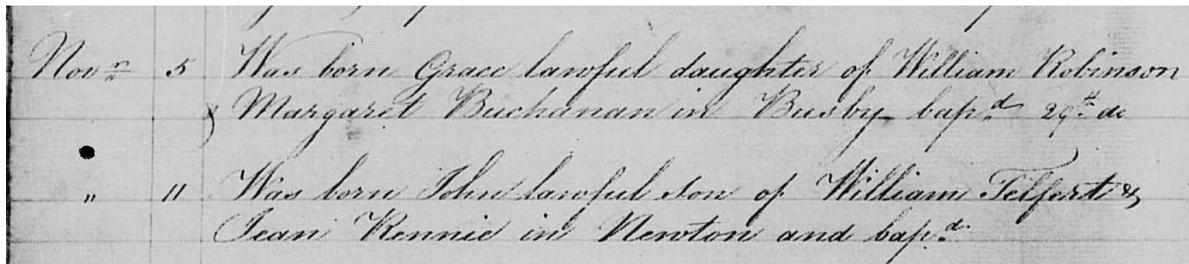


To recap a little

Robert MACLAREN III [Iron Founder and Manufacturer of patent cast-iron pipes, Eglinton Iron Works, Port Eglinton] and **John TELFER II** [Manager, Castlelaurie Iron Works, Falkirk] were 1st cousins 1 time removed. Their common ancestors were **Robert MACLAREN I** and Margaret LOWRIE.

John TELFER II was born

11/11/1835 TELFERT, JOHN (O.P.R. Births 571/ 0020 0054 Mearns)



John TELFER II married in 1857

Page 18.

18 57. MARRIAGES in the Parish of Falkirk in the County of Stirling

No.	When, where, and how Married.	Signatures of Parties.	Age.	Residence.	Rank or Profession, and Condition, (whether Bachelor or Widower, Spinster or Widow.) Relationship of Parties (if any.)	Name, Surname, and Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	If a regular Marriage. Signatures of Officiating Minister and Witnesses.	If irregular, date of Extract Sentence of Conviction, or Decree of Declarator, and in what Court pronounced.
35	On the Seventh day of July 1857 at Falkirk manse Marriage (after banns) was solemnized between us according to the form of the Church of Scotland	(Signed) John Telfert (Signed) Janet Walker	21 18	Grahamston Grahamston	Steamboat Engineer (Bachelor) (Spinster)	William Telfert Paterson Walker Spinster Telfert maiden name Rennie John Walker Iron Moulder Janet Walker maiden name Ewing (niece)	(Signed) William Regg Minister (Signed) John Walker Minister (Signed) Margaret Telfert	

The above Marriage was Registered by me at Falkirk, on the 14th day of July, 1857. W. R. Kemp Registrar.

1. John TELFER II [Manager, Castlelaurie Iron Works] was born on 11 Nov 1835 in Newton Mearns, Renfrew, Scotland. He died on 25 Mar 1915 in Falkirk, Stirling. John married Janet WALKER daughter of John WALKER [Iron Moulder] and Janet EWING on 11 Jul 1857 in Falkirk. Janet was born on 25 Mar 1839 in Muiravonside, Stirling. She died on 12 Feb 1900 in Falkirk.

They had the following children:

- 2Mi. William TELFER was born on 04 Sep 1857 in Falkirk. He died on 26 Sep 1858 in Falkirk.
- 3Mii. **John Walker TELFER III** [Cashier] was born on 13 Dec 1859 in Falkirk. He died on 02 Apr 1931 in Falkirk. John married Elizabeth Waddell WALKER [Dressmaker] daughter of William Waddell WALKER [Engine Keeper] and Agnes TELFER [Dressmaker] on 10 Jun 1902 in Falkirk. Elizabeth (His 1st Cousin) was born on 07 Feb 1877 in Harthill, Lanark, Scotland. She died on 10 Dec 1963 in Falkirk.
- 4Fiii. Jane Rennie TELFER was born on 07 Nov 1861 in Falkirk. She died on 20 Jan 1928 in Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand. Jane married Robert Arthur NICOL son of Walter NICOL [Ironworks Warehouseman] and Agnes ARTHUR on 14 Jul 1882. Robert was born on 27 Jun 1860 in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. He died on 13 Jan 1930 in Christchurch, Canterbury, New Zealand.

5Fiv. Janet Ewing TELFER was born on 23 Sep 1864 in Falkirk. She died on 24 Sep 1950 in Falkirk. Janet married Alexander DOBIE son of Alexander DOBIE (Farm Manager] and Mary CUNNINGHAM. Alexander was born on 07 Aug 1867 in Kinloch Rannoch, Perth, Scotland. He died on 26 Jun 1941 in Acharacle, Argyll.

6Mv. William TELFER was born on 13 Sep 1866 in Falkirk. He died on 01 Dec 1935 in Larbert.

7Mvi. Andrew TELFER was born on 03 Sep 1868 in Falkirk. He died in 1942 in Onehunga, Auckland, New Zealand . Andrew married Sarah COWAN daughter of Francis COWAN and Mary STEWART on 26 Jun 1903 in Falkirk . Sarah was born on 02 Oct 1872 in Falkirk. She died on 25 Aug 1946 in Onehunga, Auckland, New Zealand .

And, tragically

8Fvii. Maggie TELFER was born on 17 Feb 1870 in Falkirk. She died on 15 Jun 1885 in Falkirk, Stirling, Scotland. The cause of death was Tuberculosis.

9Mviii. Alexander Thomson TELFER was born on 19 Jul 1872 in Falkirk. He died on 14 May 1883 in Falkirk, Stirling, Scotland. The cause of death was Tuberculosis.

10Mix. James TELFER was born on 03 Jul 1874 in Falkirk. He died on 20 Mar 1880 in Falkirk, Stirling, Scotland. The cause of death was Tuberculosis.

11Fx. Agnes TELFER was born on 19 May 1876 in Falkirk. She died on 09 Mar 1880 in Falkirk, Stirling, Scotland. The cause of death was Tuberculosis.

John TELFER II



The Falkirk Herald – 1908

Mr John Telfer, although he has been connected with Falkirk for the long period of 60 years, is a native of Newton-Mearns, Renfrewshire, and a son of the late Mr William Telfer, block cutter, there. After completing his education at a Barnhead school, his parents found it necessary, on account of the calico printing industry having practically left the Newton-Mearns district, to migrate to Falkirk, to which town Mr Telfer's mother belonged. The big ironmoulders' strike of 60 years ago had just terminated, and Mr Telfer's father obtained a situation as a patternmaker in Falkirk Foundry, for which branch of business his previous experience as a block-cutter qualified him.

The "Man You Know" was first employed for two years in the moulding shop in the same foundry, and he afterwards served his apprenticeship as an engineer with the late Mr George Hunter, engineer and millwright, Bainsford. Outside of Carron Works this was then the only engineering establishment in the district, and it gave employment to about a dozen men. Mr Telfer subsequently proceeded to Glasgow, and was employed for a year in one of the engineering establishments there. Thereafter he obtained a situation in Grangemouth as second engineer on board the screw steamer "Elf," a Baltic trader. The Glasgow and North of Europe Steam Navigation Company, to which the steamer belonged, having dissolved partnership a year or two later, and their ships having been sold, Mr Telfer obtained an appointment with Smith, Fullerton and Co., Camelon Foundry, as iron-turner, with the charge of the machinery and buildings. When this firm built their new works at Kilns he was sent to take charge as foreman of the works, and after acting in that capacity for ten years he obtained a situation as foreman in Castlelaurie Foundry, which is controlled by Falkirk Iron Company. In 1836 he was transferred from Castlelaurie to Falkirk Foundry, on the retiral of Mr William Morrison, assistant manager, to assist the late Mr George Binnie, the then manager. Castlelaurie Foundry having, within the next eight years, increased very much in size through the building of new moulding shops, Mr Telfer was, on the termination of that period, promoted to the position of manager there, and that position he held to the satisfaction of his employers and with credit to himself till his health gave way about four years ago, when he retired. He was extremely popular with his subordinates and with the workmen generally. Being exceedingly fond of photography, they presented him with a valuable camera on his retiral.

Mr Telfer has a great taste for music, and even when quite a young man he was a fair reader of the staff notation. He got together a choir, known as "Telfer's Choir," which was very much in request at concerts and social gatherings. About the year 1866 he

commenced the study of the Tonic Sol-fa notation of music. Having mastered the system, he began teaching it to a class, charging nothing for the lessons, although the members paid the charges for the meeting-room, gas, and coal. After working on with Tonic Sol-fa classes up till about 1876, some 70 of his pupils, who were all certificated, formed an association for the study of music of a better class than that which they had been in the habit of singing. The association was called the "Falkirk Tonic Sol-fa Association," Mr Telfer being appointed conductor. The association gave two concerts a year for some years in the Corn Exchange. No entrance money was charged, only a silver collection being taken at the door, and the hall was always crowded. Amongst the members of the association were Mr Thomas Sweeney, Mr J. O. Murdoch, Mr Geo. Muirhead, Mr Jas. Rule, Mr H. B. Watson, Mr T. B. Maxwell, Mr James Begg, and Mr Robert Dunn. The concerts, which were presided over by Provost Russel and other leading citizens, were considered great local musical treats, and the old copies of the "Falkirk Herald," which Mr Telfer still retains, containing lengthy notices of them, bear ample testimony to their high excellence, while Mr Telfer is referred to in most flattering terms by local gentlemen for the able and successful efforts he was then making to raise the standard of music in Falkirk, few choral concerts of the same popular class having been hitherto given in the town. Mr Telfer states that the first choral union that Falkirk possessed was conducted by the late Mr John Fulcher, Glasgow, and the subject of our sketch was appointed elementary teacher of it, his duty being to teach the members the Tonic Sol-fa notation. Mr Telfer was appointed by the Baird Trust precentor in Grahamston Parish Church. This position he relinquished on account of his appointment as assistant to Mr Binnie, manager of Falkirk Foundry, having taken up most of his time. Mr Telfer holds a number of certificates for musical proficiency.

For over 20 years Mr Telfer was a member of the committee of the Falkirk Building Society, six years of which he was chairman, and for nearly half a century he has been a member of the Sir John de Graeme Lodge of Odd-fellows. He has been a member of the Free Library Committee since its inception, and he has been of great assistance in the selection of technical works for it. Mr Telfer is a member of the Falkirk Burns Club, and a member of the Council of the Natural History and Archæological Society. In politics he is a Unionist, and he belongs to the Baptist body.

It almost appears a superfluity to write many words in praise of Mr Telfer as a man and as a citizen. There is probably no man in his own circle better liked. His kindly and gentlemanly bearing, and unfaltering geniality and good nature, have drawn around him a large circle of devoted friends.

Lt Col. Ian Garnet Maclaren writes in 1960, Robert Maclaren III's eldest son, Robert (Colonel) Maclaren IV, born in 1860, in due course, owned Robert Maclaren & Co Ltd., became an Honorary Colonel of the 8/9 Cameronians, and Chairman of the Royal Exchange in Glasgow for about 18 years.



Chairman Col. Robert Maclaren, 1860-1938, leaving Royal Exchange with HRH Prince George 'Bertie' in Glasgow on 27th April 1928

When war broke out in 1914 all supplies of iron stopped and demand for pipes dried up. However the firm went over to munitions and got a contract for eight million fuse stampings, among other things. Later in the war it teamed up with William Beardmore to make tank tracks.

After the war, in 1920, a subsidiary company was formed, called Eglinton Founders Limited, half of which was owned by Beardmore and half by Robert Maclaren & Company. Robert Maclaren & Company sold them half of the land which roughly consisted of all the present works and buildings up to our present fence.

Ingot molds were made here for casting steel ingots at Parkhead Forge, but eventually the early 1920s depression finished it and the company was liquidated in about 1926.

In the meantime Robert Maclaren & Company turned over to making brass bars and small quantities of pipes, but the situation had rather changed as all the plant had been cleared out during the war to manufacture munitions and the site was no longer a good one for heavy steel industries because of the difficulty of transport. The cost of re-equipping was too great, so all the remaining plant was sold and by 1925 no further casting or work took place, but a merchant business only in Cast Iron pipes was carried on until 1931.

In 1931, the old company was wound up, and a new company with the same name was formed on this site as the present company.

However, we must go back a bit, for in 1919 Col. Maclaren's brother, [Dr Norman Maclaren](#) [see [below](#)] had been controlling temperature for medical research work at Glasgow University, and Colonel Robert Maclaren (his brother) caught a cold in a train, so they got together and decided that the temperature in trains could, and should, be controlled. In 1920 Mr. Richmond joined the firm to investigate temperature control

generally. He started off in the mess room of the old foundry, which is still standing by the railway in the Standard Oil Company's grounds. That was in November 1920, and in January 1921 Mr Eyles joined him. They started experimenting with mercury type thermostats run in conjunction with relays, and also spent some time getting the place fitted out as a workshop, until the plant consisted of one foot operated lathe, one mill and one drill were installed later and motorised.

The first five years were almost entirely experimental, causing a lot of headaches until most of the original ideas were scrapped and also the original idea of controlling the temperature in railway carriages had to be abandoned due to the extreme dirtiness of the steam.

At that time almost all the output was to universities on the same type of work as Dr Maclaren. The first recorded order on the books is for an incubator embedding oven and a hot plate for Baird & Tatlock on 1.5.23. Then there are one hundred and fifty orders for Glasgow, Belfast and other universities, and to Baird & Tatlock. Up to 24.1.25 all these were for laboratory equipment, etc., then we got an order for one hundred gas cooker controls from Falkirk Iron Company and thus became the pioneers of gas oven thermostats.

Our 201st order was from Wild Barfield for a furnace thermostat up to 900 degrees and was a slow break type. Our 202nd order, a month later, was from George Nobbs. This was the original firm which went bankrupt in 1934, owing us six hundred pounds, which we could ill afford in those days. However they did give their name to our instruments, because the thermostats for use in Boiler by Nobbs became Boiler Nobbs, or BN, similarly FN and SN followed on from Furnace Nobbs and Surface Nobbs. So on we plodded, and during 1926, apart from universities, etc., we got new customers such as Archibald Low, Carron, Wild-Barfield, Falkirk Iron Company, G.E.C. and by the end of 1926 we had two hundred and ninety six orders in six years, most of them in the last six months of 1926.

In 1927 we made six hundred and twenty five thermostats, and new customers included Clyde Fuel, Benham, Haden, and Hotpoint and the orders had changed to mainly thermostats and contactor switches, as opposed to laboratory equipment. The turnover for that year was three thousand three hundred pounds, and the loss is not stated. In 1928 we had seven hundred and twenty three instruments with a turnover of two thousand, seven hundred and twenty eight pounds. In 1929 we moved to the present office block and site as staff had increased to twelve. Five of these originals are still here i.e., Mr. Eyles, Mr. Gallacher, Mr. King, Mr. H. Harrison and Mr. H. Henderson. The layout was a M/C shop in the first floor were the Pre-production department now is, and test and assembly in the present top flat of the offices with the store in the drawing office, the office consisted of a large room on the ground floor.

In 1929 we made one thousand six hundred and sixty nine instruments and a turnover of four thousand and seventy seven pounds. So It was thought that the firm was on its feet and round the corner. Unfortunately however, we went round the corner slap into the great industrial depression when no one had any money to buy such new fangled ideas as thermostats.

So in 1930 we made one thousand six hundred instruments and our turnover was down to three thousand two hundred and thirty seven pounds. In 1931 only one thousand two hundred instruments and turnover was three thousand one hundred pounds.

In 1931 old Robert Maclaren & Company was wound up as already mention in the earlier part, and a new firm was started with its own capital and setup.

The new company, therefore had its own financial arrangements, and instead of a yearly loss of two to three thousand pounds being absorbed by the parent company, these now appeared in all their glory on the new company's books.

However, things were starting to look up, and the loss of 1932 was about eight hundred pounds, with two thousand two hundred and forty eight instruments made and a turnover of three thousand two hundred and ninety pounds.

1933 showed the start of a real revival in trade, and we started getting going properly, with six thousand six hundred and one instruments made and a modest profit of two hundred pounds. We also started on magnetic snap action about this time or a bit earlier, but disaster soon overtook us again the shape of a patent case with Rheostatic Company. This dragged on for the next three years, in 1935 during the fair holiday, the result of the action was that we were forbidden to manufacture anymore thermostats with the magnetic snap action. This would have meant completely closing down the works. However, Mr. Richmond got to work and thought out a new non magnetic snap action, working away by himself in the empty works he perfected it by himself and modified it to suit the existing instruments so that when the works reopened, the mechanism was ready and patented and work proceeded right away, and the new action proved better than the magnetic type.

During this time the output had gradually increased, and the top flat was used for assembly, until in 1936 the turnover was about eighteen thousand pounds but the legal expenses of the litigation put the loss at about three thousand pounds a year. **In 1936 Colonel Robert Maclaren died.**