born 27 July 1746, Aberdeen. Her parents were **John Mair**, 1717–; and **Margaret Cooper**, 1717-1812. They had 2 sons and 4 daughters, Isabella was born 5th: Margaret, 1740–; Janet, 1742–; George, 1744–; William, 1745–; Isabella, 1746-1825; and Elizabeth 1749–. Married **William Laird**, 1775, Aberdour, Aberdeenshire. They had 3 sons and 4 daughters. Death 1825, age 78, Peathill, Pitsligo, Aberdeenshire.



**3rd Great Grandmother: Margaret Fowlie:** Born 24 March 1784, Cullen, Aberdeenshire. Her parents were **William Fowlie**, 1749-1784 and **Malley Lumsden**, 1750-1822. They had three sons and four daughters, Margaret was born last: Agnes, 1771-1858; James, 1772–; William, 1773–; Mary, 1775–; Elizabeth, 1777–; Robert, 1782-1819 (died of war injuries) and Margaret, 1784-1864. Married: **George Laird**. They had 2 sons and 4 daughters. Death: 1 December 1864, age 80, Stonehaven.



**2nd Great Grandmother: Elizabeth Philip.** Born 1817-1890, Keig, Aberdeenshire. Her parents were **Nathaniel Philip**, 1787–; and **Margaret Dods**, 1781–. Father was a cattle dealer. They had 2 daughters, Ann, 1811–; and Elizabeth, 1817-1890. Married: **Alexander Laird** on 30 August 1842, Old Machar. They had 3 sons and 4 daughters: Death: 13 February 1890, age 73, Invernorth, Rathen, Aberdeenshire.



**1st Great Grandmother: Anne Stephen.** Born 25 February 1846, Rathven, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Her parents were **William Stephen**, 1815-1860 and **Margaret Cardno Lamb**, 1821-1912. They had 6 sons and 4 daughters, Anne was born third: William Robertson Stephen, 1843-1923; Alexander Stephen, 1844-1883; Anne Stephen, 1846-1932; Mary Stephen, 1848–; James Stephen, 1850–; George Stephen, 1851–; Andrew Stephen, 1853–; Margaret Stephen, 1856-1896; Helen Milne Stephen, 1858–; John Garioch Stephen, 1860–. Married: **James Joss Laird**, 5th November 1870, Fraserburgh. They had 4 sons and 1 daughter. Death: 1932, age 86, Fraserburgh.



**Grandmother: Elizabeth Mary Ann Strachan.** Born 12 July 1885, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire. Nickname was “Lizzie”. Her parents were **Thomas Strachan**, 1843-1938 and **Elizabeth Mary Ann Barclay**, 1845-1922. Elizabeth was the youngest of 4 children. Alexander, 1873–; Thomas Strachan, 1876–; Margaret Jane, 1881–; and Elizabeth Mary Ann Strachan, 1885-1976. Married: **Frederick Joss Laird**, 18 July 1911, 79 Frithside Street, Fraserburgh. They had 4 sons and 5 daughters. Death: 1976, age 90, Aberdeen, Northern District.



**Mother. Margaret Hepburn.** Born 26 July 1912, 45 Canal Street, Aberdeen. She worked for a knitwear company. Her parents were **Francis Alexander Hepburn**, 1884-1940 and **Barbara Gibb McGunnigal**, 1895-1960. Margaret was an only child. Married: **Charles Henderson Laird**, 21 September, 1938. They had one daughter. Death: 1993, at her home, 126 Hilton Road, Aberdeen, age 80.





Charles in his fire service uniform

### Charles Henderson Strachan Laird

Birth: 23 October, 1907

Parents: Frederick Joss Laird and Elizabeth Mary Ann Strachan

Occupation: Baker, Fire Fighter, Politician

Marriage: 21 September, 1938

To: Margaret Hepburn

Children: Sheila Margaret Laird

Death: 1977, Aberdeen

#### **About:**

When Charles and his twin brother, Thomas, were born on October 23, 1907 in Fraserburgh, their mother, Elizabeth was 22. And when registering their birth they were listed as illegitimate. At that time, their father, Frederick Joss Laird, aged 31, was living in Brooklyn, New York, USA. While in New York he trained in the shoe trade. Frederick returned to Aberdeen, 1911 to join his family.

The twins were age 4 when Frederick married Elizabeth on 19 July 1911, 79 Frithside Street, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire.

In school, the twins were placed in separate classes. Together they were trouble!

Siblings born after the twins were: Caroline, 1913-2007; Beatrice, 1914-1956; Elizabeth Margaret, 1916-; Freda, 1918-2007; Marion, 1920-; James, 1923-2009; and, Philip Thornton, 1927-2016.

Charles father ensured his four sons had a trade. Charles was a baker, journeyman. Later he served as a fireman for the City of Aberdeen. The fire service was a reserved occupation and men were essential to keep bomb damage under control. Being a port, Aberdeen, was always under attack. Charles, on the job, fell off a roof, and was invalided out of the service.

Charles married Margaret Hepburn on 21 September 1938, in 256 Great Northern Road, Aberdeen. At the time Charles was still living at home with his family at 84 Powis Place.

A daughter, Sheila Margaret Laird, was born on 28th August 1943, Aberdeen.

The family lived in a council house, 126 Hilton Road, Aberdeen.

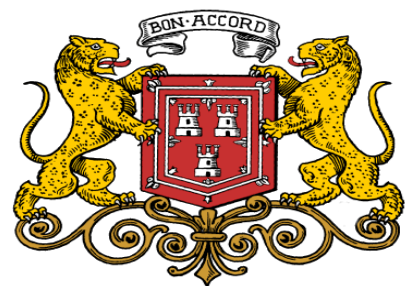
Charles was a prominent man in the City of Aberdeen. He was an active politician and a Baillie, a civic officer. He received "freedom of the city" in recognition of his exceptional service to the City.



Twins Charles and Thomas



Thomas and Charles with one of their  
The twins Charles and Thomas



Aberdeen has had a coat of arms since the 13th century. The one above was in place when Charles was a bailie and still is today with some additions.



**Sheila Simpson shared the following on her “Laird” Family:**

I adored my Grandpa Fred Laird (Frederick Joss Laird) and spent many hours listening to his tales of his time in America. I only learned when I was a teenager that he had left his pregnant fiancé for 5 years to do so. Life was hard for my Granny (Elizabeth Mary Ann Strachan) as an unwed mother of twin boys (my Dad and Uncle Tom) living in a small community. The twins were wild and although my Grandpa supported them financially, they needed a strong male influence. My father said he never remembered being unable to swim or fight. The teachers refused to have the twins in the same class at school as they were a troublesome unit. When my Grandpa returned home, he married Elizabeth, and they moved to Aberdeen and bought a house.

My Grandpa was a shoemaker and a podiatrist, a skill he acquired in Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A. He was a hard task master to his 9 children. There was never much money to spare and although Tom and my Dad won scholarships to Aberdeen Grammar School, they were apprenticed to trades, Tom to painting and decorating and my Dad to baking! All the boys were sent to trade schools. His daughters were allowed to attend further education schools. My father was athletic and excelled at sports, Tom was more artistically inclined, they were quite opposite in attitude for twins.

My father joined the Fire Service and became immersed in the Union and Labour politics which caused trouble with his Tory father. During the war Tom refused call up and went to jail as a conscientious objector, he was thrown out of home, and moved to London. I admired my Laird relatives, they were outspoken, intelligent, and flamboyant and always had different points of view.

My Granny Laird stood for no nonsense from her 14 grandchildren and my father said she was hard on the family never showing much affection. When she died, I helped my Dad clear out her house and I found an old box with 9 locks of baby hair and first baby teeth, sentimentality not in keeping with her hardness! She was over 90 when she died and smoked cheroot cigars until the end and liked to stir up mischief between her children! My Grandpa had several heart attacks and died in his late seventies. They never had enough spare money because they bought a house and had too many children. For this reason, my father would not buy a house and only had one child, me! He saw how draining the two factors were on the family. He would never eat boiling beef or barley because his mother had always to eke out the meals by adding cereals and they ate a lot of soup. In the end, after all that sacrifice to pay a mortgage, their home was made a compulsory purchase by Aberdeen Town Council and later demolished for a new road system. The family was paid a derisory amount far below its value!

My aunts were all quite artistic and into various crafts. They all married and thrived. My uncles married and moved away, but my uncle Jimmy went missing for many years then turned up in Edinburgh married with one son. Sadly that was after my father died. My Uncle Philip was more than twenty years younger than my father but they were very close and I got in contact with him when he was 86 and head of the family. I had not seen him since I was 12, but we connected strongly and he filled in lots of gaps. He died when he was 89 and was a great character! I have lots of cousins in various places, but have lost touch with them.



**Granny Laird**

Elizabeth Strachan, 1885-1976



**Freda, Marion, Bessie and Carrie Sisters:**

Freda Laird, 1918-2007

Marion Laird, 1920-

Beatrice Laird, 1914-1956

Caroline Laird, 1913-2007



**Charles, Freda, Marion and Tom Siblings:**

Charles Laird, 1907-1977

Freda Laird, 1918-2007

Philip Thornton Laird, 1927-2016



Uncle Philip with wife Rena (Alexina) and son, Stuart

**Sheila Simpson shared the following on her life with her parents:**

Life was good until I was around 7-8 when frequent arguments between my parents started. My mother spent too much time with her mother (Barbara Gibb McGunigal) and her sister (Barbara Hepburn), who was then unmarried. My Grandma disliked my father, who, like me, saw her to be interfering and manipulative. She was quite toxic and never kind to me although she was good to my cousin Dorothy who lived with her until my Uncle Jimmy and his wife Peggy got their own home. She was also very unkind to Peggy who she did not approve of!

My mother saw her every day and when my father, who was a fireman, was on night shift, she would lock me in the house and visit her mother. I was frightened on my own but had the dog for comfort. I knew not to tell or it would have caused trouble! Often when I was in bed the argument was about the custody of "the child" me, neither of them wanted me, so I grew up insecure of my future. I knew I had to be independent as I had no one to help fight my battles. I was very clever academically, but it was never enough for my hyper critical mother, who destroyed my self-esteem with her vicious tongue, but I would never cry in front of her, instead, I took great comfort in my pets. I was selected for a place at the Demonstration School after very high I.Q test results, but refused to go. How different my life could have been if my parents had persuaded me otherwise!

I soon found out that I could get by at school without studying much. I loved sports and wanted to be a P.E. teacher or a physiotherapist but did not have maths and at that time it was essential, so I became a librarian. I did my exams and was Assistant Cataloguer until I married in 1966.

After falling from a roof, my father was invalided out of the Fire Service, and stood as a local politician. He was 2nd Baillie of the city of Aberdeen and became a Freeman of the city, of which he was very proud!

When I went to Aberdeen Academy my mother went out to work and left me to fend for myself. She joined the knitwear company "Glen Gordon" and worked her way up to Quality Controller. The company was owned by Sir Hugh Fraser who also owned Fraser's Department Stores. She would often travel with him to his other companies in Scotland. She worked until she was 68 and derived great satisfaction in her work which offset an unhappy home life!

There are few photos of me at any age as my mother said I spoiled them by being non photogenic.

My mother was a bitter, unhappy woman, who, until the day she died, never paid me a compliment or gave me any encouragement, only adverse criticism! We were three individuals living separate lives in the same house. My father had his own life outside the home and belonged to many organisations. He helped lots of people and was well thought of. My mother said after her sister died she had nothing worth living for and that included me and her grandsons.

On reflection a twisted grandmother influenced and spoiled my childhood and my parent's marriage. These days they would have divorced, but so many attitudes held in those times prevented progress!

I left Aberdeen in 1966 when I got married never to return. I had 8 years of good living and interesting work until I had a family and became a domestic drudge!



Mum and Dad day out with baby



Margaret and Sheila



Sheila, about 4



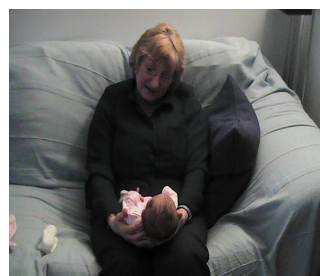
Sheila, age 19, with her mother



Girls night out



Sheila's 60th at Stroke Club



Sheila holding baby Christina

**Strachan Family Pedigree (Mother of Charles Laird)**  
**Thomas Strachan, 1802-xxxx to Elizabeth M.A. Strachan, 1885-1976**

**2nd Great Grandparents:** **Thomas Strachan** was born 1802, St. Combs, Aberdeen, Scotland. Parents are unknown as is his death. In 1830, he married **Jane Noble**, 1800-1856, in Fraserburgh. The family lived in Fraserburgh. They had 5 children, 2 sons and 3 daughters: Margaret, 1831-1906; Jane, 1833-; Barbara, 1833-1842; Alexander, 1837-1860; and **Thomas**, 1843-1938.

**Great Grandparents:** **Thomas Strachan** was born in 1843, Fraserburgh. Parents were Thomas and Jane above. In 1873, Thomas married **Elizabeth Mary Ann Barclay**, 1845-1922. The family lived at 31 Hanover Street, Fraserburgh. They had 4 children, 2 sons and 2 daughters: Alexander, 1873-; Thomas, 1876-; Margaret Jane, 1881-; and **Elizabeth Mary Ann**, 1885-1976. Died 1938, Fraserburgh.

**Paternal Grandparents:** **Elizabeth Mary Ann Strachan** was born 1885 in Fraserburgh. She was the baby of the family. Her parents were Thomas and Elizabeth. See above. In 1911, Elizabeth Mary Ann Strachan married **Frederick Joss Laird**, 1876-1952. They lived in Fraserburgh and later moved to Rubislaw, Aberdeen. They had 4 sons and 5 daughters. Twin1-Charles Henderson (see below) Twin2-Thomas Alexander, 1907-; Caroline, 1913-2007; Beatrice, 1914-1956; Elizabeth Margaret, 1916-; Freda, 1918-2007; Marion, 1920-; James, 1923-; and, Philip Thornton, 1927-2016. Died 1976, age 91, Aberdeen.

**Charles Henderson Strachan Laird, 1907-1977.**

**Clan History of "Strachan" Surname**  
**(Including Crest & Coat of Arms, Motto and Tartan)**

The surname Strachan was first found in Kincardine (Gaelic: A' Mhaoinne), a former county on the northeast coast of the Grampian region of Scotland and part of the Aberdeenshire Council since 1996, where the family sometimes spelled their Strachen or Straughan, Strawn, Strachen, Straghan

The family derive their name from the valley of the Aan (Strath Aan). The earliest record of the Clan was in 1057 AD, when they accompanied King Malcolm Canmore northward in his attempt to overthrow King MacBeth after his usurpation of the Scottish throne.

The Clan Strachan was one of the major Clans participating in the Battle of Lumphanen, 25 miles west of Aberdeen. MacBeth died in the Battle on the 15th day of August, 1057 AD. MacBeth's Cairn may still be seen there to this day. Later in 1165 AD, a Walderus de Strathecan had extensive territories in the lands of Strachan (pronounced Stawn, but many in North America have now reverted to the original pronunciation of Stracken).

<https://www.houseofnames.com/strachan-family-crest>

**Strachan Coat of Arms and Family Crest**



Motto, "I fear not but am cautious"

A demi stag sprinting, or, holding a thistle in his mouth, proper!

**Clan Strachan Tartan**





## Clan History of “Hepburn” Surname (Father of Margaret) (Including Crest & Coat of Arms, and Tartan)

In the ancient Scottish-English border region, the ancestors of the name Hepburn lived among the Boernicians. They lived in Durham but moved northward in 1329 to Chillingham in Northumberland, where they lived in the village of Hebburn in the parish of Chillingham.

They prospered here from 1271 until the 18th century, when the family line ended with an heiress. Adam de Hepburn (de Hylburne) was the first of the line.

One version of the tale goes that Hepburn was a prisoner of the Earl of March, who freed him and granted him lands for 'good and faithful service' after he saved the Earl's life from a feral (wild) horse. These lands were in East Lothian and the family spent the next several centuries aggressively acquiring new lands. *Houseofnames.com*



Hepburn Coat of Arms



**Hailes Castle** near East Linton, East Lothian. Dates from early 1200s. It's associated with the de Gourlay and the Hepburn noble families, and Mary Queen of Scots' third husband James Hepburn, 4th Earl of Bothwell. He fled into exile after Mary's capture in 1567. The castle's days as a stronghold ended with Cromwell's invasion in 1650.



Hepburn Tartan

## Clan History of “McGunigal” Surname (Mother of Margaret) (Including Crest & Coat of Arms)

Irish names tend to vary widely in their spelling and overall form. The original Gaelic form of the name McGunigal is Mag Congail, which means son of the most valorous one.

The surname McGunigal was first found in County Donegal (Irish: Dún na nGall), northwest Ireland the province of Ulster sometimes referred to as County Tyrconnel, where they held a family seat from ancient times. Many spelling variations of the surname McGunigal can be found in the archives. One reason for these variations is that ancient scribes and church officials recorded names as they were pronounced, often resulting in a single person being recorded under several different spellings. The different spellings that were found include MacGonigle, MacGonagle, Magonagle, Magonigele and many more.

*Houseofnames.com*



### Park Street, Aberdeen, 1975.

When he was 19, Charles McGunigal, lived in a tenement building, perhaps renting a room, on Park Street, Aberdeen. No home number listed, 28 people lived in the tenement. Charles was a labourer in 1841 and single. He married in 1853 to Isabella Robertson.



**Second Great Grandfather**, Charles McGunigal, 1818-1893, lived at 5 Topps Court, Aberdeen.

He was a Comb Maker by trade. Photo above taken at Aberdeen Comb Works on Hutcheon Street that opened 1827. Charles may have worked there.



Margaret Hepburn, 1966

### **Margaret Hepburn**

Birth: 26 July 1912

Parents: Francis Alexander Hepburn and Barbara Gibb McGunigal

Occupation: Quality Controller for "Glen Gordon"

Marriage: 21 September, 1938

To: Charles Henderson Strachan Laird

Children: Sheila Margaret Laird

Death: 1993, Aberdeen

#### **About:**

When Margaret Hepburn was born on July 26, 1912, in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, her father, Francis, was 28, and her mother, Barbara, was 17.

Margaret was the eldest child. Three brothers and one sister, followed, Francis, 1914-; Charles, 1917-1990; James, 1919-1983; and, Barbara, 1924-1987.

She married Charles Henderson Strachan Laird on September 21, 1938, 256 Great Northern Road, Aberdeen.

Her daughter, Sheila Margaret, was born in 1943.

About 1955, Margaret went to work for an Aberdeen knitwear company. Glen Gordon. She worked for them until she retired in 1980. Below are two photos taken, one at a work outing and another found in the local newspaper, dated 1979.

Margaret had two grandsons, Scott and Stuart. She visited her daughter and her family in Falkirk often.

She died at her home, 126 Hilton Road, Aberdeen, in 1993, age 80.



Margaret and Charles



Margaret holding new baby, Scott



Scott and Stuart her grandchildren

Left: Margaret at a company work outing



Glen Gordon, Berryden, Christmas decorations and costumes competition, 1979. Aberdeen Press and Journal.



### Sheila Simpson shares what she knows about her Hepburn Family:

My maternal grandfather Francis Alexander Hepburn (Frank) died before I was born. He was a stone mason and according to my mother always had a thirst, often drinking most of his wages, although he never forgot to bring the kids their sweeties on a Friday night! There were 5 subsequent children. My aunt Bel died at 18 of heart failure, Frank junior (Sonny) left home and was never heard of again so I only knew 2 uncles and 1 aunt. My mother looked after her younger siblings and her mother all their days, she was the clever one in the family, but had to go to work at 14 to help financially. She was sent to live with her aunt Bella and earned her keep by helping with her cousins. She was also hired out to her other aunt Maggie who was a farmer and was worked hard!

She once took me to see a lovely white bungalow in a large plot of land. Her grandmother had bought the land, sold one plot and built the house. When her grandmother died, the house was to be sold and the proceeds divided between her two sons, however, her uncle offered her father a paltry sum for his share, which he grabbed and spent most of on alcohol! Because of his drinking my Grandma was always looking to make money. She took in lodgers and had kennels where she bred Scottie dogs. She used to take me with her to help feed them and because it was at the river Don, the rats would sit waiting for us to leave so they could eat the food scraps the dogs left!

My Grandma (Barbara Gibb McGunigal) had a heart condition which got worse when she did not get her own way! She was the youngest daughter of a lay preacher (Charles Robertson McGunigal), who had a cooked meats shop where his 2 eldest daughters, Isabella, (Bella) and Margaret (Maggie) ran the shop. They used the meat and bones to make soup for his soup kitchen. The down and outs only got the soup after they sat through his blood and thunder sermons.

When I was a young librarian I catalogued a donation of pamphlets and religious tracts written by him and my mother told me she had attended his funeral at a young age. It had been a grand affair with black plumed horses and she had thought it was a parade and got a smack for dancing and singing!

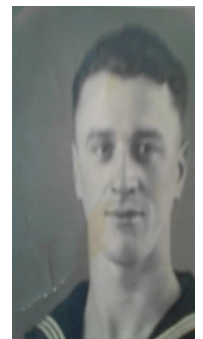
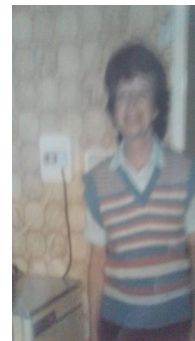
My Grandma was manipulative and needy, often causing a lot of friction and had been spoiled by her father and elder sisters who brought her up after her mother died. My Grandma, my Aunt Barry (Barbara Hepburn) and my Uncle Jimmy (James Hepburn) all died aged 64, my Uncle Charlie (Charles Hepburn) came to live with my mother at the end of his life, so she never stopped looking after her siblings! My mother was the last of her family dying at age 81.



**Grandmother Hepburn:**  
Barbara Gibb McGunigal, 1895-1960



**Uncle Charlie and Aunt Barrie**  
Barbara Hepburn, 1924-1987



Charles Hepburn, 1917-1990  
Photos taken at different times: a  
young man and in his Navy uniform

### **Margaret Hepburn (1912-1993)**

#### **Father, William Hepburn, 1637-1723 to Frances A. Hepburn, 1884-1940**

**8th Great Grandparents:** **William Hepburn**, 1637-1723. Lived in Prestonkirk, East Lothian. In 1666, he married **Marion Skirvine**, 1640-. They had two sons, **William**, 1667- and **John**, 1668.

**7th Great Grandparents:** **William Hepburn**, 1667-. Lived in Prestonkirk East Lothian. In 1692, married **Elsbeth Turnbull**, 1668-, in 1692-. They had 8 children born between 1694 and 1709, 6 sons and 2 daughters: **William**, 1694-; **Robert**, 1696-1750; **John**, 1698-; **James**, 1700-; **David**, 1702-; **George**, 1706-; **Marion**, 1707-; and **Elizabeth**, 1709-.

**6th Great Grandparents:** **James Hepburn**, 1700-, 4th child of the above, In 1735, married **Margaret Cameron**, 1697-1771, in 1735. A son, **William**, 1732-1793, was born.

**5th Great Grandparents:** **William Hepburn**, 1732-1793. In 1754, married **Janet Bisset**, 1733-1793. They had 3 sons: **Alexander**, 1754-; **William A. Dyker**, 1755-1806; and **James**, 1769-1841.

**4th Great Grandparents:** **William A. Dyker Hepburn**, 1755-1806. Middle son of the above. Lived in Strichen. In 1779, married **Janet Will**, 1752-1806. They had 8 children, 4 sons and 4 daughters: **Alexander**, 1770-1860; **William**, Twin1-1781-; **Twin2-John**, 1781-; **George Lewis**, 1784-1847; **Rebecca**, 1786-1863; **Margaret**, 1786-1872; **Jean**, 1788-; and **Martha**, 1792-.

**3rd Great Grandparents:** **George Lewis Hepburn**, 1784-1847, 4th child of above. Lived in Strichen and Marnoch. In 1802, married **Rebecca Leslie**, 1778-1857. They had 10 children, 7 sons and 3 daughters: **Alexander**, 1803-1846; **George**, 1808-1868; **James**, 1809-1855; **Martha**, 1810-; **Jane**, 1814-1890; **William**, 1817-1875; **Sherriffs**, 1819-1883; **Ann**, 1820-1893; **Francis Gordon Campbell Hepburn**, 1826-1906; and **James**, 1827-1912.

**2nd Great Grandparents:** **Francis Gordon Campbell Hepburn**, 1826-1906, born 9th of the above. Lived in Fraserburgh. Occupation: builder/mason, he hired 3 men and 1 boy. In 1851, married **Anne Henderson**, 1831-1915. They had 10 children, 5 sons and 5 daughters: **Alexander**, 1851-1891; **William**, 1853-; **George**, 1855-1856; **Margaret**, 1859-; **Francis**, 1862; **Rebecca**, 1866-; **Charles**, 1867; **Isabella**, 1869; **Elspet**, 1873-1874; and **Jemima**, 1876-.

**Great Grandparents:** **Alexander Hepburn**, 1851-1891, eldest child of the above. He was a mason, journeyman and builder. Lived in Fraserburgh and Peterhead. In 1883, married **Agnes Isabella Margaret Cruickshank**, 1853-1932. A second marriage for Agnes whose first husband, **William Noble Fraser**, 1851-1879, died early in life leaving her with 3 young children. Francis was the first born child in the second marriage, and in total the family had 8 children. Five born in Fraserburgh and the remainder in Peterhead: **Agnes Fraser**, 1873-; **William Noble Fraser**, 1874-1878; **Peter McLaren Fraser**, 1879-1968; **Francis Alexander Hepburn**, 1884-1940; **Charles**, 1885-1952; **William Cruickshank**, 1887-1933; **Twin1-George**, 1889-; and, **Twin2-Agnes**, 1889-.

**Maternal Grandparents:** **Francis Alexander Hepburn**, 1884-1940. He was a cabinetmaker and a Stonecutter, Journeyman.

### **Margaret Hepburn (1912-1993)**

#### **Mother, Barbara Gibb McGunigal, 1895-1960 to Charles McGunigal, 1815-1893**

**2nd Great Grandparents:** **Charles McGunigal**, 1818-1893. Lived in Aberdeen. Occupation Labourer. In 1853, married **Isabella Robertson**, 1826-. They had a son, **Charles Robertson McGunigal**, 1865-1918.

**Great Grandparents:** **Charles Robertson McGunigal**, 1865-1918. Lived in Aberdeen. Occupation: Comb maker, clothiers shop porter. Lay preacher. In 1889, married **Barbara Gibb**, 1869-1902. They had 3 daughters: **Isabella Robertson**, 1891-1976; **Margaret Webster**, 1893-1975; and **Barbara Gibb McGunigal**, 1895-1960.

**Maternal Grandparents:** **Barbara Gibb McGunigal**, 1895-1960. In 1912, married **Francis Alexander Hepburn**, 1884-1940. They had 6 children: **Margaret**, 1912-1993; **Francis**, 1914-; **Charles**, 1917-1990; **James**, 1919-1983; **Isabella**, 1921-1939; and **Barbara**, 1924-1987.

**Parents:** **Margaret Hepburn**. In 1938, married **Charles Henderson Strachan Laird**, 1907-1977. Lived in Aberdeen. One daughter, **Sheila Margaret Laird**, 1943-.



Family of Sheila Margaret Laird, 1943- and John William Simpson, 1937-



Sheila Laird and John Simpson were married 24th April 1937, Mastrick Congregational Church followed by reception at Aberdeen Beach Ball-room.



Scott Iain Simpson



Family photo taken by Marge Simpson



Stuart Martain Simpson



Brothers, 2003



Family moved into Williamfield Cottage, Wester Shieldhill, Near Falkirk, December 1982.



Scott and Mary



Stuart



## Photos Shared by Living Ancesters



James Rankin, 1806-1881 and Mary Laird, 1810-1883 married 1829. 17 children. 2nd cousin, three times removed. Lived and died in Gamrie,



Son of James and Mary, above. Joseph was #15. He married Mary Aitken, 1875, Old Deer. Left UK, 1884, for Minnesota, USA. He died 1851, Mary, 1913. They had 8 children.



Ruth Ann Rankin, # 5. Born 1884-1981. Left Scotland with her father, Joseph year she was born. Married Albert Melvin Olson, 1912 Thief River, Minnesota. 6 Children.



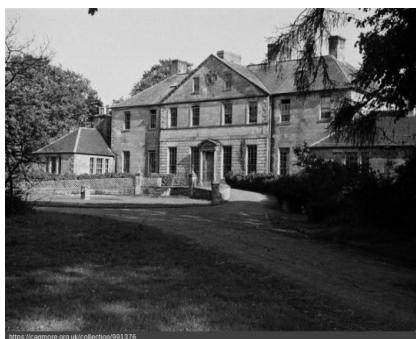
Michael and Scott. Taken in Aberdeen. Bonnie the dog is with them.



Scott and Stuart with their "other" grandmother, Doris Simpson. Taken Springhill Terrace.



Scott and Mary visit to NYC, 2009. With Auntie Rosie at a sushi bar on Bennett Avenue, Washington Heights.



**Smeaton Hepburn Home.** The Smeaton estate was owned by a branch of the Hepburn family for almost four hundred years until 1934. The home has been demolished but the lovely landscaped grounds and walled garden survive.



Out with parents, Scott and Christina at the beach.



Taken August 2009 at a Falkirk Restaurant. Occasion: Rosie, Lauren and Jennifer visiting from USA. Front Left: John, Jennifer Mary holding Christina, and Rosie. Back left: Lauren Stuart, Graeme, Scott.