

Hopkin, James genealogy
Kingston and Scotland

Reading Room

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HOPKIRK FAMILY HISTORY

Generation Name

1. John H. Believed to have moved from Germany to Scotland
2. John H. Probably lived in Roxburghshire near Edinburgh
3. William H. Lived in Cowsland, Cranstoun, Midlothian
- 3.A Alexander H. Second son of #2. He lived in Leith
4. Francis H. Second son of #3. He went to Glasgow at 17 years of age after the death of his father. He apprenticed as a tailor with Thomas Pollok. He was admitted as a Freeman on 18th April, 1704. He married Mary Paterson daughter of John Paterson, a prominent businessman in Glasgow. Paterson was a Deacon of the Incorporation of Wrights in 1686 and Bailie of the City in 1688. His relationship to Francis was of great help. Francis involved himself in public works. In 1705 he was elected Collector of the Incorporation. Eventually he became a Deacon in 1713 at the early age of 36. In 1714 he was elected Water Bailie, the following year Treasurer of City and the next year Bailie of Gorbals.
5. Thomas First and only surviving son of #4. Born 1712 Died 1781
 Francis Died 1720
 Mary Died 1721
 Thomas matriculated at the Glasgow University in 1728. In 1734 he was entered a Merchant Burgess and Guild Brother as eldest son of his father. He was a large property owner in and around Glasgow. He was one of 26 original partners of the Glasgow Arms Bank. He married Elizabeth Smellie whose father was an important businessman. Through his marriage he came into possession of Dalbeth and Trongate properties. In 1777 he acquired a beautiful mansion in the Trongate which had been built in 1750. This was the family residence in winter while they resided at Dalbeth in summer. There is an excellent view of the in Fairbairn's Relics of Old Glasgow. There were valuable seams of coal on Dalbeth property which undoubtedly added to his prosperity.
6. James I Born 1750 Died 1835
- 6 A. Thomas II Never married
- 6 B. Barbara , Elizabeth, Mary
 James matriculated at Glasgow University in 1762. He was appointed a Treasurer of the City in 1783. He did much in his life time to improve the city and benefit its inhabitants. He was a partner at various times of the merchant firms of James Hopkirk & Co., Hopkirk McCall & Co., Hopkirk Cunningham & Co., Findlay, Hopkirk & Co. of Leonardtown, Maryland, U.S.A. Spiers, Downman & Co. (see enclosed xerox)

6.cont. James was without doubt a prominent, wealthy member of Glasgow society. The following was published in the Savannah, Georgia newspaper of 1812 "At the last meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of Glasgow we understand a committee composed of the following gentlemen was appointed to consider and report what steps ought to be taken upon the approaching expiration of the East India Company's Charter, that that immense field of commerce might be opened to individual enterprise and capital of the merchants of the merchants of this country in the same way that it has for a long time been---. Messrs. Kirman, Finlay, James Dennison, James Hopkirk ----." In 1784 he married Christian Glassford. They had 3 sons and 3 daughters. They lived at Dalbeth. He added to and practically rebuilt the mansion. He was essentially a merchant, an importer and exporter of general merchandise. He owned large estates in the East Indies and fought for freedom of the slaves there though it cost him half his fortune. He was largely responsible for the building of the Old Barony Church and represented the congregation at the General Assembly. In 1824, after 40 years of service he was given a handsome gift of silverplate in acknowledgement of his valued services. The Town Council contributed to this gift, a compliment seldom paid. (We may have some of this silver). He was the last person to be buried in the crypt of Glasgow Cathedral.

7. Thomas III Born 1785 Died 1841

7 A. John Glassford

7B James II

7 Thomas matriculated at Glasgow University in 1799. He participated very little in business but devoted his time and talents to the study of Botany and later to lithography. He was part founder and for many years Vice President of the Natural History Society of Glasgow. He catalogued well over 1,000 plants of the Clyde area and formed a collection of 2000 native and exotic specimens. These were given to form the basis of collection of new Botanic Gardens in Glasgow in 1818. We have a small leather bound book listing the plants donated by him and his brother, James. In 1812 he was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society and 1835 Glasgow U. conferred on him the degree of LL.D. He was also a member of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and other learned bodies. He would travel anywhere in the world to collect rare plants. After 1830 he was rarely at Dalbeth. The city was encroaching and his garden was gone. In 1831 he was living in Holensburgh and then in Rotheray. For a time he was engaged in a Geological Survey of Ireland and finally settled in Belfast where died. He married Agnes Farland and had two sons and six daughters. I believe his descendants still live in Ireland.

- 7 A John Glassford, second of James I married Jessie Hamilton, had one daughter, Isabella. One of his sons, Henry Glassford, came to Canada to visit James and Jessie and died in Kingston in 1842 of Smallpox. He had two older brothers, James and Hamilton. It is thought that both died unmarried.
- 7 B ~~James II~~
Third son of James I matriculated at Glasgow University in 1816 and graduated with LL.B. in 1826. He came to Canada in 1834 with his wife and two children, Christian and James III. James learned to walk while on the ship. We have his Christmas mug. A diary he kept while crossing the Atlantic is in our possession. Unfortunately it ends with arrival in Canada. They settled in Oakville, outside Toronto where Mary Anne, Barbara Isabelle Helen were born. They moved to Toronto in 1840 where another daughter Jessie was born but lived only a few days. From Toronto they moved to Kingston where another daughter Katie was born in 1842. James was employed by the Canadian Government as Assistant Secretary West. Kingston was then the Capital of Canada. When the government moved to Montreal they went with and Frank was born there in 1845. He died in Toronto in 1851. James went back to Kingston. Laura was born in 1848. She was the writer of a letter to her nephew, Harry Kines Hopkirk, from which some of this information comes. Jack was born in 1850 and Harry in 1851. At this time it is believed that the government made it compulsory for all the Secretaries to run for Parliament. As James did not wish to do so he took the appointment of Collector of Customs at Kingston which position he held until his death in 1859. He was an important figure in society. He was one of the Founders and Secretary of the Board of the Kingston General Hospital. He never practised his profession in Canada. His daughter, Laura, writes that this was "Because of the crude way in which at that time the courts were conducted and the abusive language the lawyers used to each other".
- 7C Barbara
Eldest daughter of James I She married Laurence Hill and had ten daughters and three sons. She died in 1833 at aged 40 years.
- 7D Anne and Isabella Both died unmarried.
- 8 James III Born 1832 Died 1889
Curiously I know very little of him except that he was my husband's grand father. He apparently went to Scotland and learned the shipping business with his Uncle Laurence who had one of the largest ship-building businesses in Glasgow. He returned to Kingston, married and had at least 3 children.

8 There are 10 of this generation buried in Catarqua Cemetery but some are probably his brothers' children. I know that one daughter married a Fraser and moved to California. Her son, Kirk Fraser, living in the San Fernando Valley took us for a day's tour of the Los Angeles area about 1958. Laura, born in 1848, lived with her brother Harry until his marriage. She then taught at Bishop Strachan School, a private girl's school in Toronto. It is still in existence. Her brother Harry seems to be the outstanding member of this generation. He went to a private boys school in Galt, Ont. and from there to a position in the Post Office in Ottawa. He rose to be Private Sec. to seven Ministers of the Crown. He became Inspector of Post Office at Stratford Ont. In 1907 he married Frida Margaret Morgan. They had one child, James. When I knew him he was Organist at the Cathedral in Peterborough, Ont. He never married. He died in Toronto.

9 Harry Kines Honkirk Born 1889 Died 1938

This was my husband's father. I never knew him as he died two years before we were married. I know nothing of his education. I have a feeling that the family had become impoverished and that the boys went to work as soon as they finished public high school. He married Rive Reine Stegmann. He worked for the Bank of Montreal in various parts of Ontario and Nova Scotia. His brother Frank, also worked for the same bank in Ottawa. He never married. His sister, Jessie, lived with him. When their sister, Molly, died with her husband in an accident, Frank and Jessie adopted their daughter, Barbara. Her brother was taken by the Williams family. As far as I know there were no male progeny of this generation except my husband. The James in this generation died at 18 of typhoid.

10 James Francis Stegmann Honkirk

Born in 1915 in Stratford, Ontario. Died 1964 at Dalbeth Farm, Wolford Township, Ont.

He was an only child. Attended King's College School in Windsor, Nova Scotia. Attended Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Graduated in 1938 with M.D. After a year of internship in Halifax he went to Charity Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. This is where we met. I was a nurse at that hospital. My name was Virginia Kilroy. While in Cleveland the World War II broke out and James returned to Canada and joined the Canadian Army and was transferred to the Royal Canadian Air Force Medical Service. In September 1940 I joined him in Halifax and we were married. He served in Canada until 1944 when he was posted to a bomber station at Wembleton, Yorkshire. After the end of the war we moved to Montreal where he interned for another three years. We moved to Boston, Mass.

10 cont. in July 1948 where he had a fellowship at the Massachusetts General Hosp. and Harvard University. After one year we returned to Montreal and he was taken on the staff of the Royal Victoria Hospital as a surgeon specializing in thyroid. He was a member of many illustrious societies in the United States and Canada. In 1964 while weekendng at our hobby farm, Dalbeth Farm, He died of a heart attack. Unfortunately it was before coronary heart bypasses were perfected.

11. JAMES DOUGLAS PETERHOPKIRK Born 1943 in Halifax. Died 1959 as a result of a brain injury suffered in a skiing accident in the Laurentians.

11B Thomas Edward Glassford Born 1946 in Montreal. Tom has a B. Comm. degree. Now works for Barclays Bank in Toronto. He was married in 1987 to Gail Carleton LL.D. She is with the legal dept. of The Toronto-Dominion Bank. They live in Toronto. They have no children.

11C. John Gavin Alexander Born 1949 in Boston. John also is a Commerce graduate. He is Commercial Loans Officer at the Toronto-Dominion Bank in Barrie, Ont. about 50 miles north of Toronto. He was married in 1990 to Jean Miers. No children. Since she's a divorcee with 2 adult sons it is unlikely that there will be any children.

It looks as though this is the end of this branch of the family. My present husband, Maxwell Pearson Martyn, is a retired General of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

I apologize for my typing. Perhaps someone in your family will do it properly.

Virginia Martyn

James Hopkirk, of Dalbeth, my grandfather, belonged to the Merchants House of Glasgow and had large estates in the East Indies, He fought hard for the freedom on the slaves there, though it cost him half his fortune. He was born in 1749, married Christian Glassford in 1784, died in 1835 and was the last person who was buried in the Crypt of Glasgow Cathedral. His wife died in 1839, her last surviving daughter, Aunt Anne, having died a year before. Thomas their eldest son was an F.M.O.(?). He had a large botanic garden at Dalbeth and published some works of botany, and later presented all his specimens to the City of Glasgow as a nucleus for the Glasgow Botanical Gardens. He afterwards went over to Ireland and died there in 1741. I know he had two children, Christian and Frank. My mother told me that they heard that some of his children had come to America but we never heard anything more about them till sometime after my brother's Harry's death when two young girls who had come out from Ireland during the World war and were living with a friend near Toronto, phoned to ask if we were any relation of James Hopkirk of Dalbeth. They said they were granddaughters of Thomas Hopkirk of Belfast, Ireland. Frida asked them and their hostess to come and have tea with us one Sunday afternoon. They came and seemed very nice young girls. We asked them to come again and see us when they were in the city but they never came and we heard no more about them. They were under the impression that Dalbeth property was entailed and that they should have had something from it, but we knew it was not entailed.

The second son, John Glassford, married Jessie Hamilton who predeceased him. He died in 1859 a few months before my father, leaving one daughter, Isabella. One of his sons, Henry Glassford came out to Canada to visit my father and mother in 1841 and died there in Kingston of Smallpox in 1842. There were two older brothers, James and Hamilton, but I think they both died unmarried. My brother Harry was called Henry Glassford after his cousin of whom my father and mother had both been very fond. I think it was in 1882 that your uncle Harry at cousin Isabella's invitation and I think at her expense paid his first visit to the old country. She planned all his itinerary so that he might see as much as possible during limited time. At her death she left him some money, jewelry, and silverplate.

Grandpapa had seven daughters of whom only two were married, Elizabeth and Barbara. Elizabeth married a Mr. Smith but died soon after, leaving one

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Grandpapa had seven daughters of whom only two were married, Elizabeth and Barbara. Elizabeth married a Mr. Smith but died soon after, leaving one

daughter who died when a child. Barbara married Laurence Hill of Barlanark and died leaving eleven children, two of whom, Anne and Betsy came out to Canada with their eldest brother Laurence to visit my father and mother when I was a baby. We used to hear from them occasionally as long as they lived and when Susie Grahame (Mrs Wright's aunt) was in this country she used to tell me about them. They lived in Glasgow with two old servants, who used to keep them in order sometimes, but took ver great care of them nevertheless. They both died a good many years ago.

Laurence, their eldest brother had one of the largest ship-building businesses in Port Glasgow and it was with him your father learned his profession and it was for his little daughter, Nina, of whom he was very fond, that your sister was named. After Aunt Barbara's death, her husband, Laurence Hill, married a cousin of his own, Marion Hill, by whom he had one son and two daughters. The daughters married two brothers, James and Richard Grahame, whose father had settled in Canada in Vaughan Township years before, but sent his sons to the old country to be educated. James and his wife, Janet, settled at Muirdrum, in Vaughan, his father's place and farmed. Richard and Lettie settled in Toronto where he practised law. It was at Muirdrum, with the James Grahame's that I lived till her death, when his three daughters, Meme, Laura, and Ottie(?) lived with us in Ottawa for five years. My father James was the youngest child and the 3rd son of James Hopkirk of Dalbeth. He was born in 1803 and came to Canada in 1834. He was a writer to the Signet in Edinburgh and married Jessie Farquharson, daughter of John Hardie of Edinburgh in 1830 and came to Canada in 1834 with two children, Christian and James, They were six weeks coming out. Your father learned to walk during the voyage. They settled in Oakville where your Aunts, Mary Anne and Barbara Isabelle Helen were born but moved to Toronto in 1840, where another daughter Jessie was born but only lived a few days. From Toronto they moved to Kingston where your Aunt Katie was born in 1842. I think it was there that my father first took Government employment as Assistant Sec:West. When the Government was moved to Montreal they went with it, and my brother Frank was born there in 1845. He died in Toronto in 1857. I think the Government went back to Kingston but I am not sure anyway, it was when it was in Kingston that my father bought the property on the forty-foot road known as Woodston, his friend Francis Hincks, afterwards Sir Francis Hincks bought the adjoining property known as New Court, and Mr. Harrison, the Assistant Sec. E. and a close friend of my father bought a property on the opposite side of the forty foot road, which was afterwards bought by Archie John Macdonell, the father of my great friend, Georgie Macdonell, and Sir John Macdonalds law partner. Later the Government bought it and turned it into a Tuberculosis Hospital. I think it was while the Govern-

ment was in Montreal that it was made compulsory for all the Secretaries to run for Parliament. As my father did not wish to do so he took the appointment of Collector of Customs at Kingston, which position he held till his death in 1859. Mr. Harrison also resigned his Secretaryship and went to Toronto to practise his profession and later was raised to the Bench and married the widow of Colonel Foster, who had one son and two daughters. The elder daughter, Mary married Thomas Morgan, and their daughter is now my brother Harry's widow. The two families were always very close friends.

I was born in Kingston in 1848, and Jack in 1850 Harry in 1851, and I remember very well when the Archie John Macdonnells bought "Aberhalladac" and came to live opposite to us, they had two children, Georgina, a year younger than myself and John Alexander, who came between my two brothers, from that time we were inseparable playmates. Two or three years later Sir John Macdonald's first wife died and his son Hugh came to live with his aunt Mrs. Williamson, wife of Prof. Williamson of Queen's College and we had another constant playmate.

In 1857 or 1858 the new Custom House at Kingston was built and we moved to town and occupied the Collector's residence ⁱⁿ the new building. In 1859 my dear father died on Oct the 15th and my mother took a small house on Barrie Street where we lived for several years. When my brother Jack was old enough he was sent to Dr. Tassies School in Galt. The Tassies had come to Oakville about the same time my father and mother did and had always been warm friends. Jack did not stay very long in Galt a year or two I think then he came home and went to the Grammar school in Kingston and Harry was sent to Galt where he remained till he was 16 when he went straight from school to a position in the Post Office Department, Ottawa. He rose from one position to another and held positions as private Sec. with seven Ministers of the Crown, beginning with Judge Dunham(?) an old friend of his fathers and finally with Sir Alex. Campbell another old friend, who when he was giving up office gave Harry the Post Office Inspectorship at Stratford where we lived for ten years. Then the London & Stratford districts were united and Harry had to move to London. I think that was in 1897. Harry married Eleanor Mackerras in April 1899. She died in May 1900. We remained in London till Harry was superannuated when we moved to Toronto.

In 1907 Harry married Frida Margaret Morgan, Our dear Mollie continued to live with him. Mary went to board with an old friend, Miss Trew and I took a position in the Bishop Strachan School.

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There are still a number of cousins and first cousins once removed in Glasgow and other parts of Scotland. Hills, Wights and other descendants of Aunt Barbara and Laurence Hill. One young man, Jamie Hill, 6ft 3 in height come with Mr. Grahame to pay us a visit when we lived in Maple Row Kingston but he died a few years later. Aunt Mary used to correspond with Annie Watson a granddaughter of Aunt Barbara. There were two sisters living in Glasgow but one of them died about the same time your Aunt Mary died and I have only had one letter from Annie since. But I know there are still a number of Watsons and Wights in Glasgow. If you ever go there you may meet them.

Your grandfather would not take the necessary steps to permit him to practise his profession in Canada, because of the crude way in which at that time the courts wer conducted and abusive language the lawyers used to each other.

Fom Virginia Mertyn, formerly Virginia Hopkirk I do not know the name of the autor of this letter an it is not signed. There does not seem to be any one buried in Catarqui Cemetery who was born in 1848. Perhaps she is buried elsewhere.