

Chapter 8 of Kerr Roots and Shoots

The listing of Barbara and Thomas Spence's eldest son John Spence in 45 South Clerk Street, Edinburgh in 1935 made me wonder yesterday (9th June, 2005) as I was finishing the previous chapter, if I might discover anything of his whereabouts before the deaths of his parents in 1920 and 1935, respectively. This curiosity in fact led me to a 'find' that I had missed more than two years before while looking for any family for my Great-Great Grandfather Robert Kerr of Mid Calder (1833-1914) and his wife, Jane Proven (1826-1917) of Corstorphine. So what transpired?

Well, I had a hunch that by 1901, as the eighteen year old John Spence had not been in the family Census list in Dundee, he may well have found work elsewhere in hotel service like his father, and may possibly have been located in Edinburgh. Also his father Thomas had not been in Dundee then either! Here is the relevant Census in St Andrews Burgh of Edinburgh.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the													[Page 1]	
Civil Parish of <i>Edinburgh</i>		Parish Ward of <i>St Andrews</i>		Ecclesiastical Parish of		Quoad Sacra Parish of <i>St Luke</i>		School Board District of <i>Edinburgh</i>		Parliamentary Burgh of <i>Edinburgh</i>		Parliamentary Division of <i>The West Division</i>		
Royal Burgh of <i>Edinburgh</i>		Municipal Burgh of <i>Edinburgh</i>		Police Burgh of		Burgh Ward of <i>St Andrews</i>		Town of		Village or Hamlet of		Island of		
No. of Schedules	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES		NAME and Surname of each Person.	RELATION to Head of Family.	CONDITION as to Marriage.	AGE (last Birthday)	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION.	Employed, Working or on Own Account.	If Working at Home.	WHERE BORN.	Baltic, or G. & E.	Whether 1. Dead and Dumb. 2. Blind. 3. Lame, 4. Paralytic, Feeble-minded.	Rooms Wholly or more Windows.
		In habited (A)	Empty (B)											
1	25 <i>Thistle St</i>	1		<i>Louisa Burns</i>	Head	S	57	<i>Confectioner, Home Agent</i>	own account		<i>Midlothianshire Edinburgh</i>			2
2	25 <i>St</i>	1		<i>George Brown</i>	H	Mar	54	<i>Printer, Compositor</i>	worker		<i>Stoney Westray</i>			4
				<i>Margaret B.</i>	Wife	Mar	48				<i>West Lothianshire Tain</i>			
				<i>Lawrence B.</i>	Son	S	20	<i>Printer, Reader</i>	worker		<i>Midlothianshire Edinburgh</i>			
				<i>Wilhelmina B.</i>	Son	S	20	<i>Printer, Compositor</i>	worker		<i>St. St.</i>			
				<i>George J. B.</i>	Son	S	9	<i>Scholar</i>			<i>St. Edinburgh</i>			
3	25 <i>St</i>	1		<i>David Kerr</i>	Head	Mar	44	<i>Hotel Waiter</i>	worker		<i>West Lothianshire Bonhill</i>			3
				<i>Isabella B.</i>	Wife	Mar	46				<i>West Lothianshire West</i>			
				<i>Hugh Mackenzie</i>	Boarder	S	29	<i>Hotel Porter</i>	worker		<i>West Lothianshire Tain Gt Co</i>			
				<i>Arthur Lange</i>	Boarder	S	29	<i>Hotel Waiter</i>	worker		<i>West Lothianshire Tain</i>			
				<i>John Spence</i>	Boarder	S	18	<i>Hotel Porter</i>	worker		<i>Midlothianshire Edinburgh</i>			
4	25 <i>St</i>	1		<i>Thomas Thomson</i>	Head	S	59				<i>St. St.</i>			2
5	25 <i>St</i>	1		<i>Caroline Mitchell</i>	Head	Wid.	56	<i>Tailoress</i>	worker		<i>Stoney Westray</i>			2
6	25 <i>St</i>	1		<i>Elizabeth Thomson</i>	Head	S	60				<i>West Lothianshire Tain</i>			1
7	25 <i>St</i>	1		<i>John Hyles</i>	Head	Mar	38	<i>Printer, Compositor</i>	worker		<i>St. St.</i>			3
				<i>Jessie L. B.</i>	Wife	Mar	30				<i>West Lothianshire Tain</i>			
				<i>Jessie L. B.</i>	Son	S	2	<i>Scholar</i>			<i>St. St.</i>			
				<i>John M. B.</i>	Son	S	2				<i>St. St.</i>			
8	25 <i>St</i>	1		<i>Francis H. B. Sutherland</i>	Head	Mar	55	<i>Spirit Dealer</i>	employed		<i>St. Land</i>			3
9	25 <i>St</i>	1		<i>Andrew Thomson</i>	Head	Mar	35	<i>Sorting Clerk, G.P.O.</i>			<i>West Lothianshire Edinburgh</i>			3
				<i>Grace B.</i>	Wife	Mar	30				<i>St. St.</i>			
				<i>Andrew B.</i>	Son	S	2				<i>St. St.</i>			
				<i>Margaret B.</i>	Son	S	2				<i>St. St.</i>			
10	27 <i>St</i>	1		<i>Margaret Sutherland</i>	Head	S	32	<i>News Agent</i>	own account		<i>West Lothianshire Bonhill</i>			2
10	Total of Houses...	10		Total of Males and Females...			10/15						Total of Windowed Rooms	25

NOTE.—Draw the pen through such of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

[Foot.—Sheet B.

John Spence (Hotel Porter) had thus been living at 25 Thistle Street, Edinburgh with a David Kerr (Hotel Waiter), aged 44, born in Bonhill, Dunbarton. My eyes almost popped out of my head at this because I already knew that Robert Kerr (my GG G-Father) had been Coachman at Balloch Castle, Bonhill in 1860 when daughter Jane had been born in the Coachman's Lodge there. So, was this David Kerr a previously undiscovered great grand uncle of mine?

The answer is YES and why I had missed it before was soon revealed in the OPR record of his birth in 1857. v.i.z.

DAVID KERR

Male

Event(s):

Birth: 17 OCT 1857 Bonhill, Dunbarton, Scotland

Parents:

Father: ROBERT KERR Family

Mother: JANE ROWEN [Transcription Error 'Proven'- annotation by JH]

Thus, John Spence had been living with his cousin David Kerr, second son of his mum Barbara's brother Robert Kerr (*who of course had been some 22 years older than Barbara, his youngest sister, born in 1855!*); my Great Grandfather James Kerr being Robert and Jane's first son, who had been born in 1855, only a few months after his Aunt Barbara (Kerr) Spence!

The birth of David at Balloch Castle is confirmed in this GRO image :-

Page 86.

1857. BIRTHS in the Parish of Bonhill in the County of Dunbarton

No.	Surname, and Name (if given). Name, when given or altered in Baptism, or otherwise, after Registration of Birth.	When and Where Born, with Hour of Birth.	Sex.	Name, Surname, and Rank or Profession of Father.	Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant, if out of the House in which the Birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
256	<u>Kerr</u>	<u>1857</u> <u>October</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Robert</u> <u>Kerr</u> <u>Coachman</u>	<u>Jane</u> <u>Kerr</u> <u>Maidserv</u>		<u>1857</u> <u>October 23</u> <u>at Bonhill</u>
	<u>David</u>	<u>17.10.57</u> <u>Balloch</u> <u>Castle</u>			<u>Jane</u> <u>Rowen</u>	<u>Robert Kerr</u> <u>Hotelier</u> <u>(Present)</u>	<u>Robert Kerr</u> <u>Registrar</u>
257	<u>MacDon</u>	<u>1857</u> <u>October</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Angus</u> <u>MacDon</u> <u>Shopman</u>	<u>Ann</u> <u>MacDon</u> <u>Maidserv</u>		<u>1857</u> <u>October 23</u> <u>at Bonhill</u>
	<u>James</u>	<u>17.10.57</u> <u>Balloch</u> <u>Castle</u>			<u>Jane</u> <u>Rowen</u>	<u>Angus MacDon</u> <u>Shopman</u> <u>(Present)</u>	<u>Robert Kerr</u> <u>Registrar</u>
258	<u>Shoburn</u>	<u>1857</u> <u>October</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>John</u> <u>Shoburn</u> <u>Drumhead</u>	<u>James</u> <u>Shoburn</u> <u>Maidserv</u>	<u>John Shoburn</u> <u>Big Mackay</u> <u>Cooper</u>	<u>1857</u> <u>October 24</u> <u>at Bonhill</u>
	<u>James</u>	<u>17.10.57</u> <u>Bonhill</u>			<u>James</u> <u>Shoburn</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Robert Kerr</u> <u>Registrar</u>

Robert Kerr Registrar

Again the rest of this bit of family history will appear later when I deal with the life-stories of Robert Kerr and Jane Proven and their, **now**, three offspring!