

FAMILY TREE

for

John Alexander Simpson

Born: 9 April 1907

Little Rettie, Boyndie, Banffshire, Scotland

Death: 5 January 1973

Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, Scotland



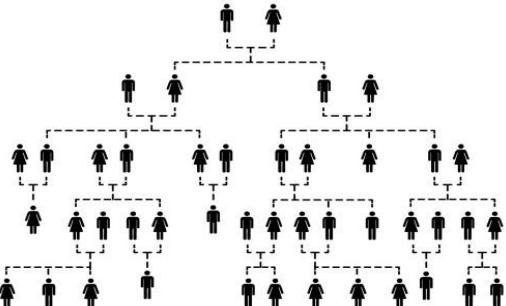
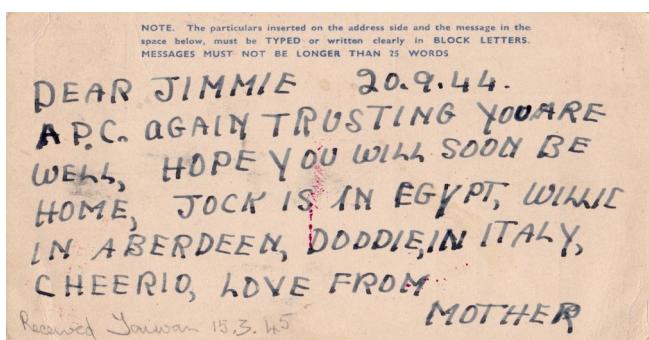
John Simpson's drawing of his family. Painted about 1946.

Back Row: Mother, Bella; Son, George; and wife, Doris

Front Row: Sons, Robert and John

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGES
FRONT COVER	
TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
ROSEMARY SIMPSON LETTER	3
HISTORY OF "SIMPSON" NAME, CREST, MOTTO, COAT OF ARMS, AND TARTAN	4
JOHN ALEXANDER SIMPSON (1907-1973)	
SIMPSON (FATHER) FAMILY PEDIGREE	5-17
HISTORY OF MUSTARD AND ROSS SURNAMES, COAT OF ARMS ,AND MOTTOES	18
MUSTARD (MOTHER'S FATHER'S) FAMILY PEDIGREE	19-20
ROSS (MOTHER'S MOTHER'S) FAMILY PEDIGREE	20
LITTLE RETTIE AND WHAT WE KNOW	21
WILLIAM AND ANDREW SIMPSON	22
UNEXPECTED FIND	23
CATHERINE ELIZABETH MCDONALD	24
PHOTOS SHARED BY LIVING ANCESTERS	25



Postcard above was sent by mail on 20 September 1944 to son James (Jimmie) Simpson, by his mother, Elizabeth (Bella), while he was serving in the war. It was received by said son 15 March 1945. Finding items like this for your family history is like finding gold. Back in the day, I remember our granny who wrote this note saying how lucky she was that all her sons returned home from the war. This postcard was recently given to me by Jimmie's family.



Genealogy and the Simpson Family Tree

Dear Family,

Herein is the very first draft of the Simpson Family Tree. I say "first" 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.

One would think that the tree of your very own family would be easy. After all, you lived with your family and their families as you grew up, but, back in the day, children were seen and not heard, and no question asked was considered appropriate. For example, we knew John Simpson (our grandfather), died when his sons were young, but at no time did we hear his name, nor anything about him. It's unclear to me, what his sons knew for it was never discussed in front of us kids.

It was always one of my goals when I retired to get out and find the answers to burning questions I had about my family. Alas, I found out that to wait too long, you miss out on so much. When I retired in 2015 I signed up and paid the cash for Ancestry.com. Only to find that it is best to use Scotland's People when you are looking for the Scots. And so it goes..... It is not a cheap hobby, but I have not grudged a cent of it. And now that we have all these data bases and access to online information, it would be much easier for someone, at any time of their lives, to find ancestors. Back in the day, you would be searching paperwork in libraries and going to graveyards hoping to find your family stones there.

So you begin by starting a new tree and typing in everything you know about your people, searching for a document trail (birth, marriage, death, census, etc.), then looking at hints provided by others. Sounds simple enough, but no it is not. As a complete novice, it is so easy to get into messes. Picking up wrong hints is the worst. Now many years on, while no where near an expert, I still get into messes, but now know how to get out of them. Also very hard is when you cannot find any clue on a person in your tree. And you are halted "full stop".

This document was typed into Microsoft Publisher using data in Ancestry and from Family Tree Maker (the latter my online stand-alone data base). I focused this first draft on direct family, in part because it's a lot to get your head around without going into detail of every generation and how they lived their lives. I did not include citations in this document, they would have taken up pages and pages and at this stage would serve no purpose. Anyone keen to know more, just needs to ask.

I decided to keep the "John Simpson" Simpson document and the "Doris Simpson" Kirman/Weymouth document separated. I felt it would be confusing for the family.

I have about 7,000 people in my data base and over 6,000 in hints. Pulling all the data together to share with you allowed me to look beyond ancestry to find out more about our Family. I cannot promise I have our tree exactly correct for it is all down to the paper trail in the end.

Something I want to mention. My ethnicity from Ancestry is 50% Scottish; 26% England and Northwestern Europe and 24% Ireland.

I am honored to have been allowed to follow in the steps of our ancestors. This document shows only the "tip of the iceberg". There is so much to be proud of and so much to tell. The Baumber, Chantry, Kirman, McDonald, Mustard, Patchett, Ross, Simpson, and Weymouth 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 Simpson Name, Crest, Motto, Coat of Arms, and Tartan

The distinguished surname Simpson is one of the most notable Anglo/Saxon surnames, and its historical trail has emerged from the mists of time to become an influential surname of the middle ages and of the present day. In an in-depth research of such ancient manuscripts as the Domesday Book compiled in 1086 AD by Duke William of Normandy, the Ragman Rolls (1291-1296) collected by King Edward 1st of England, the Curia Regis Rolls, the Pipe Rolls, the Hearth Rolls, parish registers, baptisms, tax records and other ancient documents, researchers found the first record of the name Simpson in Buckinghamshire where they had been seated since ancient times.

Confusing to most, we found many different spellings in the archives researched. Although your name, Simpson, occurred in many manuscripts, from time to time the surname was also spelt Simson, Simsoun, Symsoun, Simpsone and these changes in spelling frequently occurred, even between father and son. There is one record, a father and eight sons. In the graveyard where they are buried, all nine have different spellings of their surnames. Many reasons were revealed for these spelling variations but mainly church officials and scribes spelt the name as it was told to them.

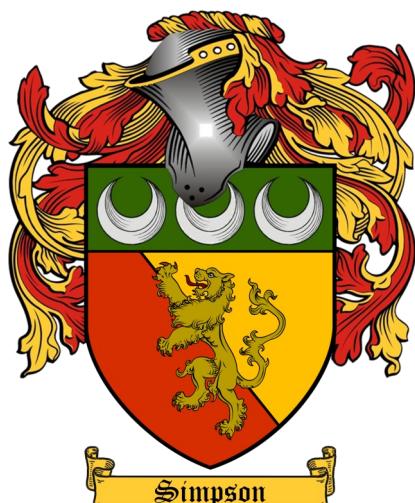
The family name Simpson is one of the most notable of the ancient Anglo/Saxon race. This founding race of England, a fair skinned people led by the Saxon General/Commanders Hengist and Horsa, settled in Kent from about the year 400 AD.

The family name Simpson emerged as a notable English family name in the county of Buckinghamshire, where they were descended from Archil, a Saxon lord, living at the time of King Edward the Confessor, about 1050 AD. Even after the Conquest this family held many lands, including the manor of Clint in Yorkshire. In the 12th century this branch called themselves de Clint. Simon, son of William de Clint, adopted the name Simpson to distinguish himself from the de Clints. From the 14th century his family became known as Simpson. They flourished and moved north into Scotland into Fifeshire at Brunton where they became affiliated with the Fraser clan.

In 1405 William Simpson of Edinburgh traded freely with his interests in Yorkshire, as did his successors Robert, David, and Thomas, until the year 1500. They acquired large business interests in Ayrshire, Edinburgh and Glasgow. Sir James Simpson invented chloroform in the 19th century. Meanwhile the branches flourished in Scotland and England.

For the next two or three centuries bearers of the surname Simpson flourished and played a significant role in the political development of England. During the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries England was ravaged by religious and political conflict. Puritanism, Catholicism, Royalist and parliamentary forces shed much blood.

Meanwhile the New World beckoned and migration continued, some voluntarily from Ireland, but mostly directly from England or Scotland, their home territories. For much, much, more on the Simpson Name: <https://simpsonhistory.com/index.php>.



Left: Simpson Crest

Right: Simpson Coat of Arms

Below Left: Simpson Tartan

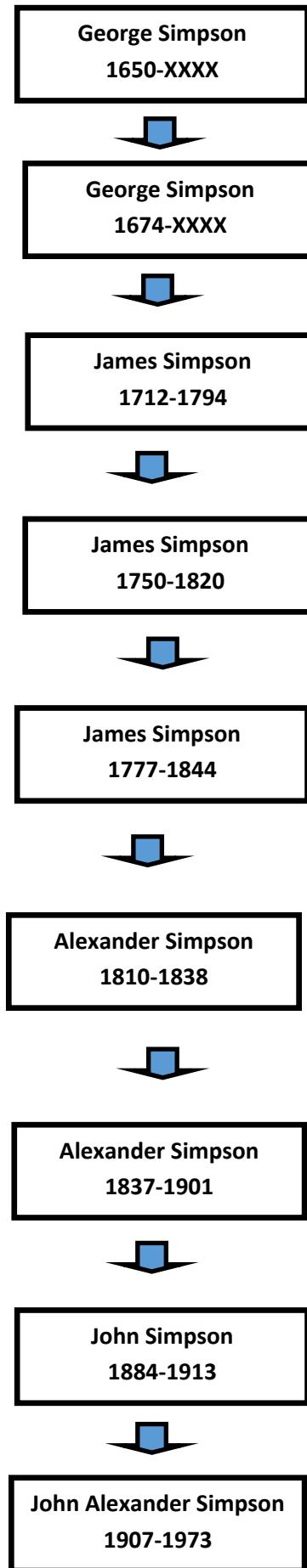
Below Right: Scottish Flag



Motto: Nil desperandum—translation: “never despairing”.



Simpson Family Pedigree
George Simpson, about 1650-XXXX — John Alexander Simpson, 1907-1973



Scotland—Simpson Family Pedigree

George Simpson, about 1650—John Alexander Simpson, 1907-1973

7th Great Grandfather: George Simpson. Born about 1650, Fordyce, Banffshire. Occupation: unknown. **Married: Elspet Japie,** 24 April 1686 in Cullen, Banffshire. They had three sons, all born in Fordyce: George (see below); James, 1689-; and John, 1694-. Death: unknown.



6th Great Grandfather: George Simpson. Born 1674, Fordyce, Banffshire. Occupation: unknown. **Married: Janet Hay,** 18 July 1706 in Cullen, Banffshire. They had 2 sons and 3 daughters: Margaret, 1710-; James (see below); William, 1715-; Isobel, 1718-1831; and, Ann, 1721-. Death: unknown.



5th Great Grandfather: James Simpson. Born 6 September 1712, Cullen, Banffshire. Occupation: unknown. **Married Margaret Knight,** 15 December 1743 in Keith, Banffshire. They had 5 sons and 3 daughters: Bessie, 1745-1829; Janet, 1746-; John, 1748-; James (see below); Margaret, 1753-; Christen, 1755-1835; George, 1759-; and Alexander, 1763-. Death: 1794.



4th Great Grandfather: James Simpson. Born 30 October 1750, Keith, Banffshire. Occupation: Miller. **Married Margaret Reid,** 29 April 1773, Rothiemay, Banffshire. They had 5 sons and 4 daughters, all born Rothiemay: John, 1775-; James, (see below); Alexander, 1779-; Helen, 1781-1838; Isobel, 1782-; Elspet, 1786-1811; Margaret, 1788-1862; George, 1789-1859; William, 1789-. Death: 31 Jan, 1820, Aberdeenshire.



3rd Great Grandfather: James Simpson. Born 4 June 1777, Rothiemay, Banffshire. Occupation: Agricultural Labourer. **Married: Margaret Sharp,** 27 Jun 1805 in Rothiemay. Moved to Forgue. They had 4 sons and 2 daughters: James, 1807-; Alexander (see below); William, 1811-1880; Robert, 1813-; Helen, 1816-1854; Catherine, 1819. Died: 5 June 1844, age 67, Monelly, Forgue.



2nd Great Grandfather: Alexander Simpson. Born 10 January 1810, Forgue, Aberdeenshire. Occupation: Agricultural Labourer. **Unmarried: Elizabeth Davidson.** They had 1 son, born Kirkton of Culsalmond, Alexander (see below). Death: 1 December 1838,



Great Grandfather: Alexander Simpson. Born 10 April 1837, 8 Gateside, Kirkton of Culsalmond, Aberdeenshire. Occupation: Agricultural Labourer/Shepherd. **Married: Catherine Elizabeth McDonald,** 19 Jan 1878 in Little Rettie, Boyndie. They had 3 sons and 1 daughter, all born in Little Rettie: Alexander, 1875-1889; William, 1878-1949; Catherine Davidson 1881-1888; and, John Simpson (see below). Death: 18 September 1901, age 64, natural causes, Little Rettie, buried Inverbryndie Cemetery.



Paternal Grandfather: John Simpson. Born 29 March 1884, Little Rettie, Boyndie, Banffshire. Occupation—Farm Servant. **Married: Elizabeth Isabella Mustard,** 29 December 1906 in Little Rettie. They had 3 sons: John Alexander, 1907-1973; William McDonald, 1911-1992; and, George, 1913-1978. Death: 26 June 1913, age 29, tuberculosis, buried Boyndie.



Father: John Alexander Simpson. Born 9 April 1907, Little Rettie, Boyndie, Banffshire. Occupation—Labourer/Crane Driver. **Married: Doris Evelyn Weymouth Kirman,** 1 June 1935 in Aberdeen. Lived in 159 Hardgate/26 Springhill Terrace. They had 3 sons and 2 daughters: (see below). Death: 5 January 1973, age 64, stomach cancer, Foresterhill Hospital, ashes laid Aberdeen Crematorium.



5 GENERATIONS STEMMING FROM JOHN ALEXANDER SIMPSON AND DORIS EVELYN WEYMOUTH KIRMAN:

George Alexander, 1935-2017; John William, 1937-; Robert Edward, 1938-1973; Rosemary Jessie, 1950-; Margaret Elizabeth, 1955.

Stephen John, 1957-; Paul Martyn, 1960; Lesley-Anne, 1962-2012; David Andrew, 1966-; Scott Iain, 1974-; Stuart Martain, 1979-, Fiona (Bentley), 1972-; Graeme (Bentley), 1975-.

Lauren, 1982-; Jennifer Ashley, 1985-; Krystal Rose, 1982-; Christine Marie, 1979-; Michelle Lee (Miranda), 1982-; Gavin Alexander, 2001-; Danielle (Kerr); 1969-.

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-.

Wives of the Simpsons'

George Simpson, about 1650 —John Alexander Simpson, 1907-1973

7th Great Grandmother: Elspet Japie. Born about 1654, Banffshire, Scotland. Parents and siblings unknown. **Married: George Simpson**, 24 April 1686 in Cullen, Banffshire. They had three sons, all born in Fordyce. Death: unknown.



6th Great Grandmother: Janet Hay. Born 1686, Keith, Banffshire, Scotland. Her father Andrew Hay, 1787-, was 28, mother unknown. Janet was the eldest of three children, all born in Keith: James Hay, 1688-; and Jean, 1692-. **Married: George Simpson**, 18 July 1706 in Cullen, Banffshire. They had 2 sons and 3 daughters all born in Cullen. Death: 14 Jul 1724, age 38, Findochty.



5th Great Grandmother: Margaret Knight. Born 2 September 1718, in Drumblade, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Her father James Knight, 1690-; was 28, and Isabell Tocher, 1696-; was 22. Margaret was the eldest of 9— followed by: Elspet, 1722-; Jean, 1724-; Christen, 1725-; Alexander, 1728-; George, 1729-1820; William, 1731-; John, 1735; Charles, 1737-. **Married: James Simpson**, 15 December 1743 in Keith, Banffshire. They had 5 sons and 3 daughters, all born in Keith. Death: 1778, age 59..



4th Great Grandmother: Margaret Reid. Born 18 June 1750, Rothiemay, Banffshire, Scotland. Her father, John Reid and mother, Christian Leith, were born about 1725. Margaret was the middle child of three daughters: Isabel, 1748-; and Ann, 1753-. **Married: James Simpson**, 29 April 1773, Rothiemay. They had 5 sons and 4 daughters, born in Rothiemay. Death: 1793, age 42.



3rd Great Grandmother: Margaret Sharp. Born 18 June 1787, Forgue, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Father Alexander Sharp, 1760-1856, and mother, Helen Dawson, 1760-, were about 27. Margaret was the third of 9 siblings. John, 1783-; Alexander, 1784-; Susanna, 1789-1862; Helen, 1791-1867; Catherine, 1794-1841; Charles, 1796-1865; George, 1798-1884; Ann, 1801-1863. **Married: James Simpson**, 27 Jun 1805 in Rothiemay. Lived in Forgue, they had 4 sons and 1 daughter. Died: 17 September 1841, age 54



2nd Great Grandmother: Elizabeth Davidson. Born 2 February 1813, Kirkton of Culsalmond, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Her father George Davidson, 1785-1851, was 27 and her mother, Elizabeth Ross, 1792-1860, was 21. Elizabeth had a big sister, Mary, 1806-. Occupation: Seamstress. **Unmarried: Alexander Simpson.** They had a son, Alexander Simpson, 1837-1901, Kirkton of Culsalmond. **Unmarried: John Craig.** They had 3 children: Margaret, 1839-1919; Elspet, 1841-1862; and John Craig, 1844-. Later Elizabeth had a son, George (Craig), 1852-. Family lived in Insch, and Huntly. Death: Unknown.



Great Grandmother: Catherine Elizabeth McDonald. Born 1843 in Marnoch, Banffshire, Scotland. Her father William McDonald and her mother, Helen Davidson, were 28. Catherine was the 4th of 9 siblings. **Married1: John McLeod**, 1861. They had 2 daughters, Mary Ann McLeod, 1861-1943 and Helen McLeod, 1864-1915. **Married2: James Hay**, 1838-1870, 1868 They had 1 son, James Hay, 1868-1924. **Married3: Alexander Simpson**, 19 Jan 1878 in Little Rettie, Boyndie. They had 3 sons and 1 daughter, all born in Little Rettie: Alexander, 1875-1889; William, 1878-1949; Catherine Davidson 1881-1888; and, John Simpson, 1884-1913. Catherine left to give John and Bella use of the croft. Death: 7 Aug 1925, age 82, Stroke, Gellyhill Cottages, Gamrie, Banffshire,



Paternal Grandmother: Elizabeth Isabella (Bella) Mustard. Born on 15 August 1884, Cullen, Banffshire, Scotland. Her father Daniel Mustard was 29, and her mother Jane Ross was 28. Bella was the second of four siblings. After the death of her mother, in 1898, Daniel remarried Caroline Charlotte McKay MacPherson and they had four children. Bella had four marriages, four sons, and one daughter. (see her profile for details on page 19) Death: 13 October 1974, age 90, Portsoy, Banffshire, Scotland.



Mother: Doris Evelyn Weymouth Kirman. Born on 7 June 1913, Grimsby, Lincolnshire, England. Her father, Marsh Kirman, was 35 and her mother, Florence Baumber, was 30. The family lived at 16 Rowlandson Street. She had 4 brothers and one older sister. Her mother remarried and with her new husband, William John Weymouth, 1874-1943. The family moved to Scotland. Doris lived in Drumoak, Ythanbank, and Aberdeen. She had a daughter, Evelyn Weymouth, 1933-. **Married: John Alexander Simpson**, 1 June 1935 in Aberdeen. They had 5 children: George Alexander, 1935-2017; John William, 1937-; Robert Edward, 1938-1973; Rosemary Jessie, 1950-; and, Margaret Elizabeth, 1955-. Doris moved to USA and lived in Maryland and Texas, 1982-1999, then returned to Ellon Scotland. Death: 26 May 2003, age 89, of Alzheimer's Disease. Buried in the Ellon Cemetery.

John Alexander Simpson



Birth:	9 April 1907, Little Rettie, Boyndie, Banffshire
Parents:	John Simpson and Elizabeth Isabella Mustard
Baptism:	9 June 1907, The Church of Scotland
Occupation:	Farm Servant, Train Driver, Mason's Labourer, Crane Driver
Marriage:	1 June, 1935, St. Nicholas Church, Union Grove, Aberdeen
To:	Doris Evelyn Weymouth Kirman
Children:	George Alexander (1935-2017) John William (1937-) Robert Edward (1938-1973) Rosemary Jessie (1950-) Margaret Elizabeth (1955-)
Death:	5 January 1973, Age 65, Foresterhill Hospital, Aberdeen Cancer of the stomach Cremated Hazlehead Crematorium His name added to wife Doris' Gravestone, Ellon Cemetery

About:

When John was born on April 9, 1907, his father a farm servant was 23 and his mother was 22. He was their first-born. They lived in Rettie Cottage, Parish of Boyndie, Banffshire, Scotland.

His father died when John was 6. At that time he had two younger brothers, William and George.

The boys once old enough would have attended Boyndie School. At the age of 11, John was offered a place in the prestigious Robert Gordon's College in Aberdeen. His Mother said he could not accept the offer. He had to get a job and bring money into the home. So John, at age 12, left school to find work.

John was a farmer and found himself out-of-work when the Great Depression came along in 1929. He left for Canada in 1930 hoping to start a new life there. However, he could find no work and eventually returned to Scotland and lived in Aberdeen.

In 1933 as the Depression was ending, John was selling cleaning products door-to-door. With a case full of samples, he took orders and later delivered goods purchased. To travel to villages/cities he may have used the local and county bus services and where buses did not go, possible a bike. It would not have been an easy sell in those days for money would have been tight.

When he was in Ythan Bank, a small village near Ellon, he would have found the door that belonged to the Weymouth family. Doris, one of the daughters, still single, had recently had a baby. She happened to be in the house when he called selling wares. This was the day John set his eyes on Doris from afar. He must have asked about Doris in the village and found out where she lived for later he contacted her in Aberdeen and she agreed to meet with him.

John proposed marriage to Doris on November 5, 1934, Guy Fawkes Night, as the fireworks were ablaze in the sky, on Aberdeen's main thoroughfare, Union Street. She accepted and they married in Aberdeen, on 1 June 1935. Sadly no photo!

They lived in a small upper floor apartment at 151 Hardgate, Aberdeen. They had three sons all under four years of age when John was called to serve his country in World War II (1939-1945). He was a member of the Gordon Highlanders Regiment and served in the British Army. He was gone for five years and served some time in Egypt.

After the war, work was hard to find. John was a labourer and forced to travel to find work. In 1950 a daughter was born. In 1954 the family moved from the Hardgate to a Council semi-detached home, 26 Springhill Terrace, Northfield. A second daughter was born, 1955. From 1960-1972 John was highly sought after as a crane driver. He helped build many large buildings in the center of Aberdeen that still stand today.

Poor health forced John to stop work in 1972. John and Doris were able to visit USA family in September this same year and sadly upon his return doctors moved him to Foresterhill Hospital. He was there for many months and died in 1973.

John Alexander Simpson (1907-1973) - Selected Photos



Left—John as a baby



Right—John as a toddler



Boyndie School. Class Photo. John is standing next to the teacher.

In 1891 there was ~2,000 people living in Boyndie.

In 2003, Boyndie's old school building was converted into a training center for people with special needs, a visitor center and a restaurant serving the local community.
Photo below.



Photo: John's Canadian Passport

Taken on the farm and in those days perhaps any photo does.

Personal Description

Profession: Farmer

Place: Banffshire, Scotland

Date of Birth: April 9, 1907

Face: Oval

Eyes: Grey

Hair: Fair

Arrived in Canada 15th November 1930, age 23. Unknown when he returned. Unsure why he would have a Canadian Passport rather than a British Passport.



John Alexander Simpson (1907-1973) - Selected Photos

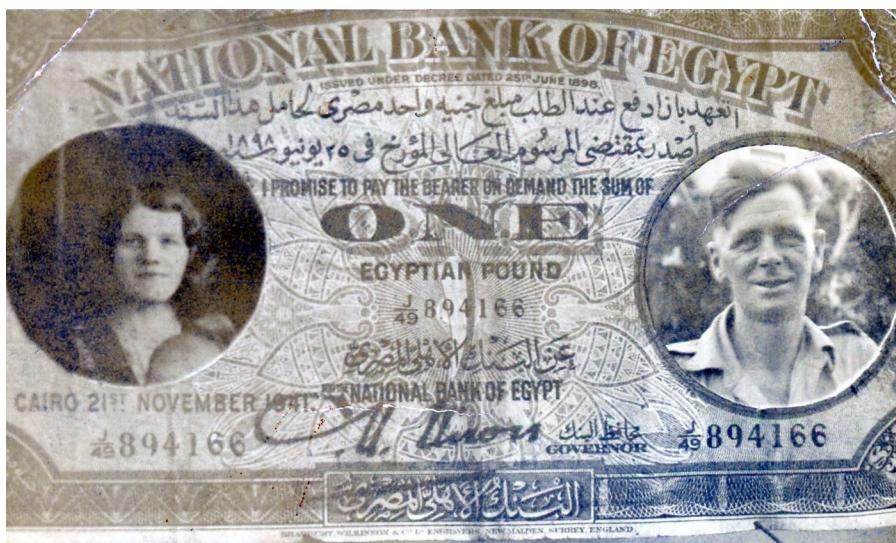


Left: John (27), Doris (21), George (4), John (2) and Robert (baby)

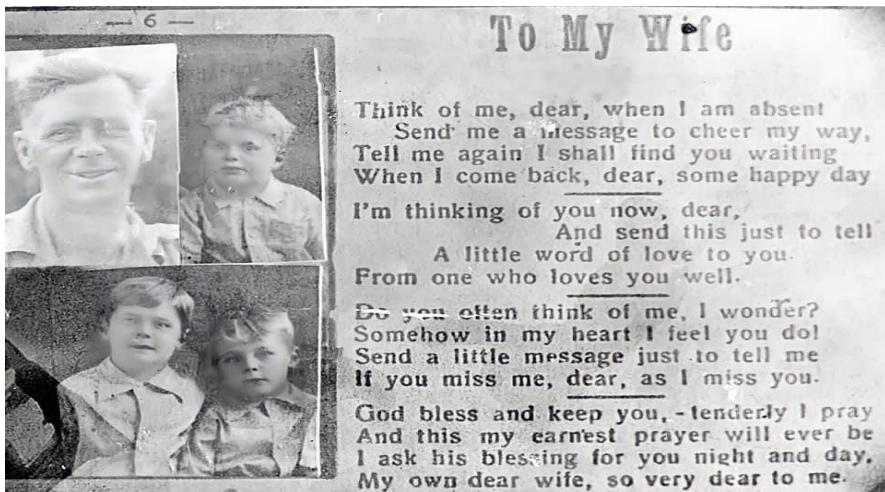


Right: John in Gordon Highlander Uniform

Below: At camp, on parade, in Uniform, John back row, left



Left: Postcard in form of an Egyptian One Pound Note from National Bank of Egypt. I assume, purchased in Egypt, and sent home by John to Doris. His army photo is on the right and Doris' photo inserted on the left. Cairo, 21st November 1941.



Left: Another postcard from John to his family. Mailed around 1942.

To My Wife

Think of me, dear, when I am absent
Send me a message to cheer my way,
Tell me again I shall find you waiting
When I come back, dear some happy day.

I'm thinking of you now, dear,
And send this just to tell
A little word of love to you
From one who loves you well.

Do you often think of me, I wonder?
Somehow in my heart I feel you do!
Send a message just to tell me
If you miss me dear as I miss you.

God bless and keep you, - tenderly I pray
And this my earnest prayer will ever be
I ask his blessing for you night and day,
My own dear wife, so very dear to me.



World War II Medals—John Simpson

Top Left: Africa Star (8th Army or 1st Army or North Africa 1942–43)

Top Right: War Medal 1939–1945 Oak leaf)

Bottom Left: Defence Medal (Silver laurel leaves) [King's Commendation for brave conduct, civil]

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/
British_campaign_medals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_campaign_medals)



Above: John working for British Railways. Photo taken in Aberdeen Train Station, around 1954.

Right, John and Doris in America with grandchildren, Steve, Paul, Lesley and David, 1972



John Alexander Simpson (1907-1973) and Doris Evelyn Weymouth-Kirman (1913-2003)- their Family



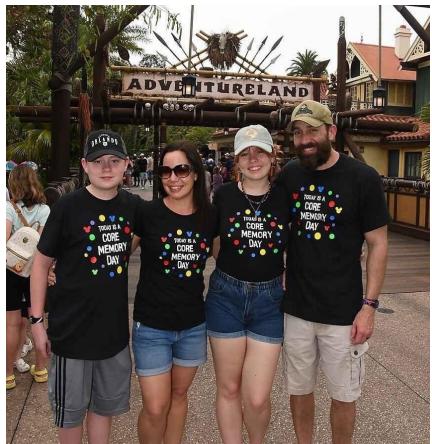
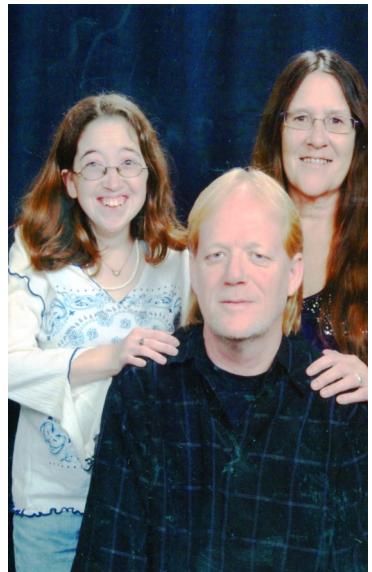
Photos taken over the years of John and Doris' three sons and two daughters: George, John, Robert, Rosemary and Margaret



John Alexander Simpson (1907-1973) and Doris Evelyn Weymouth-Kirman (1913-2003)- their Family



Photos of grand children and of great, great grandchildren.



John Simpson (1884-1913) Paternal Grandfather



John Simpson

Birth: 29 March 1884, Little Rettie, Boyndie, Banffshire, Scotland
 Parents: Alexander Simpson and Catherine (Katie) McDonald
 Occupation: Farm Servant
 Marriage: 29 December 1906, Little Rettie, Boyndie
 To: Elizabeth Isabella Mustard
 Children: John Alexander Simpson (1907-1973)
 William McDonald Simpson (1911-1992)
 George Simpson (1913-1978)
 Death: 26 June 1913, age 29, Little Rettie
 Tuberculous Peritonitis, 6 months

No photo of John Simpson. Photo above is of his three sons as young men: John; George; & William

About:

John is the youngest child of Alexander Simpson and Catherine McDonald. He has two brothers and a sister.

In the 1891 Scotland Census, John is age 7. He is listed as a scholar and would have attended Boyndie School. His brother, William, is 13 and still in school. They would be expected to leave school by the age of 14. Their Father, Alexander, is age 54 and Mother, Catherine, is age 48. The family is living in Little Rettie, a farm cottage.

In the 1901 census, John has left school. He is age 18 and a ploughman on Ladybrae Farm, Boyndie. James Paul, age 66, is the farm owner and his sister, Elizabeth, age 69, lives with him. Two other servants working with John are: John Ritchie, age 15, a second ploughman; and Mary Christie, age 17, a domestic servant. Ladybrae Farm has been in place since 1843 and still exists today although around 1990 the Farmhouse changed hands and became Ladybrae Cottage, and much of the farm land sold. One buyer, Joe Gregory owner of "Boyndie Beehive," uses what she grows on the land, to produce a variety of body balms, waxes and skincare products and sells them in their shop.

At the time of their marriage in 1906, John Simpson, age 23, a bachelor and a farm servant is living in the Parish of Boyndie. John is marrying Isabella Mustard, age 22, a spinster, and a domestic servant living in the Parish of Fordyce. Their witnesses were John D. Stevenson and Annie McDougall.

John Simpson, died at the age of 29, in his home, Little Rettie. His only living sibling at the time, his brother, William, was present and registered his death. At that time, William lived in Cairnton, Boyndie.



Left: Recently taken — sheep on Ladybrae Farm. John Simpson would have ploughed the field the sheep are on today.

Right: Ladybrae Farm taken from the air, 1975. Shared by Joe Gregory, owner, Boyndie Beehive



Sons of John Simpson (1884-1913) and Brothers of John Simpson (1907-1973)

When William (Wullie) McDonald Simpson was born on November 29, 1911, in Roughilly Cottages, Fordyce, his parents, John and Bella were 28 years of age. He lived in Little Rettie. When he left school he trained as a master shoemaker then later as an electrician. He lived in Portsoy, Banffshire. [A local lass, Elizabeth McGregor and William, had a son, **William John Simpson, 1932-2018.**] William married **Helen (Nellie) Morrison Bremner** on 29 May 1934, in Boyndie. Had a daughter, **Elizabeth Isabella Mustard, 1945-2011.** Their home was 56 Queens Crescent. William was a Gordon Highlander. He signed up for the Regular Army and enlisted in Scunthorpe, England in 1940. He was stationed in the UK throughout the war. He died on 18 June, 1992, in Portsoy, at the age of 80.



Above: Wullie with Nellie. Taken about 1940.



Son William John



Daughter Elizabeth and granddaughter, Amanda with family



56 Queens Crescent, Portsoy



George (Doddie) Simpson, was born on March 9, 1913, in Little Rettie, Boyndie. Three months later, this family lost a father and a husband.

George was a Gordon Highlander and followed his brothers by signing up for WWII. He was sent to Italy. He met Corporal **Nellie Kendall** and they married 1941. They lived in Lincolnshire, England. A son, William (Billy), was born. The couple later divorced. In 1969, George married **Jamesina Christie** on 14 June, in Kettering, Northamptonshire, England. He died of a stroke on 9 March, 1978, in Corby at the age of 65.

Above: George and Nellie, about 1946.

Middle: George and Jamesina, on their marriage day.

Right: Son, Billy, about 2 years old



Portsoy Harbour looks exactly the same today as it did back when Bella and her Family lived there. The town continues to grow and has a population today of about 1,800.



Son of Elizabeth Isabella Mustard and Half-Brother of John Simpson (1907-1973)

When James (Jimmy) Stevenson Mustard Simpson was born on September 14, 1915, Loanhead Cottage, Boyndie, his mother, Elizabeth, was 31. While his birth certificate does list a father, Bella covered all bases with family names. In 1937, James was serving a 3 year engagement as a regular soldier of the 2nd Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders. Tour began in Gibraltar, then went to Singapore, and the plan was to go to India. Latter cancelled when WW2 was announced, and they remained in Singapore as part of its defense. In 1942 James was captured by the Japs. See newspaper article below.

After the war, James was a contractor in Elgin for 10 years, then a brewer for the Glenlassaugh Distillery, until he retired in 1980.

He married **Mary Cowie Loure Stewart** (1922-1981) on 20 June, 1952, in Fordyce, Banffshire, Scotland. They had four children: Gordon, James, Robert and Anne.

James died on January 24, 1995 in Turriff, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, at the age of 79 of lung cancer—he never smoked or drank. During capture, he was put to work in the coal mines. He is buried with Mary in the Portsoy Cemetery.



James and Mary attending a wedding



Jimmy in Egypt with service men.

BITTER-SWEET MEMORIES FOR AN EX-PRISONER FROM PORTSOY Back To Singapore Goes James — Slave Labourer For Japs

By Ken Ritchie

MEMORIES of his years as a prisoner of war in Japanese hands will be recalled this week by a Portsoy man who left yesterday on a visit to some of the places around Singapore which he last saw almost 50 years ago.

And for Mr James Simpson, 2 Schoolendry Street, it will be a trip which will bring both happy and horrific memories of those dark war years.

Mr Simpson, a regular soldier with the 2nd Battalion Gordon Highlanders, went to Singapore from Gibraltar in 1937 on what was thought to be a non-combat three-year engagement. The regiment was due to move to India when war broke out in Europe and they remained as part of the Singapore defence.

It was an idyllic posting, but the Japanese soon put paid to that and on February 5, 1942, he was one of many thousands of service personnel who were made prisoners on the fall of Singapore.

Sitting in his comfortable home overlooking the sea at Portsoy, Mr Simpson recalled those days. He said: "Life in Singapore went on after the war in Europe started and the usual parties continued in the well-known hotel, Raffles, as though the war was a million miles away and nothing would ever happen to change that life-style."

BIG GUNS

"All the big guns on Singapore faced out to sea from where it had been considered any approach by enemy troops might be made—but no one ever thought about an assault from land."

"But the Japanese had other ideas and when they made their moves it was by this entrance to Singapore. We had to remain halfway back in Aldershot and other places to move in more open country but this was impossible in the immediate area to the north of Singapore as there were trees everywhere—mostly rubber—and we were told not to damage them. But the Japs had no such thoughts and soon we were captured."

"For some months after our capture we remained in Singapore and were then split into two parties—one going to the notorious Burma railway and the ones I went with to copper mines in Formosa where I remained until just before the war ended."

"We were then sent to an agriculture camp. I worked on the land until released by American troops and taken by aircraft carrier to the Philippines from where

I was down to six stone in weight when released from the camp. With rice our staple diet, all of us had lost weight and many of us had suffered from beriberi," said Mr Simpson.

Despite the hardships and the many atrocities, including a brutal beating by Japanese which he endured, Mr Simpson also remembered some light-hearted moments in the camps. Even when death was close there was times when the prisoners could laugh at their captors.

BURIAL

Such a time was when he was part of a burial squad for a prisoner who had died. They were escorted to a hillside and dug a shallow grave. Afterwards the Japanese would lay fruit on the grave to appease their gods.

But, said Mr Simpson, their gods never received these offerings—the prisoners quickly snatched the fruit away when the guards weren't looking!

Over the years Mr Simpson has often thought of the places he saw but never thought he would see them again.

But in August of this year he was told by another Portsoy man that a trip was being organised and application had to be made to the Royal British Legion in London.

He was then interviewed by Mr Ronald Lyall, secretary of the Macduff branch of the Legion, and was afterwards told that he had been chosen to make the visit.

Mr Simpson is one of the 230-strong party who left yesterday on the 19-hour journey from RAF Brize Norton to Singapore. Included are 65 ex-POWs, 120 widows and 45 ex-Burma veterans.

The visit will be for one week and the group will be split into three parties, one visiting Burma, one to

This 97-strong party will stay at the Oberoi Imperial Hotel and will visit a number of places including the Kranji war cemetery, where all those who died during the Far East campaign in the Singapore area were finally buried.

MEMORIAL

Several functions are being organised by the British community in Singapore for the visitors and the highlight will be the special memorial service to be conducted in November in which will be attended by the Duke of Kent and Mr Michael Heseltine, Defence Minister.

Changi Jail, used extensively by the Japanese during their occupation of Singapore, is also on the programme of visits. Mr Simpson was stationed in barracks only half a mile from jail.

All expenses are being paid by the government and the RAF are playing host to the party.

"I consider myself very lucky to be chosen and, although there will be many changes from the last time I was in Singapore, the visit will bring back many memories."

"I think the memorial service will be an emotional affair as we remember those who did not return and we will be with mixed feelings that I again walk in some of the places which hold various memories for me."

Mr Simpson worked for an Elgin contractor for ten years before being employed at Glenlassaugh Distillery, near Portsoy, where he retired in 1980 from the position of brewer's widower; he has three sons and a daughter, all married.

Joining Mr Simpson on the trip will be another former veteran from Turriff, Mr Jimmy Scott, 19 Forlorn Crescent, who had served with Mr



Evening Express Newspaper article on James



Simpson Family photo taken around 1961.



Four Siblings: James, Gordon, Robert and Anne, 2020

Alexander Simpson (1837-1901)

Alexander Simpson



Alexander Simpson photograph given to me by an Ancestry.com Member. He was an old man, a McDonald. I had contacted him to ask a question and he graciously sent me this photo. He is no longer on Ancestry.

Birth:	3 April 1837, Kirkton of Culsalmond, Aberdeenshire, Scotland
Parents:	Alexander Simpson (1810-1838) and Elizabeth Davidson (1813-)
Baptism:	10 April 1837, Culsalmond
Occupation:	Agricultural Labourer and Shepherd
Marriage:	19 Jan 1878, Little Rettie, Boyndie, Banffshire
To:	Catherine Elizabeth McDonald (1843-1925)
Children:	Alexander Simpson (1875-1889) William Simpson (1878-1949) Catherine Davidson Simpson (1881-1888) John Simpson (1884-1913)
Death:	18 September 1901, age 64 Little Rettie, Boyndie, Banffshire Morbus cordis mitral apophy Buried Inverboydie Cemetery, Whitehills, Banffshire

When Alexander Simpson was born on 3 April, 1837, in Kirkton of Culsalmond, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, his father, Alexander, was 27 and his mother, Elizabeth, was 24.

Son Alexander was baptized 10th April 1837. His family resided at 8 Gateside. His father, Alexander, died the year after he was born.

In the 1841 Scottish Census, Alexander Simpson is age 4. His mother, Elizabeth has a new surname "Craig" and is listed as the "Head". No mention of Husband/Father name. Everyone has "Craig" for their surname. Alexander now has two half-sisters, Margaret, age 1; and Elspet, 2 months old. They are living in Easter Bogg, Parish of Insch, Aberdeenshire.

In the 1851 Scotland Census, the Craig family has moved to 64 Princess Street, Huntly. Mother Elizabeth, 36, is still listed as the "Head", no name for Husband/Father. Alexander, age 14; Margaret , 11; Elspet (Elsy) 10, and new son, John is 7. Elizabeth's occupation is "Confection Merchant".

In Scotland, Alexander would have left school at 13-14 years to find work on farms. He married **Catherine Elizabeth McDonald**, on 19 January, 1878, in his new home, Little Rettie, Boyndie, Banffshire. This was Alexander's first marriage, age ~40. Catherine, age 36, had two previous marriages and brought to this new marriage two daughters from her first marriage, Mary Ann McLeod McDonald, 17 and Helen McLeod McDonald 14, and one son from her second marriage, James Hay, age 3. Catherine's second husband James Hay, a Master Tailor, died young at the age of 30. They lived in "Little Rettie" and when Catherine married a third time, Alexander Simpson, moved into her family home.

They had four children:

Alexander Simpson (1875-1889) was born before the couple married and died age 13 of chronic Tuberculosis

William Simpson (1878-1949) lived the longest. He married Annie Mackie in 1902, had 6 children: Elizabeth, William, Alexander McDonald, James Mackie, Christina, and Andrew. William died age 71 of heart disease.

Catherine Davidson Simpson (1881-1888) also died young, age 7 of chronic Tuberculosis.

John Simpson, (1884-1913) our direct ancestor, died age 29 of Tuberculous Peritonitis.

In the 1901 Scotland Census, Alexander and Catherine are still living in "Little Rettie". He is listed as a "pauper". He died, age 64, September 18, the same year.

After Alexander died, Catherine moved away and remarried, leaving "Little Rettie" for her youngest son, John Simpson, who in 1906 married Elizabeth Isabella (Bella) Mustard.

Catherine died, age 82, of cerebral arteriosclerosis on 7 August 1925, Gellyhill Cottages, Banffshire.

Alexander Simpson (1810-1838)



The Category B listed former Parish of Forgue Kirk stands in the old Kirkyard on a hill overlooking the Forgue Burn. The Kirk was built in 1819 on the site of a much older kirk - by legend, founded by St. Margaret of Scotland in 1070.

Alexander Simpson

Birth:	10 Jan 1810, Forgue, Aberdeenshire, Scotland
Parents:	James Simpson and Margaret Sharp
Baptism:	13 Jan 1810, Church of Scotland
Occupation:	Farm Servant
Marriage:	Certificate not found
To:	Elizabeth Davidson
Children:	Alexander Simpson, 1837-1901
Death:	1 Dec 1838, age 28, Aberdeen, Scotland

There are many “unknowns” in regard to Alexander Simpson. What we do know.

Alexander Simpson and Elizabeth Davidson had a baby, baptized, 10th April, 1837, Culsalmond, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. We also know that when the baby was baptized the couple the address listed was 8 Gateside, Kirkton of Culsalmond. When Alexander was born, his father was 27 and his mother was 24.

We know that Elizabeth was born 25 Jan 1792 in Kirkton of Culsalmond, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Her parents, George Davidson and Elizabeth Ross and big sister, Mary, lived there. Their father was a crofter.

So far, we have no marriage certificate for Alexander and Elizabeth. Back in the day, couples formally married and their details were collected by each parish. However, it wasn't compulsory for couples to register a marriage until 1 January 1855.

Father, Alexander died young. We are easily able to follow census for his wife Elizabeth and his son Alexander:

In 1837, Elizabeth has Alexander. The 1841 census shows her surname has changed to Elizabeth Craig. The family has moved to Easter Bog, Insch, Aberdeenshire. Alexander is age 4, Margaret Craig is age 1 and Elspet Craig is 2 months. No husband is listed on the census. However, on the Craig children's birth certificates, the father is listed as John Craig. In the 1851 census, the family is living in Princes Street, Huntly. Alexander is age 14, Margaret is age 11, Elspet is 10 and now a new son, John, age 7. Still no husband is listed. The 1861 census finds Elizabeth living in the Square, Huntly, a spinster, no occupation, Elspet is age 19 and now a new son, George age 9. John Craig.

With so little information, finding the parents and siblings of Alexander Simpson, was not easy. After years of sleuthing, the best fit was: Father, **James Simpson** born on 4th June 1777 in Rothiemay, Banffshire, Scotland. He was a farmer. Mother, **Margaret Sharp** born on 18th June, 1787, Forgue, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. They married in 1805 and had five children: James, Alexander, William, Robert, and Helen, in Forgue. Father died in 1844, age 67. in his croft, “Monelly”.



Left: Taken 1980, Moss-side of Monellie, Forgue. A view, beyond a ruined house, of the west side of Watch Mount with its distinctive crest of beech trees.

Right: Map showing Kirkton of Culsalmond and surrounding area.



History of "Mustard" Surname, Coat of Arms and Motto for the Father of Elizabeth Isabella Mustard (1884-1974)

Recorded in the spellings of Mustard, Musterd, Mustarde, and occasionally Mustart, this is a surname which does actually mean what it says. It of Olde French pre 10th century origins, being introduced into England by the Norman-French Invaders of 1066. As first recorded in the Pipe Rolls of the county of Yorkshire in the year 1191, it is clearly a nickname surname for a hot, peppery, character, called in this case Adam Mustard. This is a description that also probably applied to William Mustard of Hereford in the Pipe Rolls of 1206. Nearly two centuries later the name is occupational although the French influence is still present, with John le Mustarder of Cambridge being recorded in the Subsidy Tax Rolls of Cambridge in 1327, and Adam le Mustard-man, in the Subsidy Rolls of Suffolk in the same year. Curiously surnames deriving from nicknames seem to have 'stuck', and become hereditary as we know them in the 20th century, much earlier than occupational surnames. Before the 15th century these tended only to become hereditary when a son or grandson continued in the family tradition, otherwise the surname changed as the job changed. Many nickname surnames were extremely 'robust', and highly descriptive. Not only does this seem not to have bothered the original name holders, rather the reverse, as Chaucer has shown, many glorified in their explicitness! However after the Elizabethan reign and the coming of the Puritans, a long period of gentrification set in, which saw many early surnames disappear. Fortunately this colourful surname has remained with us, and it is to be hoped, will continue for many centuries.

Read more: <https://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/Mustard#ixzz7Pownhw1X>



Motto is: **fortitudo sinapis**, Latin for "the strength of mustard."

History of the "Ross" Surname, Coat of Arms and Motto for the Mother of Elizabeth Isabella Mustard (1884-1974)

In the mountains of Scotland's west coast and on the Hebrides islands, the ancestors of the Ross family were born. Their name comes from the given name *Andrew*, which is derived from Anrias, a progenitor of both the Ross Clan and the MacKenzies. Anrias was descended from the *O'Beolans*, an Irish Gaelic tribe of the sixth and seventh centuries who first brought Christianity to Scotland. The name may also be a nickname derived from the Old English word *rouse*, which means red or red-haired.

Early origins of the surname Ross was first found in the old monastery of Applecross founded by St. Maelrubha where they were hereditary abbots who later created the Earls of Ross. Their territory was Faster Ross and the first documented Chief was Fearchar Mac ant-Saqairt (a Farquhar), the priest's son, who helped King Alexander II against the old Celtic dynasty. Farquhar joined forces with the King to crush a rebellion in the province of Moray in 1215. Even though he was a direct descendent of the Irish King Niall of the Nine Hostages, he was granted a Norman knighthood by King Alexander and, a few years later, the Earldom of Ross (1234). Spelling variations are a very common occurrence in records of early Scottish names. They result from the repeated and inaccurate translations that many names went through in the course of various English occupations of Scotland. Ross has been spelled Ros, Roose, Ross, Ruse and others.

Read more: <https://www.houseofnames.com/ross-family-crest>



Ross Old Tartan



Motto is: **Spem Successus Alit**, Latin for "success nourishes hope."

Paternal Grandmother, Elizabeth Isabella Mustard (1884-1974)



Elizabeth Isabella (Bella) Mustard

Birth:	15 August, 1884, Cullen, Banffshire, Scotland
Parents:	Daniel Mustard, 1854-1937 and Jane Ross, 1856-1894
Marriage1:	29 December 1906, Little Rettie, Boyndie, Banffshire
To:	John Simpson, 1884-1913
Marriage2:	14 November 1919, Coolenook, Boyndie, Banffshire
To:	James Robertson Farquhar, 1856-1923
Marriage3:	27 November 1925, Aberdeen
To:	Alexander Stevenson, 1882-1946
Marriage4:	1956, Fordyce, Banffshire
To:	John Lorimer Legge, 1891-1976
Children:	Mary Duncan Mustard, 1904-1993-father unknown John Alexander Simpson, 1907-1973-1 William McDonald Simpson, 1911-1992-1 George Simpson, 1913-1978-1 James Stevenson Mustard Simpson, 1915-1995-3
Death:	13 October, 1974, Portsoy, Banffshire

Bella's father, Daniel, was a shoemaker journeyman. He had three marriages. The first was to **Jessie Clark Lawrence**, 1850-1875, on 1875, Deskford, Banffshire. She died age 25 of an puerperal infection after birth of baby. Baby did not survive. Second marriage was Elizabeth's mother, **Jane Ross**, 1856-1894, on 1879, Rathven, Buckie, Banffshire. Bella was the second child. Mother, Jane died of TB at age 38 leaving Daniel with five young children. Third marriage was to **Caroline Charlotte McKay MacPherson**, 1868-1948, on 1898, Cullen, Banffshire. The Family lived at 82 Seatown. They had four children although in reality, Daniel had a total of nine children over 30 years. When asked about her upbringing, "Bella" said she didn't remember much about her real mother (Jane), but that all the children liked Caroline and she was good to them all.

Bella was a housekeeper all her life. She took good care of her family. The **top photo** shows her late in life winning first overall prize for baking, jam making, etc. at a local fair. She loved music, played the organ and other instruments. Many weekend nights, her home would be filled with folks who liked to play, listen and dance to Scottish music. **Second row, on the left** is a photo of her Mother, Jane Ross. **Photo on the right**, is Bella (sitting) with her daughter-in-law, Elizabeth (Nellie) Sutherland McGregor.



The Proud Portsoy

SUNDAY

WHAT a story a hand can tell . . .

A week or two ago Mrs Elizabeth Davidson, 54 Queens Crescent, Portsoy, sat by the bed of her granny, Mrs Legge, who was sleeping quietly to her rest after ninety faithful years. There was no need to speak. Elizabeth just held granny's hand, and as she looked at it, gnarled and worn, she felt that it summed up the story of her life. For granny lost her husband when she was just a young woman, and when her bairns were either toddlers or babes in arms. Yet she struggled on alone in the little Banffshire croft of Broadley that was her home, doing her best to bring them up safely and well.

This tired old hand that Elizabeth held was the hand that had cradled them as babies, dried their tears, smoothed their hair, aye, and clipped their ears, too, at times! It was the hand that had sewed and mended far into the night, that had planted and reaped, that had cooked and cleaned. It was the hand that had been clasped in prayer for them when they set out to make their own way in life, when they were held prisoner of the enemy during the war. It was the hand, too, that had never wearied of helping others, or of doing good in secret.

And when it was all over, and Granny Legge lay at peace, the hand that was folded on her breast told a prouder story than any medal, and a braver one, too . . .

Photos above: Left: marriage of Bella and John (Jock) Legge, 4th marriage, 1956, with witnesses and Minister. **Middle:** Bella's daughter, Mary Duncan Mustard with her daughter, Betty. **Right:** Scotland's Sunday Post published, 1974, "The Proud Testament of A Portsoy Granny", written and submitted to the Post by her granddaughter, Elizabeth Isabella Simpson, 1945-2011.

FATHER– MUSTARD LINE: - DANIEL MUSTARD:

John Mustard, abt 1660- and **Elizabeth Craig**, abt 1660, were married September 1682, Glamis, Angus, Scotland. They had three children: Patrick, 1679-1755 (see below); Janet, 1683-; and Elizabeth, 1687.

Patrick Mustard, 1679-1755 and **Isobell Nepar**, 1687-1752 were married June 1700, Glamis, Angus. They had three children: John P. 1701-; Thomas, 1703-1780 (see below); and Isobell, 1706-.

Thomas Mustard, 1703-1780 and **Jean Soutar**, 1705-1744 were married July 1722, Blairgowrie, Perth. They had four children: Isobel, 1721-; Marjorie, 1723-; James, 1732-1823 (see below); and William, 1741-.

James Mustard, 1732-1823; and **Catherine Peddison**, 1740-1824 were married in 1774, Ross and Cromarty. James occupation was a weaver. They had seven children: Alexander (twin1), 1776-1861; John, 1776-1843 (Twin2); Mary, 1781-1873; Margaret, 1784-1858; Catherine, 1787-1867; Hugh, 1789-1874; and Donald, 1792-1871 (see below).

Donald Mustard, 1792-1871 and **Anne Fraser**, 1789-1875 were married July 1814, Avoch, Ross and Cromarty. Donald's occupation was a Flannel Weaver. They had nine children: Roderick, 1814-1843; William, 1815-1891 (see below); Donald, 1817-1825; Isabella, 1819-1892; Rebekah, 1822-1896; Alexander, 1824-; David, 1825-; James, 1826-1894; and Ann, 1828-1863 (Ontario). Donald died age 79 of natural causes.

William Mustard, 1815-1891 and **Elizabeth Philip**, 1828-1905, were married September 1848, Cullen, Banffshire. William's occupation was a shoemaker. They had six children: Janet, 1849-1867; William, 1851-1934; Daniel, 1854-1937 (see below); Alexander Philip, 1862-1896; James, 1865-1936; and Jessie, 1875-1955.

Daniel Mustard, 1854-1937 was born, lived and died in Cullen, Banffshire. He married three times. **Jessie Clark Lawrence**, 1850-1875 were married January 1875, Deskford, Banffshire. She died the same year married, age 25, of a puerperal infection. Daniel's occupation was a shoemaker journeyman. Second to **Jane Ross**, 1856-1894, Rathven, Buckie, Banffshire. They had five children: William Ross, 1880-1885; **Elizabeth Isabella**, 1884-1974; Jessie, 1886-1966; Catherine Ann, 1888-1962; and, Margaret Jane, 1891-1892. Jane Ross died age 38 of Tuberculosis. Third to **Caroline Charlotte McKay MacPherson**, 1868-1948, January 1896, Cullen Banffshire. They had four children: Williamina Mitchell MacPherson, 1897-1932; Alexander Mustard, 1898-1960; Daniel Mustard, 1900-1976 and William Mustard, 1909-1979. Daniel died age 82 of senility and cardiac arrest.



Photos are not the best, but meet great aunt **Catherine Ann Mustard**, 1888-1962, daughter of Daniel and Jane. She married **William Bremner**, 1876-1956, December 1907 in Cullen, Banffshire. Prior to their marriage, William was a Gordon Highlander and from the age of 17 to 29, he served in the UK, India, South Africa, and Pakistan. They had 10 children, all born in Cullen. Sadly, their eldest son, **William Bremner**, a member of the 1st Battalion of the Gordon Highlanders, died serving his country, June 1940, aged 32. He is buried in St Valerie en Caux, France. Catherine and William died in Portsoy. Their 9 children lived out their lives in Banffshire, Scotland, however, today, this family has grown and are spread out around the world.

MOTHER, ROSS LINE:- JANE ROSS

In part due to common surname, I was unable to identify prior Ross Family.

William Ross, 1790-; and **Janet Sutherland**, 1790-1873 were married December 1813, Kincardine, Ross and Cromarty. William was a farmer. They had four children: Catherine, 1815-; Christine, 1824-; William, 1828-1887 (see below); and Margaret, 1830-1915.

William Ross, 1828-1887 and **Catherine McBain**, 1829, were married June 1851, Alvah, Banffshire. William's occupation was a roadman. They had twelve children: William, 1849-; Margaret, 1852-1919 (USA); George, 1854-1919; Jane, 1856-1894 (see below) John, 1857-1869; Catherine, 1860-1936; Christine, 1862-; Grace, 1864-; Alexander, 1867-; Duff Allardyce, 1869-1899; Isabella, 1871-1930; and John, 1874-. William died age 58 of sarcoma of left arm.

Jane Ross, 1856-1894

"Little Rettie" and the Simpsons—The Family Home.—This is What We Know!

James Hay and **Catherine Elizabeth McDonald** lived in a working croft, "Little Rettie", Boyndie, Banffshire. James was a master tailor. We do not know the size of the croft. The couple married in 1868 and son James, was born this same year. Catherine had brought into the marriage two daughters **Mary Ann McLeod** and **Helen McLeod** from a previous relationship. Two years later, in 1870, Catherine's husband, James Hay, died of Tuberculosis (TB).

Later, Catherine met **Alexander Simpson**, an agricultural laborer, and had a son, **Alexander**, born 1875, (he died of TB, age 13). They married in Little Rettie in 1878 and had three more children, **1. William** (born 1878, left home at age 14, occupation: labourer/quarryman; married Anne Mackie, lived in "Baley Cottage" (see photos below), had 4 sons and 2 daughters; and died 1949, age 71 in Macduff, Banffshire), **2. Catherine**, (died of TB, age 7) and, **3. John** (died of TB age 29). Catherine's husband, Alexander Simpson, died a pauper, in Little Rettie, 1901. Catherine moved out to allow her son, John, to move into Little Rettie and work on the farm. John married Elizabeth Isabella (**Bella**) Mustard in 1906. They had 3 sons, **John Alexander**, **William McDonald**, and **George**. Bella's husband and father of the three boys died in the home, 1913, age 29. Bella was left to bring up her 3 sons, the eldest just 6 years of age.

She would have been forced to move out of Little Rettie and when exactly is unknown. She had fourth son, James in 1915, born in Loanhead Cottage. The family living in Loanhead Cottage at that time was John and Isabella Gray. In the 1881 Scottish census we find that two of the Gray children have "Simpson" as part of their middle names: George Simpson Gray and Helen Panton McGillivray Simpson Gray. While we have no way of knowing for sure, Bella and her family may have lived with the Grays' any time after her husband's death in 1913 and when she was hired as housekeeper for James Farquhar owner of Broadley Farm around 1916. She was fortunate that as a "live in" position, she was able to bring her family into his home.

Gillian June Simpson, born 1951, is the great granddaughter of **William Simpson**, 1878-1949, mentioned above. She had begun to do her family tree and noticed in various certificates the home name, "Baley Cottage". Gillian and husband, **Jeffrey Tearle**, who live in Hertfordshire, England, about 10 years ago, drove up to Scotland to see if "Baley" still existed. They found the croft in poor shape, missing walls, and abandoned. They decided to buy the land and rebuild the croft. They also purchased the land next to it that at one time had a croft on it. Gillian and Jeff drive up as often as is possible to enjoy their country home and spend a lot of time researching their Scottish family. Gillian and Rosemary are second cousins. First connected in 2014 when Gillian advertised for information for details on the Simpson family who lived in "Little Rettie". Many years later we were able to meet in Ellon.

Below: Baley Cottage, 2016, Front and Back



Left: Big Rettie today. A beautiful farm. Used to be the largest in Scotland. It boasts two farm houses, cottages, stables and steadings and so much more.

Right: Little Rettie. Sadly had recently been demolished by owners, Seafield Estates. Photo shows what is left from the house from the other side of the road.



Left: Rettie Farm—Home of Fernaig Fold:
I found this photo as part of a link on a "family History" site where someone had listed every "Rettie" found online in the world. I sent the info to Gillian and Jeffrey, April 2021. The great detectives they are found the home, built in 1903. It was not our Rettie, but from there they were able to find the real "Rettie". After years of searching, how happy were we.

Gillian Simpson Tearle shares her father and family with us.

Andrew Simpson, 1918-1994, son of William Simpson, 1878-1949 and John Simpson, 1884-1913 were brothers.



Andrew's Father, William.



Andrew's Mother, Annie.



Andrew in the Navy.



Mum and Dad with their young family.



All grown up: Gillian, Gloria, Janet and Andrew.



Above: Gillian and Jeffrey Tearle on their wedding day.
Right: Daughters, Vicki and Sarah.



An Unexpected Find!

All of the following surnames belong to the "Fraser" Clan: Bisset, Brewster, Cowie, Frew, Frizell, MacGruer, MacKim, MacKimmie, MacSimon, MacTavish, Oliver, Sim, Simon, Sims, Simpson, Syme, Twaddle, and Tweedie. Interestingly enough, our family is able to claim a very close link to The Frasers of Philorth, Lords Saltoun. Here's how:

Margaret (Mary) Fraser was the daughter of Baron George Ramsay Fraser, the 15th Lord Saltoun of Abernethy and Eleanora Gordon, Lady Saltoun. Margaret was the 5th child in a family of eight with all but the first born in Fraserfield, Aberdeenshire. Margaret's eldest brother, Alexander, would become the 16th Lord Saltoun when their father died.



Left: Father of Margaret Fraser, 1720-1781, George Ramsay Fraser, 15th Lord Saltoun of Abernethy

Middle: Brother, Alexander George Fraser, 1758-1793, 16th Lord Saltoun of Abernethy

Right: Fraserfield, Aberdeenshire, Home of the Fraser Family



Margaret (Mary) Fraser, 1760-1830
married
Donald D. Anderson, 1762-1828

4th Great Grandparents: Margaret Fraser and Donald D. Anderson were married in 1787 in Inverness. They had three daughters, Euphin, Mary Ross, and Jean.

Daughter of above:
Mary Ross Anderson, 1788-1861
married
Alexander McDonald, 1791-1862

3th Great Grandparents: Mary Ross Anderson married Alexander McDonald, December 1814, in Inverness. He was a farmer with 116 acres and employed three men. They had nine children, William, Mary, Catherine, Alexander, John, Jane, Ann, James and, Elizabeth.

Son of above:
William McDonald, 1815-1903
married
Helen Davidson, 1811-1898

2nd Great Grandparents: William McDonald married Helen Davidson, December 1835 in Marnoch, Banffshire. He was a master shoemaker. They had eight children: Mary Anne, Jessie, Catherine, Alexander, William, Helen, Ann, and George.

Daughter of above:
Catherine E. McDonald, 1843-1925
married
Alexander Simpson, 1837-1901

Great Grandparents: Catherine Elizabeth McDonald married Alexander Simpson on January 1901, Little Rettie, Boyndie, Banffshire. He was a farmer and a shepherd. They had four children: Alexander, William, Catherine, and John.

On the whole, the Simpsons' were everyday people making a living as best they could and raising a family as best they could. The Lord Saltouns', eldest sons, would have lived a different life than those of their siblings. How much Catherine knew about her ancestors is unknown, but it was a nice surprise to find this very rich family in our tree. The many places this family resided in over the years is astonishing. If you are keen to find out more, go to: <http://www.fraserchief.co.uk/index.html>.



Fraser Clan Crest: **On a mount a strawberry plant.**

Fraser Clan Motto: All my hope is in god.

Fraser Clan History: The Frasers originated from Anjou in Normandy and accompanied William the Conqueror to England in 1066.

Catherine Elizabeth McDonald—Was She A Character or What?

The name McDonald is mentioned throughout this document. For the Simpsons, Catherine Elizabeth McDonald was the first to join our family. She had an interesting life and so thought we should follow in her footsteps.

- About 1843 Born in Marnoch, Banffshire. Nickname was "Katie"
Parents were William McDonald and Helen Davidson. They were married in 1835, Marnoch.
William was a master shoemaker. They had 8 children and Catherine was their 3rd born.
- 1851-1861: Living at Ordens, family home.
- 1861 Married John McLeod in Boyndie. He was an Agricultural Labourer.
They had two daughters, Mary Ann born 1861 and Helen born 1864, living in Ordens, Boyndie.
Both listed as illegitimate on birth certificates. Later in life, through the courts, daughters had their father's name added to their birth certificates.
- 1868 Married James Hay who was living in Little Rettie, Boyndie. He was a master tailor.
A son, James Hay, was born same year. Daughters above, became part of the family. James died 1924 of TB.
- 1878 Married Alexander Simpson, Little Rettie. Alexander was an agricultural Labourer.
They had 4 children, Alexander, William, Catherine and John.
Alexander, died age 13, and Catherine, died, age 7 of TB. William and John left home.
Father Alexander died of heart disease, 1901, a pauper. John died 1913, also of TB.
- 1907 Catherine left Rettie to allow son, John and wife Bella to move in. With them Bella's daughter, Mary. Soon to be born: John, William and George.
- 1907-1925 Unknown where Catherine lived during this time. We suspect she may have spent some time at "Ordens" the McDonald family home. See Photo below. What we know for sure is she died with her only living son, William, Annie, and their family living at Gellyhill Cottages, August 1925.



Ordens, Parish of Boyndie, McDonald Family Home,



Gules/Red: The Marytr's Colour.

(Signifies military fortitude and magnanimity)

Orange/Yellow/Gold: Represents Generosity

Cross/Patoncee/Floree: "One who had conquered"

Fish: Symbol of Christ

The Lion: Emblem of Deathless Courage

Ship/Galley: Symbol of a notable Expedition by Sea



This is not Catherine, but a photo that may look like her, found on the web.

Gillian Tearle shared the following story:

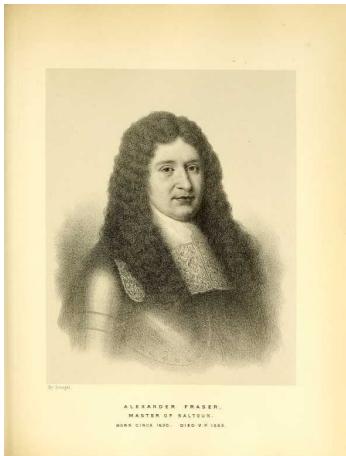
My Aunt Kate (named Catherine after her grandmother) told me that Catherine (known as Kate or Katie) was a formidable lady and was well known for walking across the fields and lanes from where she lived in Rettie to visit the family in Baley Cottage. She was always wearing long black dresses and carrying an umbrella (probably black!!).

On one occasion my Dad's elder sister Lizzie was at the cottage with her boyfriend Fred, who had a motor bike and sidecar. Fred took Catherine home in the sidecar and she later reported to the family that she had rather enjoyed the ride home, but was not too pleased about being literally thrown from the sidecar when Fred brought the bike to an abrupt halt!

Another memory is from my Uncle Alex via his wife Agnes. It was the case that every time Catherine visited the family one of the boys had to escort her home. None of the boys were happy about this as every time they had to cross a stile (Scottish word to mean, "*a structure or opening that provides passage, via steps, ladders, gaps, hills, etc.*") she would become quite cross and give whoever the unfortunate boy was a hefty whack with the infamous umbrella!

She really does sound like quite a character!! When she died on 07.08.1925 she was living with William and his family at Gellyhill Farm which is just outside of Macduff.

Simpson Photos Shared by Living Ancestors



Alexander Fraser, 1604-1693. He was Saltoun Baron number 11. Our 8th GG. Next photo is of his home, **Cairnbulg Castle**, Aberdeenshire. The Frasers owned the home from 1545-1775. It was then sold to George Gordon, 3rd Earl of Aberdeen. Castle has a lot of history see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cairnbulg_Castle.

Above: Simon Fraser, 1727-1810. To his right, daughter, Marjory Fraser, 1754-1851. To her right, husband, Alexander Fraser, 1785-1853, 17th Baron Saltoun, Edinburgh.

Above right: two photos of **Castle Ness**, Inverness found online. Property dated 1560 AD to 1900 AD. Simon inherited the Castle, but at his early death, the Castle was passed to his younger brother, William, 1791-1845. 4th GG Uncle and Aunt.



2nd Great Aunt, **Margaret Ross**, was born in 1852, Ladysheets, Alva, Banffshire. Her parents were William and Catherine Ross. In 1880 she married John F. Middleton. In 1886, her family emigrated to the USA. She died in 1919, St. Paul, Dakota, Minnesota, USA.



A half second cousin, **Margaret Gordon**, 1941-2009, daughter of Elizabeth Jean Mustard. Married in 1958 and had two children. A son, no longer living, and a daughter, still living, in photo above.



Louisa Simpson born 1879 in Laois, Ireland and died 1930 in Rhode Island, USA. She married James Caldwell, 1883-1971 in 1915. They had three children. Louisa is the daughter of James Simpson, 1851-1921 our 2nd cousin 2x removed.

Above: Louisa with two sons, Irwin and William and daughter, Olive.



Second cousin, **William Bremner**, son of Jane Bremner and Kenneth McRae.



Left: **James Simpson**, born in Castle Saunderson, Belturbet, County Cavan, Ireland, in 1882 and died in Dublin, Ireland, 1960. He married Elizabeth Casey in 1924. In 1911 they lived at 2 Packenham Road, Monkstown. They had one son, James. Coming from a family of nine, James was born fourth and sister, Louisa, see above, was second. 2nd cousin 2x removed



Castle Saunderson

The Proud Testament of a Portsoy Granny -Elizabeth Isabella .

Written by her granddaughter, Elizabeth Simpson

Published in the Sunday Post, 1974

See Page 19 for original newspaper cutting.



Elizabeth was Bella's very first grandchild. Daughter of her son, William. See page 19 for more on this wonderful woman and her life.

What a story a hand can tell . . .

A week or two ago Mrs. Elizabeth Davidson 54 Queens Crescent, Portsoy, sat by the bed of her granny, Mrs. Legge, who was sleeping quietly to her rest after ninety faithful years. There was no need to speak. Elizabeth just held granny's hand and as she looked at it, gnarled and worn, she felt that it summed up the story of her life.

For granny lost her husband when she was just a young woman, and when her babies were either toddlers or babes in arms. Yet she struggled on alone in the little Banffshire croft of Broadley that was her home, doing her best to bring them up safely and well.

This tired old hand that Elizabeth held was the hand that had cradled them as babies, dried their tears, smoothed their hair, aye, and clipped their ears, too at times! It was the hand that had sewed and mended far into the night, that had planted and reaped, that had cooked and cleaned. It was the hand that had been clasped in prayer for them when they set out to make their own way in life, when they were held prisoner by the enemy during the war. It was the hand, too, that had never wearied of helping others, or of doing good in secret.

And, when it was all over, and Granny Legge lay at peace, the hand that was folded on her breast told a prouder story than any medal, and a braver one, too . . .