OLIPHANT

The Broken Branch



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Preface

This book was put together to explain what happened to William Oliphant, a forgotten child of Noble descent. The story is of him, his younger brother, and their older sister who after the death of both their parents at very young ages were merely throw-away children according to family records and history. It explains the rise of William's younger brother, who more than likely with the guidance of his Uncle claimed the peerage title of Lord, and also describes how his older brother William, the rightful heir, was believed to be lost at sea and given up for dead, but somehow miraculously survives to go on to have his own lineage and descendant line that time forgot, and history, as well as extended family, allegedly tried to erase.

This story outlines the history of a forgotten Noble line of Oliphant's and how they tie into their forebears, from early to modern times. It is intended to show a short sketch of the family disputes, the degrees of separation, and circumstances that removed them from their ancient lands, and their rightful titles. As the years have passed, the real story has been distorted and more confused by historical misinterpretations and inaccuracies.

Much of this information is already printed in other books on the Oliphant's, which I cite throughout this book, concerning old documents, letters, and even the alleged parts played by extended family members, and even the involvement of the Lairds of Gask themselves. I also explore theirs, and their extended family's influence on decisions that affected not only the immediate family but the history of the entire extended lines as well. I also briefly explore the results of their involvement with the Jacobite rebellion, etc.

As the work progressed and the further the family letters, books, and other available information were thoroughly examined, I focused my attention on certain family members and their alleged role in the highlighted events. These letters, mainly of a domestic nature, reveal the inner conflict and

dynamics of what was taking place during the separation of these familial lines, and the potential historical significance of their content as it relates to the immediate family.

In gathering all the material for this book, a great deal of help was received from various sources that are too numerous to mention and acknowledge individually. So, for obvious reasons, I will say collectively to all my friends, family, colleagues, and those who have given so much in the way of support and encouragement and made this journey a pleasant one. I say thank you, and I am eternally grateful beyond words for all your support and help.

For a more in-depth look at the Gask Oliphant's or the Lords Oliphant, there are numerous references throughout this book, as well as in the bibliography section at the back. I acknowledge them all with sincere thanks.

Anthony M. Oliphant

Introduction

Ever since I can remember, I've always been fascinated with archeology and the study of ancient times and faraway places. I remember sitting in my 5th grade science class gazing at the skeletal remains of a frog, and a cat mounted on pedestals on a table in the corner of the room. I remember thinking; I wonder how they looked when they were alive. What color were they? Where did they live or come from? Moreover, how did they die? I was full of wonder, and so many questions, with no easy answers. My father accused me once of asking too many questions and would again later on in my life.

It wasn't until my late 20's, after what seemed like an amazing feat of stumbling through a rough and tumble adolescence, and managing to survive it, that I started questioning where I came from. Although things seemed relatively normal on the outside, I felt a gnawing and yearning for something that I knew was missing.

After speaking with a friend about it, he said he thought it was strange that I had never met my grandparents, and had only briefly met a few Aunts, Uncles, and Cousins. I explained it was because they all lived in Canada, specifically Newfoundland. He asked me if I had ever thought about doing a genealogy study on my family. To which I replied, 'The thought never crossed my mind.' So, after pondering on the idea for a while, I eventually purchased a genealogy program and started entering what family information I knew, which I later found out, wasn't much at all.

First, I asked my mom what she knew about the Oliphant's and where they came from, she had limited knowledge of the family line, except about my grandparents, and said I would be better off asking my dad. She did however mention that there were some letters in our old family bible, and she heard there was a Castle back in Scotland that once was owned by the Oliphant's. So...I asked my dad, and he responded very annoyed, as though

I was being too intrusive; He said, "My son! Why do you want to go digging up bones?" I knew right then, I had ruffled some old familial feathers, and that only made me more curious. I knew at that point, just like when I was a kid, I had asked too many questions, which to me, was only an invitation to investigate further.

I knew at this point my quest for information would not be easy and eventually take me to Newfoundland to try and interview my grandmother, or any other family members I could find who would give me some answers. This venture would eventually turn into a thirty-plus year journey, taking me over many miles, interviewing family members, numerous hours of archive work, and even paying some researchers at times to help me get past a block. It became a hobby to some extent, but at certain points an obsession based on what information I would stumble on.

Eventually, I found myself at a roadblock in Scotland. After countless attempts to discover who my 4th Great grandfather William Oliphant the Customs Officer of the Port of Leith was, and where he came from, or who his family was. I started seeing one by one, subtle clues beginning to emerge after years of digging and communicating with other researchers, and finally, this mosaic slowly began to come together.

Although there was a lot of talk among family members down through the years as well as written in letters, etc. that we were related to the Gask Oliphant's and that side of the family in Scotland somehow, I couldn't confirm this at the time, so as far as I was concerned, that's all it was - a rumor. I figured it was probably fashionable to say you were related to Nobility or someone with the last name Oliphant, who happened to be rich and famous, and just by virtue of having the same last name, you were automatically related. I've always been more of a factual-based person and need to see evidence of things before I say it. Much less write it down as a historical fact.

That is until one day I had an epiphany when I realized that the pieces of this huge puzzle were starting to take an unexpected twist, and the tale of William Oliphant the Customs Collector started to emerge, about who he was and who he was related to. Although I was excited that the pieces of an exhaustive puzzle were finally coming together, I remained cautiously optimistic. The fact that my fourth great-grandfather William was tied into this family line was almost surreal. Even though some of the evidence seemed circumstantial, putting it all together collectively, made it abundantly clear.

By this time in my studies, it made no sense, not to follow through to a conclusive ending. Of course, this would lead down a more arduous path of validating the evidence and citing all the sources, to satisfy all the naysayers and critics who were and still are eager to try and debunk it. Even after years of navigating all the twists, and unexpected turns, while attempting to put together a logical format to explain these stories and tales of what happened and the reasons this family line became so splintered and fragmented, I came up with a title In 1999, and coined the phrase, “The Broken Branch”.

Ironically, these stories I had read, heard, and studied over many years about our family being connected to Nobility suddenly didn’t seem so ridiculous. This epiphany I had, opened my eyes to what has allegedly been an elaborate and deliberate effort to keep certain familial connections covered up. I’ve heard that there is always an element of truth to every rumor and as you come along on this amazing adventure of intrigue, deception, greed, tragedy, and perseverance. I reveal the truth behind what happened with each nugget of information interwoven throughout every chapter. The truth has always been there, but simply masterfully and cleverly hidden from not only the family but all the experts who either blindly or deliberately chose not to see it or better yet disclose it.

There is a reason why it took me over thirty years to write this book. It's because it's simply hard to believe that this could have gone on for so long without anyone noticing or saying anything about it. I had so many questions with no definitive answers. It took me this long to finally take that leap of faith, whether anyone believed it or not. I felt it was an amazing triumphant return of a lost lineage that was for so long touted as being exhausted of heir males. It took me this much time to finally realize that publishing my findings would uncover opposing views and criticism of the truths about our family history. But the undeniable truths surrounding all this information I uncovered made me decide to move forward because I still contend there is no other reasonable explanation that can be concluded.

The truth for many people can be a hard pill to swallow, but the overwhelming evidence I present here is derived directly from the books, sources, and experts themselves. To see all this information come together in the way it did, I feel assured you’ll not only discover what happened to the young boy, William Oliphant the rightful heir to the title and dignity, but also as the story unfolds, you will ultimately be introduced to his forgotten lineage, "The Broken Branch."

I must add a brief disclaimer to say that the majority of this book is based on the assumption that the reader has at minimal a basic understanding of the Oliphant family dynasty and the different factions of the ancient family lines and different branches as it were, of the Kelly, Rossie, Condie, and Gask lines of the Oliphant's. Without this basic knowledge, this might seem a bit confusing to a newcomer to this information, but the underlying story is fairly universal concerning everyday family dynamics. I sometimes forget that I have been reviewing this material for over thirty years and may overlook the fact that it can be a little overwhelming to try and sort it out at first glance. In any event, I hope it's not too confusing and you enjoy the read. If however you wish to explore further into the history of any or all these lines of the Oliphant family, there are numerous references throughout this book and also in the bibliography in the back of the book.

Chapter 1

The Lords Oliphant - The scramble for the peerage

The Peerage title, as some may know, was a patriarchal title handed down to the eldest son of the senior male line of a Noble family which was granted the Peerage Dignities and created by the sovereign (King) either by writs of summons or letters patent. If or when this line should become exhausted of males, then the title would revert to the eldest daughter of the most senior line, thereby becoming a cadet branch. Which incidentally is what happened to the British monarchy, when Queen Elizabeth became Queen.

Sometimes it can be a little confusing to follow a particular line of descent without a chart, mainly due to the confusion generated by the successive generations, and a confabulation of their version of events, and then is published by various professional genealogists and copyists, who say, corroborated with the families themselves, to get a more accurate depiction of their lines, and in some cases might even appear to support a particular narrative. However, I've gone through this family line and methodically laid out a chart along with evidence and citations in a concise manner to make it more understandable.

Also, family members and copyists of this information may have changed a date here or there based on their memory of an event or information that has come to light later, etc. In some cases, family members have even legally changed their last names to make it appear they are a direct lineal descent of the male line for inheritance purposes, which was by design.

Nevertheless, it was never any secret that Laird Laurence James Oliphant 5th of Gask, and his subsequent successors, desperately wanted the title and dignity of Lord Oliphant. It was almost an obsession with them that was

passed on from generation to generation; that is until it abruptly stopped in 1748. At least among those who could obtain the title legitimately; it was so obvious, that even the King's secretary, Mr. Edgar, questioned Gask's eagerness, and was curious what his motivation was for wanting it so badly. Of course, he put it more delicately, but that was the general consensus.

Shortly after Francis, 10th Lord Oliphant's death in 1748, Laurence James Oliphant, 6th Laird of Gask, abruptly stopped pursuing the title and seemingly dropped the whole thing altogether. I will lay out the details in as simple of terms as possible to explain why this decision was made, as well as explore the timeline of events, and a brief family history of how it unfolded. Even after much complaining to His Majesty about imposters potentially usurping the title in the early and mid-1700s. Sadly, it would not be realized in old man Gask's lifetime.

The evidence will show that Gask was confronted near the end of his life with a truth that even he could not deny, and in my opinion, certainly was not expecting. This discovery would change his and his son's minds about pursuing the title, as well as their subsequent successors in this family line for at least the next 90 years.

Numerous publications espouse to be the authority on the subject of The Oliphant's, and the different branches of the family, and their descendants. However, in some form or fashion, they plagiarized the material from the same papers, repositories, and books previously written on the subject as reference points for their material. As it turns out, books from the past were supposedly written using ancient documents, family genealogies, Bibles, and other reference materials as their source, and through some catastrophic events such as fires, floods, or you name your poison, these documents are no longer available, and these books themselves have now become the only reference source for this material.

This then becomes a matter of contention and debate among those experts who, as I mentioned, espouse to be the authorities over such issues but no longer have the original source material to validate their argument. Take for instance, the original "Scots Peerage" dated 1710, and then there's Crawford & Douglas's work, - then "The Jacobite Lairds of Gask," 1870, - "The Oliphants in Scotland," published, 1879, - "The Oliphants of Gask," 1910, - "Oliphant's genealogy in the Register House," just to name a few. The point is that all these authors believed their work at the time to be the most accurate and true work. However, some recently discovered materials contradict their interpretations and findings, as well as them contradicting each other, which I will also cover later.

Nevertheless, as mentioned, some of these publications from these premier authorities, on the subject have subtle contradictory information in them, such as Crawford's early peerage records, and James Douglas's version, which there again, appear personally motivated.

Most or some of this material is referenced and published in "Burke's Landed Gentry," or "The Peerage", and considered to be the absolute authority on the subject. Granted they do have a lot of crucial and accurate information in them. However, it has come to light in recent years that the discovery of new information from around the world, which possibly these guys didn't have access to back then, would suggest their material needs to be reexamined for its accuracy and potentially revised, and corrected. For instance, the full story of the young boy William Oliphant, the rightful heir to the peerage, and to factually name Laurence James Oliphant 5th Laird of Gask's grandmother, to name a few.

The more prominent and recent work seems to be done by *Sir. James Balfour Paul's,* 1909 – Edited version of The Scots Peerage, "Oliphant, Lord Oliphant," wherein he states he derived some or all his material by viewing original documents, which again, in my opinion is very unlikely, because the ones he cites regarding the Oliphants were very biased and slanted in a particular direction. It just so happened that he supposedly, and conveniently had available to him, the Charter Chest at Gask, courtesy of T. L. Kington or Ethal Graham. There again, I find it astonishing that most or all this information is not available to the public, except what was published in Gask's biographies and books, and the select documents and information found at the NAS, (*National Records of Scotland*) which once again, appear selectively chosen for deposit, which I will explain later.

Without getting into all the history of the Lords Oliphant, I will continue to focus on the ones closest to the individuals with whom this story is centered. If, however, this subject of the Lords Oliphant is of interest to you, they are covered in great detail on the Wiki website and can be accessed online but it would be a good idea to read the disclaimer about the accuracy of the content. The information, however, can be somewhat confusing when trying to determine who everyone is connected to.

When reading all the information available on the different Oliphant lines, I found it absolutely mind-boggling how all the letters and tales take you down an Alice in Wonderland episode of merriment and wonder, as they weave in and out of the stories about their military prowess, and how many children, or illegitimate children, and who married their cousins, and how they traveled to hither and dale, and far and wide, and on all sorts of

exploits to foreign countries, as well as all the aristocracy and prominence they encountered along the way and by the time you've read a few pages, you are so befuddled, that you forget what you opened the book for in the first place.

Even the Antiquaries and authors of some of the older text themselves seemed to express their confusion, and sowed seeds of contention and uncertainty, with statements like "*it was believed they were related,*" "*We are unsure of their parentage*," Or "We're uncertain exactly who, what, when, and where." things happened to their families. Which might leave one asking the question. Why would these people (Antiquaries, copyists, supposed professionals, etc.) who pride themselves on their accurate depictions of the family lineage and are reportedly the trusted sources to document these family histories, not be given true and accurate information? What were they trying to cover up? Then again, if you go to one of your own family members today and ask personal questions, there's no telling what you might get.

I wrote to 'Burke's Landed Gentry,' which is now called '*Company House Publishing*' to ask if the information published on the Oliphant families and recently updated in 2003 has been verified. Because Burke's is looked at as the proverbial Bible when it comes to Aristocracy, Nobility, and these family genealogies; I asked the owner if he or his team actually reviewed the original documents to verify the authenticity of this material submitted for publication. They wrote back and said.

"We don't have the resources or staff to be able to verify the information which is sent to us by any families, individuals, or entities, and therefore take no responsibility for its accuracy. We assume these families, individuals, or entities, verify it themselves before submitting it. We make them fill out paperwork regarding what they are sending, but that's it."

I found this all very interesting, to say the least, and it gives a good example of what we are dealing with in terms of the accuracy of information.

However, in keeping with the topic of our story. After reading all the various claims for the title, whether probated or not, the one constant theme that kept ironically popping up around the majority of these petitioners was the name, Laurence James Oliphant of Gask. According to him, he was listed as the rightful successor. Or as he put it, he received a resignation letter from the Lords Oliphant, stating he was the most legitimate next heir male. Coincidentally, it was denied by the King, as you will see later.

In the eyes of the Crown, Laurence James Oliphant, 5th Laird of Gask, and his successors were merely claimants themselves, with no special favor. But again, according to him, these previous Lords supposedly listed him as their designee. The sad thing is, whatever this letter was he said he had, it did not affect or sway the decision of the Crown. In essence, they said they couldn't validate the letter, because it was not presented during the time the alleged originator of the letter was still alive. The Crown apparently wasn't 100% persuaded, and although on several occasions they seemed to humor the Lairds in a delicate way, they still agreed it wasn't the proper time to make a decision. (1) (*Jacobite Lairds of Gask, pg.* 255 & 256)

The following excerpt is from the book, "*The Jacobite Lairds of Gask*." where Laurence of Gask, was complaining early on about what he called "imposters" trying to impose their will on the title of Lord Oliphant. You'll see a running theme of his and his successors' discontent over this for many years.

Patrick 8th Lord Oliphant died in London on the 14th of January 1720 and is buried in St. James's Church in London. An 'impostor' Andrew Oliphant started up at once and called himself Lord Oliphant. The Laird of Gask was ever on the watch, and wrote thus to the Duke of Athole:

Pg. 71; "*Jacobite Lairds of Gask*", *May 25th, 1721.*

My Lord,

I give your Grace this trouble, being informed that one Andrew Oliphant, an officer in the Army, has assumed the title of Lord Oliphant, and intends there-upon to vote in the ensuing election of a Peer. Desiring that your Grace will protest against him or his Proxy, as having no right to the Peerage of Lord Oliphant, in regard I have a resignation from the last Patrick Lord Oliphant of the title, honour, and dignity of Lord Oliphant, which I believe will be found by the Laws & Practice of Scotland sufficient to exclude any Person else from assuming the said titles or acting by virtue of them.

One of the causes that induced my Lord to make the resignation was, that I am the undoubted heir of line in the right of (Lilias Oliphant my Grand-mother), eldest daughter of Patrick Lord Oliphant, your resigner's Grand-father, If the said Legal resignation shall not be sustained, I desire your Grace would do me the favor to take a separate protest in behalf of William Oliphant, commonly called Col. Oliphant, second son of umquhile Patrick Lord Oliphant, and Uncle to Patrick last Lord Oliphant, that in respect he is nearest in blood to the said last Lord, and has, as I'm informed, already

assumed the title of Lord Oliphant, he being now residing at Orleans in France. And also on behalf of Francis Oliphant, a minor son to the deceased Captain Francis Oliphant, another Uncle to the last Patrick Lord Oliphant.

By complying with my desire in this your Grace will very much oblige.

Patrick Oliphant of Gask, the eldest brother of Laurence James Oliphant of Gask, was living in Leyden Holland, and was most jealous of the title of Lord Oliphant being held by any so-called 'impostors'; Andrew never acquired the title because Col William Oliphant was selected as next heir male and became 9th Lord. He was only in the role for about seven years before he died and was succeeded by his nephew Francis as the 10th Lord.

Not long after the death of Francis, 10th and last Lord Oliphant, another such imposter had come forward in the name of William Oliphant of Langton, who was voting at elections for Scots Peers, and was a man whom Gask also looked upon as a usurper, because he couldn't effectively prove his lineage.

Gask thus wrote again to Mr. Edgar, His Majesty's Secretary.

Pg. 240 "*Jacobite Lairds of Gask*"

Sir,

I was favoured with yours of September 8th, in which you informed me that you did me the honour of presenting mine to the King. I do most cordially, and without reserve, submit to whatever is His Majesty's pleasure concerning me, and am fully sensible of the great honour His Majesty does me in the unmerited.

Expressions of his kindness. I would not, in my illegally attainted state, have troubled His Majesty on the subject, had I not thought it my duty to do my part in keeping the titles of an old family from being taken up by usurpers, to whom I have ever had an utter aversion. I desire you'll make an offer of my most dutiful and most obedient services, and of my son's, to His Majesty, as I am wholly ignorant of the manner in which I should have addressed my Great Master, I hope the King's goodness will excuse all my faults. I give you hearty thanks for the kindness you have already done me and ever am. Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servant, Laurence Oliphant

My wife wrote to me lately. She had got an extract of the Resignation, which shall be sent if His Majesty thinks fit to call for it.

After Gask had sent his letter to Mr Edgar, the secretary of the King; this was the reply he received:

Pg. 255 & 256, "*Jacobite Lairds of Gask*" *- Albano, June 8th, 1751.*

Sir,

I have received the letter you are pleased to write to me of the 3rd of May, and have done myself the honour to lay it before the King. In return to which H.M. Commands me to tell you that as he does full justice to yours and your family's merit and sufferings, and has a particular value and esteem for yourself, it would be a pleasure to him to enter into what you propose, and do what would be agreeable to you, in relation to the title you claim of Lord Oliphant.

H.M. does not doubt from what you say on that head but that you may have a good right to that title, but still as that may happen to be disputable.

If H.M. were to acknowledge you as Lord Oliphant, it could not be but in conformity to the Laws and Customs of our Country, "Salvo Fure cujuslibet," and if controverted, a Parliament only could determine in that matter.

H.M. however, under this restriction, will not oppose, if you should have a great mind for it, your assuming the Title of Lord Oliphant.

But H.M. thinks the present not a proper time for anybody to assume Titles of Honor, and therefore he is of the opinion it would be proper to delay doing it unless you have strong motives to the contrary, and such as may tend to your real advantage.

You will see by this how much H.M. is inclined to favour you, and in writing it to you he directs me to make you a kind compliment in his name.

As to the Priority of Resignation of the Honors you have in your custody, it is a strong evidence in your behalf, but I do not see it can be of any use to you at present, for I don't find that there has ever been any such Resignation made in H.M.'s hands, or in those of the King his Father's since the Revolution, and without a president one would not know how to go about an affair of that kind.

Besides that, all Resignations before the Revolution must by Law have been made in the Resigner's lifetime, for the Act of Parliament, for Resignations being made after the Resigner's death was, I think, in the Prince of Orange's time, and until that Act be confirmed by lawful authority, which no doubt

it will be, H.M. cannot receive such a Resignation.

I beg. Sir, you would be well assured of the pleasure it will be always to me to be able to be useful to you, and to contribute to what may be to your satisfaction.

The fullness and plainness of this letter will, I hope, show to you, and I shall profit of all occasions where I can show you that I am with a true and sincere respect, Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

James Edgar

Thomas Kington commented in his book after this letter; *'Gask apparently took the hint, and for many years after said no more about his so-called right to be the Eleventh Lord Oliphant.'*

However, Mr. Kington overlooked the fact that another situation was playing out during that time which I will explain in more detail later and give a potential reason why they chose not to pursue the title and so-called "took the hint."

According to the old Scottish law, sitting on the committee and voting as a peer, you could by *de facto*, claim a dormant title. If you should have or can present convincing enough evidence of your lineage or pedigree as it were, and if it seemed legitimate enough and goes uncontested, then by all means, it would appear you're in the Club! Obviously, I'm saying this tongue in cheek, and making light of it, but after reading a few of these so-called claims presented, the old rules governing this sort of thing appeared to be a little loose in their qualifying requirements, and seemingly just allowed it. Of course, all that has supposedly changed now.

With the merger of the Scottish and English Crowns as a result of the *Act of Union 1707,* the ability to surrender and/or seek a re-grant, as in the case of the much earlier creation of the Barony of Oliphant in 1633. To be granted a title today, it's a different process than that which took place in 1633. Today there have been some changes to the rules regarding certain aspects of this, and the new regulations and changes made by the "Court of the Lord Lyon" were posted on their website in 1999, which can be viewed and explained in more detail, but that's a whole other story.

There were quite a few other unofficial claims, or at least people who were calling themselves "Lord Oliphant" up until around 1814-15, which were also denied according to the [(2)] *Faculty of Advocates, pg. 81-88;* stating

the relationship of these successive claimants was not known. [3] *Decision of the Court of Session, Nov 1814-1815.* However, there were still quite a few going around espousing to be Lord Oliphant, which was almost comical when you think about it, or as old man Gask once referred to them, "Imposters!"

As the old man Laurence of Gask aged, his eyesight started getting bad, and he couldn't see to write letters or make sure no one was going to usurp his so-called resignation. So, he elicited the help of his son, Laurence Younger, his successor, to write and dictate his letters to handle his business.

Laurence, the Laird of Gask was looked upon as somewhat of a prop of the house, but there were several heir males of the senior line still between him and any possibility of him ever getting the title. There was Patrick Oliphant 8th Lord who had recently passed. Then there was Colonel William Oliphant, who was living in Paris France, and then the younger brother of the Col, Lieutenant Francis Oliphant Sr., who had two sons himself, William and Francis Jr.

The problem Laurence James Oliphant of Gask had was these half grand Uncles of his, were half-brothers of his grandmother, Lilias Oliphant, who was the eldest daughter of Patrick 6th Lord Oliphant, from a previous marriage, therefore making her half-sister to his grand uncles. So... not only were they half-siblings, but Laurence James Oliphant of Gask was descended from Lilias's line. In other words, the female line, and therefore the reason they were always termed a Cadet Branch. In the myriads of publications available out there today on the different Oliphant lines, they are always referred to as Cadet, and this is why.

However, some of the authors in this material try to put a spin on it, to create the illusion these lines are directly descended from the senior male line. When in fact they are of the female side of the senior line. It's only a smoke screen to disguise the truth from those who are not so well-informed on the subject and their interpretation can give a false impression of who they are.

Nevertheless, we are only interested in presenting the facts. So...that said, there is a degree of connectedness with these family members, but the separation by the half-sibling issue and being from the female side explains why they were labeled a Cadet Branch. Regardless of their being related as half-siblings and being from their grandmother's side, the reality is, technically they are still family.

This is why most of the Oliphant families who submit their DNA on some of these popular DNA websites, never see anyone with the Oliphant name pop up as a descendant. It's more than likely going to be in the mDNA or mitochondrial DNA from the female side. Hence the reason the Oliphant DNA project is predominantly focused on the mDNA for purposes of recognition.

This in no way diminishes what's being done in the way of the DNA project, or in any way denigrating anyone's heritage. Just because it's mDNA, doesn't de-legitimize someone's connection to the Oliphant family. DNA is DNA, and no matter how you slice it, you're still a part of the Oliphant Clan even if you do have a different Surname.

It's a wonderful project, which incidentally was initiated by David Olifent of London back in early 2000 before he died. DNA was still in its infancy and fairly recently discovered. It was later picked up by members of the Oliphant Clan as a project to identify different lines. It's a great way to give a lot of insight into who is connected to who, and also gives a better understanding of a particular geographic location, which can help tie down or at least narrow down a particular branch or line of the family from whom an individual comes. Also, it can give a good idea of the Estates and Castles in Scotland that once belonged to a particular branch. Even the famous Actor Charlton Heston might have known this because his grandmother was an Oliphant.

The fact that during this time, it was not statutory for women to change their maiden names at marriage, and depending on the status of her family, sometimes they were encouraged to keep it. In a lot of cases, the names continued through younger generations, and more than likely were derived from the female side somewhere.

This has always presented a mystery over my thirty years of research, and eventually, as it unfolded, finally started making sense. Even if a daughter inherited her family's estate, sometimes her husband would automatically get it, and in some cases transfer it into his family name, which is what James Douglas was trying to do when he married Anne Oliphant heiress to Gask. (*see the story of Lord Mortington and Anne Oliphant*) This is one of the reasons the Oliphant women kept or changed their names and made a diligent effort to keep the ancestral lands in the Oliphant name. Incidentally, Ann Douglas eventually changed her name back to her maiden name Oliphant.

Sadly, it will always be a bone of contention among those who are critics of

the truth and think they have all the answers, and of course, if you dig deep enough, you can clearly see why they have different motivations for their interpretations and opinions, as I'm sure they might say the same about me.

Nevertheless, the argument has been around for hundreds of years and as you will see from all the evidence presented throughout this book, and even after reading some of the conflicting information from different publications, there will always be those who no matter how obvious and in their face, it is, simply will not accept the truth. There's no doubt the argument will certainly go on long after I'm gone, but I felt it was important to show this side of the story and let everyone make an educated and informed decision.

After years of researching, I noticed a pattern starting to emerge of the obvious attempts to cover up what really happened to young William Oliphant, the seemingly forgotten boy, and rightful heir to the peerage and dignity. I felt it was an injustice perpetrated on not only him but on the young boy's entire ancestral line that followed.

In 1840 Laurence James Oliphant, 10th Laird of Gask married his cousin, Henrietta Gillespie Graham, the heiress of Orchill. The year before his wedding, in 1839, he had taken steps to claim the Oliphant peerage, ninety years after the death of Francis the 10th Lord Oliphant.

James Oliphant, who had for his counsel Mr. J. Riddell and Mr. W. Skene, instructed that his direct descent was as heir male of the body of William Oliphant of Newton, the younger son of Colin, Master of Oliphant, who was slain at Flodden. However, this was not true because he descended from the female line.

The Laird of Gask declared, that after every possible inquiry, (*which is questionable*) he could discover no evidence of any competitor claiming a nearer descent; and that the right to the title of Lord Oliphant had for ninety years been reputed to belong to his branch of the family.

James Oliphant, however, did not push his claim any further (*for obvious reasons*) and never voted at an Election of Scottish Peers, therefore never becoming the official Eleventh Lord Oliphant. I'll cover this in more detail later.

Margaret Oliphant, Laurence Oliphant 8th Laird of Gask's youngest daughter, insisted that all her daughters, even after marriage, retain the

Oliphant name. Other generations would also use the Oliphant name in their daughter's names, even if just their middle name, etc. Some of the women even after marriage changed their names back to Oliphant. This was done with a few women in my line as well, which you can see in the following charts.

In conclusion, after a lifetime of studying my family line, and having to return and try to make sense of it all, I present you a more concise representation of what happened to this branch of the family as it relates to the Gask family and the peerage title, etc. Also, how the family relationship became splintered, or as the title suggests, "Broken." I use the 14th-century Occam's razor approach, wherein if you have two competing ideas, you should prefer the simpler one. Because generally speaking the simplest explanation is closer to the truth. More of a commonsense approach without all the, as I like to refer to it, Razzle & Dazzle, used car salesman hype. I'm not trying to convince anyone of anything. The evidence speaks for itself.

As we navigate the different aspects of this story, I feel it's important to stick with the information pertinent to the subject at hand, which is, what really happened to William Oliphant, the older brother of Francis, 10th Lord, who they say couldn't be found and, I dare say, it doesn't appear a lot of effort was expended to find him either.

Nevertheless, the objective here is to unravel the mystery, explain Williams's side of the tale in the simplest of terms, show what became of him, and ultimately show his line of descent. It also presents multiple layers of evidence that continually lead back to the obvious conclusion, which is William the young boy did survive and left a line of legitimate heir male descendants.

Chapter 2

The Mystery Behind The Third Creation of the Title

To understand what the Third creation of the title and peerage of Lord Oliphant really was, you must first understand how the separations from the 1st to the so-called 3rd creation originated. There is no easy explanation, but I will attempt to give a Readers Digest version of it only to show that the title up until today is based on the designation on June 2nd, 1633 of Patrick 6th Lord Oliphant and went dormant after the death of Francis 10th Lord in 1748.

There seems to be somewhat of a contentious disagreement among the experts on the subject which apparently has never been mutually agreed upon or officially sorted out. Nevertheless, to explain it in the simplest of terms possible. The title was originally bestowed on the first Lord Oliphant around 1464 by the then King, and for many years it was passed down in the Oliphant senior male line of the family until the fifth lord Laurence Oliphant gained the title. The story of his reign was explained as volatile, and it was said he bankrupted the entire Oliphant estate and was described as a flamboyant spendthrift who basically sold off all the lands and estates while denuding himself and resigning the title before he died in 1631. One of his half-cousins, also named Laurence purchased the Gask estate.

The confusion seems to be that after the 5th Lord sold Gask to his cousin, who I mentioned was also named Laurence, and was not the heir apparent and had no legal designation to the title due to his being from the female line. Still, because he was now the owner of the estate of Gask, which was at one time the main seat of the Lords Oliphant and no one else had made a petition toward the Barony of Oliphant after the death of Laurence 5th Lord in 1631, he applied for a re-grant of the title under his own name.

This cousin Laurence was now the Laird of Gask but not the Lord, which some get confused about in the titles. Laird only means 'landowner' and the title of Lord can only be bestowed on someone by the King.

Laird Laurence died before a decision was made on his petition for the re-grant of the title because there were a lot of questions about his legitimacy and whether or not all the potential heir males of the senior line had been ruled out.

Laird Laurence, the new owner of Gask had only one daughter Anne, and after he died, she inherited Gask along with her husband James Douglas, aka Lord Mortington, who attempted to merge the two titles for financial reasons. However, the King at the time, who attended the Court proceedings decided that the title should remain in the Oliphant male line and ruled that Partick, Anne's half-cousin being the next closest male in the senior line would be 6th Lord Oliphant. James and Anne protested this decision to no avail. But in some weird transaction, Lord Mortington, Anne's husband somehow was listed as above Patrick in stature. Still, Patrick officially held the title of 6th Lord Oliphant in the senior male line.

However, in comparing Sir J B Paul's interpretation of the effect of the resignation and the terms of the Patent supposedly creating a fresh Barony of Oliphant on June 2nd, 1633 (*The Scots Peerage, Vol 6 pg. 552/53*) he suggests that because of the words "post datam presentium tantum" meaning (after the present date only) included in the terms of the patent, the 1633 patent did not represent a new creation, but a re-grant of the first creation, (*Scottish version*). Whereas G. E. Coyayne (*The Complete Peerage, 2nd ed, Vol 10, pg 54 – 55*) interprets the events of June 1633 rather differently, treating it as a fresh creation and on that basis his interpretation, must have been that Laurence 5th Lord Oliphant had resigned the 1st creation, thus it was re-granted because of his death, in effect making it extinct and superseded by the 1633 creation, which according to this version of events, would have made Patrick 1st Lord Oliphant, second creation. (*English Version*) Therein lies the conundrum. Both sides could never agree on the interpretation of the patent.

Nevertheless, the professionals leaning more toward the G. E. Coyayne version of events are not convinced of the legitimacy of a 3rd creation and or whether the second creation was satisfactorily resolved. The avoidance on the part of both parties in making a firm decision, either way, would mean that one party would have to admit their guy may have interpreted the events of that day incorrectly, or could there be some other reasons or motivation toward a particular bias?

It does seem a little odd that there has been a stalemate on this particular issue for the past 270 + years. Even with the *Act of Union in 1707*, But there again, to my knowledge, no one has ever legitimately come forward to say they were descended from this line in over 270 years either, or challenged these interpretations, so there may not have been a need to resolve it.

The problem with all this as it relates to the topic of this book and the descendants of William the Young Boy is that this splitting of hairs approach and the continual succession of rhetorical questioning accompanying the topic is that it creates a convenient obstacle for both sides to avoid deciding who is technically responsible for granting the title, and also aids them in avoiding the issue of who the rightful heirs to the peerage title are. All of this stalling just to answer what seems to be a fairly simple question; What would the next in line be called? The 6th Lord, second creation, or the 11th Lord, second creation? Nevertheless, to prevent any further confusion going forward in this publication, or getting into a deeper and potentially more controversial subject of institutional betrayal and or allegedly 'Greasing the palms" of the right review board members, I will refer to Francis as the 10th Lord Oliphant as it is written.

Today if you ask anyone about this, they quickly try to turn it into an erudite discussion and give it a more academic and sophisticated explanation, which there again a succession of rhetorical questioning, and nothing is resolved. I'm sure it's more complicated, but in plain layman's terms, the avoidance of the topic appears to be a clear example of kicking the can down the road.

Nevertheless, there seems to remain some confusion surrounding the legitimacy of a third creation of the title after 1748, which was never "*de jure*". (Legal) The confusion is in the numerous unverified publications saying there is one. However, this is a misnomer and can be validated in several, more authoritative publications, (*P.C. Register 103, pp. 370-75*).

Based on some of these reference books on the subject they use the terms 11th, 12th, and 13th Lord and so forth to describe these supposed successive individual claims to the title and this numbering sequence appears after Francis the 10th Lord's death in 1748. However, the rest of these claimants were caught up in this menagerie and confusion surrounding this unverified third creation.

After the death of Francis 10th Lord, as mentioned, a volley of Claimants stepped forward, citing they were next in line, including Laurence James Oliphant 6th Laird of Gask. However, the next notable attempt at the title

after Francis was William Oliphant of Langton, who claimed to be the great-grandson of Peter Oliphant of Turin, 2nd son of Laurence, 3rd Lord Oliphant, which for all intents and purposes was never able to legitimately prove, but used the fact that he sat in a session of peers as his claim to the title by *'de facto'* and the proof or evidence of his claim apparently was never challenged.

He styled himself Lord Oliphant sometime around 1749. However, what was not mentioned was William was never officially granted the title by the Crown, partly because of the previously mentioned misinterpretation of the second patent and the unresolved disagreement. (2)(*Robertson, Peerage proceedings, pg. 274*) But William continued to call himself Lord Oliphant for about two years when he suddenly died in 1751. It was said he (unofficially) designated Laurence Oliphant, 6th of Gask as his successor to the peerage, but again, there is no evidence to suggest this.

After William of Langton's death, young David Oliphant of Bachilton started calling himself Lord Oliphant, stating he felt he was next in line to the peerage and title. This also went uncontested for some time. The problem with him saying he was next in line was there was no definitive proof of his lineage either. It was believed he was a descendant of a bastard son of Laurence Oliphant, Abbot of Inchaffray, who was killed at Flodden.

According to a passage written in (4) *(James Belfour Paul's book - Scots Peerage Vol. 6.)* The Abbot of Inchaffray, was described as a loose living man, and reportedly fathered several illegitimate children before his death at Flodden, and David was simply a product of one of these indiscretions. Again, David's claim went uncontested while he tried to iron out the details of where he came from until about 1770 when his claim was politely denied.

David Oliphant was finishing up his medical degree at the University of Edinburgh at the time and became a Doctor of Medicine when he was denied, and left for Clarendon Jamaica, where he set up a medical clinic, but later moved to Charleston SC. He eventually moved to RI and retired in Newport, where he died in 1804, and is buried there. You can see more on his story in, (5) "*The Complete Peerage of England, Cokayne. Vol. 10, 2nd edition, pg. 48-60.*"

It was never fully explained why Dr. David's petition was denied and it can only be assumed it was due to a lack of evidence. Also, it was peculiarly around the same time William Oliphant the Bulker was mysteriously on the scene in Leith, and may have had a hand in his denial, but I'll cover

that in more detail later.

After Dr. David departed from Scotland, he was reportedly succeeded in the estate of Bachilton by his nephew, the son of Dr. David's sister Margaret. Now... I didn't dig into David's family too deeply. So, if he was the descendant of a bastard son of Laurence of Inchaffray as reported, then I'm not sure if that made Margaret his half-sister, stepsister, or what exactly her genetic relation to him was, if any.

Nevertheless, Margaret, his 'sister' was married to John Oliphant of Carpow. John her husband, also styled himself Lord Oliphant until he was supposedly succeeded in March of 1781, by John Harrison Oliphant, who was later succeeded by another John Oliphant in Sept 1791.

The last one rumored to have supposedly succeeded the title was Margaret Oliphant, who died in 1800. It's unclear if this Margaret was the sister of Dr. David, his Niece, or who she was, but apparently there were quite a few other unofficial claims around the same time, or at least people going around saying, I'm related to so-and-so and calling themselves Lord Oliphant until about 1815, when according to the [6](*Faculty of Advocates, pg. 81-88.*) Stating the relationship of these successive claimants was not known. Also, in the [7] (*Decisions of the Court of Session Nov 1814-1815*). Or as it was said in the immortal words of old man Gask, 'Imposters!' which in conclusion validates that there is no legal 3rd creation of the title of Lord Oliphant, and the title has remained dormant since the death of Francis 10th Lord Oliphant in 1748.

[1] (*P.C. Register 103, pp. 370-75*) [2] (*Robertson, Peerage proceedings, pg. 274*) [3] *Oliphant's in Scotland*,) [4]*James Belfour Paul's book, The Scots Peerage Vol 6.* [5] "*The Complete Peerage of England, Cokayne. Vol 10, 2nd edition, pg. 48-60.* [6] *Faculty of Advocates, pg. 81-88.* [7] *Decisions of the Court of Session, Nov 1814-1815*).

Chapter 3

Colonel William Oliphant the Jacobite Soldier

It's important to note the significant influence the Colonel has on this entire story, as he was not only a fascinating and controversial character who played a part in one of the most significant familiar rumors, which if irrefutable evidence had been discovered, would have altered the course of the historical significance of the Oliphant family. He was also a liaison between his nephews and their Gask counterparts. Being the uncle of William and Francis Jr., who are the main focus of where the branch was broken in this family story, but the Col was also the only one who kept tabs on his nephews and played a significant part in their lives. By telling his story it reveals the different intervals where he interacted with them. Also, because such little information was found on the Col, I felt it would give a better understanding of who he was and his involvement in this pivotal point in the history of this branch of Oliphant's. There were several topics of interest surrounding the Col William Oliphant that left me with a lot of questions. Namely, the legitimacy of his marriage to Marie Magdeline Elinga, and their reported missing family. Also, the swirling rumor among the family of his having an illegitimate daughter, named Clementina Sobeski. Without deviating too far from the main topic of the book, we can take a closer look at this seemingly controversial topic and how devastating this information would have been had concrete evidence been revealed and uncovered, and how it would have rewritten history as we know it.

Col. William Oliphant, and eventual 9th Lord; was born in 1661, and died on the 30th of Dec 1728 at Williamstoun, (*Gask Estate*) where he stayed as a guest with his half grandnephew, whom in the future I will just refer to as nephew, Laurence Oliphant 6th of Gask, younger. In several different publications, it is mentioned that the Col is buried at Gask but doesn't specify which estate. The old Gask estate has a church and graveyard there, and I've personally looked through it, and didn't see him listed on any

headstones there, nor do I recall ever going to Williamstoun, but if we did on a tour or something, I don't recall ever hearing about a family graveyard.

The Col as he was called, was the third son of Patrick, 6th Lord Oliphant, and Lady Mary Crichton. His first appearance on record was in 1681, when he obtained a commission as Captain in the Scots Regiment raised by Colonel Henry Gage, for the Spanish Service in Flanders. (1) His name appears in a pay list of that regiment in February 1683, (2) being then, and up to the 29th, of April 1684 at least, (3) in the Garrison at Mons in Hainault.

The regiment was probably disbanded soon afterward, for the following year he had two others. All good men having held commissions abroad, were sent to assist the Marquis of Atholl in suppressing the Argyll rebellion. (4)

On the 7th, of November 1685, he was appointed Captain of a new company of foot to be added to the Scots Guards, (5) in which regiment he remained until at least October 1687, and probably later.

On the 20th, of May 1686 the Privy Council recommended General Drummond grant him a "forlot" (furlough) to go abroad to handle his necessary affairs for two months, (6) which might suggest he was possibly married or otherwise engaged when he left the Spanish Service.

Before or shortly after the revolution, he went to Ireland, whence he returned to Scotland to take part in the Killicrankie Campaign as Lieutenant Colonel in the Regiment of his cousin Lewis, Viscount Frendraught. (7) He subscribed to the Band of Tomintoul, on the 15th, of January 1690. (8) After the breakup of the Jacobite Army at Haughs of Cromdale, he remained with the force which under Buchan and Cannon kept the field in Aberdeenshire, and in September 1690 made a raid to within a few miles of Stirling. (9)

On the 28th of that month, he along with his cousin Lewis Frendraught, and a few others, took possession of the Castle of Federate in Buchan, (10) which they held against Mackay for three or four weeks. (11) After the capitulation (12) of this, the last stronghold held for King James II on the mainland of Scotland, Col William was kept a prisoner at Perth until, 12th November 1691, when the Privy Council ordered his release. (13) On the 26th of January 1692, he was allowed to go to London to solicit King William's permission to rejoin his family in Flanders, whom he had not seen in three years. (14)

Col. William's name is on the Jacobite exiles, charged with fighting against their countrymen in the campaigns of 1692 and 1693. (15) From this time a letter dated at Rotterdam on the 20th, April 1695, (16) and his signature as a witness to a deed at Pittendreich on the 14th, January 1702. (17) Incidentally, the same year his younger brother Francis Sr. celebrated the birth of his eldest son, William, who most likely was named after his uncle the Colonel.

Let it be noted, there is a gap of six years where the Col William Oliphant was missing in exile and was in financial distress, as we will see from his desperate letters to Gask and his nephew asking to borrow money. The Jacobite community in Europe – particularly around the Oliphants of Gask and the wider Scottish exile network – was incredibly tight-knit, highly dramatic, and rife with interpersonal rivalries and as we will explore later, with deep family secrets. Also, as a matter of note, which I will cover in more detail later. The Sobieski crown jewels and massive wealth practically bankrolled the Jacobite court in exile and partially funded the 1745 uprising.

Although some of this extended information on the Colonel may seem irrelevant to our missing young boy William's disappearance. It does help explain what transpires in the family and later on in young William's life and gives us the reason why he made such a dramatic shift from the aristocratic life of his ancestors to the Civil life he chose.

THE COLONEL'S MISSING YEARS

Col William Oliphant was a staunch Jacobite military officer who, as noted, famously fought at the Battle of Killiecrankie in 1689. Following the defeat, he was imprisoned for a period of time before eventually fleeing to the European continent. He spent years moving through the Jacobite diaspora in France, Germany, and potentially Eastern Europe before returning to Scotland.

Following the collapse of the initial Jacobite resistance, Scottish officers who didn't return immediately to Scotland were typically integrated into the Scottish regiments serving on the continent, or they joined the court of the exiled Stuart's. The exiled Stuart court moved around but maintained a massive network across France, the Low Countries, and Germany.

Prince James Louis Sobieski and his wife Hedwig Elisabeth, who was the mother of Princess Clementina Sobieski, spent their summers at Olawa in Silesia, turning their court into an exile sanctuary for foreign trav-

elers, Catholic elites, and military veterans looking for mercenary work or political backing. Given that William was a battle-tested Colonel still in his prime at around 28 years old, and who was already moving in Dutch/Flemish circles where the Newburg's (Hedwig Elisabeth's family) held sway, a journey eastward into Silesia during his missing years is highly plausible.

Nearing the end of his exile in Europe, the last mention of the Col was in the book, *'The Oliphant's in Scotland'* – where it jumps from April 1695 to him witnessing a deed in Pittendreich, the home of his mother, the Crichton's, in Jan 1702. This gap in time was a period of basically no paper trail which is why I dubbed it 'the missing years', and I will explain in more detail later. The Pittendreich mentioned is a historic estate located in Banffshire, Scotland (historically within the parish of Keith and near the river Isla).

The historical details connecting Col William Oliphant to this exact location in time include;

The Location and the Oliphant Connection:

The Estate: The lands of Pittendreich in Banffshire were originally part of the heritage of the Crichton of Frendraught family.

How the Oliphant's Got it: Patrick Oliphant (the 6th Lord) married Mary Crichton, the daughter of James Crichton of Frendraught. Through her family, the Oliphant's acquired the lands of Pittendreich.

William's Role: William was one of Patrick and Mary's sons. He was a dedicated Jacobite soldier and a Lieutenant Colonel who as previously mentioned, famously fought at the Battle of Killiecrankie, and became the 9th Lord Oliphant later in life.

The 1702 Deed Context:

The year 1702 was a highly volatile period for the family. Following his involvement in the first Jacobite rising, Col William Oliphant faced massive debts. Around this exact time frame, he allegedly began disponing (transferring) his estates to his wealthier cousin, Laurence Oliphant, the Laird of Gask, to satisfy some of their creditors. (Hence potentially giving him a stake in the Estate) The deed he signed on January 14th, 1702, was signed right on his family's property in Banffshire just a few years before the Oliphant's ultimately had to sell the Pittendreich lands to stay afloat.

WAS THE COLONEL ACTUALLY MARRIED?

Standard royal histories state; The Col William Oliphant was reportedly married to a woman by the name of Marie Magdeline Elinga? If we look at the rumor mill surrounding the Oliphant's of Gask, Crichton family, Stuart's, Frendraught's, and Drummond's as well as a wide circle of friends and family, there seems to be much confusion about the historical context in comparison to the private family archives which reveal an entirely different set of rules when it comes to what they presented as their public persona.

Let's dive into a few of the reported explanations of this union between the Col William Oliphant and the infamous Marie Magdeline Elinga. There are brief mentions of her in 'T*he Peerage*', but no real concrete evidence of her existence.

FIRST; WHO WERE THE ELINGA"S?

Marie Magdeline Elinga's potential Family:

There are specific, logical reasons why a family line like the **Elinga's** could seem entirely erased from the official aristocratic narrative, especially in the context of Col William Oliphant, and his alleged marriage in **Flanders, Belgium, as reported in the Peerage** after 1681. [1]

The mystery surrounding Colonel William Oliphant's wife can seemingly be solved by standard, elite Jacobite genealogies, which record her full maiden name as '*Marie Magdeline Elinga*'.

If the Elinga's were indeed an influential or noble line, several historical mechanisms might explain why their paper trail could have vanished.

The Ghent Connection: "Elinga" (or Elinck / Eeling) is a classic, prominent Flemish/Dutch surname. The source's note that she may have been the daughter of a councilor of Ghent. The Elinga family produced notable figures across the Low Countries in the 17th century. (*Bridgeman Images*)

Exile, Jacobitism, and Forfeiture of Identity:

Col William Oliphant was a staunch Jacobite (loyal to the deposed Catholic King James VII/II) and was imprisoned during the upheavals of 1689. Many Scottish Jacobite's fled to Flanders (the Spanish Netherlands), where the Col reportedly married Marie Magdalene Elinga. [1,2]

When Jacobite's fled to Catholic Europe, they often operated in a legal and social twilight zone:

Anglicization of Names: "Elinga" is highly unlikely to be an original spelling. It is almost certainly a phonetic, Scottish-gentry corruption of a Flemish or Dutch surname. For instance, it could be a corruption of *Edelinga* (signifying "noble lineage"), *Alinga*, or a regional surname like *Eecklinga*. If searching for "Elinga" in Belgian archives, you more than likely won't find it because that spelling only existed in Scottish minds and records.

Political Erasure: If Marie's family were local councilors or nobility who aided Protestant rebels, or conversely, if they were ultra-Catholic royalists caught on the wrong side of the brutal Franco-Dutch wars raging in Flanders at the time, their records may have been systematically destroyed or suppressed during political purges.

SECOND; THE NUANCE OF CONTINENTAL "NOBILITY" vs. BRITISH PEERAGE

The sources state she was the daughter of a "councilor of Ghent". In the Low Countries (Belgium/Netherlands), the structure of the upper class was vastly different from Scotland:

The Patrician Class: Cities like Ghent (Gent) were governed by powerful, wealthy oligarchies known as *Patricians*. These councilors (*schepenen* or *raadsheren*) held immense political sway, comparable to noblemen, and frequently intermarried with the landed aristocracy.

However, they were often part of the *Nobility of the Robe* (civic/legal nobility) rather than the *Nobility of the Sword* (ancient feudal landholders). British genealogists compiling peerage books (like *The Scots Peerage*) often ignored or didn't know how to categorize continental civic nobility. If she wasn't a "Lady" with a traditional feudal title, British heralds simply recorded her name and moved on, treating her family as non-entities.

Destruction of Flemish Archives

Flanders, where this marriage allegedly took place, was known as the "Cockpit of Europe" because it was the primary battleground for centuries of warfare.

Between the *Eighty Years' War*, the *Wars of Louis XIV* (contemporaneous with the Col William Oliphant's time there), and later the catastrophic

destruction of civic archives in World War I and World War II, massive chunks of Ghent's municipal and parish registries were permanently lost to fire and artillery.

THIRD; A SECRET OR MORGANATIC MARRIAGE

If Marie Magdalene was from a prominent family, but the marriage occurred under irregular circumstances - such as a Protestant-Catholic mismatch, a marriage without her father's required legal consent, or an alliance made while William was in political hiding - the Elinga family may have *intentionally omitted her from their records*. In continental Europe, marrying an exiled, penniless foreign soldier without parental permission could result in a daughter being legally written out of the family testament and genealogy to protect the family's local standing.

The aristocracy approached record-keeping not merely as a bureaucratic chore, but as a critical matter of political survival, legal legitimacy, and social preservation. For centuries, noble houses meticulously documented their lineages to defend their wealth and power. So... for her and her family not to be listed anywhere is highly unlikely considering the Colonel's status and position.

Here is a breakdown of how and why the aristocracy maintained such diligent genealogical records:

1. Proof of Legal and Territorial Legitimacy

In aristocratic society, land, titles, and wealth were tied entirely to hereditary succession. A single break in a documented family chain could result in a rival claiming an estate or the Crown seizing the property. Meticulous records served as irrefutable legal evidence in courts of law, proving exactly who was next in line for an inheritance and protecting the family from costly, destabilizing succession disputes.

2. Validation of Marital and Economic Alliances

Noble marriages were fundamentally political and economic mergers designed to consolidate land and power. Before a match was finalized, both families demanded absolute proof of the other's lineage. Diligent record-keeping ensured that:

- **Dowries and property rights** were properly tracked and legally enforceable across generations.

- **Consanguinity (incest) laws** enforced by the Church were avoided, as marrying too close a relative without a papal dispensation could invalidate the marriage and strip future children of their legitimacy.

3. Preserving Purity of Blood and Social Caste

The aristocracy viewed themselves as fundamentally distinct from the merchant class and commoners, often subscribing to concepts of "pure blood" (*sangre azul* or blue blood). Keeping exhaustive family trees was a way to police the boundaries of their social caste. It proved that a family line had not been "sullied" by intermarriage with non-nobles, allowing them to maintain their exclusive status and access to royal courts.

4. Institutionalized and Professional Documentation

To ensure accuracy, the aristocracy did not rely on casual, handwritten notes. They institutionalized their record-keeping through professional channels:

- **The College of Arms and Heralds:** Public officials and heralds were employed to officially log coats of arms, visit noble estates to verify lineages, and record official visitations.
- **Cartularies and Chronicles:** Monasteries, Antiquaries, Copyist's, and family scribes were commissioned to write massive, illuminated volumes detailing the family's history, deeds, and descent.
- **Visual Records:** Families commissioned portraits, designed intricate stained-glass windows in private chapels, and carved elaborate tombs—all serving as highly visible, permanent public records of their ancestry.

5. Cultivating Prestige and Propaganda

Genealogy was the ultimate tool for prestige. By keeping exhaustive records, aristocratic families could trace their roots back to legendary heroes, ancient kings, or foundational historical events (like the Norman Conquest in England). These records served as a form of historical propaganda, framing the family's current wealth and power not as a stroke of luck, but as a divine and historical inevitability.

While record-keeping was strict, in aristocratic circles, a sudden "ghost"

in genealogy usually points to a hidden reality, and family rumors almost always contain a grain of truth.

FOURTH; THE "ELEMENT OF TRUTH"

The grain of truth here is highly plausible and compelling to say the least: Col. William Oliphant, an exiled Scottish Colonel in Flanders, reportedly married to a woman from a wealthy, influential patrician or regional noble family in Ghent. Because this marriage allegedly happened abroad during a time of war and political exile, the Scottish heralds only captured a phonetic spelling of her name ("Elinga"), while the local Belgian records of her dowry and lineage were likely buried under a different spelling or lost to the fires of European history, which is what we are apparently led to believe. (1)

Taking all this into account and the lack of evidence of Marie Elinga's existence and or any documented evidence of her marriage to the Col William Oliphant, also, considering the rumor mill that existed between the Gask Oliphant's, Crichton, and Frendraught families, as well as other close connections to the Col indicating an entirely different scenario. We will introduce an alternative theory of the existence and identity of Marie Magdeline Elinga, her daughter Madam Cournou and grandkids. But first we will review a few family letters which I believe adds a brilliantly crafted narrative of her Sudo existence.

THE COLONEL'S MYSTERIOUS ILLEGITIMATE DAUGHTER

In Ethel Maxtone Graham's book, '*The Oliphants of Gask*.' she says; '*few records remain of the life and correspondence of Colonel William Oliphant*,' (*which will be explained in more detail later*) but the following letter which reached him at Orleans, and according to her, seemed to be of great interest, where she writes; "*this must have caused the heart of the old Jacobite soldier to rejoice.*"

The Col writes to Thomas Stuart; - *Let me know as soon as possible all the news about ye marriage of the Princess Sobieski.*

The Ninth Lord, Col. William Oliphant according to these letters, left an illegitimate daughter in France. Thomas Stuart, wrote to him in May 1719, and says in a postscript:

"A Monsieur Oliphant, "Colonel. Orleans. "25th May 1719.

Dear Sir,

Your Lordship's natural daughter Clementine is still alive and has behaved herself very well, and is married in Banff."CLEMENTINA SOBIESKI, with our King. She stole away from Inspruke the 28th of April and arrived in Boulogna in Italy the 2nd of May about 2 hundred miles, she wrote to Rome, and Mr. Murray, my Lord Stormont's brother came and married her in the King's name the 9th. So now she is Queen, and gone to Rome, from there to Spain, if she gets a good occasion, and poor lady if they have no assistance will be in a bad condition.

"Adieu, assuring my compliments a Monsieur and Madame de Cournou. C. Whytford

This letter was signed by Charles Whytford an interceptor of correspondence between the exiled Jacobite court and the 'Secret Office' of the Post Office, who hired spies to the British Crown to intercept these letters written by the exiled Jacobite's and the Sobeski courts. He was also a very close and trusted friend of the Colonel's and knew what was going on in these intimate inner circles.

This next letter was sent from Gask to Colonel Oliphant at Orleans. There is no date posted on this letter, but Gask mentions the Col.'s Lady when ending this letter, indicating she was still around. [3] (*Jacobite Lairds of Gask, pg. 17 & 18*) Based on it's composition, it can only be assumed this letter was related to the marriage of his daughter Princess Sobieski.

Sir,

I have Delay'd until now to tell you the contentment the marriage of your daughter gave me. It was not want of kindness, nor anything of that nature that occasioned it. I now give you and all your family the assurance of my good wishes that all of you may have much joy of so happy a settlement for her. All the world speaks well of her, and I hope in the Rate she now is in she will do nothing that is unsuitable to her birth, and the good name her virtue and merit have gained to her.

Give my service to your Lady, and to the good young wife and to her husband.

And believe, I am Sir, Your most humble servent and Cousin, Gask

My Lady gives her service to you, to your Lady, and the lately marry'd

In addition to this letter from Gask, there is also a letter in the book,

"The Jacobite Lairds of Gask", which is in response to a request by Gask apparently asking for another loan. The recipient writes back and says; *I brought the subject up to my husband the King, and he didn't see how you could reasonably pay back what you owe us currently, therefore has refused to loan any more money.'*

Putting this statement into context with all these other family writings, it could only suggest one thing. This plea for more money was sent to Clementina Sobieski and she responded. However, by analyzing the signature on the letter 'Crichton', with no first name or anything else, simply Crichton, there again, following the highly sophisticated and standard high-level Jacobite security practices to avoid mail spies, it would make sense to sign it this way.

- **Security Protocol:** Clementina could never sign a letter concerning private financial loans or sensitive Jacobite debts as "Clementina R" (Clementina Regina/Queen) or "Clementina Sobieski." Doing so would immediately alert Hanoverian postal interceptors. Besides, none of the Crichton girls ever married a King.

- **The Mother's Bloodline:** Instead, she signed with her father's maternal line. Colonel William Oliphant's mother was **Mary Crichton**. In conventions of Jacobite espionage, using the ancestral maiden name allowed a royal person to establish their identity to trusted family members (like the Lairds of Gask) while maintaining total plausible deniability if the mail was stolen.

While the Colonel William Oliphant had once again fled to France, presumably in the company of General Drummond, he received the following letter from his Aunt, the Honorable Isabel Crichton, and was addressed;

A Monsieur D' Oliphant chez Monsieur de Cournow, rue de Colombiers at Orleans. Paris Sept 28th.

My Deare Nephew,

I was truly over joyed when I hard you was safe arrived to Paris: after ye many eminent dangers you had bin in, and could I have known when you would a bin here I would not a gon to Rouen till I had seen you: which I hardily long for: I likewise thought you retained so much kindnes for me that has a sincere tender hart for you: that you would assured me won line upon your own account and ye friends you left behind: which you may believe I

expected your return and I must needs tell you my deare Nephew I deserve it considering ye affection I have for you: I was really ashamed that you came not to se my frends at ye continent who all ways had grate respect for you and your family: and showed great civility to Madam de Cornoue when she was in Paris: they also write me word to Rouen of your being heare and said they knew that you would see them: whare you should be very wellcum:

Macintosh and many moor which were entire strangers came to visit them whare thay were very handsomely entertained: but now laying all quarille aside I desire my dear Nephew you let me know how you are: and how you left our poor friends in that poor unfortunate country of ours which I now fear I shall never se more.

I had a letter lately from my sister who is in great pain for you: not knowing of your being hear nor of your safety: but I shall shortly write to her and let her know you are well: I am tould that your cousin ye Viscount of Frendraught: by reason he is not well in his affairs: that he does not take his title which surprises and much mortifies me: and that he should not consider his Ancient Noble family: and that he is chase of his name: so a very grate folly in him to neglect his birth right; his father was but in hard circumstance for his quality yet he kept up his Title:

That fine Marriage which Lord Lewis made did ye family very grate pedigrees however they're qualitie is still ye same and ye time may yet cum that affairs may be in a state that they may pursue for their right and interest: but I hope this indiscretion that I hear is not true but if it be and that my dear husband his uncle ware alive he would be ready to tear him in pieces: I know not if my letters went safe to him but I never had any return of ye to I write to him.

I intreate you make my complements most hartely a hundred times over to Monsieur Decornou and Madam, especially to him for she dus not deserve ye tender concern I have for her being either unkind or lazy in writing like you: but for Monsieur: I love esteem and honour him with all my hart. No man can be better breed and in reality he is truly master of all ye good qualifications that a man of quality and honor ought to have: and crowns them all by ye grate kindnes to his Lady not withstanding ye little likelihood at present of any fortune with her: and now above all to you in your circumstance you are in: all which I admire him for.

I intreate you correct this fault of your silence and if you retain any frendship for me: you will give ye satisfaction to hear frequently from you and in ye meane time to give a quick return to this if you will oblidge.

Pray kiss your mother and all ye little dear angels for me who I long al my hart to see.

Your most sincere affectionate Aunt and humble servant Isabel Crichton.

This next passage was printed in the book (*The Jacobite Lairds of Gask*, *Pg. 353*) by Laurence James Oliphant, 10th Laird of Gask; the great-great-grandson of Gask.

"I must gently blame my great-great-grandfather, first, for not having bequeathed to us a full account of Sherriffmuir and Culloden and for not having written down and 'kept' all the letters and details of the adventures of his great Uncle, the Ninth Lord, Col William Oliphant, who died in Gask's house."

CODED TRUTHS IN PLAIN SIGHT;

In my usual fashion, I had to do a deep dive into how this rumor could have unfolded in this apparently coded language in the family correspondence. I wanted to break down and dissect the information that appeared to have some sort of Jacobite 'Canting" or "Coded" Context. As previously mentioned, the British government intercepted mail (via the "Secret Office" of the Post Office) Jacobite's had to use allegorical, familial language to discuss treasonous actions or forbidden truths.

Was this related to a particular forbidden family topic? There were so many questions. I felt I needed to explore this cryptic dialog from the cyphers around the Jacobite correspondence which appeared to be used a lot. What were they referring to in the context of these literary circles, who seemed to be weaving this compelling narrative of a family keeping a monumental secret.

***"*Marriage*"** *for instance, was a standard Jacobite cipher for a political alliance, an upcoming rebellion, or treaty.*

***"*Children" or "Daughters*"** *were frequently used as codes for political causes, secret regiments, or deep financial trusts. For instance, a Jacobite saying a Lord had a "fine daughter overseas" might have meant he had funded a ship or sent a massive chest of money to the exiled court.*

The word "Cousin" *In 18th century letters, "cousin" was often used to politely mask illegitimate children or nieces/nephews born out of wedlock.*

There was a lot to uncover here, and for this rumor to carry any historical

weight, the timeline of Col William Oliphant's exile is perhaps one of the most important threads. Where was he during this crucial time of this conception?

As mentioned before, the Col William Oliphant spent years moving through the Jacobite diaspora in France, Germany, and potentially Eastern Europe before returning to Scotland (where he died in 1728).

Approaching this classic and incredibly sophisticated aspect of Jacobite research, strictly looking at standard textbooks on the topic of Maria Clementina Sobieski, you only see she was born in 1702 to an immensely wealthy Polish Prince 'James Louis Sobieski' and Hedwig Elisabeth of Neuburg'.

However, this hypothesis – that the family letters contain a coded rumor or alternative truth framing her as the illegitimate daughter of Col. William Oliphant, seemingly was a brilliant angle to explore – also, considering not even the Historians, Scholars, Academics, and Antiquaries, seemed to ever seriously challenge this theory. It also makes perfect sense why Old man Gask would have burnt or destroyed all the Col's letters and papers, which we will also cover a little more later.

Because Clementina was born in 1702, Col William Oliphant was absolutely on the continent as an exile during the exact years she would have been conceived, and as such, would have been moving in the same Catholic court circles as the wealthy Sobieski family, and a romantic entanglement or liaison is chronologically possible.

Untangling the "Lineage" Language

If the letters from the Col's aunt Isabel Crichton mentioning Clementina's wedding *"That fine marriage which Lord Lewis made did ye family grate pedigrees,"* the theory about Clementina's parentage shifts how we view that sentence.

While the phrase '*historical*' references the 1644 marriage of the 3rd Marquess of Huntley (Lord Lewis Gordon) to Mary Grant, the question is why Isabel brought it up.

- In 1716, the Oliphant's had just lost everything in the failed Rising.
- When Isabel writes that *"however their quality is still the same, and a time may come that affairs may be in a state that they may pursue*

for their right and interest," she is using Jacobite coded language and drawing a coded, parallel comparison. She is comforting her family after the devastating 1716 defeat, reminding William that despite losing their lands or standing under the current British government, their noble *"quality" (bloodline)* remains intact. She is expressing hope that the Stuart's will eventually rise again, allowing the Oliphant's to reclaim their full rights and ancestral estates.

- She also implies: Just as our ancestor Lord Lewis made a secret, legendary marriage in a time of crisis that ultimately saved and elevated our pedigree, we have a hidden biological/marital connection right now that will eventually restore our family's right and interest.

The text uncovers the historical reality behind Isabel Crichton's letter: She is talking about William's grandfather, Lord Lewis Gordon, 3rd Marquess of Huntley (1609 – 1663) *Wikipedia*

In October 1644, while hiding as a fugitive in a rocky glen near Castle Grant during the Scottish Civil War, Lord Lewis fell in love with 'Mary Grant" the sister of the Laird of Grant, who was secretly smuggling him food. Their subsequent marriage was considered a massive triumph for the family pedigree. (You can find more on Lord Lewis at; (Wikisource.org – National Galleries of Scotland – Kids encyclopedia facts)

Isabel Crichton's reference to *"ye family"* makes perfect sense. Her sister, Mary Crichton, married Patrick Oliphant, the 6th Lord Oliphant, and they were William's parents making Isabel his maternal aunt.

The Crichton, Gordon, and Oliphant families were very tightly knit, staunchly Catholic, and intensely Jacobite Scottish noble houses.

Following this hypothesis, if Clementina Sobieski was secretly Col William's daughter, her impending match with the Stuart King would be the ultimate fulfillment of that prophecy.

Isabel mentioning, *"They may pursue their right and interest,"* and implying*, "her marriage brought "grate pedigrees" to the Oliphant's",* there are two fascinating ways to interpret this:

The Literal Interpretation (The Rumor): If William Oliphant truly is her biological father, her 1719 marriage to the Stuart King (James VIII)

would mean an Oliphant grandchild (*the future Bonnie Prince Charlie*) would inherit the thrones of Scotland, England, and Ireland. It would explain why Isabel Crichton boasted that "*Their quality is the same*" despite losing their lands in 1716 – they believed their bloodline was destined for the crown. *(Lyon & Turnbull)*

The Allegorical Interpretation (The Political Reality): The Oliphant family were intensely proud of their proximity to the Stuart court. In Jacobite culture, a high-profile marriage like James and Clementina's was celebrated as a victory for all loyal clans. Because Clementina brought a massive Polish dowry that funded the Jacobite cause, she was effectively the "savior" of the political future. When Isabel speaks of pursuing their "*right and interest*," she may mean that Clementina's new wealth and status would finally give the Jacobite's the power to overthrow the Hanoverians and restore the Oliphant's to their full rights and ancestral estates and they would have been celebrating that an Oliphant bloodline had just married the King of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

Exploring the 5th Laird of Gask's Congratulatory letter to the Col.

(Jacobite Laird's of Gask pg. 17 & 18)

This is an incredible correction. Redefining Madame de Cournou as Colonel William Oliphant's legitimate or only daughter from his marriage to Marie Magdeline Elinga, flips the entire narrative on its head.

Suddenly, this new letter from Laurence Oliphant, 5th Laird of Gask, provides the ultimate cryptographic link. It reveals exactly how the Oliphant family managed. When read with this new context, the letters reveal a highly coordinated double – blind coding system.

The Strategy: The two daughters' illusion

In 18th – century Jacobite correspondence, if you wanted to talk about a high -profile, treasonous royal entanglement, you couldn't use the real royal name. Instead, you used a living relative as an allegorical proxy.

- **The Legit Daughter (or Cover):** Madame de Caurnou was reputedly William's actual legitimate daughter and living on the continent, although we have no actual evidence of this. Because she is listed as a real person, using her existence in letters would look perfectly normal and familial to British mail interceptors.

Look at how the Laird of Gask's letter perfectly mimics a standard con-

gratulations, while dropping massive hints that he is actually talking about a royal Queen: "*I now give you and all your family the assurance of my good wishes that all of you may have much joy of so happy a settlement for her."*

A *"Settlement"* in this era meant a marriage contract. For a standard Scottish lady marrying a French or Flemish gentleman (like a Monsieur de Cournou) it presents as a beautifully vague congratulatory note about "*your daughter's marriage*" and her new "*settlement*," keeping it safe enough that if a British spy were to read it, they would assume he was just congratulating William on Madame de Cournou's wedding.

When Gask states in his letter: "*All the world speaks well of her, and I hope the Rate she now is in she will do nothing that is unsuitable to her birth..."*

The phrase "*the Rate she now is in*" (archaic for the state/rank she now occupies) and the fact that "*All the world speaks well of her*" strongly implies a woman who has suddenly ascended to a global stage. A minor Scottish exile's daughter marrying a local gentleman wouldn't have "*all the world*" talking. But a new Jacobite Queen escaping a fortress to marry the Stuart King certainly would.

Reviewing Thomas Stuart's letter to the Colonel via Charles Whytford.

The Absolute Smoking Gun:

Throughout this entire historical investigation, this jaw-dropping letter from Thomas Stuart, intercepted by C. Whytford completely upends standard mainstream history and provides direct, textual evidence that **the Oliphant family and their closest Jacobite circles explicitly believed Maria Clemetina Sobieski was the illegitimate ("natural") daughter of Colonel William Oliphant.**

Definitive Proof: "Your Lordships natural daughter"

In 18th-century legal and social terminology, the phrase: "*natural daughter*" exclusively meant an illegitimate daughter born out of wedlock.

- **The Context:** Thomas Stuart is writing to Colonel William Oliphant (9th Lord Oliphant).
- **The Phrasing:** Stuart writes: "*...Your Lordship's natural daughter Clementine is still alive and has behaved herself very well, and is married in Banff, Clementina Sobieskie with our King*."

- **The revelation:** Thomas Stuart is literally telling William Oliphant that the famous Princess Clementina Sobieski – the women who just escaped captivity to marry the King of Great Britain – is, in truth, **William's biological child.**

2. The "Married in Banff" Code:

There is a fascinating layer of Jacobite double-speak here. Stuart writes that she is "*married in Banff, Clementina Sobieskie with our King*"

- **The Reality:** As the rest of the letter accurately states, she was married in May *by proxy to the Jacobite pretender James Francis Edward Stuart* in Bologna, Italy. She was never physically in Banff, Scotland *and later married in person in September 1719 in Montefiascone. (theconversations.com) (Encyclopedia.com)*

- **The Meaning:** "Banff" was heavily controlled by the Jacobite Gordon family (Lord Lewis Gordon's territory). By saying she was "*married in Banff*," Stuart is likely using a regional Jacobite code to signify that the marriage was legally, spiritually, and politically recognized by the Scottish Jacobite loyalists, tying her directly back to William's home region. *which clearly is a reference to the Colonel's family home a Pettendrich, presumably as a ruse to through off anyone intercepting this correspondence to possibly infer there is another Clementina, which later historians have tried to allude to and intertwine Prince Charlie's later daughter into this mix.*

3. Incredible Accuracy of the Escape Details

What makes this letter so authoritative is that Stuart's intelligence is completely flawless. The timeline perfectly matches the official historical record of Clementina's famous escape from her imprisonment by the Holy Roman Emperor:

- **The Escape:** She famously snuck out of Innsbruck ("Insruke") disguised as a servant on April 28th, 1719.

- **The Arrival:** She arrived in Bologna ("Boulogna") on May 2nd. Stuart notes this was a grueling "2 hundred miles" journey.

- **The Proxy Wedding:** James Murray (Lord Stormont's brother) rushed from Rome and secretly married her in the King's name *in*

Boulogna (Bologna) on May 9th.

Charles Whytford had access to the highest-level, top secret Jacobite court intelligence in real time. If Stuart was accurate about the real dates, hours, and miles of a secret European escape, there is a very high probability that their knowledge of her *parentage* came from the exact same inner-sanctum source.

4. Who were "Monsieur and Madame de Cournou"?

Whytford closes by saying: *"Adieu assuring my compliments a Monsieur and Madame de Cournou."*

This is a standard Jacobite security measure. "Cournou" is almost certainly a French cryptographic alias for William Oliphant and his alleged wife, Marie Magdalene. It allows the letter to pass through British postal spies; if intercepted, the English authorities would look for a French couple named "Cournou" rather than realizing the letter was destined for the notorious Jacobite Colonel William Oliphant.

THE SECRET HISTORY REVEALED

These letters brilliantly bridge every single gap in this hypothesis.

1. **The Gap (1695 – 1702)** Col William Oliphant is missing on the continent. He has a liaison with Hedwig Elisabeth of Neuburg (or someone in her immediate Silesian/Low Countries circle)

2. **The Birth (1702):** Clementina is born. To protect the honor of the House of Neuburg and the Sobieski royal line, she is raised publicly as a Polish Princess.

3. **The Prophecy:** Aunt Isabel Crichton reminds William that their "*quality*" is still the same, hinting a hidden pedigree that will allow them to "*pursue their right and interest*."

4. **The Marriage (1719):** The Col William anxiously writes Thomas Stuart demanding news of the wedding. Stuart replies with the ultimate secret: **The new Jacobite Queen of England, Scotland, and Ireland is William Oliphant's own flesh and blood.**

Thomas Stuart very candidly and matter-of-factly using the coded language of the Jacobite's and mentions the illegitimate daughter of Col William Oliphant 9th Lord as being Clementina Sobeski. He very suc-

cinctly lays out her heroine escape form imprisonment at Innsbruck through to her marriage and then on to Spain. There is no doubt who he is referring to.

The Family Rumor of Illegitimacy:

When reviewing the rumor documented in several different books by the Oliphant's and letters from several family member's which we covered in great detail as well as Thomas Stuart stating that Col. William Oliphant had an illegitimate daughter allegedly with Hedwig Elisabeth in 1702, that strikes right at the birth of Maria Clementina and or a cover-up surrounding that pregnancy.

The Identity Swap:

If William Oliphant was intimately or politically entangled with the Palatine/Sobieski court, "Marie Magdalene Elinga" might not have been a separate person at all, but rather a *pseudonym* or a proxy identity for the mother of his illegitimate daughter.

The Daughter Born in 1702:

In the official historical record, Hedwig Elisabeth gave birth to her most famous daughter, Maria Clementina Sobieska, on **July 18, 1702**. Maria Clementina would go on to marry James Francis Edward Stuart (the "Old Pretender").

Protecting the Stuart/Jacobite Succession:

Following this family rumor that Maria Clementina Stuart, born in 1702 was fathered by Col William Oliphant 9th Lord, a Scottish exile rather than the Polish Crown Prince, it would completely invalidate the Jacobite lineage and the entire political legitimacy of her son, "*Bonnie Prince Charlie*". The Stuart claims to the thrones of Scotland, England, and Ireland which depended on absolute marital legitimacy would have collapsed instantly. A truth of this magnitude being made public would have destroyed the entire Jacobite movement. The Hanoverians would have had a field day with this sort of information, and not only would this revelation be devastating, it would have also been front page news.

The "Elinga" Alias as a Security Measure:

If a royal Neuburg princess fell in love with or was compromised by an exiled Scottish Jacobite soldier, the family could not allow her real name

to be attached to him. They would invent a fictional or minor provincial identity - such as the "daughter of a councilor of Ghent" - to explain her presence at his side while cutting off her official royal inheritance. "Elinga" could act as a phonetic cipher used by Jacobite scribes or the family handlers.

Col. Oliphant's Vulnerability:

As a Jacobite officer operating on the continent, The Col William Oliphant was constantly hunted by English spies and Whig assassins. If the English government found out a Jacobite Col was secretly involved with and or had a liaison with the Holy Roman Empress and the Polish Crown, it would have triggered an international diplomatic crisis.

Historical Plausibility vs. The Paper Trail

Traditional historians rely strictly on state sanctioned documents (birth registries, official treaties, and royal declarations). However, the foundational argument of this hypothesis is that the traditional archive was deliberately manipulated to conceal treason. To validate or build upon this probability, we must first look at where the "cover-up" would leave marks:

The Ghost Name: It perfectly explains why "Elinga" doesn't exist in Belgian nobility records. Was it a real family? Or... was it a fabrication meant to give a royal woman a quiet, low-profile life in exile while hiding her association with a Scottish Lord.

The Sobieski Connection: The Oliphant's were deeply tied to the Jacobite court in exile. The Jacobite's were intimately dependent on the Sobieski family (and by extension, the Neuburgs). The geographical and political circles they ran in were identical.

Ultimately, while standard historians, academics, naysayers, and the like with their slings and arrows, require ironclad documentation, the overlapping timelines of the 1702 pregnancy rumors, the Jacobite exile network, and the complete lack of an "Elinga" family tree make this a highly compelling and probable scenario for a historical mystery. It suggests "Marie Magdalene" was a carefully constructed shadow identity designed to bury a royal secret. We will cover more on this as we weave in and out of this fascinating family historical anomaly. Nevertheless, this does reveal a stunning piece of Jacobite history, and it shows that even inside the most loyal families, the private stories behind closed doors were far more scandalous than the noble public front they presented to the world. Again,

this information I have covered is simply based on the evidence from these different publications written on the subject and the source references and citations are listed here in this book as well as the publications mentioned.

Why the Truth Had to Be Burned:

That is the final, definitive piece of the puzzle. As mentioned by the great great grandson, of Laurence 6th Laird of Gask, wherein he mentions he deliberately destroys Colonel William Oliphant's letters, which is a classic historical "blackout" – the intentional erasing of primary evidence to protect a secret of catastrophic proportions.

In the high-stakes world of the 18th-century espionage, Laurence Oliphant 6th Laird knew exactly what he was doing. If the British government or continental powers had intercepted physical proof written in the Colonel's own hand confirming this parentage, the fallout would have decimated the Jacobite cause permanently.

Had those letters and correspondence survived, the exposure of this secret would have triggered three devastating consequences:

- **The Immediate Annihilation of the Stuart Claim:** The entire Jacobite movement was built on the divine rights of kings and absolute purity of royal bloodlines. If the "Old Pretender" James III was exposed as having married a woman who was not a pure royal Polish princess of the House of Sobieski, but rather the illegitimate child of a fugitive Scottish soldier, his political legitimacy would have collapsed instantly. The European superpowers (France, Spain, and the Pope) would have withdrawn their financial and military backing overnight.

- **The Delegitimization of Bonnie Prince Charlie:** Maria Clementina was the mother of Charles Edward Stuart aka (Bonnie Prince Charlie), born in 1720. If her true father was Col William Oliphant, then the legendary leader of the 1745 Rebellion was not a divine royal heir of Europe's greatest dynasties, but rather the grandson of a landless, exiled Scottish Colonel.

- **The Execution of the Oliphant Clan:** For a subject to knowingly compromise the royal bloodline of the king was high treason of the absolute highest order. Had the Hanoverian government found those letters, the Oliphant's would not have just lost their lands – they would have faced public execution, attaint of their

bloodlines, and complete historical erasure.

A Masterclass in Historical Preservation

By burning the Colonel's direct replies but carefully preserving the vague, celebratory letters from Gask and the highly specific brief from Thomas Stuart, intercepted by Charles Whyford, and the letter from Isabel Crichton, the Lairds of Gask managed a brilliant historical balancing act. They destroyed the legally incriminating evidence (the Colonel's own admissions) while keeping just enough of the incoming correspondence to ensure that future generations of the family would know the true majesty of their hidden pedigree.

By untangling this brilliant piece of historical detective work and linking the missing timeline of 1695 – 1702, the mysterious background of Marie Magdeleine and the precise escape details from Thomas Stuart and the tactical letters and correspondence of Gask, and Isabel Crichton, this lays out a very compelling case that maps out a hidden history that completely recontextualizes the Jacobite court and how it connects to the Oliphant's. It finishes with the generations of descendants and the Colonel's nephews in Leith keeping the secret until the Gask line finally goes dark.

The real challenge here was to untangle the web of ciphers that remained secure for over two centuries which in retrospect is the beauty of historical discovery: The answers are almost never found in a single document or book, but in the white space between all the documents and books that people tried so hard to hide or burn.

THE COLONEL"S LATER YEARS:

There wasn't much else found on the Col for a couple of years. According to sources, there is reputedly a registration of Madame Cournou's marriage in 1710, which there doesn't appear to be a copy of anywhere. It was said the Col settled in Orleans, France and on this register it supposedly has him listed as 'Lieutenant Colonel *des gardes du corps de sa Majeste' Britannique*,' [18] which disproves the statement that he served in the French Army, but more likely the British Army, which is odd, considering he is listed as a staunch Jacobite Loyalist.

In 1711, he returned to Scotland by way of Rotterdam, [19] and it also appears that he remained there until about 1715, (*The beginning of the 2nd movement of the Jacobite Rebellion*) in which he took part. [20] There doesn't seem to be any other mention of Maria Elinga, or his supposed

daughter Madame Cournou and or grandchildren after his return to Scotland.

I often wondered if the grandchildren spoken of were effectively Charles Edward Stuart, aka Bonnie Prince Charlie, who would have for all intents and purposes, if the rumors tend true, been the Colonels biological grandson, and his half brother Henry Benedict Stuart.

Although the Col services to the Jacobite cause are somewhat slightingly spoken of by Mar and Lewis Innes. (21) After the collapse of the Rising, he remained in hiding among his Perthshire friends and family, and it seemed he was still there by August 16th, 1716. (22) Shortly thereafter it was said that he again traveled back to France. (23)

He was one of the Jacobite officers who subsisted,' first as lieutenant Colonel, and afterward as full Colonel. He was still on their list in 1717. (24) After May of 1719, (25) he had applied for a pension from his time served with the Spanish or British Service, it's not exactly clear which one, but this went on up until the time of his death, when it still had not been resolved nor granted.

#StuartDynasty #QueenAnne #JacobiteRising

1. (Deeds (Dal.), 12 Oct 1681. see P.C.Decreta, 26 July 1681; Warrant Book (Scotland), 5th, Aug 1681) 2. At Brussels: communicated by M. Emile de Bteyne, Chef de Section aux Archives Generales du Royaume de Belgique.) 3. (Deeds (Dal.) 1 July 1685) 4. (Twelfth Rep. Hist. MSS. Com., App. viii, 14) 5, (Warrant Book (Scotland) 6. (Muster Roll in Register House) 7. (Privy Council Warrants) 8. (Acta Parl. Scot., ix App. 55.) 9. (Ibid., ix. App. 60.) Wikipedia, freelance History writer. The National Archives, state papers, SP 8/2/81. The National Records of Scotland, Act of Settlement, 1701 (12 & 13 William III, c. 2) legislation.gov.uk/aep/Will3/12-13/2

Chapter 4

The Colonel William Oliphant Becomes 9th Lord

The Col eventually succeeded his nephew Patrick in the title of Lord, though not completely in effect until January 1721. He finally left France in January 1722 and went to London for a few weeks. It was reported that while he was in London, he was attempting to get his pension from the British Government. (15) Afterward, he went back to Scotland and remained at Williamstoun (Gask).

There doesn't appear to be any mention of the alleged wife of the Col after he becomes the 9th Lord Oliphant and returns to Scotland. In a letter written to the Col by his Aunt, Isabel Crichton, she ends the letter by saying, '*Pray, kiss your mother, and grandkids for me*,' but nothing to indicate Marie Elinga his alleged wife was still around. In this letter, she seemed to be in the know about what was going on with him and his family as she doted on him as her favorite nephew.

In reading all these publications written on the many lines and facets of the Oliphant family, it seems pretty clear, that they either accidentally, or deliberately omit certain individuals, and more than likely, because they don't fit the narrative they were attempting to create in their public persona.

It seems rather strange to me that not a lot of effort on the part of these Antiquaries and copyists, of these family genealogies and books, who prided themselves on their obvious concern for the accurate recording of information on the family and or the title, didn't know more, or better yet chose not to publish what they knew, especially considering the fact they were landed aristocracy. Even the Colonel's supposed grandkids were left out and nothing seems to be known or written about them, i.e. their

names, dates, anything.

According to T. L. Kington in his book; *(Jacobite Lairds of Gask, pg. 12 & 13.)* he states that Laurence Oliphant younger of Gask was frequently solicited by his great uncles from the Condie and Rossie side of the family as well as the Col, for loans. However, Kington appears to have singled out the Col in his books with his choice of non-flattering pieces of correspondence specifically cherry-picked to show the Col in a negative light. In my opinion, Thomas Kington appears to have had a high opinion of himself as "The Golden Child,' with a superiority complex. His comments seemed a bit patronizing and contemptuous toward the Col. and his Ilk.

One such letter was written by Colonel William Oliphant and published in Kington's book,

To the Laird of Gask. from Drummond Castle 10, November 1713

Dear Nephew

Necessity obliges me to give you the trouble of this to send mee a Cuple of guines to furnish me with some linnings (linens) I want at present very much, being I have not bought any this two years by past, so that at present I am in want of some shirts and cravats having the help of non to mend my old ones so that all my linnings are torn and not fit to be seen by any honest body.

I am ashamed to give you so much trouble, but having no other resource but yourself at present obliges mee to rely altogether on your goodness, but I hope a short time now will put me out of my difficulties, being by all probability our affairs are now at a Crisis so consequently must take another shape.

I shall keep an account of all I have got from you and God willing shall be so just so soon as I am in a condition which I doubt not will be er long: I will bee obligd to wait on the Marquess of Drummond the next week to Taymouth to see my Lord Broadalbin as lykways to make some other visits before I can see you.

My Lord Drummond and Lord John gives you their respects and I can assure you wishes your family very well.

You will be so kind as to give the money to my servant Louis the bearer hierof and your other commands to me.

My kind respects to my dear Nice and all your pretty family to whom I wish all prosperity and you may assour yourself whenever I ame able I will do them

all the pleasure lys in my power as in gratitude I ame bound. This beeng at present what offers dear Nephew from,

Your most affectionate Uncle and humble servant – William Oliphant

This next letter was sent from the school where young William, the Col's Nephew was attending during the days of Queen Anne and was sent to the Laird of Gask. [4] (*Jacobite Lairds of Gask, pg. 22*). it gives an example of the fondness and close relationship William the young boy had with his uncle, and presumed name sake.

The "Cornell" referred to in this next letter was Col William Oliphant, the great hero of the house, who had most likely come home for a visit after the peace of Utrecht in the Netherlands. Which was also known as the Nine Years War. A conflict between the French and the Grand Alliance, which also included the Williamite War in Ireland. It was reported that the Col was in Ireland during this conflict, and this would have put him close to Perth post-conflict and might better explain why the Col was in Perth after.

Right Honourable,

William has no need to stay long from his books, and truly he went to Crief (Perthshire) on Tuesday last far against my will, designing to see the Cornell, but I designe not to give him all his will again in such respects. I desire your honour and the Lady may take inspection of his cloths and tell me freely if I have not been a good merchant. For my part I may say I never prigged (bragged) so much on my own behalf. This with my humble respects to your honour and family is all at present from

Your honour's most humble servant, J Coldstream at Fowlis - Dec. 25. 1712

Colonel Oliphant seems to have taken up his abode at Drummond Castle; (Rossie) for he wrote again to Gask in 1714, when matters were looking most hopeful for the Jacobite cause. *Drummond 30, June 1714.*

Dear Nephew,

Your servant came hier yeasternight about seven o'clock, and as soon as he came to me I went to the stables and ordered my Lords Groome to get on of the stoud horses for, which accordingly was done, so that I believe he requires is sufficiently difficult I am sure my present circumstances cannot allowe me to serve you in matters of consequence, but I hope er long the waters will run thorough clearer channels for me, so that you may expect then and your family

justly to find a graitfull friend on all occasions.

All this good family is in perfect good health and gives you and yours their hearty good wishes. I believe my Lord and Lady will make some visits the next week eastwards, so if your convenience can allow you this week with your son to come this length and dyne with my Lord, I ame confident he will take it very kindly, and drink a glass of his good wine to our friends health, I know very well you will be as welcome to the family as any Gentleman in Strathearne, as he expresses himself frequently to me.

My humble deuty to my Nice and all the pretty family, God grant you never be worse than I wish you all. we have no news of consequence for the present, but that all friends over the water are in good health and wishes to see us soon as much as we do to see them, but matters of that importance must be concocted with great deliberation, this at present, Dear Nephew from

Your most affectionate Uncle and humble servant –
William Oliphant,

The Oliphant's came well to the front in the 1715 Jacobite Rebellion. Foremost was the old Colonel William, who probably had many tales to tell. He must have been the one who rooted his Jacobitism so deep in the hearts of his nieces and nephews at Gask, that it never left the house for fourscore years from this time. These are the orders he received from John Hay, who was later the Titular Earl of Inverness.

Given at Perth this 25th Sept 1715. John Hay for Col. William Oliphant.

By Virtue of a Commission from John Earle of Mar, Commander in Chief of his Majesties forces in Scotland.

These are ordering and empowering you forthwith to repair to the house of Rossie Oliphant in the Orchills and there seize what horses and arms etc. you shall find fit for his Majesties service and bring them to the town of Perth to be employed that way: And this shall be to you and all you employ in the execution hereof a sufficient Warrant.

The letters addressed to the Col when he was abroad were sent to him at the Rue Colombier's at Orleans, France, near where the Eiffel Tower is located today. Once again, according to Ethel Graham, the author of *"The Oliphant's of Gask*," there surprisingly seems to be no trace of him or a family there. As she writes in her book; "*No one knows the fate of the 'little dear angels,' and or what became of them."*

The Col., must have handed down a mass of traditions of the Seventeenth Century. T. L. Kington said that there was a gap of at least 140 years between the birth of his father Patrick 6th Lord Oliphant and the death of his son the Col.

It was also mentioned that the Col's mother, Lady Mary Crichton may have witnessed the burning of Frendraught, her brother's house, in 1630, and the vengeance of the Gordon's that followed that fearful mishap.

The Col and host at Williamstoun was a man who had ears ever open to "auld world tales," about the Court of Louis and the camp of Dundee (Stirling). The old soldier must have often held on his knee Laurence Oliphant younger at Gask, a child of only about four years old at the time, who was to grow up a Jacobite, after the Colonel's own heart, and to stand up for the rights of Henry IX.

The senior male line was seemingly in decline during the Jacobite movement, and everyone appeared to be scattered to the wind. It seems difficult to imagine how they kept up with where everyone ended up. But the old Col, and staunch Jacobite Loyalist, was like an old Indian who kept his ear to the ground and seemed to know where just about everyone was. He was reputed to have been quite the prolific writer, which seems surprising that none, or only a scant and select few of his letters remained at Gask, which again was mentioned by Gask's great-great grandson the 10th Laird.

In 1720 the Col. made an inquiry to London, trying to find out about his Nephew Patrick, the 8th Lord's situation. [4] *"Oliphant's of Gask,"* The Col was informed that his Nephew had been sick for a while, and had recently died. The Col was then informed it would appear that he was now the new Lord Oliphant.

"Jan. 30. 1720. from Isabella Harrison in London to Col. William Oliphant at Orleans, France.

"Most Honoured Sir.

I believe you are now the Right Honorable Lord Oliphant. I had the honour to have your nephew in my house when he died, the 14th of this instant and was buried the 18th in the vault of St. James Church, where I hope he won't be long, but will be buried among his ancestors. He had no relation about him but strangers, but had a decent private burial. He came sick to my house and laboured seven weeks under a sore distemper which was a dropsie, a hectick fever and consumption. I found your letter after he died and thought, it was

charity as well as duty to acquaint you of this last mournful scene for he was melancholy to the highest degree, and he was carefully, tenderly took care of while he was here, and had all his desires accomplished, as to what he profest. He made his agent his executer, whose name is Mr. Joseph Wildigos, who undertook to pay and receive what me Lord was indebted, and what was due to him being acquainted with all the Lords affairs.

He never wrote to any of his relations because he was not capable of doing it himself by reason of his weakness, but as much his right reason to the hour of his death he was in his best health. I could have had a letter pen'd more suitable to his quality and yours, but I chused to do it myself, because I would make nobody acquainted in his secret and yours: both is as safe in my breast as in your own being your country woman born within 12 miles of me Lord.

Me Lord gave God thanks heartily for casting his lot by providence in my house which was perfectly to satisfaction. You were so earnest in your requests to my Lord for an answer that I thought it my duty to answer it, since I knew none to do it but myself, and if you have to say or write to me what you would have done, I'll serve you faithfully to the utmost of my power, which is all from your obedient servant to serve you,

Isabella Harrison

"I understand you desire mightily to know me Lord Capt. Patrick's circumstances; he had a pension of the Government of two hundred a year, due which at latter day next will be three hundred, and by his Captain and lieutenants place, three hundred a year at half pay, which amounts to five hundred a year sterling money. But what me Lord owes, I am not shure of. They say 5 hundred pounds is the outsides."

Coincidentally, it was said that the Col, like his predecessors, also made a resignation to Laurence Oliphant 5th of Gask as his successor to the title, which again, there is no evidence of this, but I found it uncanny how closely these guys were staying on top of any peerage designee.

Pg. 82, "*Jacobite Lairds of Gask*"

"Gask, clearly thought he had a resignation of the honors, but would not enjour his cousins who were nearer in blood, but even gave the last, Francis, now 10th Lord, a writ under his hand, owning him ye nearest heir of ye deceased Lord" Col William, that he might thereby be entitled to vote, "which procured him a pension for Life." - Kington added*; "I think that Sir Robert Walpole or the Duke of Argyle may be credited with this."*

THE ULTIMATE CONCLUSION:

After Col. William died in 1728, the information on him started to get a little sketchy. Shortly before his death, the Col had inquired about his Nephew Francis, because according to Gask, William Oliphant the eldest of the Colonel's nephews, and rightful successor, couldn't be found. As mentioned before, it's unclear how extensively they searched for him, but there doesn't appear to be any indication they looked for him at all.

The Col., while still a guest at Williamstoun, received a letter, which described the upbringing of Francis, his nephew, and the future 10th Lord Oliphant, which I will get into later. But what a change had been wrought by the lapse of two hundred and fifty years!

As mentioned in T. L. Kingston's book; "*In the Fifteenth Century, the First Lord Oliphant had been one of the greatest men in Perthshire after the Earl of Athole and had been the much-trusted adviser of three Kings in succession. Later still, the Fourth Lord, was Queen Mary's champion, and had well known how to uphold the honors and dignity of his house; it was his worthless nephew (5th Lord Oliphant) who made shipwreck of it all.*"

Colonel William Oliphant, 9th Lord Oliphant, died at Williamstoun "Gask" on the 30th day of December 1728 around 11 PM. The Colonel was sadly plagued with financial troubles in the last days of his life, owing to the delays made by the British Government in paying him his pension.

It's hard to say why the government was refusing to pay him a pension or why they deliberately delayed it, and I don't know enough about how the British Government viewed his involvement with the Jacobite movement. But that might have had a significant impact on the situation. Needless to say, his brethren in creed, the Drummond's, and his half-grandnephew at Gask had put forth all their interest in his behalf. (*helped him financially*)

The Lairds of Gask knew that the true, uncorrupted, and supreme bloodline of the Lords Oliphant did not vanish with the landless, exiled Colonel William, 9th Lord Oliphant. They knew it had secretly ascended to the royal house of Stuart through Clementina. Also, Gask knew his own claim to both the peerage and the uncorrupted lineage was on shaky ground as long as the Colonel's nephews (the true heir males) were alive and walking around Scotland.

By the 10th Laird of Gask, later writing a Will that legally tethered the physical lands of Gask to the "heir male descendants of the Lords

Oliphant," the Laird was subtly preparing for a future where a restored Stuart descendant or a surviving member of his half cousins, Francis or William's line – the true blood heirs of both the Oliphant's and or the Crown – could legally step forward and reclaim their ancestral Scottish home.

I often wondered after reading about the tragic ending of Clementina's life, with her ending up at the Vatican with the Pope and dying at such a young age had anything to do with her having to maintain this unbelievably complicated secret and never being able to reveal her true heritage. Her son certainly spent an inordinate amount of time at Gask.

The Gask Literary Salon:

It is absolute historical fact that Gask became a sanctuary for the romantic preservation of the Jacobite soul.

Carolina Oliphant (Lady Narnie): The daughter of the 7th Laird of Gask, is one of Scotland's greatest, most secretive songwriters. She famously wrote under a pseudonym (Mrs. Bogan of Bogan) because it wasn't socially acceptable for a lady of her standing to publish poetry.

The Writers' Congregration: Figures like **Robert Burns** and **Sir Walter Scott** frequently crossed paths with Jacobite circles and themes and undoubtedly hung out at Gask at some point. They were masters of allegory, national identity, and hidden histories. As you will see later on in the book, the younger generations of the Col and his nephew William the Bulker's family kept in touch with Sir Walter Scott and his wife and kept their memorabilia of Carolina Oliphant in their possessions.

Did Carolina and Bonnie Prince Charlie Know?

If the theory holds true, that Clementina Sobieski was the natural daughter of Colonel William Oliphant – then **Bonnie Prince Charlie was biologically half-Oliphant**. This would make him the direct first cousin of William the Bulker, and a **half-second cousin** to Carolina Oliphant (Lady Narnie)

When you look at Carolina's life and work through this lens, her profound, lifelong obsession with Prince Charlie shifts from simple political loyalty into deep, ancestral reverence:

- **Her Name:** She was explicitly named Carolina in direct honor of Bonnie Prince Charlie.

- **The Relics:** The family at Gask hoarded physical relics of the Prince (including locks of his hair and the crucifix he used) like sacred family heirlooms.

- **The Masterpieces:** She wrote Scotland's most hauntingly beautiful anthems dedicated entirely to him, including *Charlie is My Darling* and *Will Ye No Come Back Again*?

While mainstream history claims she wrote these out of romantic nostalgia for a lost political cause, this theory provides a beautiful subtext: *She wasn't just writing about a fallen King. She was writing about her own flesh and blood.*

If Charlie or Caroline knew the truth of the "Crichton" maternal line, it explains why the family treated his memory not just as a historical event, but as an intimate family tragedy.

As for the Colonel William 9th Lord Oliphant and his legacy. It would appear the historical books on the Lords Oliphant have seemingly overlooked his incredible life and accomplishments and what does remain of his life are a few fragmented mentions here and there of him in books written by a few extended family members. It still remains unclear where exactly the Col. William Oliphant the 9th Lord is buried. According to these old publications, somewhere at Gask, but has yet to be discovered.

Chapter 5

Francis Oliphant Jr. 10th Lord Oliphant

Laurence Oliphant, 5th Laird of Gask, and his son and successor Laurence Younger probably felt like they were pretty close to obtaining the title in 1728 when the Col died; that is until Francis Jr. his half-grand Nephew filed a petition. Laurence might have thought about trying to block Francis with his letter or declaration he claimed to have, which still hasn't been determined who the resignation letter was for. The son or the father, because Laurence 5th Laird of Gask died in 1732, just one year before Francis was granted the title, and this so-called letter was mentioned again several times after that.

As mentioned before, old man Gask would have his son dictate for him because his eyesight was so bad. Therefore, the resignation letter could have also been for the son Laurence, that is of course if it was reciprocal, because the son continued to stay on top of it right up until he died in 1767. After what seemed like a period of disbelief, Gask eventually relented to Francis, and I'm sure reluctantly agreed to this declaration in support. [3] (*The Oliphants in Scotland*).

Declaration by Patrick Campbell of Monzie, to Laurence Oliphant of Gask, and Thomas Oliphant of Rossie, concerning the succession of Francis Oliphant to the Peerage of Lord Oliphant. In a later letter, Gask pats himself on the back for doing this for his half-grandnephew Francis, as if to say. See, I'm not such a bad guy. But he had no choice because according to the declaration, Francis was already confirmed.

December 20, 1731. We, Mr. Patrick Campbell of Monzie one of the Senators of the College of Justice, Laurence Oliphant of Gask Younger, and Mr. Thomas Oliphant at Rossie, under subscribing, the near Relations of William, Late Lord Oliphant, Do certify and declare that Francis, the Son of Captain Francis Oliphant is the Nephew and Heir Male to the

said William, Lord Oliphant. The said William, Lord Oliphant and his Nephew heir male, William Oliphant, being "lost at sea" and declared dead In witness whereof, We have Subscribed these presents at Gask the twentieth, and at Edinburgh the twentieth, and third days of December One Thousand Seven hundred and thirty-one years.

Laurence Oliphant

The following letter gives an idea of the upbringing of this child. He must have been not less than seventeen at the time. It is addressed from the Canongate to Lord Col. William Oliphant at Gask, and dated 11th, August 1725:

My Lord,

Mr. Oliphant told me that your Lordship desired me to make inquiry about that poor child, your nephew Francis, who stays with one deacon Lauthor, a shoemaker that lives at the foot of the Canongate in the horse-wynd.

I went myself as your Lordship desired and called for him who I found in a very mean condition. About two years ago one Robert Oliphant a Hatter in London that lives at Charin-cross, you may remember him, when he was here, he heard of the boy and called for him, and seeing him so destitute, without cloths, clothed him from top to toe, but now they are all worn out to rags, only ye Deacon has given him a course coat but he hath neither breeches, shoes, nor stockings but what is all in pieces and not so much as a cravat about his neck. Were it not for the charitable Deacon who has taken what care has been, or els he had lyne in the street and sterved. I askt him if he had ever been at school, he said that he could read and write som, this is all the account 1 can give of him . . . my Lord

your lordships most humble serv. *Margaret Garioch*

Francis goes by the name of my Lord Oliphant, and so call'd by everybody, but in the meantime, he will go in an erend for any bodie for a babie." (Basically, do anything for money)

Although it might have been somewhat of a surprise to old man Gask when Francis retained council and made his petition for the title of Lord, even though he wrote a letter detailing his intentions, which I will show you later, It remains a mystery about what happened to Francis's letters of Marquis, and associated papers. According to *T. L. Kington's book, 'Jacobite Lairds of Gask.'* they were taken or destroyed. The question remains, who

would have wanted Francis's letters of Marquis? Maybe his wife and her family ended up with them in London, but in either case, they were not found, at least at the time of this publication.

We can only assume, that the Colonel advised his Nephew Francis to retain council and inquire to the Court as soon after his death as possible regarding the peerage to avoid any trickery on the part of Gask. He undoubtedly knew how desperately they wanted the title and would seemingly stop at nothing to achieve their goal. It took a few years, but Francis was eventually successful in becoming the 10th Lord Oliphant in 1733.

Sadly, it was rumored that Francis was an alcoholic, and living a lascivious lifestyle. So even with the title, he was not only lacking in education but was accused of being of an unrefined nature, which made him unsuitable to sit on the committee of peers, even though it was said he did a few times. Surely there had to be a witness to this, but we weren't able to obtain any evidence of it. In either case, something had to have been done for him to receive a pension.

It's only supposition, but Laurence more than likely figured Francis would eventually self-destruct and didn't appear to be as much of a threat to him as his educated older brother William would have been, who he knew had a more aggressive personality. With Francis eventually out of the way, Gask could once again be free to pursue the title he felt was his God-given right.

Col. William Oliphant was supposed to be the last of the Lords Oliphant. Again, it's unclear whether he urged Francis to move forward with the petition, but as mentioned before Francis wrote to his cousin explaining his intention to go to London and see what Providence had in store for him. [4] (*Oliphant's of Gask,*). Apparently, he was successful in securing a few witnesses thereto, Laurence of Gask, and Thomas of Rossie, but the seemingly friendless boy after becoming tenth Lord Oliphant, wasn't so fortunate in finding other family relations to support him.

Shortly after the death of the Col, and 9th Lord, whose ghostly comforter was Mr. Alexander Drummond, he wrote to Gask.

T. L. Kington dictated in his book what Alexander Drummond said;

"*The spelling of the letter is a great improvement upon the usual run of Oliphant correspondence and does credit to the good Countess Marischal. Herself a Drummond born, she must have taken a lively interest in the friendless child, the future Head of the Oliphant's.*"

Dear Cousin,

I doubt not but that you may take it as a surprise that I have used the freedome to write you unacquainted, but the worthy character you and your family have borne for some hundreds of years, and also considering the old relation between the family of Oliphant and yours will I hope attone for this time.

"I do acknowledge it as a great part of my unhappyness that I have never seen you or any of your family, of which I should be most ambitious.

"I had a designe to have come over to Gask and had the satisfaction to have seen you, your good lady family and friends, I being intended very shortly to go for London to try what kind providence will do for me.

But my present circumstances with the many hardships I have been left under and obliged to suffer by the early loss of my parents, and otherwise since I was a child, makes me very unprepared for either a long or short journey. "And that which adds to my affliction is the loss of the Dear Countess of Marischal who took care of me and my education for about three years before her decease.

But after all before I proceed to any journey I desire your assistance and good advice in whatever terms you may please to signify it to me in writing by the first convenience and in the meantime I remain, Dear Sir,

your most affectionat Cusin and hearty wellwisher,

Francis Oliphant

If you please to write direct for me at Mrs. Kirkwood's the first stair above the foot of Peebles Wynd."

THE TALE OF YOUNG FRANCIS OLIPHANT

The story of young Francis Oliphant stands as a poignant reminder of the vulnerabilities and hardships that could befall members of even the Noblest of families in 18th-century Scotland.

Being a forgotten child of a Noble Lineage, Francis Oliphant, was a younger scion of the illustrious Oliphant family and was born into a lineage that traced its roots back to the medieval era, steeped in Scottish

history and tradition. The Oliphant's were a family known for their political influence, military prowess, and their significant role in the social and cultural fabric of Scotland. Yet, amidst this backdrop of prestige, young Francis's story emerges as a stark contrast.

The Plight of Francis Oliphant can be found in a letter addressed to his Uncle, 9th Lord Col William Oliphant, who was staying at the Gask estate, and who had inquired about his Nephew, dated August 6, 1725, by Margaret Garioch, a relative by marriage to the Oliphant family, [1] (*Oliphant's of Gask*) The letter provides a heart-wrenching account of Francis's condition. She was tasked with the investigation of his well-being and found Francis living with the Deacon, and shoemaker at the foot of the Canongate in Edinburgh – a far cry from the aristocratic halls from where his family comes, and where their lineage once owned vast tracts of land, and whose scion had been counselors and champions of successive sovereigns and once wielded a mighty power in Scotland.

Margaret describes Francis as being in a "very mean condition," Shortly after the death of his Countess Marischal, a daughter of the fourth Earl of Perth, only 3 years after she was tasked with caring for and educating him, she passed away. Later he was found running the streets around the Canongate of Edinburgh with his clothes worn to rags and lacking even the basic necessities such as shoes and stockings, with not so much as a cravat about his neck. Being left an orphan at an early age, he was utterly neglected, and narrowly escaped starvation. This depiction is a stark contrast to the image of opulence and privilege typically associated with aristocracy. It is especially poignant considering Francis was telling everyone he was already "Lord Oliphant." A title that seemed almost mocking considering his dire circumstances. But the Col his Uncle was a formidable force and may have planted this in the young impressionable Francis's head when speaking to him, the same way he had a stirring effect on the younger Gask family in the way he rallied them to the Jacobite cause.

The Oliphant's story is but a microcosm of the broader challenges faced by many aristocratic families in 18th-century Scotland. Political upheavals, economic downturns, and changing social structures often eroded the foundations of even the most prominent families. As previously mentioned, the Jacobite risings, for instance, had a profound impact on the Scottish nobility, many of whom supported the Stuart cause and faced dire consequences for their allegiance. The Oliphants were one of those families who would pay a price for their loyalty.

Moreover, the primogeniture inheritance laws often left younger sons and

distant relatives with little to no financial support or prospects, especially if the family estate was entangled in debts or legal disputes. In Francis' case, it appears his half-grand Uncle Laurence 6th Laird of Gask, and caretaker's family resources and attention were perhaps directed elsewhere, leaving him in a state of neglect after he, his brother William, and their sister Mary were orphaned when their parents died at a young age.

Amid this despair, however, there is a glimmer of hope and humanity. The shoemaker, referred to as Deacon Lauthor, took Francis in, sheltering him and providing at least a semblance of care. This act of kindness from a member of the working class towards a destitute noble child is a touching example of compassion that transcended social hierarchies.

Margaret Garioch's involvement, too, is indicative of the concern that some acquaintances had for the less fortunate members of their social circles. Her detailed report to Lord Oliphant and her evident concern for Francis's welfare highlight a sense of responsibility and compassion.

The story of Lord Francis Oliphant is more than just a tale of individual misfortune; it reflects the broader societal and familial dynamics of the time. It compels us to consider the lives of those who, despite their noble birth, found themselves on the peripheries of their families and society.

Lord Francis's life also prompts a reevaluation of our understanding of aristocracy in history. It challenges the narrative that equates nobility with unbridled privilege and highlights the nuanced realities of individuals who bore noble titles but led lives marked by hardship and struggle.

The Legacy of Lord Francis Oliphant today, serves as a reminder of the complexities of aristocratic life in 18th century Scotland. Although he did succeed his Uncle Col William Oliphant 9th Lord, in 1733, after declaring his older brother William and rightful heir dead or lost at sea, to the position of 10th Lord Oliphant, and as such obtained a small pension from the Government, which was reportedly his only means of support. He managed to maintain a meager existence until he died in 1748. He was the last known male heir of the senior line to hold the title. Francis's story, however, is buried beneath the grand narratives of political intrigue and social glamor, which provides a deeper, more humane understanding of history.

As we delve into the past, it is crucial to remember Lord Francis Oliphant's history – individuals whose lives might not have been marked by great deeds or notable achievements, but whose experiences offer invaluable in-

sights into the human dimension of historical events and social structures.

The tale of young Francis Oliphant compels us to look beyond the grand facades of history and acknowledge the myriads of personal stories that weave the rich tapestry of our past. His story is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity and a reminder of the compassion that can transcend social divides. As we explore history, let us not forget to honor and learn from the lives of those like Lord Francis Oliphant.

The following correspondence passed in 1736 between Laurence Oliphant 6th of Gask and his Chief Francis Oliphant 10th Lord: — *Edinburgh. 15 Dec, 1736.*

Sir,

I was sorry that when I went to see you at your own house I had the misfortune to miss you;

I also wrote to you about a small affair, to which you have not made me any answer. My uncle William, Lord Oliphant, who dyed at your father's house, left, as I am inform'd, some things of value, and which his servant gave to your custody.

As my Lord made no Will, surely these things belong properly to me, his nearest relation, and yet I would not make much dispute about them with any Gentleman, more especialy with you.

But I want at least to preserve a token of my predecessors. Therefor I hope, as there was a silver watch and seal to it, a silver-handed sword, and a silver seal of three corners, you will please order these things for me, particularly the Seal, and your answer is expected.

Sir, Your Cousin and Servant, Francis Oliphant

Your answer is expected to ye care of the postmaster' here.

The following reply was sent back by the Laird of Gask: — *Williamstoun, Dec 1736*

My Lord,

I was very unlucky in being from home when about four years ago your Lord did me the honor of calling at my house. And I never received any of the two

letters you now mention you wrote me, otherways I would not have failed in giveing them suteable returns. When William Lord Oliphant dyed at my House here, I was aware that I might get some trouble about the few moveables he had, and therefore caused the Sheriff take ane Inventory of them in order to be confirm'd, not so much to reimburse me of a small part of the charges laid out upon his Funeral, as to keep me safe from any vexation about them.

If I were to be accountable for them, notwithstanding what I have mention'd, it would be to his own grandchildren at Orleans, who are undoubtedly his heirs.

However, to satisfie ye" Lord and give a specimen of the moveables, I have sent with this the Sword & Seal, being

My Lord, Your Lordships' affectionate. Cousin and most humble servant

Laurence Oliphant

1748 – DEATH OF FRANCIS 10th LORD OLIPHANT

This extract is from the '*Register of Burials*' in the parish of Islington, London, in the county of Middlesex, in the year '*one thousand seven hundred and forty-eight*'. —

Oliphant—Lord Francis, died April 23, 1748. [8] (*The Oliphants in Scotland, pg. 349,*) Letters of Administration, granted 1st Aug 1748, bearing that 'Administration 'Of the Goods, Chattels, and Credits of the Right Honorable Francis Lord Oliphant, Baron Oliphant, deceased, was granted to the Right Honorable Mary, Lady Oliphant, Baroness- 'Dowager Oliphant, Widow, and relict of the said deceased.

This was said to be proof that Francis, tenth Lord Oliphant, left no issue, as it is notorious that, by English practice, both the relict (wife) and the children are admitted to the administration of the effects of persons dying intestate; and in the above document, the absence of any mention of children implies they are non-existent.

The Jacobite Lairds of Gask, T. L. Kington. (1870) - *Charles Griffin and Co.* '*The Scotts Peerage*,' *Sir J Paul* (1909) *Peerage of England*, *GE., Cokayne, Vol 10, 2nd Edi*.; *The Oliphant's in Scotland*, *T. L. Kington Oliphant, Esq.*

Chapter 6

William James Oliphant - Bulker of Customs

"William the young boy"

In order to understand how I ultimately concluded that William Oliphant, the son of Capt. Francis Oliphant and Mary Riddle, older brother of Francis Oliphant Jr. 10th Lord was still alive, we must first start at the beginning and look at, what the evidence shows and clearly suggests there is no other reasonable conclusion that can be determined.

William James Oliphant, who is later discovered to be the Bulker at the port of Leith, and Edinburgh, was born in 1702. His father Lieutenant Francis Oliphant Sr. was the younger brother of Col. William Oliphant, 9th Lord Oliphant, and youngest son to Patrick 6th Lord Oliphant.

Young Williams, father died in 1708, and then his mother shortly after in 1712, which left him, and his siblings orphaned at a very early age. William along with his older sister Mary and younger brother Francis Jr. were taken into the household of Eunice Oliphant of Balgonie, who was related by marriage to the Condie branch of the Oliphant family. [1] (*The Oliphants in Scotland'*) It was reported that while there, it was a subservient existence, and they were treated like indentured slaves. Later, Laird Laurence James Oliphant 5th Laird of Gask, who was described as their half-granduncle and caretaker, took William from what was considered an unsuitable position in the Balgonie household and sent him away to a boarding school at Foulis Aberdeen Scotland, [2] (*The Oliphants of Gask*) where he was educated and remained until 1715. (*The beginning of the 2nd rising of the Jacobite Rebellion*). Young William was later indentured to a ship called the Elizabeth as an apprentice at the tender young age of 13, and this indenture was paid for by Laurence James Oliphant 5th Laird of Gask, who again, was for all intents and purposes designated caretaker.

The following is one of the accounts where William attended school and

was sent in by Mr. John Coldstream, Schoolmaster of Foulis Aberdeen: (*Oliphants of Gask*)

An account of money received by Mr. John Coldstream, Schoolmaster at Foulis from the Laird of Gask on account of William Oliphant, son to Lieutenant Francis Oliphant from his first entry to the School of Foulis Aberdeen (Mar. 1712) to his removal therefrom (Lambmass, 1714) as follows:

Dec 18th, 1712. For mounting the said William Oliphant in Coat, Vest and Hat Stockins Shoes and Breches Shirts and Cravats, as per particular accompt given up, 25, 18s. 2d.

More for his first quarters board from Mar. 1712 to Candlemass 1713 and for School dues, paper pen and ink, as per accompt given up, 12, 10s.

Nov 25th, more for mounting the said William in a Kelt coat for winter and for shirts shoes and cravats and making the said cloaths as per part, accompt given up, Mar 3rd, 1714.

More for another half years board, school dues, paper pens and ink and other small necessaries from Lambmass 1713 to Candlemass. 1714, 25, 10s.

Aug 2nd, for another half years board, school dues, paper pen and ink and some other small necessaries from Candlemass. 1714 to Lamb. 1714 about which time he went away, 25, 7s. 6d.

To an express to ye said William's master, Laurence of Gask from Perth given to himself when sent to Kirkaldy, 005. 17. 00.

Sent with him to his merchants to buy sea clothes, fifty markes."Item: Payed for his apprentice fee at sea, a hundred marcks, which is to be stated in Mr. Oliphant's accounts from Jan. 1st, 1715.

Sum of money given out upon William Oliphant, 230. 08. 06."

"This brief notice was supposedly the last known record of the young boy, and heir to the honor and Peerage of the Oliphant Title. He was sent away to sea by Laurence James Oliphant 5th of Gask, and supposedly not one word or tradition was known as to his fate. It was said he was lost at sea and presumed dead by 1721." (3) (*Oliphant's of Gask*)

This is a small piece also posted in the Colonel's Chapter, but bears mentioning again and gives a good example of the close bond between the Col. and his nephew William, and was written in the book, ("*The Jacobite Lairds*

of Gask", *pg. 22*) about the young boy and heir to the peerage before Gask sent him away to sea.

"I give a specimen of a receipt for a school bill in the days of Queen Anne, just as it was sent to the Laird of Gask."

The "Cornell" must be William Oliphant, the great hero of the House; he had most likely come home after the peace of Utrecht in the Netherlands. Mr. Coldstream writes to Gask to let him know William the young boy left of his own accord (ran away) to go visit his uncle the Col and left without letting him know. Even at a young age, William seems a little defiant and headstrong, and I'm sure Gask recognized this right from the start, and may have played a role in Laurence removing William from the Balgonie household to begin with.

Right Honourable,

William has not need to stay long from his books, and truly he went to Crief (Perth) on Tuesday last far against my will, designing to see his uncle the Cornell, but I designed not to give him all his will again in such respects. I desire your honour & the Lady may take inspection of his cloths & tell me freely if I have not been a good Merchant. For my part, I may say I never prigged (bragged) so much on my own behalf. This with my humble respects to your honour & family is all at present from

Your honor's most humble servant, J. Coldstream - Fowlis. Dec 25, 1712.

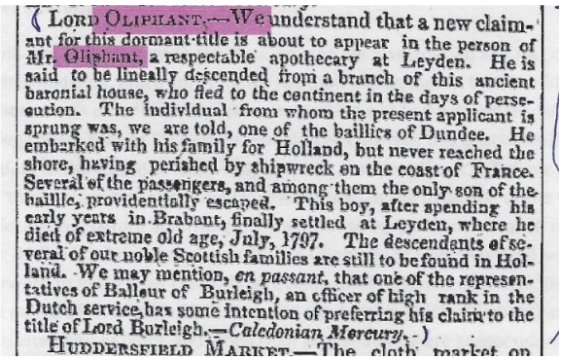
This was another random letter from Mr. Coldstream about William. I'm not sure but it looks to be sent to Gask. It looks to be written on the same day as the previous letter.

Mr. John Coldstream, schoolmaster at Fowlis grants me 16 pounds hereby to have received from ye right honourable the Laird of Gask, the sum of twentie five pounds, eighteen shillings, and six pence Scots for mounting William Oliphant in Coat, Vest, Breeches, Shirts, Cravats, and other necessary Aboulziements as they are presently to be seen, and twelve pounds ten as his Board wages, school dues, paper, pen, and ink, according to Paction with ye Laird of Gask, and yet for ye quart of ye year from Hallowmass in 1712 to Candlemass in ye year 1713, extending in all to thirty eight pounds eight shillings and six pence.

In witness whereof I have subt these presents at Fowlis, Dec 25, 1712.
J. Coldstream

I know this is jumping ahead in the story a little bit, but I feel this is significant in making the point about the alleged disappearance of young William and what happened to him.

Fast forward 145 years and this article appears in the Caledonian Mercury in Edinburgh, announcing a claim on Gask, dated 1860 by Carl Naret Oliphant; (*this copy is from the '19th Century British Newspapers' from the LDS Library Edinburgh*. (Oliphant name search).



LORD OLIPHANT.—We understand that a new claimant for this dormant title is about to appear in the person of Mr. Oliphant, a respectable apothecary at Leyden. He is said to be lineally descended from a branch of this ancient baronial house, who fled to the continent in the days of persecution. The individual from whom the present applicant is sprung was, we are told, one of the baillies of Dundee. He embarked with his family for Holland, but never reached the shore, having perished by shipwreck on the coast of France. Several of the passengers, and among them the only son of the baillie, providentially escaped. This boy, after spending his early years in Brabant, finally settled at Leyden, where he died of extreme old age, July, 1797. The descendants of several of our noble Scottish families are still to be found in Holland. We may mention, *en passant*, that one of the representatives of Balfour of Burleigh, an officer of high rank in the Dutch service, has some intention of preferring his claim to the title of Lord Burleigh.—*Caledonian Mercury*.)

HUDDERSFIELD MARKET.—The cloth market on

Not long after William was indentured on the ship, the Elizabeth, it was mentioned in (*The Oliphants of Gask*) that there was no word of the boys' whereabouts. I have no idea where the rumor got started, but it is listed in several documents and places throughout the years that William the young boy was believed to be lost at sea. With this type of rumor, one can only assume that some sort of shipwreck had to be involved.

Then curiously 145 years later this article shows up telling a story of a young Oliphant boy who during the Rebellion supposedly fled Scotland with his family around 1715. There is a shipwreck off the coast of France where according to this article, his father perishes, but the young boy survives when him and the crew of the ship are rescued, and it was said he lived for many years in France and then later in Leyden Holland. To me, this all sounded eerily familiar, but until I did more research, I just kept an open mind.

It was also stated the claimant, who was later revealed as Carel Naret, descends from the Ancient Baronial House of Oliphant, and later suggests he was related to the Lords Oliphant, and descends from this boy's lineage. Ironically our young boy William is also related to Nobility and was rumored to be lost at sea, and just so happened to be sent away to sea by his caretaker Laurence James Oliphant 5th Laird of Gask in 1715 at the same

time, the beginning of the Jacobite Rebellion.

Give or take a few variations in the details, this story was eerily similar to our story of the young boy, William Oliphant, and adds a significant piece to the puzzle, also, unravels the mystery of what happened to William, the Colonel's Nephew.

The article doesn't elaborate much on the shipwreck incident and is more focused on someone claiming the Gask estate. But it does point out several interesting pieces of information; that there was a young Oliphant boy involved in a shipwreck during the same time that William embarked on his indentured journey, and as we later find out was in this area. It also points out that it was around 1715, during the rebellion, so the time frame lines up. Then it alludes to the boy being related to Nobility, which we know from Williams background, he is of Noble descent. Also, that there still can be found some descendants of several Noble Scottish families found in Holland. Hence, Patrick Oliphant the older brother of Laurence of Gask living in Layden among others.

I have to admit, I was very hopeful when I found this article because it only added more validation to the other evidence I had discovered, which is that William Oliphant the rightful heir to the Peerage and Dignity, and unquestionably a key player in the splintering of this branch of the family, was still alive. It gets even better as the story unravels, so, I wouldn't jump on the naysayer's bandwagon just yet.

With the rumor of a shipwreck in mind, it makes you wonder. Even though this evidence surfaced 145 years later, where is the information on a full-blown investigation into William's disappearance and whereabouts? The family certainly seemed to have the means, as well as the connections, and appeared to have tentacles spread far and wide. According to all the letters published in these books written by the Gask family members, they were all over this area of France, Holland, and even Leyden. After the death of the Colonel, Laurence of Gask wrote to his brother Patrick in Leyden Holland to tell him about the Col' death. It just didn't add up.

I was astonished at how young William's cousins, as well as his caretaker, and extended family members just seemingly dismissed him so quickly, and not so much as a notice was ever printed, nor did there ever appear to be anything written in the way of letters about him. Granted there were a few years before he ever surfaced again, but in Scotland among his relatives, shortly after his alleged disappearance there didn't seem to be much concern for him, or for that matter, any of these throwaway kids

belonging to Capt. Francis Oliphant Sr. Was this just another example of the information being burned or thrown away by Laurence Oliphant 5th or 6th of Gask, as described by his gg grandson 10th Laird of Gask?

There is another story that I will also get into in more detail later as well, about William briefly changing his last name to Olifent, etc., because he didn't want to be associated with the family for some reason. It would only be speculation to say it had to be because of the Jacobite involvement. Coincidentally, it was also spelled this way on his death notice but spelled Oliphant throughout the rest of his career. Could it be possible it was just a very volatile time, and if you were suspected of being a sympathizer to the cause, you stood a chance of being jailed or even killed? But let's not move too fast, first I want to look at the statement by Gask, where they said they suspected William was lost at sea or presumed dead by 1721.

Let's recap for a moment; we know it was written that Gask had indentured young William to a ship called the Elizabeth at the tender young age of 13, in the year 1715, and he was sent away to sea, and for all intents and purposes was considered lost at sea or dead. What we can't say for sure is whether he was intentionally sent away to sea, in the hopes of possibly saving his life, not thinking he would never be heard from again. I know some might say this would be bordering on a conspiracy theory, but notwithstanding there is nothing to indicate otherwise or that William had died. At this point, all we know is, that we likely have a reasonable motive, but there again, it's best to air on the side of caution and keep an open mind until all the facts are reviewed.

The assumption was made, that he must be dead. Ok... and this was way before this article or any of this other information ever came to light. I can only imagine the anguish his caretaker at Gask must have been experiencing at his disappearance, while at the same time reluctantly witnessing a declaration for his brother Francis. Laurence of Gask didn't seem to hesitate to sign off on the fact that he believed William was dead, but why?

Certainly William would have had to fulfill his obligation to his original indenture to the ships Capt. after surviving the shipwreck. At this point they would have more then likely boarded another ship and continued on with their work. This would explain at least four or five years of his disappearance, and by this time he would have been about 18 years old by the end of his apprenticeship. Then we later find evidence of him being on a merchant ship claiming Leith as his home in 1721-23, and later living there. We also have an eye witness, Thomas Mackay who said William or (James) was on a merchant ship with letters of Marquis, and spelled his

last name Olifent, and even teased him knowing it was spelled Oliphant, which I will also get into in more detail later, but clearly there are several indications William was not dead as was being rumored early on, and as we discover and explain in more detail later.

We now know that no one had heard from William in years, and even though there was no evidence to the contrary; for instance, what would seem like the most obvious of signs - a body, or any physical evidence in the form of a death notice, or letters to the Col, (*Which are no longer in existence*) or family members telling of a tragedy. And then this article 145 years later expands on the shipwreck theory. There again, it was only being rumored he was lost at sea, and just simply given up for dead.

Getting back to the article for a minute. According to this article, the boy remained in France for many years after, and let's just say for argument's sake, he was the son of the Baillie of Dundee, as mentioned in the article, which is Stirling.

In dissecting the article, a little deeper, and giving the writer the benefit of the doubt. I conducted a lateral search for any William Oliphant's that may have been born around 1702 plus or minus a year or two, to see if I could potentially attach him to anyone else other than Capt. Francis Oliphant, who I'm now convinced is his father.

Well... there was a Baillie of Stirling, named William Oliphant, who was married to Margaret McAlister, and they ironically had a son named William, born in 1704. Granted there is a two-year difference between our Williams birth date and their sons, but again, let's just say for argument's sake, this was our guy.

First of all, It was reported that the Baillie's son William was exiled to the West Nile, somewhere around Uganda Africa, and apparently was never heard from again. That story in itself is rather unusual and strange, but no red flags to indicate he was tied to our shipwreck in France. In addition, his father the Baillie was reportedly in Scotland and supposedly later became the Baillie of Perth. There again, no indication, his father ever perished with him in a shipwreck. The next question was; is he connected to Nobility as the article alludes to? Well...Like all the other pedigrees for this period and era centered on the Oliphant's in Perth, that is unless of course, you were connected to that crowd occupying the Gask estate. There was scant if any information available on William the Baillie and his wife, and there is no indication they were ever tied to the Lords Oliphant.

Although there are some similarities in the story of the Baillie's son William, their son was a grown man when he was supposedly exiled, and there is no indication he ever left Scotland other than this known incident of his being exiled.

Therefore, as mentioned before, this article was written 145 years later and simply off the mark on a few important issues. In my lifetime of researching, I can't tell you how many times in the last 35-plus years of doing this I've encountered contradicting and conflicting stories, different spellings of names, etc. It goes with the territory, and I give many examples of this throughout this book. Maybe 100 years from now, someone might say the same thing about something I've written. But the one thing I do know is; that you can only be as sure as you can be, and usually, the simplest explanation is going to be your answer.

The person who wrote the article specifically says, "*We were told*," clearly indicating this was second-hand knowledge. It's always best to follow up with more research for clarification in a situation like this, and clearly from the evidence I present, I did my homework.

Also, the article alludes to this boy dying in Layden of extreme old age in 1797. However, after an exhaustive search, I was unable to find a death notice for him anywhere in the Netherlands or Layden. Ironically William, whom I later discovered to be the Bulker, died on April 6th, 1791, for whom we do have a death notice, and also during this time was considered an extremely advanced age at 89. You could infer by how it is written in the article that he died in Leyden, but again there's no evidence of that. Just because the writer suggests he lived in Leyden for some time and died at an advanced age, doesn't mean he didn't die somewhere else. Once again, this parallels with William's story, and what we ascertain from this article, and as the writer says, is second hand information and likely a misinterpretation on the part of the reporter. I'm simply saying all this to say. Don't always take an article at face value. Keep an open mind until you've had a chance to review all the facts.

However, the discovery of this article opened a whole new can of worms and questions about whether William Oliphant the Bulker could have possibly been married a first time, or possibly had an illegitimate child in the Netherlands, which I also explore later. I will also go into the story of Jane Mackay and her brother Thomas, who for all intents and purposes where both witnesses and offer a first hand account to William being alive long after the rumor of him supposedly being dead. Also, Thomas, who was reputed to have taunted William about spelling his last name as Olifent

when he knew it was spelled Oliphant. And when he told Thomas, he changed it because he didn't want to be associated with the family, etc. Nevertheless, let's not get too far ahead of ourselves. We still have a lot to cover.

The main objective for introducing all this other information and putting it together in one place, as mentioned before, was to show an accumulation of the plethora of circumstantial evidence pointing to the fact that William Oliphant the young boy was still alive. Still I maintain, it is blatantly obvious and to my knowledge, no one has ever brought any of this up other than what we discover in these books, newspaper articles, and archives. Putting all the fragmented pieces of this bizarre puzzle together in one place explains what happened and gives us the full picture. It shows that William Oliphant the alleged missing young boy was not only still alive, but that he was, not so forgotten after all, and how he potentially played a significant role behind the scenes in Leith toward any future title seekers. This gives us a better understanding of the dynamics of the situation and why no one ever really took over the title after his brother Francis died in 1748.

Chapter 7

William Oliphant the Bulker on the Leith scene

It has always been my contention that William the young boy and William the Bulker were one in the same individual. This being corroborated by several experts in the field of genealogy as well as the plethora of circumstantial evidence indicating that once again, no other logical conclusion can be determined.

After an exhaustive search in and around the Netherlands to find anything on William the young boy, and possibly the shipwreck he was involved in, or anything relating to him whether under Oliphant or Olifent. I discovered ship records indicating he was intermittently on the Leith scene for quite some time.

Getting back to the statement that William the young boy was believed to be lost at sea or presumed dead by 1721. According to the records found in Holland, which, in my opinion, indicate that William James Oliphant, the rightful heir to the peerage, was, in fact, alive and well. William was also listed as being on the scene in Edinburgh the whole time without seemingly ever being detected, according to Sue Mowat's book '*The Port of Leith*', which I will get into in more detail later, but these few documents were found at the *National Archives in Holland*, where William James Oliphant proclaimed Pittenweem, and Leith as his home Port on several ship log entry's dating between 1721 & 1723. [4] (*Web Archives, Wie Was Wie, Reg, # NT00338 1721-23*). So...clearly, he wasn't dead.

https://www.wiewaswie.nl/en/detail/43877826

Collecties met William Oliphant

WieWasWie

Seafarer	William Oliphant
Thuishaven	Pittenweem
Vertrek	Pittenweem
Aankomst	Danzig
Event	Registratie
Event date	13-09-1721
Event place	Elseneur
Document type	Collecties
Heritage institution	Nationaal Archief
Institution place	Den Haag
Collection region	Zuid-Holland
Archive	NL-HaNA NT00338
Registration number	nt00338
Registration date	13-09-1721
Document place	Elseneur
Collection	Nederlandse Sontregisters 1721-1763
Opmerking	Document bevat meer informatie

https://www.wiewaswie.nl/en/detail/43902994

Collecties met William Oliphant

WieWasWie

Seafarer	William Oliphant
Thuishaven	Pittenweem
Vertrek	Danzig
Aankomst	Pittenweem
Event	Registratie
Event date	16-11-1722
Event place	Elseneur
Document type	Collecties
Heritage institution	Nationaal Archief
Institution place	Den Haag
Collection region	Zuid-Holland
Archive	NL-HaNA NT00338
Registration number	nt00338
Registration date	16-11-1722
Document place	Elseneur
Collection	Nederlandse Sontregisters 1721-1763
Opmerking	Document bevat meer informatie



- National Archief https://www.wiewaswie.nl/en/detail/print/43886666

https://www.wiewaswie.nl/en/detail/43886666

Collecties met William Oliphant

WieWasWie

Seafarer	William Oliphant
Thuishaven	Leith
Vertrek	Danzig
Aankomst	Leith
Event	Registratie
Event date	29-11-1723
Event place	Elseneur
Document type	Collecties
Heritage institution	Nationaal Archief
Institution place	Den Haag
Collection region	Zuid-Holland
Archive	NL-HaNA NT00338
Registration number	nt00338
Registration date	29-11-1723
Document place	Elseneur
Collection	Nederlandse Sontregisters 1721-1763
Opmerking	Document bevat meer informatie

'WILLIAM'S RETURN TO SCOTLAND'

Meanwhile, these records and information found in Holland, offer even more validation that William our alleged missing young boy was not dead in 1721 or 1723 but rather sailing aboard a Merchant Ship with letters of Marquis bringing goods back and forth from Italy, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands according to the ship logs of the vessel.

There is, however, a gap of a few years, which I explained earlier as him having to fulfill his obligation to the ships Capt. he indentured with. Again, these indentures typically lasted four or five years, and he would have been about 18 yrs old near the end. Not to mention, according to an eyewitness, Thomas MacKay the ship he was on was with letters of Marquis, which were commissions authorizing privately owned ships (known as privateers) to capture enemy merchant ships and seize their goods during war time. A letter of marquis was issued by the High Court of Admiralty. Any captured vessels were then brought before the admiralty courts for condemnation and sale. This experience as a young man would have undoubtedly prepared him fully with not only the seafaring knowledge that would assist

him later in his role as the Bulking Master but would have given him wartime experience and would explain his no-nonsense attitude that he exhibited later on in his life after claiming Leith as his home.

It also might be understandable that during this time, due to the Jacobite Rebellion, there might have been a need to remain anonymous. Even more so if you were known to be connected to a family at the forefront as his uncle the Col. was, and outwardly involved in the movement like the Gask Oliphants. I'll also explore all this in more detail as we go along. Nevertheless, as mentioned, William eventually settles in South Leith, and later married Margaret Chapman in 1742. [5] (*Edinburgh Parish Church records, Midlothian Scotland*)

Let's look back at the article on the claim to the Gask estate for a minute before we get into Williams return to Leith permanently. It mentions the young boy ended up in Leyden Holland. Based on how the article was written, it would indicate this boy potentially married and or possibly had children. At least that's what the article alludes to by saying the claimant was allegedly related to this shipwrecked boy.

Taking this into consideration, I tried to figure out how this boy could be related to the claimant. I asked the question; Could William Oliphant, the young boy possibly have been married a first time somewhere around the Netherlands before permanently landing in Leith? Or could he have possibly fathered a child? After all, it wouldn't be out of the realm of possibilities, and would he have used the spelling Olifent or Oliphant? This alleged kid, or kids might have potentially taken either spelling. These were all things I had to consider. It certainly wouldn't be the first time this has ever happened in history.

However, for argument's sake, let's go down that path for a minute and review the possibilities of what could have happened. It helps better explain the gap in time before William permanently shows up in Leith. Not to mention, it would have been a late age for a gentleman to be getting married for the first time at age 40, even though his brother Francis married at 40. In addition, helps explain how he was so well established.

The reason the potential progeny issue is even mentioned is that the article says the claimant Carel Naret Oliphant, a pharmacist from Leyden Holland who made a claim on the Gask estate around 1860, was supposedly descended from a shipwrecked boy potentially related to Nobility.

The original ad searching for male heirs of the Gask estate was placed by

Hunter and Conning, writers (Attorney's) in Perth, July 5th, 1848, who were reportedly hired to handle this search, presumably by either Thomas Kington or Ethel Maxtone Graham, later both known as Oliphant's. Her grandmother was an Oliphant, and His mother was an Oliphant, and they both were claiming the estate through their mother and grandmother's connection to the Oliphant family. Coincidentally, it was suggested that Ethel and Thomas later legally changed their last name from Kington & Graham to Oliphant specifically for this purpose. Ethel's currant descendants all go by their original family name Graham.

Nevertheless, Carel Naret Oliphant didn't reply to the ad until about 12 years after the ad was placed, which puzzled everyone, and they thought it was odd. It wasn't until this article that the possibility of a shipwreck being involved with the claimant was brought about. But there were several people working behind the scenes to root out any potential heirs, and somehow found Carel and his family in Layden, which was seemingly unbeknownst to Thomas Kington, - Ethel Graham, and their crowd back at the Gask estate, I'm sure it must have caught them by surprise.

In the biography of Sir Mark Laurence Elwin Oliphant, (*Oliphant, by; Stewart Cockburn*) once Governor of South Australia and famed nuclear physicist. It mentions that his family links are of the "Grandeur and Estates of Gaskness as well, or Gask as it is known today". Even though it wasn't exactly clear how he claims to be connected, It was said that he was responsible for finding Carel Naret and his family and was conducting his own search because in his opinion these interlopers currently living at Gask were not entitled to the estate, being from the female line of the family, etc. At least according to the way, Laurence 10th Laird had worded his Last Will stating anyone claiming the estate had to be from the senior male line, and as it turns out the current occupants of Gask, ironically were the only provable inheritors (*on paper anyway*) at the time. I guess as the old saying goes, "He who has the gold, makes the rules."

Although Carel being late to the table created an issue, it still went forward, and he apparently presented convincing enough evidence to sway the Gask family to make some sort of deal. The occupants of the estate made an arrangement with Carel and his only son Charles. It was done seemingly on a handshake, because there doesn't appear to be any available court documents, or as they put it in, '*The Jacobite Lairds of Gask*,' "*The settlement of any claims should preferably take place out of the eyes of the probate court system*." Plus, James the 10th Laird who had fairly recently passed, left in his Will that his wife had life-rent, meaning she could stay there until she

died, and she was still alive at the time. I posted an excerpt of the article from Holland on Carel Naret Oliphant's life later in the book, but it didn't yield the desired results I was seeking on our young boy William Oliphant or any details about the shipwreck, so it was brief.

It may appear as though I jumped track a little on the subject, however this additional information I submitted here plays into the evidence of Williams return to the port of Leith, and will make more sense as we navigate through his transition from Privateersman to the Bulker on the shore at Leith in the next few chapters.

Chapter 8

William Oliphant starts as Assistant Collector at Leith

William Oliphant was clearly at the Customs House at Leith in some capacity by 1740, and it appears he was working as an assistant collector with Alexander Moodie, the Nephew of Alexander Chambers who was in the position as the Tacksman or Collector of Shore dues in the early 1700's and was appointed by the City Treasurer of Edinburgh. (*The Port of Leith*)

In 1745, Alexander Chambers was established in his office by an Act of Council, but he had been having difficulties with ships masters and others, who were late paying their dues. He seemed to lack the force of personality necessary to make a success of pursuing debtors. He was paid sixty pounds per year for the job, and out of that had to pay to employ a clerk, and two assistant collectors, his Nephew, and William Oliphant, who were paid twenty-six pounds between the two.

It's uncertain the exact date William arrived on the scene in Leith and was more than likely earlier than 1740, or as the previous documents from Holland suggest, It would appear he was intermittently in and out of the area aboard a Merchant ship and would explain why he claimed Leith as his home port in 1721 – 23. Other than these ship records, the first documented evidence of his existence in Leith full-time is him getting paid by the Customs House as an Assistant Collector before his marriage in 1742, or at least what I was able to find at the time of this publication.

William Oliphant, Assistant Collector, married Margaret Chapman, on April 18th, 1742, at Edinburgh Parish Church. (OPR)

One of the next major events in William & Margaret's life was the birth of their only son William Oliphant in 1744. They also had a daughter

a few years later named Marion Oliphant born in 1749, in South Leith, Midlothian, but sadly she died June 15th, 1752, in South Leith, at the age of three. (OPR)

According to the account ledgers of the customs house around this time, they clearly show William as one of the assistant collectors. Meanwhile, his wife Margaret was venturing out on her own and decided to start up an all-girls boarding school in 1754 . She advertised in the Evening Currant in Edinburgh. This would have more than likely been done for financial reasons as well as religious.

Excerpt from "The Life and Times of Leith"; by James Scott Marshall pg. 107, Oliphant's School

These private schools were conducted under license from the Kirk session. When Anne Inglis in 1727 sought permission to open a school to teach girls to read and sew. She had to satisfy the session that she was well satisfied with the Governments of Church and State and that she had owned [i.e. accepted] the Confession of Faith, and the Assembly's Catechism, and that she attended the ordinances in the Church, and would enjoin her scholars so to do'.

Mrs. Oliphant on the Shore set up a boarding school for girls in 1754, and advertised her venture in the Edinburgh Evening Courant:

(Article in Evening Currant 1754 Edinburgh)

Mrs. Oliphant designs to set up a SEWING SCHOOL for White and Coloured Seam, also washing and Dressing. And Ladies who will be so good as to entrust her with their Children, may depend upon having them carefully waited on; and those who incline to send in their Children from the Country, may have them accommodate with Lodging and Boarding; together with the best advice Mrs. Oliphant is capable of against the Extravagancies of Youth. She likeways proposes, that those Scholars that are Boarders with her shall be taught Writing and Arithmetic, within the House at her Charge. – Likeways Ladies or others, who will be so good as give her in Seams, shall have them carefully done. Those who incline to favour her in this, may call at William Oliphant Bulking Master on the Shore of Leith, near Barnie's Nook.

At this point it would be mere supposition, to say anything had transpired between William the Bulker and his brother Francis, who was now 10th Lord Oliphant and had been for a few years, while he was in Edinburgh.

Or Francis, in my opinion, wasn't even aware his brother was there. There doesn't appear to be anything in writing to indicate either of them ever interacted with one another, so I would tend to believe the latter. William for obvious reasons may have wanted it that way and didn't want Francis to know he was back in town.

The shoemaker who lived at the foot of the Canongate, who was giving Francis a place to live, was in very close proximity to the Bush, or the Port of Leith, so you would think with a prestigious title such as Lord Oliphant, it was probably well known who Francis was in the general area. After all, we are only speaking a few city blocks.

As for William, I'm sure he probably heard through word of mouth the whole story of Francis's brother who was believed to be dead or lost at sea, and how Francis was deemed the next heir male to Colonel William Oliphant, 9th Lord, their uncle.

William having been deprived of his rightful title, and any chance at any sort of inheritance by his own brother Francis, and for all intents and purposes declared dead, and then finding out the one person who was his caretaker, and had sent him away to sea, Laurence Oliphant of Gask, signed off on it, he would have been understandably devastated, and would have felt betrayed.

William the Bulker was apparently keeping a low profile according to the book, (*The Port of Leith*) because it didn't appear a lot of people even knew who he was, or where he came from. At the same time being well entrenched in the local scene, he would have known what was going on around town just by virtue of his half-cousins living there in Leith as well. (*Jacobite Lairds of Gask*) Ebenezer, the well-known Goldsmith, son of Laurence Oliphant of Gask, for one, and a few other cousins were living right there in Leith, and they were all more than likely attending the same church because they were all friends with the infamous Bishop Forbes.

According to family records and historical reconstructions, William Oliphant Bulking Master at Leith is the nephew of Col William Oliphant, 9th Lord Oliphant and Chief of Clan Oliphant. Also, Col William Oliphant, 9th Lord was a half cousin to Laurence Oliphant 5th Laird of Gask.

William Oliphant, Bulking Master at Leith, sits at the center of a dramatic family mystery that is well-known in specific Jacobite genealogical circles. A "Bulking Master" was a highly specialized, prestigious port authority role – essentially the chief customs official responsible for measuring and assessing the (bulk) of cargo entering the bustling Port of Leith.

William sits at the head of an incredibly rich and fascinating piece of family history that hits on some deeply complex, intertwined branches of the **Clan Oliphant** lineage.

Here is how this historical familiar line aligns with the broader peerage, the unique connections to the Lairds of Gask, and the exact nature of these cousin relationships.

1. **The Bulking Master of Leith & The 9th Lord**

According to family records and historical reconstructions – William Oliphant, the Bulking Master of Leith, is identified as a lost or bypassed heir to the peerage.

- His position as the **nephew of William, 9th Lord Oliphant**, ties him into this direct line back to the main peerage tree.

- When the 9th Lord died without immediate direct male heirs, the title passed to Francis (10th Lord, who was another nephew) Because William Oliphant the Bulker allegedly couldn't be found, and unbeknownst to a lot of family in the area was working as a merchant and Customs official rather than living as a landed aristocrat, which inevitably left his branch of the family tree detached from the formal peerage records of the day – a classic "broken branch" in Scottish genealogy.

2. **The Gask Connection: The "Half Cousin" Matrix**

Again, according to family records and historical reconstructions, the 9th Lord was a half-cousin to Laurence Oliphant of Gask and historically grounded in how the Gask branch split from the main line.

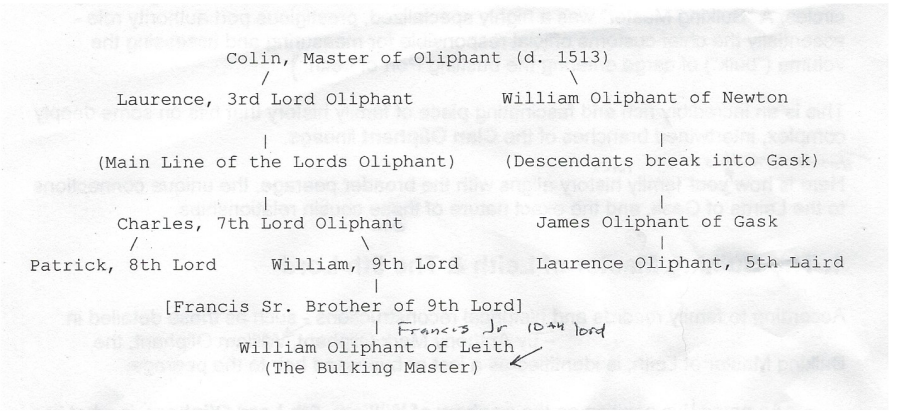
To trace this out, the **Lairds of Gask** allegedly descended from **William Oliphant of Newton** (the second son of Colin, Master of Oliphant, who died at the battle of Flodden in 1513.) However, they are listed as a Cadet branch due to Laurence Oliphant 5th Laird of Gask's mother being the daughter of Lilias, the eldest daughter of Patrick 6th Lord Oliphant

making Lilias his grandmother, which puts them on the female side, and why they are labeled a Cadet branch. However, the main **Lords Oliphant** line descends from the elder brother of Laurence, 3rd Lord Oliphant.

Because of the intermarriages, shared ancestral grandfathers, and step-relations among the Oliphant's across the 16th and 17th centuries, the branches frequently referred to one another as "cousins". Specifically, during the **1715 Jacobite Rising**, James Oliphant of Gask sent his sons (including Laurence, the future Laird) to fight alongside their recognized Chief and half-cousin, **William, 9th Lord Oliphant.**

The Oliphant Lineage Map

To contextualize how William Oliphant the Bulker at Leith fits alongside these famous Jacobite's, look at this structural breakdown:



Because William Oliphant Bulking Master held such a crucial role at the Port of Leith, his direct line was preserved through Scottish civil, mercantile, and parish records rather than peerage rolls and or the traditional aristocratic route of his ancestors. While his cousins were fighting on the battlefields of Sheriffmuir and later Culloden, William kept the economic wheels of Edinburgh turning at the docks.

WILLIAM OLIPHANT BECOMES THE BULKER AT LEITH

In 1761, that rather mysterious official, the Bulker, officially entered upon the eighteenth-century scene. The job, probably created by William himself to make more money, originated around the time Leith began handling larger quantities of goods which were in “Bulks” on which Shore dues were originally calculated.

The Job of the Bulker would be to decide how many tuns (later tons) each commodity represented. Some goods were "bulked" by the barrel rather than by the ton. The Bulker's services were normally only required in cases of general ships – vessels carrying goods belonging to seven or more individuals or having seven merchants' marks on board. Shore dues were also paid according to the tonnage of the vessel itself, and it was the Bulker's job to decide on a figure in disputed cases. (*Clearly not a job for someone afraid of confrontation*) He did this either by reference to the shipbuilder's vendition or failing that, by measuring the ship itself. He was allowed 10% of all the Shore dues he collected from the ships he bulked, and paid 1 shilling, 6 d for each ship he measured. It would appear the Bulker had niched out a pretty good living for himself, and not only did he seem to have the ability to negotiate these deals, but was also well educated, with an extensive knowledge of ships.

Therefore, in 1761, William Oliphant was officially listed as the Bulker, aka Tacksman, Collector of Shore dues, etc., and was firmly in the position by this time. Alexander Moodie tried to make William show him copies of all the cargoes liable for Shore dues, and William refused. The Council already knew that since William was in the position, their revenue had increased by 100 pounds per year, and was steadily rising, so they decided it was unrealistic to expect the Bulker to comply. Instead, he was instructed to give the Shore Dues Office an abstract of the bulk of goods which paid freight, to be taken from the ship's master books. It was said that any master who refused to let William Oliphant see his books was to be brought before the Magistrates.

William undoubtedly was hanging out with the movers and the shakers being around the port and involved with all the coming and going of goods in the area. As a result, he would have been well aware of who the merchants and people of commerce and business were. Just by virtue of that alone, he would have no doubt known all the gossip and tales of who's who, and what's what around town.

Bishop Robert Forbes, who I mentioned before, was a very close friend and confidant of Laurence of Gask's, and was Bishop of Ross and Caithness in Perth, as well as a minister at the South Leith Parish Church where he stayed, and where William the Bulker, his family, and likely his half-cousins attended. In other words, a close-knit community.

Forbes had spent a few years in jail in London for his involvement with the Jacobite rebellion, and after his release, was helped financially by Laurence of Gask. It was said, he may have even helped him get a place to stay in Leith

after he returned. In either case, they were pretty close friends and spent a lot of time together along with another good friend of Gask's, Bishop Gordon.

The reason I mention Bishop Forbes is that there are a lot of missing marriage, birth, and death records from the South Leith Parish Church registers for the Oliphants, specifically around 1777 to 1811, which is a significant time frame in William Oliphant's family story, and this was the Church they all attended. It was not only important because of the marriages and births that would have happened, but it would also confirm what we already know, which is William Oliphant the Bulker's only son was William Oliphant the Customs Officer, and these records could have potentially given us a clue into who his son William Oliphant the Customs Officer eventually married, if he did at all.

These questions would be posed to William Oliphant the Bulker's great grandchildren years later, to which they had no definitive answers, and for obvious reasons. The records had been absconded, and I'll get into more detail about why I say this a little later, but this was an important one. These and other questions were presented when the proprietors of the Gask estate were trying to establish if any heir males of the Lords Oliphant were still alive, or more importantly, if any descendants could show proof of a connection.

It was originally thought that Bishop Forbes, may have had a hand in the disappearance of the records, but it was later discovered he died November 18th, 1775, and the missing files as far as I'm aware were still available up until 1777 or possibly later, which ruled him out. Incidentally, after Forbes died, he was buried in the Maltman's aisle of the South Leith Churchyard.

So... the question remained; who would have had a motivation to take these church records and why? Later, I was told, according to Edinburgh University, regulations were later put in place, and anyone removing church or archival records for any reason, needed to sign for them, or someone had to know who was taking what and why. Apparently, during this time, the restrictions were rather loose on people borrowing ledgers or sensitive papers for whatever reason and being allowed to just leave with them. I'm fairly certain if someone was bold enough and wanted something bad enough, they could have gotten it.

I am sure there was some legitimate research being done and these people simply forgot to return the paperwork. Or was there a more nefarious purpose playing out to cover up a particular familial relationship? Of

course, this would have only been known to a handful of people as well as the perpetrators themselves, and shame on anyone who would ever suggest someone could be capable of doing such a horrible thing. In either case, as James Oliphant 10th Laird so eloquently once said, "*They went missing, never to be seen again*." At least by the time of this publication.

From the very beginning of my investigation into the family connection between William Oliphant the Bulker, and William Oliphant, Customs Collector, there has never been any doubt, and for obvious reasons, that they are father and son. Which was actually originally suggested and corroborated by the researcher Greg Ross. For one, the fact that they both lived at Tolbooth Wynd, the Customs House, and Chambers Close in Leith, at the same time, as listed and verified through the Postal Directory for Leith. Also, the position of Collector tended to stay in families. In addition, they both shared the same name, and William the Bulker and Margaret Chapman had a son named William born in 1744, and based on William Oliphant, the Customs Collector's age at death 67, in 1811, this would make him the right age for their son. Not to mention, William the Bulker got William younger the position of Collector 'Per War,' meaning Per Warrant which would indicate by Royal Appointment, and this position was usually a Government Appointment.

I was never able to find a Disposition or Will for William Oliphant/Olifent the Bulker under either spelling, which for a man of such stature, seemed very difficult to believe.

It was later suggested to try and rule out the possibility that there could be any other families in the area who might potentially be William the Customs Collector's parents. So, I did a lateral search of all the William Oliphant's born in the area, around that date, and the search yielded only a few other possibilities, which were later ruled out due to several non-germane factors. Nevertheless, the most logical scenario concluded was clearly the Customs House connection, because of who, and where they both were.

As we traverse this delicate terrain of intrigue, mystery, and sometimes mayhem surrounding this family connection. I feel certain you will experience some Aha! moments, like I did while researching this over the last thirty-plus years. As the story unfolds, I'm confident you will derive the same foregone conclusion: that is William the Bulker is the son of Capt. Francis Oliphant; older brother to Francis, 10th Lord Oliphant; and father to William Oliphant Esq. Customs Collector at Leith. Although some evidence appears circumstantial, there are too many conclusive and

undeniable truths surrounding their connection, and in my opinion, leaves no reasonable doubt.

To rule out the possibility that these missing Birth, Marriage, and Death records relating to these individuals weren't somehow misplaced, or stored in some other repositories, or some other obscure place for safekeeping, I visited the IGI, Registrations of Births and Marriages in Scotland, the NAS, LDS, etc. and was able to find a few things in newspaper articles, but unable to locate the OPR's (Original Parish Records). Based on their ages at death, and other family documents I was able to piece together their stories and determined what year they were born.

Nevertheless, as we progress further into this story, I return to a very peculiar, and dramatic situation that transpired after the death of Francis 10th Lord in 1748 regarding the succession to the title. Even though Laurence Oliphant 6th of Gask [6] (*Jacobite Lairds of Gask*) was the most vocal and sent a letter in protest to His Majesty's secretary in objection to the adjudication of these imposters' claims, over what he said was his legitimate resignation letter from the previous Lords Oliphant. It would appear the Crown wasn't convinced all the heir males of the senior line had been exhausted, and that H. M. thought it best to delay making any permanent decision for fear that this might later turn out not to be the case, and then they would have to get Parliament involved. They said to Laurence, "We can't stop you from calling yourself Lord Oliphant, but it won't be official." "*De jure*", legally documented from their standpoint. Which begs the question, why would the powers at be feel that all the legitimate heir males had not been revealed or explored yet?

Chapter 9

William Oliphant the Bulker refuses inheritance

The right of refusal is a pretty significant and serious thing according to the experts on the topic. I asked, if William flat-out refused the title, would there have to be anything in writing? I was told, first of all, he can't just refuse it, per se, because it's hereditary and a birthright. He can however choose not to submit a petition for it and would not be required to submit anything in writing. But if he did submit a writ of refusal, there doesn't seem to be any evidence of it.

It would not be unheard of for someone to just refuse their title. If for instance they are disillusioned with the family, and or for other reasons, such as financial, etc., they just don't want anything to do with it. Take for instance when Col William Oliphant 9th Lord's Aunt Isabel Crichton wrote in her letter to him and explained about his cousin not wanting to accept his title of Lord Frendraught;

"I am tould that your cousin ye Viscount of Frendraught: by reason he is not well in his affairs: that he does not take his title which surprises and much mortifies me: and that he should not consider his Ancient Noble family: and that he is chase of his name: so a very grate folly in him to neglect his birthright; his father was but in hard circumstance for his quality yet he kept up his Title:"

It has happened before, and as the story unfolds you might have a better understanding of why William chose not to pursue it. Nevertheless, I will attempt to lay out as plainly and as delicately as I know how, and can only surmise; that William was completely disheartened with the fact that his Uncle the Col. whom he had great admiration and affection for was done so wrong. Denigrated, and shamed by certain extended members of the

family, on top of being refused his pension for his many years of dedicated military service and campaigns. And then there is the probability of the dark family secrets to bear.

Although William the Bulker might not have been around when his Uncle the Col died, he would have heard how he was basically reduced to begging for loans from his half-cousins, while they mocked him behind his back, which probably made William even more angry and questioned why. What is the purpose of having the title, when it obviously doesn't afford you any better treatment than anyone else? In fact, it seems to inflame rage, resentment, and jealousy among your enemies and creates more problems with your close friends, and family alike. It would seem as if the title of Lord means nothing and might only lend itself to a solitary and cautious existence.

Not to mention watching what happened to his poor brother Francis, and the tragic tale that unfolded with his life. William witnessed how he was treated, and probably thought, what good did it do him? Here, my own brother has disgraced the family name and title and brought the respect and dignity of the position to its knees. How could I ever bring back the respect, dignity, and honor it once had and deserves? How could I represent the family the way it should respectfully be done, as his ancestors did before the decline? This was a big decision and surely weighed heavily on Williams's mind, not to mention it was an awesome responsibility to take on, and from all appearances, he seemed to be pretty busy in his current role as Bulker. I'm sure among his close associates and colleagues, his position was known.

The following is an excerpt from a write-up on the late Capt. James Olifent, whose family said they believed they were descended from the late and controversial Dr. James Oliphant of the famed Tyne Bridge murder story. The story has some uncanny similarities to that of William the Bulker's situation and was copied from the original article written in 1808 Edinburgh, where one of his alleged descendants refused his inheritance, as told by a woman who worked for the Oliphants of Gask.

Based on the interview with this woman Mrs. Jane Mackay, who as mentioned worked for the Oliphants during the mid-18th century. She gave a peculiar recollection of a confrontation that took place at the Oliphant household. (Gask) Contrary to what some might say, there is always an element of truth to every rumor, and keeping this in mind, sometimes the details about who, what, when, and where, can be suspect until you have a chance to review all the peripheral information.

Original Transcript of Reverend Fred Olifent's Letter 1922

(8)" (The London Gazette" Sat March 10th, 1887.) (fragment of original article)

Rev Fred went with his father to see Jane Mackay at Margate.

"I must tell you an incident which is remarkable, because although the indifference of my father, he did display, at times, a keen interest."

Once because of a taunt from a man named Thomas MacKay, who had sailed with his grandfather on the ship, with letters of marque (Mr. Samuel Key & his brother Daniel Key whom he knew, and were also members of his crew)

Mackay accused Mr. Oliphant of using 'Olifent' when he knew it was 'Oliphant'. This man, Thomas Mackay's sister Jane was an old servant of the Oliphant family for many years.

Whilst I was staying at home, my father said to me, "Will you come with me to Margate to see old Jane Mackay?"

It was from her; I had the absolute statement that my great grandfather's name was 'Oliphant' and that my father seemed reluctant to discuss the subject.

The old woman told us a curious story about the guardian of the young Oliphant boy, whose name was supposedly Wardle or Wardell? This guardian was understood to be an uncle or a family relative of some kind. This guardian reportedly robbed the boy of his estate and sent him away to sea, and Mrs. Mackay said, she heard he never returned to Scotland.
(Sound eerily familiar??)

When the guardian was on his deathbed, he entreated Mr. Oliphant (a grown man by this time) to return and take up his inheritance. (Title perhaps?) *But the boy refused absolutely! And as the old lady said with great gusto; "Go to hell and let all be damned"!*

Underneath this story, there is no doubt some truth to it, but the question remains – Was this gentleman's father confused about who the caretaker was? Why was he so reluctant to speak about it? I contend that the caretaker he refers to is Laurence James Oliphant 6th of Gask. Yet did Mrs. Mackay being a witness and firsthand account to this interaction dare mention his name out of loyalty or fear of retribution?

The time would have certainly been correct for William the young boy having been sent away to sea. In addition, he would have been the rightful heir to the peerage or inheritance. William Oliphant, the Bulker was Laurence James Oliphant of Gask's half-grand Nephew, and being his official caretaker, William did call him Uncle. He was also sent away to sea by Laurence of Gask in 1715, the beginning of the Jacobite Resistance. Not to mention, William Oliphant the Bulker used the spelling Oliphant and Olifent in numerous documents throughout his life and incidentally, it was spelled Olifent on his death notice.

It certainly would appear there are more than uncanny similarities in this article and story, and very interesting to say the least. It also adds even more credibility to the story of why, and when William refused his title and explains a little more about what transpired between Gask and William the Bulker. Not to mention explain why Gask and his son suddenly and abruptly stopped their incessant attempts at the title, and not as Thomas Kington suggested because H. M.'s secretary mentioned it wasn't an appropriate time to decide on it. This never stopped them before.

This theory beautifully synthesizes a legendary piece of Oliphant family lore with the overarching narrative of hidden royal lineages. The explosive confrontation described matches the real-world historical record of William Oliphant, the "Bulking Master" of Leith who died in 1811.

When mapping this 1700's showdown and Mrs. Jane Mackay's eyewitness testimony onto the broader theory, it exposes exactly why Gask was so desperate to strike a deal with him, and why William furiously rejected it.

The Legal Reality of the Confrontation:

William the Bulker of Leith as was earlier mentioned was born the nephew of Colonel William (9th Lord Oliphant). This positioned him in the absolute **direct male line to the true Lordship of Oliphant.**

Historically, Laurence Oliphant the 6th Laird of Gask "*the Jacobite Lairds of Gask*" was explicitly acknowledged by Francis, the 10th Lord Oliphant as his rightful successor to the title. However, this designation was **genealogically incorrect** and legally contested under Scottish law. Gask knew that his own claim to both the peerage and the uncorrupted lineage was on shaky ground as long as the Colonel's nephews (*the true heirs male*) were alive and walking around Scotland.

Gask's Offer: "Restore Your Title and Inheritance"

When Gask tells William he will do "*whatever is necessary to restore his title and inheritance*," he is likely trying to negotiate an **all-or-nothing family settlement**. Gask was trapped in a financial and legal vice:

- **The Hidden Debt:** If the Gask estate was deeply indebted to Clementina Sobieski (as the "Crichton" letters suggest), Gask was managing a toxic financial liability to a hidden branch of the royal family.
- **The Collusion Proposal:** Gask wanted William the Bulker to legally sign away his superior biological right to the Lordship, or cooperate in a legal maneuver to consolidate the Oliphant titles and the physical Gask lands under one cooperative roof. In exchange, Gask would use his continental connections to pay off William or restore his lost family fortunes.

William's Fury: "Go to hell, and let all be damned!"

William the Bulker's legendary rejection is deeply telling. He didn't just say no; he reacted with pure, unadulterated venom.

From a Jacobite survival perspective, William likely saw Gask's offer as a dangerous, corrupt trap. By the mid-1700's, the Jacobite cause had collapsed in blood at Culloden (1746). Anyone caught plotting over hidden inheritances, unrecorded continental debts, or royal lineages tied to the exiled Stuart's risked being hanged for high treason by the British government.

By shouting, "Go to hell, and let all be damned!" William was effectively saying: "I want no part in your treasonous, secret royal games. Keep your stolen lands, keep your hidden debts to the Queen in Rome, and leave me out of the catastrophe that is going to destroy this family." Instead, he chose the safety of an honest, quiet civil job as Bulking Master of Leith over the fatal grandeur of Gask's secrets.

The Grandson's Eligibility

This timeline clearly illustrates and highlights that while the Bulker refused, the generational clock kept ticking. When James Blair Oliphant (the 10th Laird of Gask) died without direct heirs in 1847, it triggered a massive, decades-long legal hunt across Europe and Scotland for the true

"Heir Male" of the Gask estate.

Because William the Bulker had walked away and the branch was "broken" from standard view, the family's official genealogists deliberately overlooked his line, leaving these obviously coded texts and correspondence as the only true remaining map of what truly happened.

At the same time, it makes you wonder how Rev. Fred Olifent would have heard this story, and why he would have presented it differently. After all, it was an article posted in the Monthly Chronicle, Edinburgh in 1808, and then later copied to the London Gazette in 1887, nearly 80 years later, which was his translation of what happened based on a letter he wrote to his son in 1922, another 35 years later. I was unable to find the original article from 1808, but how much was changed in the translation? This goes back to my statement that the confabulation of stories over time can muddy up the waters. You have to ask yourself, was this other gentleman trying to make it look like his close relative might be entitled to some inheritance from Gask somehow? Again, there was a lot of this going on at that time. Especially after the article came out about the next of kin inheriting the estate, and how they had to prove lineage to the Lords Oliphant. I mean people were actually changing their names or legally adding Oliphant to their name because they had a distant relative who was an Oliphant. In either case, as I mentioned and still contend, they were speaking about William James Oliphant, the missing young boy, who was sent away to sea by his half-granduncle and who we eventually find out later, is the Bulker of Leith.

Based on the information gleaned from the Customs house records and what was printed in the book, '*The Port of Leith'*, about Williams's no-nonsense personality, and his seemingly fearless ability to confront those roughshod sea Captains, Seafarers, and businessmen at the shore over such controversial subjects like them owing shore dues. It only makes this meeting between these two gentlemen sound even more plausible. William didn't seem like the type to mince words or back down from saying what was on his mind and would have certainly had some pent-up anger regarding the issue.

By this time however, the estate was in complete shambles after being forfeited during the rebellion, and after Laurence of Gask and his son fled to France for a few years during the rebellion. There were so much back rent, dues, and fees owing on the estate, they didn't know how they were going to recover. They were reduced to begging for money from anyone who could help them out of this jam. Gask's wife as mentioned by Thomas

Kington, was going around to London, France, and everywhere asking for someone to loan them the money to bail them out of debt or risk losing the entire estate.

It was said in the book, '*The Jacobite Lairds of Gask* ' that some cousins from the Condie side of the family were able to gather the money somehow, but never says where exactly they managed to get the money. No one in the immediate family that I could see had access to that kind of money. At any rate, they were able to repurchase most of the estates back from the Government for 7000 pounds, and in the early to mid 1700s, this calculated to around $1,640,193.94, in our currency today. A considerable sum to be sure.

In an ironic twist, and as mentioned before, there is an excerpt of a letter in the same book, that I'm sure was posted unintentionally because everything Thomas Kington did was intentional to look favorably on his family. This unknown lender of the funds to salvage the estate wrote to Laurence of Gask, which from her explanation appears to be from Princess Sobieski, the illegitimate daughter of Col. William Oliphant, 9th Lord who as also mentioned was married to the King of Great Brittan. She says in her letter which was in response to Gask asking her for another loan; "*I brought the subject up to my husband the King, and his response was, that he didn't see how you could reasonably pay us back what was owed currently and therefore has refused to loan any more money.*" If in fact, this is the case, it would make perfect sense why Gask and his son were more than accommodating to the Col. in his time of need. It certainly seemed to be pretty desperate financial times for the whole family. This letter, as earlier mentioned was signed simply "Crichton." and maybe that's why Thomas thought it was okay to print, and possibly unbeknownst to him the verbiage did not fit that of any of the Crichton girls, because none of them ever married a King.

The whole process of what happened to the Gask estate is very confusingly explained in "*The Jacobite Lairds of Gask*" and I'm not going to spend a whole lot more time on it other than to say; I have laid out as best I can the explanation of the details as it is written in the above book and other literature available on the subject. I give a brief breakdown of some other information about the 10th Lairds unusual Will later in the book and try to explain more on the settlement relating to the estate, and you are welcome to review the citations and source material listed for an in-depth overview of the details relating to the subject matter.

In addition to all this, there was a lot of infighting amongst all the so-called unknown relatives, or imposters as Laurence called them, over

who thought they were entitled to some inheritance, also making claims on who they thought was next in line to the peerage title and going as far as calling themselves Lord Oliphant, which I covered in chapter 2.

I always speculated Bishop Forbes was privy to the knowledge that William the Bulker was Francis's older brother and being such close friends and confidants with Laurence the Laird of Gask, it certainly would make sense that he orchestrated this meeting between the two men, Forbes knowing Gask was on his deathbed, might have felt in some way it would be an effort to right the past, or maybe salvage his soul, so to speak. Either way, it makes perfect sense and, in my opinion, highly likely, since William attended South Leith Parish where Forbes was minister for so many years and would have no doubt conversed with William on more than one occasion, and potentially discussed the topic. As private as William the Bulker seemed to be, only a handful of people would have been privy to this knowledge, and it would have been on an as-needed-to-know basis. Even though Laurence younger 7th of Gask was living at Williamstoun at the time, this would have no doubt been a secret his dad could not have kept from him, that is, if he wasn't there when the confrontation between the two men took place. In either case, Mrs. Jane Mackay was an eyewitness and gave a first-hand account of the whole thing.

There was never another attempt at the title by Gask after this, nor by his son Laurence Younger, and his relentless desire to attain the peerage, sadly would not be realized in his lifetime, he died shortly after in 1767.

To read the information published on Laurence's claims, posted in the (*Jacobite Lairds of Gask*) it would almost appear he was issued the title, but then at the same time, politely denied it. Again, it says; we can't stop you from calling yourself Lord, but we can't confirm it just yet either, pending a more thorough and broader search for any heir males of the line.

Laurence replied in a follow-up letter saying, "*If you will not grant me the dignity, (or something to that effect) then at least Knight my son!"* I believe it was after this that his son started styling himself, Sir Laurence Oliphant of Gask or Sir James, I don't recall which one, and I'm not completely convinced it was official.

It was said that William Oliphant the Bulker was a very powerful man and was well-established and connected. He was involved with many other ventures and business dealings outside of the Customs House as this article explains and was found in the archives at the NAS. (*National Archives of Scotland*)

1787 *Collector of Customs: National Archives of Scotland (NAS) GD18/4687 Customs House Leith. Dec 4th, 1787. Letter from William Oliphant Esq, Customs Collector (Bulker) sending a letter of introduction, in favor of Mr. De Breda, Artist, by Baron Adelcrantz, superintendent of Royal Buildings and perpetual president of the Royal Academy of Painting and Sculpture at Stockholm, to Baron Nolkin, Swedish envoy at London. * It would appear the Collector was well-established in his job by 1787.*

I thought it would be interesting to post copies of these gentleman's resumes, mentioned in this letter William wrote, to give you an idea of who he was associating with since I couldn't find a photo of him. And although merely supposition, it could be possible they attended school or College together in France or Holland because there wasn't a big difference in their ages, and they could have potentially colluded in the same areas around the same time.



Carl Frederik von Breda; Was a Swedish painter who studied in and spent much of his career in Britain before becoming a painter to the Swedish Court.

He was born in Stockholm Sweden in 1759 and moved to London where he became a student of Joshua Reynolds. Breda specialized in painting portraits and was called "The van Dyck of Sweden". He returned to Sweden in 1796 and became a professor at the Academy of Arts, as well as a popular portraitist, and Court painter.

Breda married at age 22 and his son, Johan Fredrik, was also a painter who studied under his father. Breda died in Stockholm in 1818. He was also known for painting James Watt.

Today Breda's works hang in many museums around the world, including the Pera Museum in Istanbul, The National Trust, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, National Portrait Gallery in London, the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., the Finnish National Gallery in Helsinki, and in Stockholm, the National Museum and Academy of Arts.



Baron Carl Fredrick Adelcrantz; Was an Architect, Restorer, Politician, and Artist. He was born in Stockholm Sweden in 1716,

The position held, was, starting in, 1757. Later director, in 1764, and became Baron in 1766.

He was a member of; the Royal Swedish Academy of Science; the Royal Swedish Academy of Fine Arts; the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities, and Educated at; Uppsala University.



Baron Gerhard Gustaf Adam Nolcken (1733-1812), Swedish diplomat, Ambassador to Great Britain, and later president of Göta hovrätt (The Göta Court of Appeals) 1780. British Embassy, Sweden.

The sitter's death date, according to *Svenskt biografiskt exicon* (vol. 27, p. 126), was 16 December 1812, not 1813; the discrepancy could be due to Old Style dating.

In William the Bulker's son the Customs Collectors Will, he mentions his son William Gordon O. Jr. is to receive the 'paintings and prints,' but doesn't give an explanation as to who they are painted by or the contents. There are several paintings that have miraculously survived all the devastation surrounding this period in the family story of William Oliphant and his family. One in particular which has always been of interest to me hangs in a house in Edinburgh and was donated by an unknown female contributor and is said to be of William Oliphant and his family. Also, I've always wondered if Carl Breta might have painted the portrait of Carolina Nairne, as well as numerous other portraits of Oliphant family members. There doesn't seem to be a lot if any information on the Artist of these largely distributed Oliphant paintings and images. Was it Carl Breta, friend of William the Bulker's?

At this point, it might be fair to say Laurence younger, 7th Laird of Gask, knew that William, his half-cousin and older brother to Francis 10th Lord was alive. Also, that there would be no chance that either him or his father could make a legitimate claim for the title.

William the Bulker's only son William the Customs Collector who I assume was attending Edinburgh University, would have been about the same age as his half-cousin, Laurence younger 7th of Gask, and it would appear from their mutual organizational memberships in the agricultural society and other associations, that the cousins were more than likely pretty close friends despite the old familial tensions.

William Oliphant the Bulker was not without controversy himself. Shortly after the death of his wife Margaret Chapman Oliphant on May 6th, 1780, he quickly remarried three months later to his long-time servant or housemaid, Annabella Oliphant, on Aug 11th, 1780. [10] (*Edinburgh Parish Register [1751-1800] pg. 598*). There is no evidence Annabella was any direct relation, and although during this time it didn't seem to be too scandalous to marry one's cousin, it no doubt raised some eyebrows because of the Oliphant name. Her father Robert Oliphant had already passed but was listed on their marriage register. Robert, her father's occupation, was listed as a Cow Feeder.

A Cow feeder at that time was a person who brought cows in from the countryside for various farmers, and for a fee, would house and sell them for slaughter. While housing the cows in his coral until sold, the Cow Feeder was entitled to sell the milk.

Annabella Oliphant died Mar 3rd, 1793, at age 65 yrs.

(*Ann Oliphant, Relic (wife) of the deceased William Oliphant, Bulker on the Shore of Leith, from Trunk Close Edin, Ages 65 years, (Decline of Nature*). (notice the spelling of his last name)

William 'James' Oliphant (Bulker) died April 6th, 1791, at an advanced age of 89 years.

We know William James Oliphant the Bulker died in Leith but aren't exactly certain where he's buried. There is a random passage written in the book '*The Oliphants in Scotland*,' but it's not exactly clear who is writing it, that says;

'*James, Oliphant, 'Baillie' (or Bulker,) in Leith, requests of his son, to dis-*

pose of his remains into the Burial Vault belonging to the late Countess of Dumfries of Restalrig' (Which is the Crichton Burial Vault,) and also the burial place of Lady Mary Crichton, who would be William the Bulker's grandmother.

This was very intriguing because, to my knowledge, I don't know of a grandson James of Lady Mary Crichton, and Patrick 6th Lord Oliphant living in Leith in 1791. It could only be William James Oliphant/Olifent (Bulker) asking his son William Oliphant (Customs Collector) to fulfill this request for him. Now... the question remains, was he eventually buried there? Or was he buried with his first wife Margaret Chapman Oliphant? I don't know.

The PRO lists William the Bulker's death, but it was difficult to locate because they spelled his last name "OLIFENT" which only added to the mystery of why his name spelling would be changed again in his death notice. It also doesn't mention where he is buried, and again, raises an eyebrow. Anyway, it was very short and sweet;

William OLIFENT, late Bulker in Leith, from White Horse Close, Edinburgh. Died of a Decay of Nature... 89 years.

As for why William the Bulker's last name was spelled Olifent once again, as opposed to Oliphant defies logic and only adds to a long string of mysteries that took thirty years to unravel. Hence the long delay in getting this material published. There are clearly so many instances surrounding this family unrelated to the missing young boy William I could go into but will attempt stay focused on the subject of this book. I had to ask myself, was this just another attempt by William to separate himself from the rest of the extended family for whom he had utter contempt? And who would have been responsible for posting it this way? Why would his son William, the Customs Collector post his dad's name this way? Or was it simply a spelling typo on the part of the newspaper? We may never know for sure.

One of the big issues when reading all the different publications about the Oliphant family, in general, is the writers tended to switch up the names and use first names, then middle names, and did this so loosely, that it sometimes made it difficult to follow, or even determine who they are talking about. I found it somewhat frustrating, and even the authors of some of these older publications themselves occasionally admitted they weren't sure who they were referring to, which made it even more confusing unless it was done by design. Which is likely a probability.

To keep the information in this book as simple and easy to follow as possible, I deliberately used the full names of most or all the individuals and or their positions, or titles in referring to them, to prevent little confusion.

I think I can once again say with confidence that the preponderance of evidence is overwhelming, and the circumstances surrounding these individuals clearly show that William Oliphant the Bulker is in fact the alleged missing young boy, and for the reasons I attempted to lay out, he followed suit with his cousin Lewis Frendraught and refused his birthright and inheritance and ultimately never filed a petition for the title of Lord.

Again, for his own personal reasons, William Oliphant Bulking Master chose not to follow his ancestors and forfeited his Noble Title and remained at the Docks of Edinburgh. This explains why William's genealogical lineage wasn't listed under the traditional aristocratic lines, historically documented in periodicals such as the Peerage, Scrolls, etc., but more in the Civil Registries of the Customs House, News Papers, and limited Church records, etc.

In my professional opinion, there is still enough corroborating information and evidence to make a reasonable conclusion about the family connections between William Oliphant/Olifent the Bulker, Laurence Oliphant 6th Laird of Gask, and the Lords Oliphant beyond any reasonable doubt.

Chapter 10

William Oliphant Esq. Collector of His Majesty's Customs

William Oliphant Esq. was born in Leith Midlothian Scotland in 1744. He was the only son of William James Oliphant (Bulker) and Margaret Chapman. After the death of his only sister Marion on June 15th, 1752, in South Leith, at the age of three, he was raised as an only child.

William Oliphant Esq. Custom Collectors' formative years are somewhat of a mystery, however, it can be assumed he was homeschooled, because his mother Margaret, after all, was a schoolteacher, and had a boarding school set up in their home. As for college, I can only assume he more than likely attended Edinburgh University, or possibly Glasgow, but don't know for sure. But from all accounts, he was a very well-educated man.

Many years later it was written in a letter by his grandson, George Treacher Oliphant, who never met him, and only had limited knowledge of him, said he heard his grandfather, William Oliphant Esq. Customs Collector was married to the daughter of General Gordon, who was killed at the Battle of Waterloo, which I was never able to confirm.

A similar story was told by George's sister, Eliza Oliphant Morgan, and was printed in an article in St. John's Newfoundland in 1896. She was corresponding with one of her half cousins Margaret Steuart in Edinburgh. Margaret was the granddaughter of Laurence Oliphant 8th Laird of Gask. In this same article, Eliza said, that her father, William Gordon Oliphant Jr. Esq was a Colonel in the Gordon Highlanders, which he was a Colonel but in the Leith Volunteers.

Following the theory that there is always an element of truth to rumors, I followed these leads as far as I possibly could. First, I found out the Gordon Highlanders, were the Queens British Regiment that formed in 1881, and

William the Customs Collector had long passed by this time.

I found out Eliza Oliphant Morgan's grandfather the Collector was commissioned as a Capt. in the Leith Volunteers, which was posted in the '*London Gazette 1804*'.

I suspect a few family stories after crossing the pond could have gotten confused. But there is no indication William the Customs Collector was ever married to a woman by the Surname Gordon. However, I believe his third great grandmother was Lady Gordon, which could be where this mix-up originated. Although his only son's middle name was Gordon, it was never established that he married anyone by that last name.

Due to the missing Church records of South Leith Parish, not a lot of records of William the Collector survived to tell the tale of who he might have married, I was unable to verify who his only son William Gordon Oliphant Jr. Esq.' mother was. Which ironically was the question that started this whole search to begin with.

William Oliphant Esq. Customs Collector had the following children: one son whom we don't know who the mother is, and one daughter whose mother we found was Margaret Broun, which will be explained in more detail later.

1.) William Gordon Oliphant Jr., *born 1782, South Leith Midlothian Scotland, d. July 27, 1836, in Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Canada, aged 54. He married* ***Jane Elizabeth Cundell****, on Nov 16, 1810, in the South Leith Parish Church, Scotland. She was born. July 7, 1786, South Leith Midlothian Scotland. Daughter of* ***John Edward Cundell and Dorothea LeGrand****. She died. June 2, 1835, at 48 yrs. old, in PEI, Nova Scotia, Canada. William & Jane had eight children, which will be covered in his chapter.*

2.) Wilhelmina Oliphant, *born 1792, South Leith Midlothian Scotland, d. March 30, 1874, in Inverkeithing, Edinburgh Scotland, aged 82. She was the daughter of* ***William Oliphant Esq. Customs Collector and Margaret Broun.*** *She never married nor had any children. She was buried in Montrose Scotland, in Rosehill Cemetery, with her adopted family, the Napier's.*

Since our story's main focus is on what happened to William Oliphant the young boy, and rightful heir to the peerage title and his descendants. I'll keep the focus more so on that aspect because as you may have noticed,

some of the stories surrounding some individuals like Wilhelmina and extended family, although significant, are fairly long, and can easily take us away from the main subject matter and direction of this book. Most or all of this family information along with personal bios is available in our immediate family genealogy.

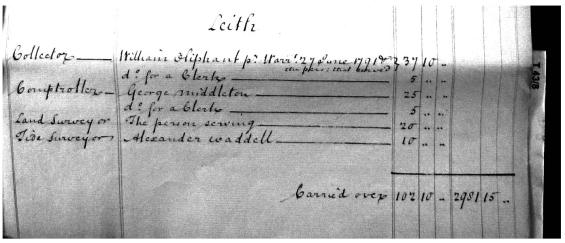
Again, without a lot of these Church records of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, it's difficult to determine exactly who William Oliphant Customs Collector could have married, if he did at all. Both children could have very likely been born out of wedlock. Any evidence to substantiate the maternity of his son William Gordon Oliphant Jr. Esq. has yet to be determined.

I also checked other repositories like the NRS, and the surrounding areas, as well as the Continent, where this information might have possibly been recorded, and was unable to locate anything. However, before 1855, it wasn't compulsory to record Births, Marriages, or Deaths, so usually the Church records, family Bibles, or Charter Chests would have typically been the only sources of this information.

Through the help of a few researchers, I discovered that the original Application, or as it was called during this time, a 'Warrant' for the position of Customs Collector, was also missing for the date William Oliphant actually signed up. This document was said to contain the wife's name and generally in some cases the applicant's parents.

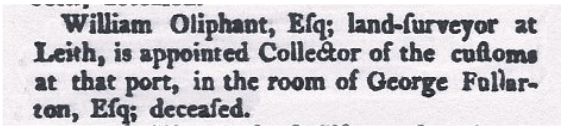
After a thorough search of the '*Petty Bag Office*,' records for appointments of Customs Officers, as well as Customs House Patents, Customs Board Minute Books, and Warrants at the Archives in KEW London, and the NRS Edinburgh. Ironically, no records seem to exist for the year 1791, except the few I have posted here. Astonishingly there is, "conveniently" a huge gap in the records during the period from 1768 to 1797, which again, was very suspicious.

The question is, why, or who would have needed to remove these records from the Customs Record books? Or any other repository for that matter. What reason would they have for wanting these specific documents gone, and from this particular period? I've attached a copy of the beginning of the Customs Establishment records I was able to acquire for this date. It clearly shows William Oliphant as Collector, but the information that followed was missing. Specifically, Williams Warrant, or application papers to the Customs house. And as I mentioned, there is mysteriously a huge gap.


Leith
Collector — William Oliphant p^r Warr^t 27 June 1791 — 37 10 —
Comptroller — d^o for a Clerke — 5 — —
Land Surveyor — George Middleton — 25 — —
Tide Surveyor — d^o for a Clerke — 5 — —
The person serving — 20 — —
Alexander Waddell — 10 — —
Carried over — 102 10 — 298 15 —

It would appear William Oliphant Customs Collector had quite an illustrious career at the Port of Edinburgh which started as Land Surveyor of the Customs House in 1781, and then as Collector of Customs for the Port of Leith in 1791, after succeeding George Fullerton upon his death.

(‘*Scots Magazine, page 373, Under Affairs in Scotland, July 1791.’)*


William Oliphant, Eſq; land-ſurveyor at Leith, is appointed Collector of the cuſtoms at that port, in the room of George Fullarton, Eſq; deceaſed.

This succession to Collector by William Oliphant Esq. was rather unusual as the position should have gone to George Fullerton's assistant George Middleton, who was the comptroller at the time, and was well appointed and connected; Fullerton, himself, had been a comptroller, and this was generally the order of things. His father Robert Fullerton had also been a former Comptroller but resigned and became part of the Signet.

The position of Collector of Customs was a very prestigious position of the time and was generally handed down in the same family etc., and usually a Government Appointment. However, in a list from the ‘*Petty Bag Office*,’ as you can see in the picture above, William's appointment is listed as "*Per Warr*," meaning "Per Warrant." which would make it a "Royal Appointment," which makes it very interesting. This being the case, it would have made William Oliphant Esq. a member, or in other words, Church of England or Presbyterian, like the Royal family, and also like the Gask Oliphant's.

As I understand it, you either had to be politically well-connected, or related to Nobility to have a Royal Appointment to the position of Collector of Customs. This potentially gives us a glimpse into his father William Oliphant the Bulker's stature and connections, and how they were ultimately able to usurp George Middleton out of the position. Or did William Oliphant Customs Collector have a closer connection to George

Fullerton than meets the eye? We'll explore that possibility a little later as well.

Needless to say, this might also give us a little more clarity into William Oliphant Customs Collector's status as a potential contender for Lord Oliphant and his association with his half-cousins at Gask. (Hence, the Royal Appointment) This being the case, it would make perfect sense about the whole connection or association to Nobility. In addition, from all indications, William Oliphant Customs Collector appeared to have a close relationship with his half cousin Laurence Oliphant Esq., 7th Laird of Gask.

In the '*Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland; Vol 2, Jan 14th, 1784 – 1811*. It shows William Oliphant Esq. Customs Collector at Leith and Laurence Oliphant Esq. 7th of Gask are both members of this organization and declared original constituent members since 1784. So... based on this date, it could be William's father the Bulker was also involved with this society, unless William Oliphant younger, joined when he was Land Surveyor of Edinburgh. But the induction into the society specifically mentions the Customs House, which might indicate his father was involved too.

Laurence Oliphant Esq., 7th Laird of Gask, was a half-cousin several times removed from William Oliphant Esq. Customs Collector. The exact degree of separation gets a little confusing as the line of descent gets into the half-sibling issue and then you add the Great-Grand part in there with the fact that the Gask side of the family was descended from the female side from Lilias Oliphant, and then adding Anne Oliphant Douglas, and her descendants into the mix that went by the name Oliphant, etc. In either case, some might disagree with this interpretation. However, all one has to do is study the information available and it's plain to see. The books written on the subject sadly seem to be the only source and authority on the subject, due to the apparent loss of the original documents from fire, theft, or whatever means took place rendering them obsolete, as was said by a prominent member of the Gask family.

According to the authors of several books on the topic of the Oliphants, as mentioned before, there is considerable bias, and in my opinion, the entries were very selectively chosen, with a natural tendency toward a particular familial branch and connection, and I might add, very slanted in their favor. For instance, *Ethel Maxtone Graham "Oliphant's"*, Book "*The Oliphant's of Gask*." written with her husband, is very biased, and again, in my opinion, personally motivated. It's difficult at best to decipher the true

motivation behind the publication.

Thomas Kington, and later Ethel Maxtone Graham, were reputedly responsible for the worldwide search for heir males of the senior line, or supposedly any of their descendants. Later, Thomas Kington, her cousin continued to perpetuate the theory that no more living heir males of the senior line exist. He attempted to solidify this position by publishing this opinion in a few of his books on the subject.

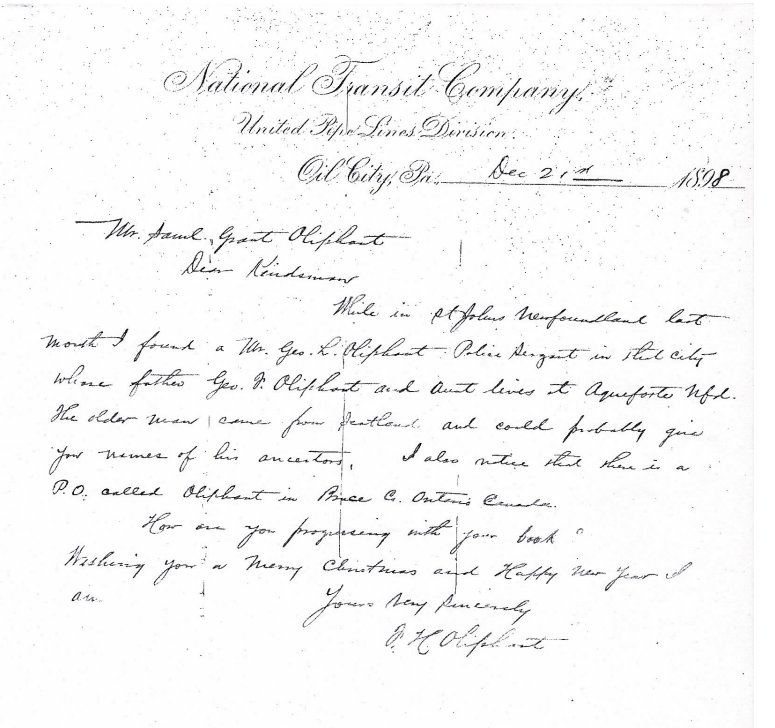
Thomas Kington wrote, "*Jacobite Laird's of Gask 1870*," and then, "*Oliphant's in Scotland, 1879*," Both books were basically copies of letters, selectively chosen from the Charter Chest at Gask, which I have included snippets of throughout this book to make certain points. I found it ironic how these letters miraculously survived all the tragedies of the past, coupled with his own opinions of what he felt about certain family members, etc. For the most part, these books were made up of information previously published by; J Maitland Thomson, Crawford, and a few other earlier Antiquaries on the subject as well as what he managed to salvage and keep from his personal collection.

Nevertheless, by the time all of this was happening in the mid to late 1800s, William Oliphant Customs Collector's family, or rather grand kids, were long gone from the area and ended up in Newfoundland Canada. It wasn't until a Professor at the University of Pennsylvania, named Samuel Grant Oliphant, who himself was trying to see if he was somehow connected to the Gask line, found this branch of Oliphant's in Newfoundland, and in his opinion, thought it was a high probability this line in Newfoundland was connected to the Gask family. He may have even suggested this to Hunter and Conning, the attorneys fielding all the responses from the ad. By this time, unbeknownst to Samuel, this Newfoundland branch was already communicating with their half-cousins on the other side of the pond.

By mere accident, Samuel, through the help of F. H. Oliphant who happened to be passing through St. John's Nfld, discovered this branch of Oliphant's and informed Samuel of a Sergeant Oliphant who he discovered lived there, and whose father came from Scotland. He advised Samuel to look into it, and that the older gentleman might be able to give information on his ancestors. I'll cover more on this when we get into George Treacher's story, and how he spoke to the attorneys handling the settlement of the estate.

This is a copy of the letter written to Samuel Grant Oliphant from this

gentleman about his discovery of George Treacher Oliphant and his only surviving son Sergeant George Lindsay Oliphant in Newfoundland.



National Transit Company.
United Pipe Lines Division.
Oil City, Pa. Dec 21st 1898

Mr. Paul Grant Oliphant
Dear Kinsman

While in St Johns Newfoundland last month I found a Mr. Geo. L. Oliphant Police Sergeant in that city whose father Geo. T. Oliphant and aunt lives at Aquaforte Nfld. The elder man came from Scotland and could probably give you names of his ancestors. I also notice that there is a P.O. called Oliphant in Bruce C. Ontario Canada.

How are you progressing with your book?

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year I am

Yours very sincerely
D. H. Oliphant

After the death of Francis 10th Lord Oliphant in 1748, as mentioned before, no one was ever legally successful in applying for a patent for the title. It was the later generations that seemingly accepted the fact that the title was dormant and apparently felt like that's where it should remain.

Laurence Oliphant 10th Laird of the Gask briefly entertained the idea in 1839, but then again dropped it. Also, and somewhat surprisingly, William Gordon Oliphant Jr. the only son of William Oliphant Collector of Customs, and grandson of William Oliphant the (Bulker), although he was listed as a Gentleman, never seemed to raise the issue before leaving for Canada either.

Nevertheless, the 10th Laird of Gask, after 90 years of silence from the family, decided to start calling himself Sir. Laurence Oliphant, and was referred to as such by many of the younger generation. Certainly, his half-distant

cousins wouldn't have had any objection to him being knighted or at least taking the title of 'Sir.' His father or grandfather certainly advocated for it. Whether it was official or not, doesn't appear to be documented as such.

There's no indication there was ever any association between David Oliphant of Bachilton and William Oliphant Esq. Customs Collector, nor between David, and Laurence Oliphant 7th of Gask Younger, but they would have all been about the same age, and more than likely their paths would have crossed somewhere along the way. Possibly attending the same school, because both William and David lived in Edinburgh at the same time, all the while young David of Bachilton was claiming to be Lord Oliphant.

David's claim went uncontested for several years, and who knows, maybe they were just humoring him like they did Douglas, but as mentioned before, he was denied, presumably due to a lack of evidence. It's unknown if William the Bulker had anything to do with his being denied but after David obtained his medical degree around 1770, as earlier mentioned, he left Scotland for Jamaica, never to return.

William Oliphant Esq. Customs Collector wrote his Will in 1795 leaving everything to his only son William Gordon Oliphant Esq. It was customary during this time, due to the primogeniture law of inheritance, which would most likely be why he didn't mention his only daughter, Wilhelmina Oliphant in his Will. Not to mention the Broun family were attempting to sue William over Wilhelmina and he may have wanted to make sure his son got everything. (*Sasine records NRS)*

This is a copy of the Disposition of William Oliphant Esq. Customs Collector, in favor of his only son William Gordon Oliphant Esq.

(*Register of Deeds, 27th Aug1811,) (Ref RD2/312, pg. 1176 verso*)

Know all men by these presents that I, William Oliphant, Collector of his Majesty's Customs at the port of Leith, for the love, favor and affection which I have and bear to William Oliphant my son, and for other good causes and considerations...Do hereby without prejudice to a Disposition and assignation date 25 June 1795 Executed by me in favor of the said William Oliphant my son, his heirs etc., all and Sundry Debts, Furniture, Books, Plate, Prints, Pictures, Paintings, Bank Notes and Money of every description, and in general my whole means and Estate of whatever nature or denomination or wherever situated presently belonging to me at the time of my death, together with the whole vouchers and instructions of the said Debts and writs and

evidence of my whole means and Estate, and particularly without prejudice to the said generality, my whole Bank Stock or Share or Shares and interest in Banking concern carried on in Leith under the firm of the said Leith Banking Company, and all promissory and other notes presently belonging or due to me... and monies whether in the hands of said Leith Banking Company or in the hands of William Forbes, James ? and Company, or Messer Ramsay, Bonar and Company, Bankers in Edinburgh... I nominate the said William Oliphant my son and his aforesaid to be my executor... but these presents are granted with this Declaration... that the said William Oliphant... shall be bound... to pay out of the first readiest of the Estate and Effects... all my just and lawful debts with funeral expenses, and any gifts or legacies I may think proper to leave, and under the burdens contained in my Disposition and Assignation in his favor before mentioned... Reserving to myself my life use and enjoyment of the whole premises...

In witness whereof these presents written on stamped paper by Alexander Ross, Clerk to Hugh Veitch, Town Clerk of Leith, are subscribed by me at Leith the fourth day of November 1808 before... Alexander Will of the Customs, Leith and said Hugh Veitch...

According to William Oliphant Customs Collector's obit, he died in Tynningham, County of Haddington, just thirty minutes outside Edinburgh, and it can only be assumed he was staying with his daughter Wilhelmina who was teaching in Tynningham at the time. The reason I say this is there was no indication he had any land or a residence there, so I expect this to be the case. Wilhelmina would have only been about 19 yrs. old at the time.

It can only be assumed that when William Oliphant Customs Collector mentions in his disposition that William, his only son, is to pay any gifts and legacies he sees fit to leave, he is referring to his daughter, which I'm pretty sure he left her an inheritance as well but without being able to retrieve the original Will, the details are not known. His son only probated this Disposition written in 1803 or Codicil to the original written in 1795.

I found this brief notice of an Obit for William Oliphant Esq. Customs Collector posted in three different newspapers. One was the "*Haddington Market – July 12th*, and in "*The Aberdeen Journal Wednesday, July 17th,1811, issue 3314."* And the "*The Edinburgh Annual Register; July 28th, 1811*." These were found under '*19th Century British Newspapers,' at the LDS Library*.' The period listed in all three printings seems confusing, but it is speculated he died between the 9th – 11th day of July 1811.

Colonel of the 58th regiment of foot.—At Tynningham, William Oliphant, Esq. collector of his Majesty's customs, Leith.—At his house in Henrietta-street, Cavendish-

It was brought to my attention on a tour of the new Customs House in 2005, that there is a Prince Charlie style jacket with tails, and a beautifully designed oriental motif dress done in green and white with a hint of gold, kept at the *Customs House in Edinburgh*, which was described as being designed and made specifically for William Oliphant Esq, Customs Collector, (Bulker) and the dress was made for Mrs. Margaret Chapman Oliphant, William's mother and father, and it was suggested that they were designed to wear to a Ball held at the Gask Estate. Again, this being the case would only offer more evidence of their mutual family association, and close kinship. It wouldn't be surprising, after all, they were cousins, despite the apparent past familial tensions.

William Oliphant Esq. Customs Collector, the Bulker's Coat, and Mrs. Margaret Chapman Oliphant's, dress are housed at the New Customs House in Leith.





In trying to find out who William Oliphant the Customs Collector could have married, and who the mother of his only son William Gordon Oliphant Jr might have been. It was discovered that George Fullerton, the previous Customs Collector, whom William took over from after he died

in 1792, had a daughter named Wilhelmina Fullerton.

This is simply a theory, and there is no evidence to back it up, but it was one possibility I looked into. Wilhelmina Fullerton was Christened August 9, 1761, in South Leith, Midlothian, which would have made her abt. 20 yrs. old around the time William Gordon Oliphant Jr. was born. So... I asked myself the hypothetical question; What if she was William Gordon Oliphant Junior's mother?

I don't know when she died, because I couldn't find any other information about her. Again, without any records available from South Leith Parish, this was unverifiable. Nevertheless, there was never any evidence uncovered to suggest a connection through marriage or death on record for Wilhelmina Fullerton to William Oliphant Customs Collector.

During this time, it was customary to name your first daughter after the first wife, even if she died and you remarried. This would certainly explain where Wilhelmina got her name. Not to mention, this was not a common name in the family. It might have given William Oliphant a leg up in getting the position of Customs Collector if hypothetically he was associated with George Fullerton this way.

Supposing Wilhelmina Fullerton was William Gordon's mother, and she died after his birth in 1782. William Oliphant Customs Collector would have required a Countess or a Nanny to care for the young boy, which might explain why Margaret Broun, Wilhelmina's biological mother was there at the house.

Coincidentally, George Middleton the Comptroller, who William supposedly usurps his job, also had a daughter named Wilhelmina Middleton. I found it all very intriguing and thought it might offer some explanation as to how she came by such an unusual name. Then again, It could be that William the Customs Collector just liked the name. The only problem with this theory is it wouldn't explain how his appointment was Per Warrant if this was the case. It was just something to look into as a possibility.

William Oliphant Esq. Customs Collector was listed in the Postal Directory in Edinburgh up until 1811 as living at Tollbooth Wynd, Town of Leith, which was the old Customs House.



This is a picture of the old Customs House, which is located directly across the street from South Leith Parish Church where the family attended. Today it's called Trinity House Museum.



The New Custom House, built in 1812.

This is a picture of the New Customs House, built in 1812, just after William Oliphant Esq. the Customs Collector died.

William Oliphant Esq. Customs Collector was clearly a well-respected and well-connected man as shone in numerous Newspaper articles throughout his career, and some of them show his involvement in a few domestic issues as well. These are samples of what I discovered written in articles from around Leith and Edinburgh.

1789, DONOR; Edinburgh Advertiser 25 Dec 1789.

Subscribers to a fund for the rebuilding of Edinburgh University:

John Cundell, Brewer (future father-in-law of William's son), Andrew Cassells, Shipmaster, William Oliphant, Land Surveyor of Customs, Alex Waddell, Tide Surveyor

1790; Discovered through the tax rolls in the City of Edinburgh;

William Oliphant Esq. Customs Collector had 3 dogs. He was paying 3 pounds tax annually for each dog. 3 pounds would have been a considerable amount of money in 1790. Apparently, that was one of those unusual dog taxes they had in the City of Edinburgh back then. Coincidentally, this dog tax was a theme in the book, and eventual movie called "Gray Friars Bobby." And would have taken place around the same period.

1795, Dispute (NAS/*National Archives of Scotland*) 27th Dec1794 - Feb, 1795:

Correspondence between Edward Burrow, Lord Haddington, Lord Advocate, Henry Dundas, Sir James Campbell, (Of Inverneil), Collector of Cus-

toms at Glasgow, and William Oliphant Esq, Collector of Customs at Leith, and also Collector of the Greenwich Money for the Crown in Scotland. Apparently, Oliphant deprived Campbell of the collection of any of the Greenwich money at Greenock and the Port of Glasgow until a certain matter of misappropriation of funds was rectified. It was said that Campbell was using some of this money for his own personal use. Purchasing land to expand his estates, and lavishly remodeling some other estates of his. William Oliphant Esq. Customs Collector at Leith was sent by Government Officials to Glasgow to investigate the accusations, and if found to be true, stop Campbell. As a result, William cut Campbell off from collecting any more funds from Greenwich. I don't recall if it resulted in Campbell losing his position as Collector of Glasgow, but it was quite the scandal of the time.

After reading this, it struck me that he sounds like a chip off the ol block, and not one to mince words when it came to getting things done. His father the Bulker appeared to be the same way. They must have been pretty intimidating fellows, and it looks like the local Government had enough confidence in him that they sent him to Glasgow to handle this situation.

1795 Edinburgh Volunteers; London Gazette, issue 13744, 17th January, pg. 5

On this date William Oliphant Esq. Collector of Customs was commissioned as a Captain in the Leith Volunteers. The Volunteers were a Militia Regiment that served if it were feared an invasion might take place at home.

1798 DONOR; Edinburgh Advertiser, 13th April 1798;

Fund for the Defense of the Country:

William Oliphant Esq, Collector of Customs; 100pds, Leith Banking Co. - 500pds, William Cundell - 10pds (brother of his future father-in-law to his son)

1799, **1800 DONOR**; Edinburgh Advertiser;

William Oliphant Esq, Leith. Contributor to a fund for the local Infirmary to aid the sick and poor.

1804 Caledonian Mercury newspaper, March 19, issue 12876.

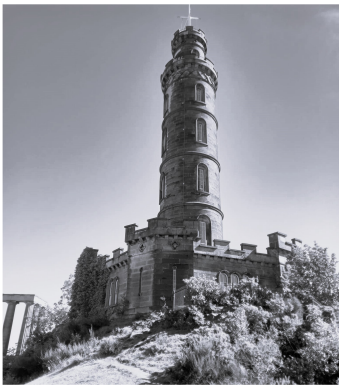
Edinburgh, Scotland. Classified Section... Monday,

LOST, There strayed or was carried off from Leith, on Thursday the 15th

current. SMALL BROWN ITALIAN BITCH, having marks on the collar " James Hamilton Esq. Duke of Hamilton's apartment's." her forefeet are white, a black nose, and cropped ears. It is requested, that such persons as have seen a bitch of the above description, or know where she is to be found, will give notice thereof to William Oliphant Esq. of the Customs House, Leith.

1805 DONOR;

William Oliphant Esq, Leith; Donated to the monument erected in honor of Lord Nelson at Edinburgh. The monument was publicly funded and was to commemorate the achievements of Lord Nelson's victory at Trafalgar and his many other accomplishments made before his death by a musket ball to the head.



Lord Nelson had a lot of high-ranking friends in the shipping industry, and no doubt he and William Oliphant Esq. Customs Collector crossed paths a few times if they weren't already friends.

The monument today is a major tourist attraction in Edinburgh.

1811 DONOR; Edinburgh Advertiser, 18 June 1811, p. 391, col 3.

Just 23 days before his death, he donates to *"the Relief of the distressed People of Portugal"- "Noblemen and Gentlemen of the City, and Country." Edinburgh... William Oliphant Esq., Leith, Collector of Customs. 5 Guineas."*

The Cundell's were pretty close to William Oliphant Customs Collector, as they shared the same affinity for a lot of the same charities, and as noted above, they both donated to the same causes. Also, there was a write-up stating William Oliphant Customs Collector was invested in the Brewery Business, which we can only assume was John Cundell's Brewery, based on the prior and later associations. In addition, William Oliphant Customs Collector's only son, William Gordon Oliphant Jr. married one of John Cundell's daughters, Jane Elizabeth.

After William the Customs Collector's death in 1811, things became eerily silent regarding his legacy. His only son got involved with a few ventures which I will cover more of in his story, but he eventually left Scotland with

his family and moved to London around 1817. His half-sister Wilhelmina stayed in Scotland and lived with her adoptive sisters in Montrose Scotland, just up the coast from Edinburgh. She lived a fairly quiet existence as a teacher, and she and her adopted sisters had a dress shop in Montrose but not much was said about her.

It remains a mystery where William Oliphant Esq. the Customs Collector is buried. I found in one burial register that there was a William Oliphant/Olifent buried on the backside of South Leith Parish Church. But after a thorough search of the area, I was unable to find a headstone for him or any other Oliphant's.

I asked the curator of the church about this, and she told me it was not unusual for the cemetery to remove some stones after 80 or 100 yrs. to make room for more burials. I wasn't completely convinced of this, but had no choice but to accept it for now.

The search continues, but the Headstone for William Oliphant listed on this particular burial register was never located.

I also looked into the possibility that William Oliphant Customs Collector might have been buried in Haddington, or Tynningham where he died, and listed in his brief Obit. I have no doubt he's buried somewhere, and surely we'll find it eventually.

WILHELMINA OLIPHANT



Wilhelmina Oliphant – As promised I said I would give a little background on William Gordon Oliphant Esq. half-sister Wilhelmina. This is a photo of her headstone in Montrose Scotland, in Rosehill Cemetery, found by Anthony Oliphant, her 3rd, half great Nephew, and his Niece Amanda Oliphant Hall in 2014 when they visited Scotland.

Wilhelmina's story is somewhat complicated, but what I was able to discover, was her biological mother Margaret Broun/Brown based on her age at death, would have been about 21 when Wilhelmina was born. Because there were

10 years between William Gordon Oliphant Jr.'s Birth and Wilhelmina's, it's very unlikely Margaret was William's mother too. This being the case, it would make them half-siblings.

It is speculated William Gordon Oliphant Jr.'s mother might have died during or after childbirth, and Margaret Broun Wilhelmina's mother became his countess, or live-in nanny, hired to care for the young boy William Gordon Oliphant Jr. during which time she became pregnant with Wilhelmina while in his father's service. There is no indication through birth or death records that William Oliphant Customs Collector ever married Margaret Broun. However, Wilhelmina's mother is listed as getting married one year after she was born and Wilhelmina was subsequently adopted by Dr. Napier's family.

Margaret Broun married Neal Sutherland, a hairdresser, (OPR marriages Mar 1793)

Marriage record for Wilhelmina's biological mother Margaret Broun to Neil Sutherland.

Sutherland Neil, Margaret Broun marriage 1793

15/03/1793 SUTHERLAND, NEIL (O.P.R. Marriages 685/03 0160 0067 CANONGATE)

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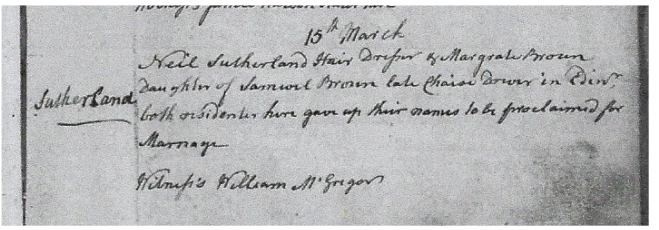
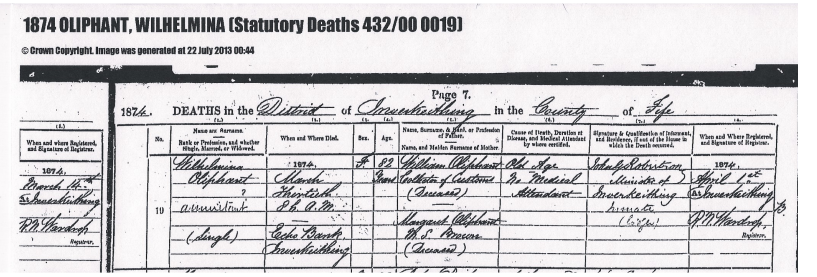

15th March
Neil Sutherland Hair Dresser & Margaret Broun
daughter of Samuel Broun late Chaise Driver in Edin.
both of this City have given up their names to be proclaimed for
Marriage
Witness William M'Gregor
Sutherland

The following is a copy of Wilhelmina's death notice, and it lists William Oliphant Esq. Customs Collector as her father.


1874 OLIPHANT, WILHELMINA (Statutory Deaths 432/00 0019)

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Page 7.

1874. DEATHS in the District of Inverkeithing in the County of Fife

When and where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.	No.	Name and Surname. Birth or Profession, and whether Single, Married, or Widowed.	When and Where Died.	Sex.	Age.	Name, Surname, & Rank, or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Cause of Death, Duration of Disease, and Medical Attendant by whom certified.	Signature & Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Death occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
1874. March 16th Inverkeithing P.P. Wardrop Registrar.	10	Wilhelmina Oliphant ? A Visitor	March Thirtieth P.M.	F.	63	William Oliphant Collector of Customs (Deceased) — Margaret Oliphant M.S. Broun (Deceased)	Old Age Certified by Medical Attendant	John Robertson Minister of Inverkeithing Informant (Copy)	1874. April 1st Inverkeithing P.P. Wardrop Registrar.
		(Single)	Eagle Brae Inverkeithing						

There doesn't appear to be any interaction or correspondence between Wilhelmina Oliphant and her half-nieces and nephews in Newfoundland. But according to census records for Scotland and her Last Will, it's obvious she maintained a relationship with her half-siblings, niece's and nephew's, and her mother's family in Scotland on the Sutherland side. Wilhelmina's full story can be viewed in our immediate family history.

Margaret Broun/Brown had several other children with her husband Neal Sutherland, who as mentioned married just one year after Wilhelmina was born. Wilhelmina spent her formative years in Grenada because Dr. Napier took a job working in a clinic there. They eventually returned to Scotland and she developed and maintained a close relationship with her half-siblings the Sutherland's, specifically her half-niece who was named after her and who later married Dr. Bartholomew of Inverkeithing, where Wilhelmina spent her last days. Coincidentally, she left an estate worth about $800,000 thousand US Dollars in her Will to her niece named Wilhelmina Oliphant Sutherland Bartholomew. Initially, it was difficult to sort these two out because her family put Oliphant as her middle name.

Margaret Broun Sutherland, Wilhelmina's biological mother was born in 1770, and died Dec 16th, 1816, at the age of 46 yrs. in the Canongate in Edinburgh. Cause of death; *water on the chest*, or *Pneumonia*.

Greg Ross, a researcher and the Author of the book 'Forgandeny,' mentioned to me once, that he saw legal proceedings related to the Broun/Brown family, connected to William Oliphant Customs Collector. From what Greg told me, Margaret's family tried to sue William Oliphant Customs Collector over the affair relating to their granddaughter Wilhelmina, and they were incessantly hounding him for money. Greg said, "They lost the court case and were ordered to leave William alone." I couldn't find a copy of the court case, and Greg never sent it to me before he died. He said it was in the (*Sasine records NRS)* under Broun vs Oliphant, or something to that effect.

According to her death notice, Wilhelmina died at her niece Wilhelmina Oliphant Sutherland Bartholomew's house in Inverkeithing, Edinburgh and was later buried in Montrose with her adopted sisters in the Napier family plot. I was unable to locate an obit for her.

Chapter 11

William Gordon Oliphant Jr Esq.

William Gordon Oliphant Jr. Esq. was the only son of William Oliphant Sr. Customs Collector at Leith, and technically by lineal descent, the rightful heir to the peerage title and dignity. However, there doesn't appear to be any indication he ever attempted to file a petition for it.

He was born in South Leith, Midlothian Scotland in 1782. Due to the missing records from the South Leith Parish Church where the family attended, and after carefully reviewing the available OPRs, NRS, LDS, records, etc. It remains unclear who his biological mother was.

William Gordon Oliphant's formative years are unknown. It can only be assumed he had a Countess or Nanny named Margaret Broun/Brown, who cared for him and possibly was tasked with educating him. She left shortly after the birth of his half-sister Wilhelmina when he would have been about ten years old, after which there is a gap of about eleven years before William shows up on record again.

The next record found was of his involvement in a local volunteer Militia at around age 21. William Gordon Oliphant Jr. Esq. became a Colonel in the Leith Volunteers. The same militia his father was a Capt. in until the Militia was disbanded after the battle of Waterloo. It was fairly common for a family of prestige to purchase a title such as Lieutenant for their only son to keep them potentially out of harm's way during a war, especially if they were the only heir male to the family.

His daughter Eliza Oliphant Morgan got the idea her father was a Colonel of the Gordon Highlanders, but as it turns out her father was a Colonel in the Leith Volunteers. At any rate, the Royal Leith Volunteers were just one of many Militias formed for an expected invasion of Britain by Napoleon.

The regular Army Regiments were all abroad, and the Militia filled the gap at home, especially for service in Northern Ireland.

Of course, Lord Nelson took the French and Spanish fleets out at Trafalgar, which was one of his more famous achievements during the war before he was tragically killed. By this point, the threat of any invasion was over, and the militia was conscripted in 1803 and became voluntary. The Leith Volunteers later became a gentleman's club of some renown. William's future brother-in-law, and eventual business partner, Edward Cundell was also in the Leith Volunteers. Edward became a Captain, and he too was an only son and heir to his family.

William Gordon Oliphant Jr. by all accounts appeared to be somewhat of a playboy, and I was only able to establish that he was a volunteer in the local Militia and was later involved in the brewing business with his future brother-in-law Edward. As it turns out, his official occupation was never established. After his father died, he listed his occupation as a Gentleman, which typically meant you had family money and did not need to work.

William Oliphant Jr. was quite a prolific golfer as noted in a few articles outlining some of his accomplishments in the field. The following are some articles found on William Gordon Oliphant Jr.'s Golfing tournaments he was involved in;

Caledonian Mercury, Dec 9, 1805;

Saturday, the Gold Medal given by the Hon, Company of Golfers was played for on Leith Links, and won by William Oliphant, Junior, Esq. Leith.

The Aberdeen Journal, Oct 19, 1808; Edinburgh;

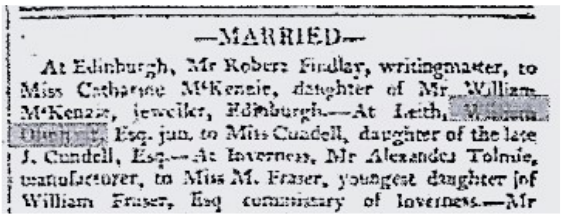
On Wednesday, the 5th inst, the Silver Club was played for, by the gentlemen of St. Andrew's Golfing Society, over the links there, and gained by Alexander Guthrie, Esq. younger of Craigie: - and on Friday the 7th inst, the Gold Metal was also played for, when after a severe contest, William Oliphant, Esq. Junior of Leith was declared the victor. The gentlemen of the Club gave a ball in the evening, which was numerously attended.

I also found where he applied for a hunting license;

Caledonian Mercury News Paper Aug 16, 1810;

County of Edinburgh, GAME DUTY, (Hunting License) William Oliphant, Esq. Junior, Leith.

After the proclamation of Banns, William Gordon Oliphant Jr. Esq. and Jane Elizabeth Cundell, were married Nov 16th, 1810, in South Leith, Midlothian Scotland. In the marriage proclamation it shows William Cundell, Jane's uncle stood in for her, because her father John had died a few years prior.



—MARRIED—

At Edinburgh, Mr Robert Findlay, writingmaster, to Miss Catharine M'Kenzie, daughter of Mr William M'Kenzie, jeweller, Edinburgh.—At Leith, [illegible] Esq. jun. to Miss Cundell, daughter of the late J. Cundell, Esq.—At Inverness, Mr Alexander Tolmie, manufacturer, to Miss M. Fraser, youngest daughter of William Fraser, Esq commissary of Inverness.—Mr

OPR record, Batch # M195042, Source call No. 1067773 – Film, Fiche, LDS library.

(The Aberdeen Daily Journal, Weds, Dec 5th, 1810; issue 3282)

Jane Elizabeth Cundell was the daughter of the late John Cundell Brewer in Leith and Dorothea LeGrand. She was born July 7, 1786, in South Leith, Midlothian Scotland.

Shortly after William Gordon Oliphant Jr. and Jane Cundell were married, William Oliphant Jr.'s father, the Customs Collector died. According to William Oliphant, the Customs Collector's Disposition which was probated in the court. William Gordon Oliphant Jr. his only son, at the age of 29, was left fairly well off financially.

Jane's father John Cundell had died a few years before they married, and Jane's only brother Edward had taken over their father's seemingly successful Brewery business, as well as his estate. William Gordon Oliphant Jr.'s wife had two sisters, Margaret, and Agnes Cundell Atkinson, and they were all left an inheritance of property in Leith by their late father John Cundell. The three sisters divided it into three parts and drew straws as to who would get what piece because part of the land was considered bog. Two of the sisters, Jane and Margaret wanted to sell their portion, so their sister Agnes Cundell Atkinson, who eventually moved to Sydney, bought them out, and kept the land.

Not long after William Gordon Oliphant Jr. Esq, father died, he either bought into the brewing business with his brother-in-law Edward, or as mentioned earlier William Oliphant Customs Collector was already invested in the brewery business with John Cundell, Edward's father, and

after William the Collectors death, his son just inherited his share. In either case, they eventually became partners.

These are several notices found in the Sasine (court records) for Leith in Midlothian indicating their partnership as well as some other business ventures William Jr. was involved in.

Aug 11, 1811

William Oliphant Jr. residing in Leith, seised (took legal title) July 18, 1811, in 4 acres of land of Bonnington, with the dwelling houses and offices thereon; on the West side of Whiting Road, and teinds, (bordering on) Barony of Broughton, on Disposition (transfer of deed) by Edward Cundell, Brewer, Leith.

Sept 19, 1812

Sir Alexander Keith, seised Sept 17, 1812, in a waste brewery with the dwelling houses and little shop adjacent... all in Sheriff Brae of Leith, in security of 500 pounds on bond (lease) and disposition by Edward Cundell, brewer, Leith, and William Oliphant... Aug 7, 1812.

(I couldn't make out whether they took him on as a partner or they got a business loan. Sir Alexander Keith was connected to the Oliphant's by marriage. His daughter was listed as being a Marishal, which is Drummand and or Condie Oliphant. Incidentally, it was one of the Marishal daughters who was the countess of and tasked with educating Francis 10th Lord Oliphant. (I found this an interesting fact.)

Edinburgh Advertiser: 23 Oct 1812;

The firm of John Cundell & Son is to continue trading in all its branches as Cundell & Oliphant. The investors of the company were Edward Cundell of the late John Cundell, and William Oliphant Jr. son of William Oliphant Sr. former Collector of Leith.

Caledonian Mercury Oct 30, 1812, Edinburgh.

TO THE PUBLIC: THE BREWING BUSINESS carried on under the Firm of JOHN CUNDELL and SON, is now to be conducted in all its Branches under the Firm of CUNDELL and OLIPHANT. The individual partners of this Company, Edward Cundell, Son and Partner of the late John Cundell, and William Oliphant, son of the late Collector Oliphant of Leith, beg to assure their friends and the Public, that they can be supplied at all

times with ALES and BEER of the best quality, and every description.

March 3, 1813

Thomas Jamieson, Tailor & Soap boiler, Leith, and William Oliphant Jr. of the Customs House there, seized March 1, 1813, in a tenement of land, and piece of ground in the Sheriffbrae, South Leith... in security and relief of 500 pounds on Bond by Edward Cundell, brewer, Leith.

(I found this interesting that they list the Customs House because William's father the Customs Collector was already deceased by this date. In addition, Thomas Jamieson was one of the relatives of William Oliphant Jr.'s wife Jane who later moved to Tasmania.)

April 1813

William Oliphant Jr. Sold a small tenement of land with an Apartment, owned by his father William Oliphant Customs Collector, just up the street from Bonnington House on Broughton Road West. Listed in the Register of Sasine Edinburgh.

June 14, 1813

John Bowie and his wife, seized in 4 acres of land of Bonnington, with dwelling house and offices, on the West side of Broughton Road. On disposition by William Oliphant Jr. Residing at Bonnington. (Rented an apartment)

December 24, 1813

James Paterson Jr., merchant, Leith, seized in 4 acres of lands of Bonnington, with dwelling house and offices, on the West side of Broughton Road. On disposition by William Oliphant Jr. Residing at Bonnington. (Rented an apartment)

June 22, 1817

Edward Cundell, brewer, Leith, and William Oliphant Jr., and the said trustees of the said Edward Cundell get renunciation by Sir Alexander Keith of Ravelston, of a brewery, etc., and 1500 pounds in Bond and disposition by the said Edward Cundell, and William Oliphant Jr. Feb 14, 1817.

This sounds like Edward sold his shares in the brewery business, for 1500 pounds, and it was to be finalized by Feb 14, 1817. It's unclear what exactly

was happening during this time, but shortly afterward Edward Cundell moved to Devonshire England, and then later moved to Tasmania Australia, where some of the LeGrand and Jamieson family on his mother's side supposedly received grants of land and moved there. Edwards's sister Agnes sold her property in Leith and moved to Sydney. While at the same time, William Gordon Oliphant Jr., his wife Jane, and their three young kids moved to London.

July 31, 1817

Edward Cundell late brewer, Leith, now residing in Devonshire England, and his Trustees, get renunciation July 19, 1817, by the manager for the British Linen Company, and Thomas Jamieson, Tailor & Soap boiler, Leith, and William Oliphant Jr. late of Leith, now residing in London, of a tenement of land in South Leith, Barony of Restalrig and of 500 pounds in Bond by the said Edward Cundell.

Feb 28, 1818

Edward Cundell, late brewer in Leith and his Trustees, and William Oliphant Jr., residing in London, and James Paterson Jr., Merchant, get renunciation May 12, 1817, of 4 acres of lands of Bonnington Park, and 1000 pounds in Bond by said Edward Cundell to Magdalene Smith of Gracemount, Aug 3, 1810, and disponed, and assigned by her Nov 12, 1816, restricting the security to other lands.

It's difficult to understand what was taking place personally, and financially with the whole family in this short period before they all left Leith, but it seemed like a whirlwind of financial activity was going on, with the buying and selling of properties, and businesses, etc. The two brother-in-laws were pretty confident in their business efforts in the beginning, which they announced and was indicated in the earlier articles, but for some reason, they seem to have parted ways.

In the meantime, amidst all this legal wrangling between Jane's brother Edward, and William Gordon Oliphant Jr. Esq., they were starting their own little family of young Oliphant's. Their first three children as mentioned before, were born in Leith, and the rest came later after they moved to London, which I will cover later.

Sometime in 1812, William Gordon Oliphant Jr. purchased Bonnington House in Leith from his brother-in-law Edward Cundell, in a private sale. Edward had inherited it from his father John, but Margaret LeGrand

Cundell, William's mother-in-law had life rent as behest by her husband John Cundell. Meaning she could live there until she died. The fact that she was Jane's mother, wouldn't have been much of a problem. Besides, there was plenty of room. It was a very large twenty-seven-plus bedroom Estate.



BONNINGTON MANOR-HOUSE, 1630?-1891

Down through the years this estate had been owned by many prominent families and had quite a checkered past. It was once owned by Jane Cundell Oliphant's Uncle, William Cundell, and then later by her father John Cundell, which coincidentally, housed John's brewery business on the same four acres of property attached to the house.

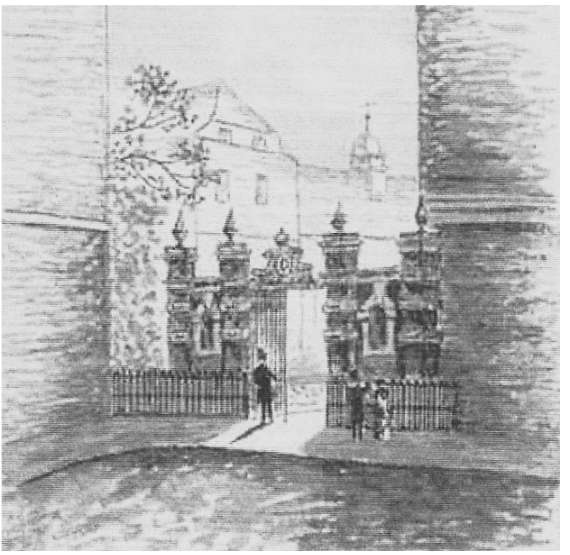
It would seem by all accounts; that William Gordon Oliphant Jr. Esq. was not being the best steward of his inherited family money and was quite the spendthrift. The gentleman by all appearances was having a grand ol time in London with his father's money. Nevertheless, this loose spending and grandiose lifestyle would eventually catch up with him when it ran out.

WILLIAM OLIPHANT Jr. Esq. - MOVES TO LONDON.

Sometime during 1817, William Gordon Oliphant Jr. Esq. along with his wife Jane and three young kids, left for London and remained there for 13 years. For reasons unknown, some of his wife, Jane's extended family the Cundell's, Jamieson's, and LeGrand's, also removed from Leith and moved to London for a brief period and eventually to Australia. One of her family members received a land grant and went to Hobart Tasmania. Again, the reason remains a mystery. Nevertheless, the family seemed to stay in contact with one another over the years to some extent.

While living in London, William Gordon Oliphant Jr. Esq., and Jane Cundell Oliphant had five more children. According to the Christening information, and death records of some of the children, it shows they lived at Southampton Buildings in London, pictured here, and was the more opulent part of town.

This is an old picture of the Southampton Buildings in 1800 -1835 when they lived there. Notice the sharp dressed gentlemen with top hats.



At some point, they moved to a townhouse at #2 Leigh St. in Camden, London, and this was the last address shown for them before they left to go to Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Canada. Camden was a very popular area of London for the elite crowd at that time. Today it's a really well-known area of town for the younger, and artsy crowd.

Coincidentally Camden was the same area of town William's grand uncle Francis Oliphant 10th Lord lived during his last days with his wife Mary. He reportedly died and is buried in a Vault in the Parish of Islington London in the same area.

I visited the Southampton Buildings in 2005, and they are basically the same. A courtyard surrounded by a much higher fence than pictured here. It was right around the corner from where little Charles Dickens grew up, and around the same time too. Perhaps the Oliphant children even played with the young Dickens in the neighborhood.

William and Jane's first three children as mentioned, were born in Leith, but I was unable to find their birth records. Again, due in part to the partial missing South Leith Parish records.

Their first son William would be the IV in a succession of Williams, which was started when his 2nd great grandfather Capt Francis Oliphant named his son William after his brother the Col William Oliphant 9th Lord.

William Gordon Oliphant Jr, Esq. and Jane Elizabeth Cundell had the following children:

***1.) William Oliphant**, b. 1811, South Leith d. April 19, 1831, at Kirkee India, during what I believe was the Raj War. 20 yrs. old, died without issue.*

William Oliphant was a private in the Queen's Own 4th Light Dragoons, British Army. Listed in the Chaplains' Returns I – Z., Oliphant / William / Bd / Kirkee. / Private / 20 yrs. / 20 04 1831 / 10. Source WO/12/639-641. A monument for the fallen soldiers from this skirmish was erected in Kirkee, and the bodies were not returned to the families.

***2.) Jane Elizabeth Oliphant**; (named after her mother) b. 1813, South Leith, d. Mar 11, 1845. 31 yrs. old. Jane died 4 days after giving birth to twins at her home, Rose Cottage, in St. John's, Newfoundland Canada. She was the patriarch of the family after the death of their parents and raised her younger siblings.*

***Jane Elizabeth Oliphant** married; **Richard Perchard Jr. Esq.,** June 4th, 1834, St. John's, Nfld.*

(The Aberdeen Journal) Wednesday, August 6, 1834, issue 4516)

At St. John's Newfoundland, on the 9th of June, by the Rev. F. H. Carrington, Richard Perchard Jun. Esq. merchant there, to Jane, eldest daughter of William Oliphant, Esq. son of the late William Oliphant Esq. Collector of his Majesty's Customs, at Leith.

Jane Elizabeth Oliphant and Richard Perchard Jr. Esq had the following children.

***1.) Mary Jane Oliphant Perchard**, b. Sept 9, 1836, St. John's Nfld. d. 1877, Unknown. To my knowledge she never married nor had any children.*

***2.) George Edward Perchard**, b. Sept 29, 1842, St. John's Nfld. d. unknown. Did not find a marriage record or any indication of children.*

***3.) Jane Elizabeth Oliphant Perchard**, b. Feb 27, 1845, St. John's Nfld. d. Feb 4, 1921, St. John's Nfld. Buried in Hearts Content Nfld. Anglican Cemetery. m. **Thomas Henry Bailey**, Aug 8, 1869, Harbor Buffet, Nfld. Thomas was b. Oct 22, 1842, in Oderin Nfld. d. July 11, 1910, Hearts Content, Nfld. Occupation, Telegraph Operator. They had the following children.*

*1.) **Emily Olivia Bailey**, b. July 23, 1872, d. Mar 5th, 1950, Hearts Content, NFLD. Never married, no children.*

*2.) **John Charles Bailey**, b 24th, June, 1875, d. 15th Oct, 1945, in Canso, NS. m. **Winifred Bradbury** in Bay Roberts, NFLD. They had one daughter **Emily Gertrude Bailey** and a son **John Charles, Jr**.*

*3.) **Jane Caroline Bailey**, b.Apr 23rd, 1878, d. Nov 24th, 1940, Hearts Content, NFLD. Never married no children.*

*4.) **Laura Eliza Bailey**, b. Mar 14th, 1882, d. Nov 20th, 1955, Hearts Content NFLD. Never married no children.*

***4.) Robert Garland Perchard**, b. Feb 27, 1845, St. John's Nfld. d. date unknown in W. Roxbury, Suffolk, Mass, US. He married **Ellen Higgins**, Sept 8, 1872, Suffolk, Mass, and had five children, two boys and three girls.*

Jane Elizabeth Perchard, nee Oliphant's obit read:

On Thursday evening last, after a short and severe illness, which she bore with Christian resignation, Jane the beloved wife of Richard Perchard Jr. Esq. died at age 31 years. Deeply regretted by family and friends. The deceased was the eldest daughter of the late Col. William Oliphant Jr. Esq., of Bonnington Park, Leith, Edinburgh.

***3.) John Oliphant**, (named after his maternal grandfather; Jane's father) b. 1814, South Leith, Midlothian Scotland d. April 12, 1823, in St. Pancras, Camden, London England. Age 9 yrs. old.*

Source; LDS London England, Deaths and Burials, 1813-1980, Saint Pancras Parish Church, Camden, Burial fee book, P90/PAN1 item 196. Abode; 2 Leigh Street, Camden, County Middlesex, London.

***4.) Eliza Brenton Oliphant**, b. July 5, 1817, South Hampton Buildings, Holborn, London, d. Nov 5, 1905, Hearts Content, Nfld. She married; **George Gay Morgan**, on Aug 25, 1835, PEI Canada. They had the following children.*

***1.) George Morgan Jr**. b. Feb 12, 1842, St. John's NL, d. Feb 12, 1842. Infant*

***2.) Mary Jane Morgan**, b. June 1849, St. John's NL, d. Jan 7, 1853. 4 yrs. old.*

Eliza was the second eldest daughter of Col. William Gordon Oliphant Jr. Esq., and became the matriarch of the family after the death of her sisters, Jane and younger sister Mary.

After the announcement was sent out that the Gask estate was looking into the possibility of family connections in 1848, it was later found that Eliza Oliphant Morgan had been corresponding for some time with her half-cousin, Margaret Harriet Steuart, in Edinburgh, who was the granddaughter of Laurence Oliphant 8th Laird of Gask.

Eliza's, Niece Jane Oliphant Bailey, nee Perchard was also corresponding with her cousins abroad, but only one letter was found.

Due to the primogeniture inheritance laws at the time, Robert Cassells Oliphant, Eliza's oldest brother would have been the rightful heir male, but he was off at war in India at the time. I'm not sure if his family informed him of this situation but I will cover this in more detail in his section. After Ms. Steuart's death, which was published in an article in the Evening Telegram in St. John's Nfld., which I will show later, a few days later, a follow-up article was published explaining Eliza Oliphant Morgan's family connection to Ms. Steuart, and therefore the Gask family, which from all the evidence is undeniable.

***5.) Margaret Mary Oliphant,** b, 1818, London d. Dec 18, 1847, St. John's NL. At Rose Cottage, home of her sister Jane. She never married and died without issue.*

Margaret's death notice was kind of confusing as it listed her middle name as Jamieson, which was her maternal Aunts married name, and not Margaret's birth name. We knew this because her obit mentions who her father is. Also, she was the third daughter, and not the second as was listed. This was obviously a transcriber's error, and was copied by Mildred Howard supposedly from the original which was not found.

(Mildred Howard Collection) Newfoundland Record's- (Times and General Commercial Gazette 1832 – 1895)

Dec 18, 1847 – Margaret Jamieson Oliphant, second eldest daughter of

William Oliphant of Bonnington near Leith, died at Rose Cottage, resident of Richard Perchard Jr. St. John's.

***6.) Robert Cassells Oliphant**, b. Aug 24, 1819, London England, d. Oct 2, 1894, Parramatta, NSW Australia. He married **Mary Anne Harwood**, on Mar 22, 1847, in Haggerston, London England. They had the following child.*

1. ***Robert Cassells Oliphant Jr.** b. 1847, St. John's Nfld. d. Dec 17, 1928, Paddington, NSW Australia. He married **Annie McGrath**, 1868, Sydney NSW Australia. They had 11 children, which we will cover later.*

***7.) George Treacher Oliphant**, b. May 9, 1825, London England, d. Dec 9, 1909, St. John's Nfld. He married **Sarah Payne Winsor**, in 1849, Aquaforte, Nfld. They had the following children. Sarah had three other children from her previous marriage to Capt. Jones.*

1. ***Eliza Anne Oliphant**, b. May 5, 1850, Aquaforte NL, d. 1922, Bay Bulls, NL. She married, **Michael Anthony Glynn** in 1871, Aquaforte, Nfld. They had 2 children.*

2. ***Jane Elizabeth Oliphant**, b. 1854, Aquaforte NL, d. Unknown, Torbay, Nfld, she married **Joseph Coaker**, Dec 20, 1881. They had 3 children, who all died before age 6. Joseph her husband later died, and she later remarried a man with the Surname Shaw or Snow, and it was rumored they had two daughters. The C of E records were never searched in St. John's Nfld. for her info. A cousin, Queen Maloney told me Jane converted back to C of E after she married this Shaw or Snow gentleman and on her death bed, her brother Lindsay Oliphant pleaded with her to convert back to Catholicism before she died. She very defiantly said, "I will die as I lived, a Member."*

3. ***George Lindsay Oliphant**, (named after his uncle) b. 1856, Aquaforte NL, d. Dec 16, 1940, St. John's, NL. He married 1.) **Alice Mary Joesph Strapp**, and they had two children, who both died as infants. m. 2.) **Anastasia Maria Gough**, June 30, 1897, Salmonier, Nfld. They had 6 children, which we will cover later.*

4. ***William Peter Oliphant**, b. 1858, Aquaforte, NL, d. Nov 3, 1877. Never married, Drowned at 19 yrs. old, without issue. His death is listed in our Oliphant family Bible.*

5. ***Sarah Mary Oliphant**, b. Jan 16, 1859, Aquaforte NL, d. unknown in Boston Mass, USA. She married **Henry Furlong**, on Oct 20, 1882, they had 11 children, and sadly most of them died young.*

***8.) George Lindsay Oliphant**, b. 1830, London England, d. 1832, Camden, London England. At 2 yrs. 9 mths old.*

Source citation: London Metropolitan Archives, St. Pancras Parish Church, Register of burials, call number p90/pan1/184.



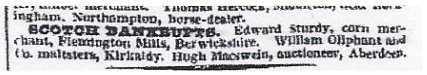
During my research on St. Pancras parish church in London, it was discovered that the burial grounds of the churchyard had been converted into a park, and the headstones were gathered up and placed in a circle. This tree over time grew into the middle of them. The two young sons of Col William Gordon Oliphant Jr. Esq., and Jane Cundell are allegedly among these headstones. They are John Oliphant 9 yrs old and George Lindsay Oliphant 2 yrs old.

It can only be assumed that William Gordon Oliphant Jr. Esq., was surviving off his inheritance from his father, and maybe some residual money received from the brewery business he was still invested in at Leith. He also had a bond or lease on Bonnington House, but I couldn't figure out exactly what was going on with that.

Other than the Church records showing the Births, and Christenings of the children, with the addresses listed where they lived, I could find no other records of activity for William and Jane for the better part of thirteen years they lived in London. That is, up until they were getting ready to move.

Just before William left London, I found a notice in the Newcastle Courant, which shows William Oliphant & Co. declaring Bankruptcy from the Brewing business, or in other words Maltsters, to which he was still apparently involved somehow with Sir Alexander Keith in Leith or Kirkaldy. His brother-in-law Edward had already sold his part of the business before leaving Scotland. This article mentions Kirkaldy, which is just on the other side of the Forth (Harbor) from Edinburgh, and could be a typo but generally the same area. I found it odd that I only found this

in the Newcastle paper and not in London or Edinburgh.


ingham, Northampton, horse-dealer.
SCOTCH BANKRUPTS. Edward Sturdy, corn merchant, Flemington Mills, Berwickshire. William Oliphant and Co. maltsters, Kirkaldy. Hugh Macswein, auctioneer, Aberdeen.

Listed in the Newcastle Courant, (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England) Saturday, April 11th, 1829; issue 8047; 19th Century British Newspapers, LDS Library.

After just a short 13 years or so after his father's death, William Gordon Oliphant Jr. had blown through most or all of his inheritance and had no money left. They still had a lease on Bonnington House in Leith, but apparently, that income wasn't enough to afford them the lifestyle they had grown accustomed to.

WILLIAM OLIPHANT Jr. Esq. MOVES TO PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND, NS CANADA.

According to a letter written by their son George Treacher Oliphant, they went back to Scotland for a brief period before leaving for Prince Edward Island, Canada. Exactly what they did while in Scotland for this brief period remains a mystery. Perhaps it was to try and secure some money from his extended family or business associates for passage to Canada, or this just happened to be where they needed to board the ship to Canada.

Apparently it was pretty desperate times financially for the family before leaving London because I found a disturbing notice in the paper about Jane Cundell Oliphant just prior to leaving. Jane Oliphant had a few run-ins with the law, where she was arrested several times, and was accused of petty theft of grocery items. According to the article, the charges were eventually dropped, but would indicate the sad predicament they were in. In those days, it wasn't uncommon for the British Courts to order anyone caught stealing, or for any other minor criminal infractions to be banished to another country, like Australia, the US, or Canada.

It would seem William's flamboyant spendthrift ways finally caught up with him, but no one knows for sure what really happened. Nevertheless, it would appear once again, shame and humiliation seems to have been brought on the family. As the old saying goes. It takes one generation to make the money, and usually two or three generations to lose it.

However, there was an attempt to exalt him into good graces by using his previous title as Colonel, or naming Bonnington, where he once lived

to raise him up so to speak, but when you dig into all his transactions, it becomes pretty clear what the real story was. It's a sad portrayal of what once seemed a life of privilege, typically reserved for and associated with aristocracy, to slowly be unraveled and come crashing down through nobody's fault but his own.

This once again would have been an embarrassment to the peerage title and dignity, and probably a good idea that he never pursued his rightful position. Yet after William Jr. and his wife Jane's back to back deaths in 1834-35, the subject would come up once again, when his half-cousin Sir James Oliphant 10th Laird of Gask retained counsel and filed a petition. Of course, by this time most or all the evidence of any family connection had long been dismantled and allegedly deliberately destroyed.

As mentioned, not long after arriving in Prince Edward Island, both William Gordon Oliphant Jr. and his wife Jane tragically died. Jane at 48 yrs. old, and one year later William Oliphant Jr. Esq. himself died at 54 yrs. old. The causes of death are unknown.

Their surviving children were fairly young and were left to fend for themselves, while the two oldest daughters had recently married left for Newfoundland. I'll get into it in more detail later, but the eldest daughter Jane Elizabeth Perchard, nee, Oliphant, took care of her younger siblings until they could find their own way.

There wasn't a lot of information found on PEI's website or through their archives, and I was unable to find out exactly where William and Jane were buried. Through my investigations the name of the clergyman who married their second eldest daughter Eliza Oliphant Morgan, and the church they attended, I speculate William and Jane are more than likely buried in that churchyard where they lived and attended church. Which turned out not to be Charlottetown, as mentioned in the obit, but more on the north side of the island in the French River, Cavendish area. I haven't followed up on this yet, but it was on my to-do list. My goal was to make a trip to PEI someday, to see if I could physically locate their graves in the French River area somewhere because it's not listed in the archives. In some cases, the information on a headstone can reveal who the parents were, and may give a clue to William Gordon Oliphant Jr.'s mother.

William Gordon Oliphant Jr.'s Obituary read:

Col. William Oliphant Jr., of Bonnington Park, died at 54 yrs. of age, at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island. The son of William Oliphant Sr.

Esq., Former H. M. Customs Collector at Leith, Scotland.

Jane Elizabeth Cundell Oliphant's Obit read; *(Record from St. Paul's Anglican Church. PEI Canada)*

At Charlottetown on the 31st, May 1835 – aged 48, Jane Cundell, wife of William Oliphant, formerly of Bonnington Park, Edinburgh.

It's disheartening to disclose the tragic ending of the lives of both William Gordon Oliphant Jr. and Jane Cundell Oliphant. However. I would be remiss to overlook all the details, or embellish it, and report it inaccurately. It helps explain why the next few generations couldn't locate any information that might have helped them understand what happened back in Scotland and give them the information they might have needed to potentially pursue any inheritance or possibly the peerage title and dignity.

Their son George Treacher Oliphant said in a letter, '*had we known we would lose or parents so soon, we might have known more*.'

Chapter 12

The Forgotten Lineage & Succesion To An Estate In Scotland

Some may feel that my direct approach to some of the more sensitive subjects might be a little unorthodox and not the most politically correct way to get the point across. I also had long anticipated the slings and arrows from the purist about my interpretation of the facts surrounding this history.

However, in my opinion, the main point involving the alleged missing young boy William, the rightful heir to the peerage and dignity has been tap-danced around for far too long. My only objective from the beginning was to find out what happened to William, and if he was somehow related to William Oliphant the Customs Collector. To my surprise, it was much closer than I anticipated. The truth surrounding this forgotten boy has been in my opinion, purposely overlooked, and after thirty plus years of laborious research and work to find the facts, uncover the truth, and lay it out in one place for all to see. I again, contend the evidence speaks for itself.

As the two brothers and their sister whom we started this story with were merely throw-away children to their extended family, so too was the discovery of their lineage. As I continue to descend into what is for all intents and purposes the rightful senior male line to the hereditary peerage title and dignity of the Oliphant family. I once again, show how this line narrowly existed with the only two surviving sons out of the five boys born to William Gordon Oliphant Jr. Esq. Partly due to the tragic and continuously unfolding events that took them further and further away from what is now a dormant title.

Over the years as I've navigated through the gantlet of misinformation and biased misinterpretations of pedigrees and events to continue to unravel

and uncover what can only be described as an alleged attempt to cover up any resemblance of an extended branch of this line, I continually saw the proliferation of the narrative that there are no other living heir males of this line left.

The more this narrative has been perpetuated over the last 270-plus years with the publishing of these books, literature, the skewing of eyewitness testimony, and even recently by various authors, and copyists, as well as other forms of delivering this message, i.e. through the internet and websites, the easier it becomes to convince people of this narrative. However ill-informed they might be, this couldn't be further from the truth as is clearly pointed out here with all the misinterpretations, and bickering among all the experts about whose version is more accurate. Marcus Aurelius once said; it's the truth that I am after. The truth never hurt anyone. What harms us is when we persist in self-deceit and ignorance.

You can put any label on it; be it greed, jealousy, entitlement, familial curse, the need for control, or some might even say conspiracy theory; take your pick. No matter what line of thinking you choose to believe, the evidence is plain to see, and with a little common sense, it's clear what happened here, and the facts are delineated.

In reviewing all the evidence up to this point, it's more and more obvious that something was amiss, but more importantly, anyone potentially connected to this lineal male line has been kept in the dark from any specific knowledge that would have provided them with any information that might have aided in their attempt to pursue their rightful position.

This brings us to the next generation in this seemingly unknown and forgotten line that disappeared into the arid landscapes of Australia, and onto the windswept shores of Newfoundland, and how the story of their family's connection to the Gask branch of Oliphants, as well as to the senior line of the Lords Oliphant, has permeated their family's history for over two hundred years, yet now, coupled with all these latest discoveries, culminating in one place in this book, the evidence of this connection is not only much more clear, but can be imparted onto those who need to know the truth behind this story, as well as future generations of this broken branch.

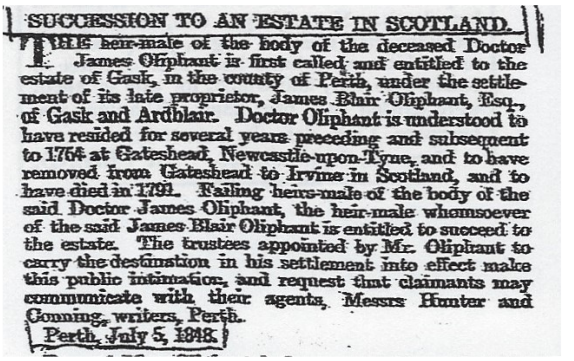
There is no ulterior motive here other than to finally tell the story and reveal the truth about what happened to the missing young boy William Oliphant, the rightful heir to the peerage title and dignity, and to show that he did survive and leave a line of descendants. In revealing his side of

the story, it's important to separate fact from fiction, which was my intent all along. I feel confident the truth as I present it, is just as relevant and important as anyone else's version of the truth, or for that matter what has been presented as the truth for hundreds of years, and finally, as I take a little color from the palates of each of the experts from over the years, I can with confidence complete the full painting for all to see, and ultimately put an end to what has been painted as a nonexistent forgotten lineage.

As I continue down the senior male line of descent, let me first explain a little about what was taking place concerning the estate, as it seems to be a topic of great interest among those who are hearing this story for the first time. The grandeur surrounding the Gask Estate and the seat of the Ancient Lords Oliphant is a long and complicated story, and as I move through the explanation of what happened to the young boy William Oliphant, a lot of it has been revealed. After a description of what was taking place with the estate over time, I'll then pick up with Lieutenant Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr., the third eldest son of Col. William Gordon Oliphant Jr. Esq., who succeeded his father as rightful heir male to the peerage title, and I will follow his male line until it is exhausted with the death of his great-grandson Roy Reginald Oliphant in 1971, who sadly dies without issue.

SUCCESSION TO AN ESTATE IN SCOTLAND:

This is a copy of an article printed in the ('M*onthly Chronicle, July 5th, 1887' pg. 205*.) and is a copy of the original article posted July 5th, 1848, explaining the death of Sir James Oliphant, the last living heir male, and 10th Laird of Gask, who died without issue, and that the estate was up for grabs.



SUCCESSION TO AN ESTATE IN SCOTLAND.

THE heir-male of the body of the deceased Doctor James Oliphant is first called and entitled to the estate of Gask, in the county of Perth, under the settlement of its late proprietor, James Blair Oliphant, Esq., of Gask and Ardblair. Doctor Oliphant is understood to have resided for several years preceding and subsequent to 1764 at Gateshead, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and to have removed from Gateshead to Irvine in Scotland, and to have died in 1792. Failing heirs-male of the body of the said Doctor James Oliphant, the heir-male whomsoever of the said James Blair Oliphant is entitled to succeed to the estate. The trustees appointed by Mr. Oliphant to carry the destination in his settlement into effect make this public intimation, and request that claimants may communicate with their agents, Messrs Hunter and Gonning, writers, Perth.

Perth, July 5, 1848.

I'll give a brief breakdown of some information on these two gentlemen

mentioned in this article, because as you might have guessed, I dissect the information in the articles to see what evidence might be found hidden within, or that might support the story of our missing young boy. This original article was published in Perthshire Scotland, and subsequently all over the UK, and presumably globally in search of any heir males of the senior line of Oliphant.

First off, it mentions Dr. James Oliphant, who after some research I found was quite a fascinating and controversial character. However, it remains a little unclear what his exact relationship was with the Gask family.

Again, I won't spend a lot of time on them because as far as I could tell, they didn't have anything to do with the story about what happened to William Oliphant, the missing young boy and son of Capt. Francis Oliphant Sr. I'll give a brief rundown of an article that was written about Dr. James Oliphant, to give you an idea of who he was, just because I found it fascinating.



Dr. JAMES OLIPHANT - lived in a house on the Southwest side of the Old Tyne Bridge, which is the NE corner of England on the border of Scotland. (Under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Durham), after moving to Gateshead from Perth in 1754, he met Margaret Erskine who he married in 1755 and later had two children, William James Oliphant and Lawrence Thomas Oliphant. Also living in the house with the Oliphant's were Mrs. Oliphant's father Dr. William Erskine (until he died in 1766) and servants Mary Shittleton and Dinah Armstrong.

One of Dr. Oliphant's sons reportedly died in Canada, and the other son supposedly died in Tobago. The two were said to have been impressed in times of War, and one of whom was supposed to have perished in an engagement with the French. The other son's career was said to have ended at Workington and was marked by even stranger passages than those that chequered the life of their father.

Chequered, indeed, was the life of the household established on Old Tyne Bridge; and when, about sixty years after the death of Dr. Oliphant, Fortune seemed disposed to smile on his family, when after the death of his

two sons and heirs to his line, and then Janet, the only grandchild. There was no one in his line to succeed and enjoy her sunshine.

The deaths of Dr. Oliphant's family seemed to me, just another very convenient set of circumstances surrounding this whole issue of inheritance, and with this announcement, it would once again eliminate any potential usurpers. And yet things just seemingly kept right on going, as if to say. Nothing to see here folks, just a bump in the road, keep moving. Then in the history books, it's just smoothed over, and although tragic, it was nothing too out of the ordinary. No real explanation for what happened to the boys. Maybe it's just me, but the comment, "Oh well, *'there was no one left to 'enjoy her sunshine*", just seemed a bit snide...

(*James Clephan) (Gateshead Observer, Monthly Chronicle, July 1887. Pg. 205.)*

One grandchild was remaining in 1848, who was a daughter of Janet Oliphant, the young lady on whom Mrs Margaret French was waiting on the sad day of the 17th of July 1864. There is more information written on Janet Oliphant and her connection to the family, which again is rather confusing, in, '*The Oliphants of Gask,' pg. 163.*

The Oliphant's house in Gateshead stood over an arch and had four floors, comprising of a cellar, a shop on the ground floor, a kitchen and parlor (whose doors were opposite each other) on the first floor, and attics. The cellar hung in the arch and had half-doors looking down on the Tyne. The river rose to within a few inches of the lower door, so goods could be received and shipped.

At the time of the Great Flood of 1771, Dr. Oliphant was in Scotland. After their home was destroyed, they moved into temporary accommodations in Church Chare, Gateshead, before returning to Scotland shortly afterward.

MURDER ON THE BRIDGE?

Dr. Oliphant's name is associated with a tragic incident, which took place on the Old Tyne Bridge in 1764. The Dr. and Mrs Oliphant left their two children in the care of Mrs Milne, wife of a Newcastle merchant, and their servant Dinah Armstrong when going to Scotland. On their return a month later, Dinah was accused of stealing, which she denied. Her box was searched and possessions belonging to her former employer were found.

Dinah was questioned repeatedly about the supposed theft but still carried out her normal duties for the Oliphant family under no restriction whatsoever. However, at around 1 pm, Mary Shittleton, the Oliphant's senior servant noticed that the door in the west wall of the cellar (only about 4 feet above the river) was open, then saw Dinah lying on the sand. At this point, Mrs Shittleton gave an alarm, and there was a rush to the cellar. However, Dinah had disappeared. Five days later, Dinah's body was found in the river by Joseph Barlow, a boat keelman, and was taken ashore at Dunston.

A doctor later found that the string of Dinah's cap had been tied tightly around her neck, suggesting that she had been hanged. After being summoned to the coroner's court, Mary Shittleton claimed that she thought that Dinah had got up from the sand and ran. Also present at the inquest is Dinah's sister, Jane Armstrong. Mary's evidence agreed with the statement she had given to her employers, the Oliphant family. At the inquest, Dr. Oliphant was requested to go to Dunston and 'justify himself against the calumnious aspersions thrown against him'. He went with Henry Thompson, a shopkeeper who had helped search for Dinah's body, and was met by an enraged mob. Dinah's two sisters, Jane and Tamar, had also been inflaming the public that Dr. Oliphant was a 'murdering dog'. Dr. Oliphant went back to the coroner and requested that his evidence and that of his two companions should be taken but was refused.

At the trial, the jury found that James Oliphant, Margaret Oliphant, and Mary Shittleton had 'wilfully strangled Dinah Armstrong with a cord', although there was no proof that the girl had been strangled at all'. The three were later arrested by John Crosier, the parish constable, and taken to Durham, but were later allowed to return home on bail. The three prisoners returned to Durham a month later where Mr Justice Bathurst tried them. New witnesses for the defense were called, including Henry Thompson. However, no new evidence had materialized. On their testimonial that the deceased was under no restraint in the house, the jury returned the verdict of not guilty.

Dr. Oliphant tried to take action for damages against the coroner but was deterred because of a lack of money. Instead, he laid the case before the public in a book published in 1768. Dr. Oliphant died in 1791, after returning to Scotland soon after the Great Flood in 1771, a martyr to the attack on his life, liberty, and character.

SIR. LAURENCE JAMES OLIPHANT - 10th LAIRD of GASK

Sir James Oliphant was the last of the males born in the Gask line, although they were a Cadet Branch, which is another story, and the second gentleman mentioned in the article searching for any heir males who could prove a connection to either one of these two gentlemen or to the brother of the 3rd Lord Oliphant. Coincidentally, it was mentioned as the 1st Lord Oliphant in the Carel Naret Oliphant article.

James, the 10th Laird of Gask's Will, was thought to be a weird request by most of their family, because they were convinced, all of the heir males were long gone. (*At least any evidence of them anyway*.)

When this article came out, there was a volley of people attempting to show some kind of relation to this family. When it comes to money, I'm sure we've all witnessed how irrational people can get, and the ridiculous things they will do for it. Well... over the last few hundred years, people basically haven't changed much. People were changing their names to Oliphant, and the proprietors and current occupants of the estate were left fielding all these claims through the writers, Hunter and Conning in Perth.

The specifics of the legal drama regarding the '**Oliphant's of Gask estate**' stem from the highly contested **Will of James Blair Oliphant, (10th Laird of Gask**), who suddenly died in 1847.

The 1864 time-frame marks the pivotal climax of the 20-year legal battle fought in the Scottish courts over his strict mandate regarding the Lords Oliphant line.

The Specifics of the 10th Laird's Will

James Blair Oliphant was fiercely proud of his heritage. In 1839, he had unsuccessfully attempted to petition the courts for the position as **heir male to the last Lord Oliphant**, legally attempting to link the Gask branch to the medieval peerage. Similar to what his gg grandfather the 6th Laird was trying to do with William the Bulker, when he refused to be part of it. Because he died without any children of his own, his Will left a highly specific and restrictive destination for the Gask estate.

- **The Pure "Heir Male" Restriction**: Laurence mandated that the estate could *ONLY* pass to his "**heir male whomsoever**" – meaning a relative who could prove an unbroken, entirely male-line descent traced directly back to the **Lords Oliphant**,

wherein he was unsuccessful in his attempt to show his own direct unbroken male heir connection back to **William Oliphant of Newton**, who was the brother of the third Lord Oliphant.

- **Disinheriting the Female Line:** Crucially, this strict "male-only" clause explicitly **disinherited his own nephew**, Thomas Laurence Kington, (the son of his sister), simply because Thomas's link to the family tree went through a female line. Which is rather ironic, considering Laurence's side came through the female line of Lilias his 5th great grandmother's daughter.

- **The Condie Challenge:** The Oliphant's of Condie initially stepped forward claiming to be the rightful heirs male. However, they struggled to produce ironclad genealogical proof required by Scottish courts.

I don't want to get into a long explanation of Sir Laurence James Oliphant, 10th Laird's life, because all this information is available in other publications on the Gask family, and the main focus here is to give a brief overview of the two gentlemen from this article. Sir James Oliphant was born in 1824 to Laurence Oliphant, 8th Laird of Gask, and Christian Robertson of Ardblair.

He married Henrietta Graham his cousin in 1840, but the year before, he had taken steps to claim the Oliphant peerage, ninety years after the death of the 10th Lord Francis Oliphant. James had for his counsel Mr. James Riddel and Mr. William Skene, and in 1839 instructed that he was a direct descendant and heir male of the body of William Oliphant of Newton, the younger son of Colin, Master of Oliphant, who was slain at Flodden. Which again, was not true because he was from the female line of Lilias his 5th great grandmother's daughter.

As mentioned before, the 10th Laird of Gask, James, had declared that after every possible inquiry, 'which again is questionable' he could not discover any evidence of any competitors claiming a nearer descent; and that the right to the title of Lord Oliphant had for ninety years been reputed to belong to his branch of the family.

It's my contention that Sir Laurence James Oliphant, the last remaining heir male in the Gask line, knew about William Gordon Oliphant Jr. Esq, and that just a few years prior, he and his wife had passed in NS. Also, that there was no indication at the time where his children might be. Similar to the Col' family and how they just mysteriously disappeared off the map.

I suspect Laurence knew Williams line would possibly be the only ones who could show this kind of proof. Again, its merely supposition, but it might explain why he wrote his Will the way he did and subsequently halted his pursuit of the title. However, it could have been an obvious jab at his nephew Thomas Kington, who even his sister Rachel didn't appear to be to fond of. What a tangled web we weave, when we practice to deceive.

Although this campaign of sabotaging any semblance of a paper trail leading back to a possible connection to the Lords Oliphant started long before James Oliphant filed his petition, which he alludes to in his earlier statement that he was disappointed in his gg-grandfather for not keeping any letters and information regarding Col. William Oliphant and his family. But also, any line that may have potentially posed a threat. That is unless, of course, you were of the Gask family, which was dwindling very fast, especially after the death of Sir Laurence James Oliphant, the last heir male of their line. Yet, still, to this day, researchers can't seem to put together any specific pedigree of all the lines due to the dead ends in the paper trails leading back to Perth.

In any event, it would have been nearly impossible for William the Customs Collector's descendants to move forward with a claim during that time. Although the cousins Eliza Oliphant Morgan, the granddaughter of William Oliphant the Customs Collector, and Margaret Stuart, granddaughter of Sir Laurence James Oliphant 8th of Gask., were maintaining contact with each other, Eliza's older brother Robert Cassells Oliphant, who would be the successor to his father as rightful heir male to the peerage and dignity, also, one of the only two surviving heir males of this senior line was off at War in India.

Eliza and her brother Treacher said they didn't even know where Robert, their brother was at the time. Besides, they were all deeply embroiled in their own unfolding family dramas relating to financial and personal tragedies and were barely surviving themselves. Their father William had squandered the family inheritance and had declared bankruptcy before leaving Scotland to move the whole family to Nova Scotia Canada, where he died shortly after arriving, and they had just lost their mother the year before., I'm sure all of this was not a top priority.

Needless to say, Sir James Oliphant never pushed his claim any further, and as far as the Scottish version of claiming the title went, he never voted at an election of Scottish peers, therefore never claiming the title of Eleventh Lord Oliphant. Sadly one year before this article was published in 1847, he died without issue.

James mentioned in a letter in the book, '*Jacobite Lairds of Gask*' that either through a fire or the confiscation of the Gask estate by British soldiers to use as a stronghold during the rebellion, or one of the other conflicts of the time, there were some valuable family heirlooms, as well as a lot of important family documents taken and he said, *'lost forever, never to be seen again*.' I'm guessing it could be a likely story, but with everything else that had taken place up to this point surrounding this estate and the family over the years, my conspiracy theory mind says something more nefarious was going on. Ironically, again, Laurence says his great-great-grandfather did away with the letters and papers, which only adds to the confusion over which story are we to believe. There seems to be several different versions of what actually took place and no one appears to be able to get their story straight.

Sir James Oliphant was succeeded by his sister Rachel at Ardblair, who was the last remaining family member of her generation, who we will mention more about later, and he was succeeded by his Nephew Thomas Kington, at Gask. Who, incidentally, changed his last name to Oliphant because he was a Kington. It was his mother who was the Oliphant.

CAREL NARET OLIPHANT – CLAIMANT TO GASK.

In an effort to see if William the Bulker was somehow related to Carel Naret, I took a deep dive into the Netherlands where he lived. I found an article written in a Holland magazine in the Netherlands in Mar 2019 about Carel Naret Oliphant the claimant to Gask and his life but it was written in Dutch. I copied it and ran it through translation software and was able to read about what happened to him, even though his son Charles's death was not ruled. His son Charles was part of the Claim agreement with the Gask family and was a little younger but didn't fully agree with the terms of the arrangement as much as his father. Charles had two daughters, and he wanted to make sure his daughters were cared for, so he wanted to renegotiate the deal with the Gask Estate.

It wasn't long after Carel's death, that it was reported that his son Charles went back to London for a second time and stayed for a while, supposedly to sign papers, but shortly returned to Holland because he suddenly became ill. One Attorney for the Estate, Mr. Conning, supposedly went to Holland to speak to Charles, and shortly after, he mysteriously died.

The article alluded to Carel being descended from Nobility, and it was very complimentary done, and it mentioned that all the information for the article was derived from the archives in Holland and around the Nether-

lands, which again, piqued my interest.

I contacted the writers of the article, hoping to find out why they wrote it, and why they were interested in this particular story, also who might have encouraged it. I asked them if they had looked at some of the source documents during their research because I was curious where they found all this information. They quickly shut me down, but I was hoping to find out more information on the missing young boy 'William,' or as they put it 'John', and possibly more information about the shipwreck incident off the coast of France he was reportedly involved in. Of course, that was wishful thinking and would have only been a bonus.

The article as it turns out was written by some college students, *Joke Boot & Anneke Jesse, in Leyden Holland*. They alluded to it being a research project, but never indicated they were prompted by anyone in particular. It was later revealed they more or less plagiarized a lot of the material and said the majority of it came from "*The Scots Peerage." W. Maitland Thomson*.

It was said that Carel nor his son had any interest in living in Scotland or on the Estate and said the current occupants and family could stay there as long as they wanted, and that they could collect any dues or fees, plus a percentage of the crops, or something to that effect. Just enough to sustain and maintain themselves, which, based on their previous record of being spendthrifts, and their constant traveling, overbuilding, etc. One might think this arrangement wouldn't be a sustainable venture in the long term. However, this arrangement was only for the lifetime of both gentlemen and was to cease on their deaths and would not transfer to their descendants.

One could almost empathize with the current occupants of the estate who were potentially looking at being uprooted from what they had grown accustomed to, at least by appearance from the outside' seemed an easy lifestyle of not having to work per se, and then some unknown distant relative just comes in and disrupts all this. You could see why they thought, 'as they put it.' "A weird Will that Laurence Oliphant 10th Laird of Gask left," where he said; "ONLY the male heir descended from the Lords Oliphant could succeed in the estate. And whoever it was, had to show proof."

This was when all these church records and documents started mysteriously disappearing. Condie Castle mysteriously burned to the ground. And just as quickly, it seemed like all hell broke loose. People from all over the world were coming out of the woodwork saying they were related and

that the current occupants were simply interlopers. The estate was worth millions, and there was a lot at stake not to mention that was a lot of money if someone could prove a legitimate connection. And when you think about it, people have done a lot of crazy things for a lot less.



CLAIM TO INHERITANCE IN SCOTLAND – GASK ESTATE

This is an Excerpt from the article from Holland.

"In 1865, two years before his death, Carel went to London with his son Charles to claim a Scottish estate. The negotiations did not lead to a Lordship but a generous, lifelong annuity for him and his son. Carel and Charles don't have long to make use of the claim as Carl died just two years later, and his son Charles died one year after his father in 1868.

Parental family: Carel (aka Karel) Naret Oliphant is born on February 19th, 1781, in Yerseke as the son of a Reformed minister Nicholas Oliphant (1750-1797), born in Leyden, also his mother Anna Maria Naret (1754-1787) who married in Rotterdam 1778, at that time reportedly the residence of Nicolas's father and also birthplace of his mother.

Despite his increasing age and declining health, Father Carel and his son Charles undertook a trip to London in 1865. The reason is the claim that Carel wants to lay on the Gask Estate and associated estates in Perthsire (Scotland).

In 1618 these lands reportedly came into the possession of William Oliphant of Orchardmill, Burgess of Perth, and first Laird Oliphant of Gask. The last and childless descendant of this Laird; Laurence James Oliphant of Gask died in 1846. (see ad 1848 searching for heir males)

In a strange Will Laurence James Oliphant 10th Laird of Gask determines that said possessions are exclusively intended for those who can prove to be a direct descendant in the male line of the brother of the first (Third) Lord

Oliphant.

After a long search by a few lawyers (Hunter & Conning) and via this newspaper advertisement placed around the globe, one comes on the track of the Oliphant branch in the Netherlands, presumably attentive to this created by noted publicist and writer Sir Lawrence Oliphant and his contacts with the Leyden publisher Evert Jan Brill.

The family relationship supposedly goes on for six generations. Carel's great-grandfather is described as John Oliphant, and this John is reportedly the great-grandson of William Oliphant's brother or William Oliphant of Orchardmill, Burgess of Perth, and the first Laird Oliphant of Gask.

Carel Naret Oliphant thus met the conditions for the inheritance.

In London, Carel testifies, among other things, that he and his sister Maria lived for a short time with their grandfather James Oliphant in Leyden and that they heard him tell that his father had fled Scotland with his family after the 1715 rebellion."

There is a lot packed into this article that needed to be broken down. First, I had to try and see if any of this information fit with the possibility that our Shipwrecked boy William, could potentially be the progenitor to any of these people in the Netherlands.

Carel, as mentioned was born Feb 1781., and said he stayed with his grandfather James Oliphant for a short period. He tells him and his sister, about their great grandfather, whom they are calling John, who fled from Scotland with his family as a young boy during the Rebellion, around 1715. Despite there not being any evidence of this, it would be considered hearsay, nevertheless, It was also mentioned in an earlier article that supposedly his grandfather James, died in Leyden at an advanced age in 1797. However, after a thorough search of the records from around the area, I was unable to locate anything indicating a death or burial for him. All this seemed a little vague, but again, eerily similar to our story of young William the alleged missing young boy.

Also, another note of interest in the article was when it says Laurence 10th Laird of Gask said the descendants of the brother of the first Lord Oliphant would be entitled to the estate, and in many other documents and books it states the brother of the third Lord Oliphant. *'Oliphant's of Gask*.' I gave a breakdown in the Bulkers chapter.

In addition, there seems to be some confusion about the lands belonging to William Oliphant of Orchardmill, Which is the Rossie Oliphant estate, and not Gask, and Burgess of Perth in 1816. The succession of Lords skips the 5th Lord who sold the land to his half cousin Laurence, who became the Laird of Gask in 1633. Wherein his only daughter Anne inherits the Gask estate after his death. This is a whole other complicated story, but the suggestion that William was a direct descendant of the Lords Oliphant is not exactly genealogically correct. Without getting into the whole tale, you can look up the history of the 5th Lord Oliphant, Laurence and how he made shipwreck of the estates, sold them all, and denuded himself of the title before he died in 1631.

At any rate, the names in this article about Carel's family don't appear to match any in William,s family line. The article goes on to say his father Nickolas born in 1750, was the son of James. And clearly by this time, William the Bulker was in Leith. Unless of course, there is another possibility of a connection from the senior line, such as Col. William, the young boy's uncle. Again, there is no evidence or mention of this either.

There could be several possibilities, but one of the many issues surrounding this matter of Carel's remote possibility of a connection to William was his alleged great grandfather whom they are calling "John" and William the Bulker are both described as boys at the time they left Scotland during the 1715 Rebellion. Other than this one article, there is no other evidence to indicate John, whom Carel is claiming descent was ever involved in a shipwreck. However, there is evidence that our young boy William was said to have been lost at sea on several occasions, therefore the report of a ship going down in or near a harbor in France and a young Oliphant boy of Noble heritage and the passengers being rescued lends itself to a more realistic likelihood that it would describe what happened to William. (*Go with the simpler explanation*) And then we find the ship logs which indicate William was still alive and in or near the area not long after this reported incident.

It makes more sense that they somehow confused the names and the shipwreck story, and there was another reason for a potential connection. Plus, where did the spelling of the name Olifent come into the picture? It doesn't appear any of Carel's people ever spelled their surname this way. In either case, there just wasn't enough credible evidence to warrant further investigation, because it wasn't yielding the results originally hoped for. As far as I was concerned, this information didn't substantiate the story of a connection between our missing young boy William Oliphant and Carl

Naret or offer a better explanation to help me understand where William was for the few years he was supposedly missing. Again, after their rescue, William would have more than likely finished out his obligation to his original indenture and apprenticeship, which again, typically lasted about four or five years to the ships Capt., and he simply divided his free time after his indenture terminated between Leith and the Netherlands until he stays permanently in Leith. I left it there and simply followed the evidence I had in hand.

I don't know what evidence Carel presented to the estate of Gask, or to the court in London to make this assertion. But in any event, he didn't show convincing enough evidence to obtain a Lordship, and it left more questions than answers as far as how William our young boy could have been associated with Carel. Again, without ever being able to see the transcripts of the court case and the specific evidence of the shipwreck or William's potential involvement with Carel's family, I could not see a direct correlation. In either case, It was said Carel's line was exhausted of males on the death of him and his son Charles.



This is a picture of the graveyard in Leyden Holland where Carel and his family are buried. I thought the article was very well put together, and had some very intriguing information in it, and was well worth the read.

How the Estate Was Eventually settled: To avoid total ruinous litigation, a compromise was reached between 1864 and 1865: Thomas Kington agreed to pay the greater part of the Gask estate's income to the two Dutchmen for the remainder of their lives. In exchange, Thomas was allowed to officially keep the physical estate. To fulfill the spirit of the 10th Laird's obsession with the Oliphant name, Thomas legally changed his name to Thomas Laurence Kington Blair Oliphant.

Thomas Kington was so distraught over the whole debacle, he apparently developed a severe disdain for anything Oliphant, and his mother's side of the family, so his way of getting back at them was to try and destroy any semblance or legacy of the estate and in his Will he legally instructed and ordered that the lands be sold and all Oliphant family possessions be dispersed upon his death. If I recall, I was told there was several auctions and David Olifent from London told me once that he bought a men's ring

and some sort of table that had Bonnie Prince Charlie's name carved into it. He often wondered if Prince Charlie carved the name in the table himself or another family member did it, like Caroline.

Chapter 13

Deceit or Deception

I think it's fair to say, that throughout history, money, power, prestige, social status, and yes, even hereditary titles were potential causes of people doing some pretty unscrupulous, and unthinkable things to obtain, maintain, and or even go as far as legally changing their names to achieve it. It was not statutory during the 17th and 18th centuries for women to take their married names and would sometimes keep their maiden name to maintain the prestige of their family. Also, for many other reasons like inheritance, etc. Looking at the more sinister and darker side of this you might ask the question, would someone be willing to go as far as murder? That could be debatable depending on what's at stake, or at least from the perspective of those who might feel they are more entitled or allegedly perceive themselves as being under threat.

In some cases, due to the confusion about the true pedigrees of the Oliphants, one could argue that there might have been some slight misrepresenting of the truth or perhaps the misleading of the outcome as it related to a certain inheritance. The allure of wealth and the sense of entitlement has certainly been known to outweigh one's sense of familial loyalty, even when it comes to an obvious legitimate lateral hereditary order and logic.

To an outside observer, it might appear a web of deceit and deception based on pure unadulterated greed. I guess one can't condone anyone for doing what only comes naturally when faced with a perceived threat to your family's livelihood, which would be to circle the wagons and protect your own. This can be an innate human trait, which can be on full display especially when it comes to family inheritances. These characteristics have been proven over time to be the downfall of many civilizations, as well as the downfall of many aristocratic families.

Bearing this in mind; it has been alleged that certain individuals of a par-

ticular family have had the only access to the family Charter Chest, along with other source documents, such as church records, and letters written between family members, and have harbored these important papers for centuries. Supposing this information could more than likely prove beyond any reasonable doubt, a particular claim to a hereditary peerage title. According to Laurence James Oliphant 10th Laird of Gask, they don't exist anymore due to several catastrophic events that took place over time, or as he also mentioned, his gg grandfather threw them away.

Could it be possible, that those individuals who Sir James Oliphant of Gask alluded to on several occasions destroyed these documents for fear that they might expose some indiscretions from the past? Thereby denying any future potential heir apparent of their birthright and potentially blight their ability to claim their position in history and or the honor of the peerage title and dignity?

Only a few different conclusions can be made after reviewing all the remaining evidence enveloping this entire story when it comes to who would perpetrate such an elaborate cover-up. One; It's either an unbelievable coincidence and a fantabulous story that all this information somehow mysteriously got destroyed in a fire, was stolen by British soldiers when they used Gask as a stronghold during the war, or as it was suggested, just thrown away by Laurence Oliphant 5th or 6th of Gask, or somehow just vanished, never to be seen again. Or two; the inability to recover any of these documents, letters, and important papers, etc. might mean something more nefarious had taken place, thereby leaving the books and any selectively chosen materials available today to represent a particular version of the story as determined by these individual authors and or their subsidiaries.

One such instance that comes to mind relating to the Oliphants of Gask is the relationship quandary of Laurence 5th Laird of Gask's grandmother. A visitor to Gask' George Crawford, the Antiquary, (*Royal Genealogist*) who came to gather materials for his book, 'Scots Peerage', in 1710, was stated saying; "*Not having before me the documents which had been unearthed since my day, I 'Crawford', (and indeed James Douglas some years later,) have made mistakes in the early history of the Oliphant's.*"

Crawford writes to Gask as if he had been accused by someone of having a personal motivation for his portrayal of the truth about certain family relations, and his interpretation of various family history and heraldry; He leaves in a postscript in a letter to Laurence Oliphant of Gask Younger.

"You may let the Earl of Kinoule know I have no public encouragement but the gratifications I get for composing the accounts from the nobility themselves. I present my very humble respects to your father & my lady, your mother, and yourself."

Also, 'Alexander Nesbit, in the first volume of his "Heraldry," p. 245, gives a long account of the Lords Oliphant and their cadets,' legitimate and illegitimate.' He commands our confidence in his work, more than the famous Sir. George Mackenzie, whose, genealogy is reportedly now at Gask.

(In other words, Nesbit demands that everyone believe his version as the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. And the same goes for Crawford.) Of course, as I have pointed out, history has proven some of their works have misinterpretations of the truth as well as discrepancies.

The formerly mentioned writer Crawford gives many references in his work to the "*Charter, Penes Jacobum Oliphant de Gask*," In gathering his information, he asks Laurence Oliphant of Gask what he wants him to do about rewriting a particular page of their family pedigree. He mentions that he will put down whatever Laurence wants him to write. (*Was he talking about his grandmother?*) The problem with this is, it has made it extremely confusing to historians over the years as it relates to certain aspects of familial relations.

For instance, it was written in Laurence Oliphant 5th Laird of Gask's and his son's own hand, in a letter to H. M. Secretary Mr. Edgar on more than one occasion, that clearly states Lilias Oliphant, the eldest daughter from a previous marriage of Patrick Oliphant, 6th Lord Oliphant, was Laurence's grandmother, therefore making her the half-sister to his half-grand Uncle Col. William 9th Lord Oliphant, and not Margaret Murray as is written in the Scots peerage. [2] (*Crawford's work!*)

In addition, Crawford writes a short piece, in the Scots Peerage, where he mentions James Douglas's version, and he complains of the inaccuracies of the information Douglas writes about, (*which in my opinion was personally motivated*) yet at the same time he's telling Gask, he can give any account he sees fit. Talk about an oxymoron, because he likes getting it straight from the nobles themselves... (*As if they've never made any mistakes about their genealogies.*) All one has to do is try and discover the pedigrees of any of the Oliphant lines today, to see how far they can go. It's like trying to navigate a house of mirrors. And I've been doing it for over thirty years.

Even the very popular and renowned genealogist Hugh Peskett, who found one of the ex-US Presidents, Ronald Reagan's Scottish linage, and was the Author of the book called, '*The Kingdom in Scotland*,' wherein he states he faced pretentiousness in the case of a disputed Highland Chiefship 'Oliphant,' as well as many other research problems. Out of nine volumes of The Scots Peerage, Sir. James Balfour Paul, founded on Woods edition of Sir Robert Douglas's Peerage – 'Murray, Lord Elibank were all integrated into the Oliphant title and later their pedigrees. Hugh also studied W. Maitland Thomson's 1886, 'The Scots Peerage.' where he also states he ran into numerous discrepancies and contradictions throughout all these works. Mr. Peskett sadly died in 2020, but even he admitted in his book there is much confusion in the interpretations of these pedigrees.

Contrary to what some might say about the authenticity of this work. This is not just my story or my opinion alone. These are the opinions of many generations of family members, professional genealogists, experts, copyists, and researchers alike. Not only the ones I have broached on the subject over my many years of study, but I also cite some of these experts' own words. Although there are some contradictions, their stories about the misinterpretations remain consistent throughout their work.

In my naivety, in the beginning, I approached my family history by thinking. How difficult could it be to answer a few simple genealogical questions about paternity? I've always had an insatiable curiosity to find answers to what seemed like a simple question presented to my second great-grandfather, George Treacher Oliphant, and his siblings, which was; '*Can you prove your grandparent's marriage*?" I figured with the technology available today and the information I had discovered, surely it couldn't be that difficult. However, it turned out to be much more involved than I originally anticipated.

My initial interest in this search for my families history was piqued when I discovered a letter that accompanied our family Bible from my grandmother Oliphant to my father back in 1971, which I will show you later. But it mentioned some communication between my second great grandfather and a professor from the University of PA, Samuel Grant Oliphant, and that he 'my father' should investigate to try and figure out what exactly Samuel was after and what became of all this. She said it looked like Samuel was only interested in some inheritance back in Scotland and didn't want to mention anything to the Oliphant's in Newfoundland. Needless to say, this initial interest in finding the truth about what happened turned into a thirty-plus-year adventure.

The discoveries and information I present here, are a culmination of letters, family lore, family Bible entries, first-hand interviews and accounts, factual evidentiary and supportive documentation, and newspaper articles, along with the stories that our family has passed down for generations, and what they firmly believed. I'm only the messenger.

The purist's however will no doubt take up their slings and arrows to defend what they believe and vehemently defend the notion that this interpretation of these facts relating to the subject matter of William the missing boy are merely a fabrication and that's certainly their right. On the contrary, allowing these same individuals, purist's, experts, whoever they might be, to masquerade around as the sole independent arbiters of the truth does a grave injustice to the historical accuracy of the facts surrounding what happened in this particular circumstance, and also to the young boy William Oliphant, his brother Francis the 10th Lord Oliphant and ultimately the history behind their family lineage. I'm afraid, history holds us all accountable at some point.

The information I cite from these books on the history of the Oliphant's and their extended branches are the author's or their hired expert's version of their family history as they copied it, and as you can see from the discrepancies I point out, clearly mistakes have been made. As a result of these interpretations, it has posed a significant problem to those extended families trying to discover their own legitimate connection to various branches of these lines.

Take Samuel Grant Oliphant for instance. Even with his dogged determination, he was only able to get his line back to Perth, where it abruptly ended due to his inability to uncover the information necessary to give him the answers he sought, and as a result, he never published his book. I was determined that I would publish my work regardless of how I might feel about it's completeness. Anyone that has ever done family history knows, it's never done.

Although some of the information may appear circumstantial, I contend it is compelling beyond any reasonable doubt. Again, using the Occam's razor approach, it's simply common sense and this information I present shows the evidence that this line of Oliphant's does exist and also reveals the other side of this story that seemingly has never been explored. I don't feel I need to convince anyone of anything, the facts speak for themselves.

I have to remind myself sometimes that some people still think Elvis is alive, and some believe we never landed on the moon. I don't get these people

either, and whichever version you tend to believe, there will always be those who will continually perpetuate the story the way they see it. It's the Yin & Yang effect of humankind and is a universal reality.

When reviewing the petitions, claims, and material from these previously written books available on the Oliphants, it's more than mildly obvious there are significant biases within the history and only seem to relate to specific members of the family or certain cadet branches, etc. Granted there is a lot of factual historical information provided, but there are also ever-so-slight manipulations to give the impression certain factions are the only ones directly connected to the senior male line. This might give the impression that the only reason for these matriculation's, as it were, would be to try and maintain an illusion of power and or maintain a particular status quo.

Nevertheless, with the scant few, and fragmented pedigrees that have been unearthed and pieced together over the years, it's clear they are predominantly made up of these Cadet Branches, and even those are somewhat sketchy as to their origins. That's not to say, there isn't a possibility of other descendants of the senior male line still out there, but if there is, they just haven't been found yet, whereas William the Bulkers is clearly a straight line. That's where the DNA discoveries will most likely come into play when more lines can be proven viable. Coincidentally the authors of these older books written about the Oliphant's, seem to be the only ones who have supposedly ever had access to these original records, which as I mentioned, don't appear to be available to the public, or at least not yet anyway, and that is if they even exist anymore.

After the fire at the Condie Estate in 1866, it was said, that only a scarce amount of the family's belongings survived. However, of the minuscule amount of information that miraculously survived, it would appear by the content of these books, the limited information retrieved from the ashes just so happens to be linked to certain factions of these cadet branches. Ironically, these books have become the only reference point and supposedly the only source of this material. However there is always the ever present ruse of exclusivity continually being perpetuated by a handful of researchers stating they have discovered the metaphorical Golden Challis of information, which no one is allowed to see, which brings me back to my original statement about being a factual based person, seeing is believing.

In my opinion, It's just another clear example of the age-old argument that started among Thomson, Crawford, Douglas, and Nesbit, about whose work was the more accurate representation of the truth, when after a few

hundred years and a chance to review all their work, it's obvious they all had some inconsistencies to them, which is one of the main reasons I felt it was important to put this in print to once again point out the discrepancies among these previous experts to shine the light on those purist's who might grandstand with enthusiasm for the right to be the only arbiters of the truth and who refuse to acknowledge these misinterpretations in these older records and accept the fact that there is the possibility of another reality. In the alternative, when confronted on their proof of authenticity, their only rebuttal is to respond with a succession of rhetorical questioning and therefore exhibit another clear example of trying to kick the can down the road, and not except the reality that this is what happened.

In the musing about this matter, I've never once heard publicly the re-visiting of the possibility that William Oliphant Bulking Master at Leith, the son of Capt. Francis Oliphant Sr. and brother to Francis Oliphant Jr. 10th Lord Oliphant was on the scene the whole time, and it was never discussed, nor had anyone ever bothered to find out what really happened to young William. One of my many points of this book was to point out how ridiculous their arguments have been, and how the truth, whether anyone chooses to see it or not, has been right there the whole time, and it leaves me wondering, is this intentional?

This brings me back to the surviving relatives of this line who are now faced with the task of presenting this new reality of the events, their pedigree, and their connection to the senior line of the Oliphant family with not only their family documents, letters, archival transcripts, newspaper articles, as well as eye witness accounts, and the overwhelming circumstantial evidence, which in my opinion, cumulatively validates the legitimacy of this family connection.

It was mentioned in '*The Jacobite Lairds of Gask*,' "*the settlement of any claims should preferably take place out of the eyes of the probate court system.*" One can only assume this statement was to minimize legal costs, but also to avoid any documented evidence of any litigation or agreements reached that might reveal any potential familial connections that might later be used against them.

It is doubtful whether further research would add anything to the excellent article on the Oliphant's by J. Maitland Thomson in '*Scots Peerage*.'

(It is a remarkable fact that although much is known about individual members of the Oliphant family, sufficient evidence to prove their places in a pedigree has hitherto been undiscoverable', before the time of the first

Lord, from whom the descent is clear; but even the paternity of his father is uncertain.)

It's evident that whoever was ultimately responsible for muddying up the waters, made it their goal to put every potential usurper at a disadvantage. Not only did they stymie any surviving family member's ability to acquire any information pertaining to any descending family members, but they also put up roadblocks that would last hundreds of years in front of not only the descendants of Young William, in an attempt to thwart their ability to uncover the truth, but numerous other family lines connected to the Oliphant's in Scotland.

In reviewing the preponderance of evidence surrounding the subject of this broken branch and ultimately an extension of the senior line of the Oliphant family, whether you label it deceit or deception on the part of the alleged adversaries of the truth. One thing remains abundantly clear; much of the family traditions that have played out over the last few hundred years, in my opinion, have proven to be reliable and true, and this gives me further confidence that the other family information and traditions offer even more compelling evidence that the descendants of William Oliphant Bulking Master at Leith and his line of the Oliphant family, are undoubtedly connected to the Gask Oliphant's, and therefore the Lords Oliphant in their line of descent.

Chapter 14

Mysterious Deaths; Unexplained and Unusual Tales

Throughout my research, I discovered some very peculiar and unusual cases involving the deaths of people who were closely related or had some remote link to the Oliphant's and or the Gask estate, and how they mysteriously, or rather conveniently met their end without any real explanation and seemingly within a particular time frame.

Call it coincidence, old age, bad luck, or maybe something more nefarious, but in either case, with me, it tended to raise an eyebrow. Make no mistake, I'm in no way suggesting someone or their henchman, like in some thriller novel went out and eliminated any threat to their acquiring an inheritance. But at the same time, some odd coincidences didn't leave much if any logical explanation as to why they happened. As mentioned before, history has shown some people are willing to resort to desperate measures when it comes to selfishness and greed. Who knows where this entitlement mentality comes from? But to think this type of behavior is out of the realm of possibility might be a little naive.

These few tales I came across over the years describe some heart-wrenching and devastating circumstances and to my knowledge, the only formal inquests into the circumstances surrounding these deaths, are the ones that have been published in periodicals and newspapers. There is no evidence they are in any way related to the subject matter surrounding the estate, and the inquiry's done, show inconclusive. Nevertheless, the timing of these incidents and who these people were was rather intriguing.

Some of these inquests are rather lengthy, so I posted a beginning notation and an end so if you feel the need, you can breeze through them if it gets to be too much. Now, I'm no Inspector Gadget, but these tales and inquests

seemed to figure around Oliphant family members, or at least those who were closely related somehow. It just seemed a little odd as far as the timing of the events surrounding the settling of the estate, and I thought it might make for an interesting side chapter to this story. Besides, I've never heard anyone ever really talk about any of this before. Of course, again, I'm just the messenger, I leave it up to you to be the judge.

1728 – COL WILLIAM OLIPHANT, 9th LORD

The first such instance that stood out, was when Col William Oliphant, 9th Lord, was staying with Laurence James Oliphant 6th of Gask, and his father Laurence 5th of Gask at Williamstoun during Christmas in 1728. It bears mentioning he was there without his wife, or any other close family members, which seemed a bit odd, but there was never any detailed information about why he was there by himself. Also, we don't know where his wife Maria was or what happened to her. It was as if she had just mysteriously vanished.

Anyway, Laurence describes the 9th Lord's death to his brother Patrick in a letter he wrote to him in Leyden Holland. (1) "*The Oliphant's of Gask*". This letter stood out right away because of the seemingly hardhearted nature in which he described his dying. The Col. was there from the 20th of Dec and died on the 30th. On that last day, they, "whoever they were?" noticed him out of order, and said he started shivering and was cold, but later that evening around 11 o'clock he suddenly died. Now, this didn't seem that unusual, because after all, he was by their standards an elderly man, and it was late December in Scotland, so one would think it had to be cold.

It wasn't until years later, coupled with all the other strange coincidences that seemed to emerge involving this family, that I decided to revisit this situation and look for any clues or signs of foul play. The first thought that came to mind was, could he have possibly been poisoned? The reason I say this is because there were so many unknowns surrounding his death. Why was there never an Obit or write-up in the paper? or a clear diagnosis or explanation? clearly, during this time, they had the ability to do so. Most obituaries of the time listed some cause of death, be it Dropsy, inflammation of the lungs, etc. but nothing was mentioned about him. Also, Laurence mentions that the Col. was buried at Gask.

On the few occasions I had the opportunity to visit Gask and personally wander around the graveyard there, I never found a marker for him. Yet numerous other family members in this graveyard do have markers. Some-

one as prominent, you would think would have at least gotten some sort of marker.

Although the Colonel's death happened much earlier than the rest of these people mentioned here, most seemed to center around a particular block in time. Again, it may be just a coincidence, but it would appear most, or all of these people were either directly or indirectly associated with a family member somehow or who could have likely been a contender for the title or possibly a successor to the estate.

Nevertheless, the Col. William Oliphant didn't seem to have any close family around him who seemed to have his best interest in mind. If, however, this scenario is even remotely probable, and the original intent was to eliminate any obstacle to the peerage title. Then it certainly didn't turn out the way anyone who might have been responsible for such a heinous act would have hoped. Because if as suspected the Col informed his nephew Francis to pursue the title as soon after his death as possible, he may have even suspected some nefarious intent all along. After all, he had a battle-tested intelligence about him and was well aware of his surroundings. He didn't survive all those skirmishes by not knowing how to keep his head on a swivel and recognizing his enemies. Nevertheless, the full details surrounding his death and place of burial remains inconclusive.

1751 – WILLIAM OLIPHANT OF LANGTON

Very shortly after the death of Francis, the 10th Lord Oliphant in 1748, a contender named William Oliphant of Langton, whom we covered in an earlier chapter, voted in a session of peers. As a result, he supposedly claimed by *de facto*, the title, and started calling himself Lord Oliphant.

However, this infuriated Gask, who was basically a claimant himself, but felt he was clearly closer in descent and the next in line. He wrote a scathing letter, which we showed in an earlier chapter as well to His Majesty's secretary stating his concern. After being politely told it was probably not the best time to be bestowing the title on anyone, William of Langton, not even two years after this debacle, suddenly died in 1751. Which made me pause, and fell under the category of unusual.

Not much of an explanation was given about his death, but I think it was said the cause was old age. However, he was only 60. There again! Coincidence, bad luck, or what? In either case, no one ended up getting the title, and it remained dormant as of 1748.

1824 -WILHELMINA OLIPHANT'S ADOPTED FAMILY

These next few stories may or may not have had anything to do with the Gask estate, nor anything to do with the succession to the title, but are both closely tied to a family member, Wilhelmina Oliphant, who was the half-sister to William Gordon Oliphant Jr. Esq., and natural daughter to William Oliphant Customs Collector, who was the last of her generation to remain in Scotland.

Wilhelmina was adopted by Dr. Napier and spent her childhood in Grenada where Dr. Napier was practicing for a few years. Dr. Napier had two natural daughters, Margaret, and Sarah Eliza, and a son Robert who was born a year after adopting Wilhelmina.

Dr. Napier's only son Robert was born in 1793 in Bervie Scotland and became a Dr. like his father. Dr. Robert Napier Jr. was married to Matilda Johnson, and they had four children, William, Robert III, Sarah, and James.

In Wilhelmina's last will, she left William Napier her adopted Nephew the Gold Seal. I'm not sure if it was an Oliphant seal or Napier, it didn't specify.

Her other two adoptive Nephews, Robert and James left Scotland for NSW Australia. Coincidentally Robert Cassells Oliphant, Wilhelmina's natural half-nephew, also left for Sydney Australia around the same time. Robert Napier III, her adoptive nephew became the manager of The Commercial Bank of Sydney, and her other nephew James Napier, became a business developer of some kind in Melbourne Australia.

These are the strange and unusual tales I discovered about these two Napier brothers, and their father when I started researching the family in Australia. Because of their close family ties, and relationship with Wilhelmina Oliphant, I thought it was significant enough to tell the stories of what happened to them.

1824 – DR. ROBERT NAPIER JR.,

Wilhelmina's adoptive brother committed suicide. It was published in the paper at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. NE corner of England, on the coast of Scotland. Coincidentally the same place Dr. James Oliphant lived for a time.

'The Newcastle Courant – Saturday, June 12th, 1824,

Dr. Napier, a medical practitioner at Bervie, deprived himself of existence on the 19th ult. By opening veins in six places, and consequently bleeding to death.

As if this wasn't strange enough. I mean how does someone cut six veins? Not just a wrist, or something simple, no... six places. This sounds to me like you might need a little help, but I'm no medical expert.

These unusual deaths caught my attention and stood out merely because they happened during a certain time frame when a lot of other unusual happenings surrounded the Estate. A few years later, both of Wilhelmina Oliphant's adoptive Nephews, who were now living in Australia, both mysteriously ended up dead. Both incidents are listed on the '*Trove website*,' under the perspective newspapers from the area at the time.

1867- MR. ROBERT NAPIER III

The Empire. Sydney, Thursday March 21st, 1867

(***This is a long narrative***)

'BEGINNING'.

The City Coroner held an inquest yesterday, at North Shore, touching on the death of Mr. Robert Napier, Manager of the Commercial Bank, Sydney. Mr. John Emerson deposed: I am a Senior Constable in the New South Wales police force, stationed in North Shore.

About twenty minutes past 6 o'clock this morning, I received information that a man had drowned in a waterhole in Mr. Napier's Garden. I proceeded at once to the residence of Mr. Napier, and there saw the body of a man floating in a pool of water facing downwards. I procured a small pole and brought the body to the shore, and then pulled it onto the land. Immediately I identified the body as that of Robert Napier, whose body has now been viewed by the coroner and jury in my presence, at his late residence.

I sent someone for a doctor and had the body removed to his house. The body was dressed in nightgown and a morning dressing gown, and a pair of gutta percha galoshes. No other articles of clothing were on the body. Upon getting the body out of the water I searched the pockets, and all I found was a newspaper, which I now produce.

I examined all-round the pond but saw no signs of a struggle. With the

exception of the footsteps of the servant, no other footmarks were visible on the path leading to the pond from the house. There were no marks of violence on the body, which was cold when I got it out.

I visited the deceased's bedroom subsequent to the removal of his body to the house. His bed was disturbed. He had evidently been to bed. His waistcoat and other articles of clothing were hanging up apparently, in their usual place. There was no appearance of disorder in the room. Dr. Ward was in attendance a few minutes after I got the body out of the pond.

The pond referred to is situated about fifty yards from the house in the garden. In the widest part the pond is not more than six feet across. In that part of the pond where I found the body, the water, by measurement, was two foot six inches deep. This was the average depth of water in the pond all round.

I did not see any mud on the body, feet, or hands. His head was towards the bank of the pond nearest to the walk leading thereto. His eyes were closed. There was some light discharge from the nostrils. There were some steps in the pond about a yard from the body.

Edward Finnesey, deposed: I am a general servant in the employ of the late Mr. Robert Napier, whose body I have now viewed with the jury. This morning, about seventeen minutes past 6 o'clock, I was walking down the path from the house, passing the pond in the garden, and leading to the yard, when I saw something floating, which at first I took to be a bag, I took hold of a small sapling, and before I placed the sapling in the water, what I took for a bag I then believed to be a kitten; but afterwards placing the sapling in the pond, I found it was the body of a man. I then called James Holliday, who came.

I went for the constable, leaving James Holliday in the yard. I returned with Constable Emerson, and we, accompanied by Holliday, went to the pond. The body was brought to the shore by the constable, and I assisted in carrying the body to the house. When I found, the body I did not observe whether there were any marks about the banks of the pond. I left Mr. Napier's place about 6 o'clock yesterday evening. Mr. Napier was not at home then.

The body taken out of the pond was that of Robert Napier. At a subsequent period to the removal of the body to the house, I made search to see if I could discover any foot marks on the path leading to the pond, and all the footmarks I found were my own.

By Mr. Foreman, I came to work, later than usual this morning. Mr. Napier was in the habit of walking in the garden early in the morning dressed in the way he was this morning, only, that he generally wore slippers instead of galoshes.

As far as I know of the bank business or anything connected with the institution that would have affected the deceased, position or circumstances, having reference to the pending prosecution of the bank employee later alluded to.

By the Coroner: I have been in Mr. Napier's service three and a-half years. He was a very early riser. The first thing he generally did was to go to the pond where the swans were kept, on the other side of the garden. He was not subject to fits, to my knowledge. The swan pond is about the same depth as the pond in which the deceased's body was found floating. The steps now floating in the pond were upright in it; but I cannot say whether they were upright last night or not. I am the only man residing on the premises.

I always found the deceased of an equable temperance under the most trying circumstances. So far as I know, nothing occurred that would pray on his mind. His pecuniary circumstances, as far as I know, were easy. He has not met with any losses or disappointment lately.

Mr. Napier returned from Hobart Town on Saturday last. He came back specifically to give evidence in a criminal case against one of the bank employees. He was to have given evidence yesterday (19th) but did not do so. (Because he mysteriously ended up dead!) He attended with me on the bank solicitor, and gave explicit instructions for his examination, at which Interview he appeared cool and collected. He has spoken to me about the matter, but he never expressed to me that it caused him any annoyance.

I cannot say from his appearance, that death was the result of drowning, as the ordinary appearances of such a death are absent.

By a juror: I saw no movement of the body when I first saw it in the pond. The deceased had no cap or hat on his head, nor did I see any about the pond. He generally wore a low hat in the morning. I do not know exactly whether the swan pond is the same depth as the pond in which the deceased's body was found. The swan pond is fenced round, and cemented, and there is no way or means of getting out of the pond if in it.

If a man got into it, he could get out. There is no access from the top of that pond to the bottom. That pond is about six feet in height. I was going down to the yard after being to the pump. I did not go the nearest way to the yard. I went the way I did to see where I was going to put in some lettuces, and the straight way down to the pond from where Mr. Napier takes his bath, and from that side of the house is the path I went down when I found the body.

The man Holliday lives in the yard, and is the messenger of the bank, and if Mr. Napier had occasion to see Holliday in the night, that pathway would be the nearest way for him to reach Holliday's house. There is no fence between the pond and the path. I believe if I took two steps in a straight direction on a dark night, at the end of the pathway, it would bring me into the pond.

There was a good deal of water in the pond before the rain. James Holliday, the person alluded to in the evidence of preceding witness, corroborated Finnesey's testimony by relating nearly similar facts.

The body was floating face downwards. He rapped at Mr. Napier's door, and then went to his wife (Mrs. Holliday) and the female servant. They rapped at Mr. Napier's bedroom door but received no answer. Mr. Lord's man then came up. They did not touch the body in the pond.

He lived with Mr. Napier for six years. He was an early riser, and occasionally walked about the garden at daylight in his dressing gown and slippers. I saw him yesterday (Tuesday), and he seemed all right. Did not see him in the evening after his return home. I believed Mr. Napier's nephew slept in the house last night.

Mr. Napier had several times a morning given witness instructions, and the road passing the pond is the nearest way to Holliday's house from Mr. Napier's bedroom, the distance being about 200 yards.

By Mr. Slade, solicitor: The bottom of the pond is muddy. If a person fell in he could get out.

William Napier, examined by Mr. Slade: I am a nephew of the deceased, and am an apprentice on the board of Christiana Thompson. Last night I passed by this house on leave. I saw my uncle when I came over at twenty minutes to 7 o'clock. We had tea together after we had dinner. About the middle of his tea, he asked for the Herald, which he read. I and my, cousins-a boy and girl-left the room.

About half past 8 o'clock we returned and saw the deceased lying on the sofa. He looked serious, and I thought that something was on his mind. He said nothing to make me believe it. He asked how we were getting on with the cards. About five minutes before 9 o'clock he asked for the Bible and read a chapter and prayers as usual; and then said "Good night" to me and my cousins in the usual way, and we all three retired to bed.

In the usual way I knocked at the deceased's door this morning at twenty minutes to 6 o'clock. Not having an answer, I left without saying "Good-bye" for fear of disturbing him. I generally found his door open. This morning, I found it closed. The room is next to the one I slept in. I did not hear any unusual sounds during the night. I was awake at 2 and 5 o'clock this morning.

Edward Knox, examined by Mr. Slade, deposed: I knew the deceased well for many years. The last occasion on which I saw him was at a meeting yesterday, of the board of directors of the Commercial Bank of Sydney, of which I am chairman. He had been absent from the bank about a month at Hobart Town, (Tasmania) where his wife then was, in consequence of which Mr. Dibbs, assistant manager, performed the active duties at the board meeting yesterday. The deceased had been for about nine years the manager of the bank.

His relations to that institution during the whole of that period have been most satisfactory; so much so, that within the last twelve months his emoluments have been considerably increased. The fullest confidence of the directors was extended to the deceased until the last moment.

Nothing in respect to his relations with that institution could have, so far as I know, weighed upon his mind except the ordinary pressure of business avocations, from which he had been temporarily relieved. I thought he appeared a little absent and dull yesterday afternoon, which I attribute to the confusion incident to grappling with the subjects which had taken rise since his silence.

In the morning, he appeared perfectly well. Nothing transpired at the board to make him anxious or excited. He complained of a pain at the back of his head, which he attributed to exposure to the sun when fishing the previous day. I remained at the board during the whole of its sitting yesterday, and if anything had occurred unpleasant to excite or annoy the deceased, I must have known it.

Thomas Alwright Dibbs deposed: I am assistant manager of the Com-

mercial bank and was one of the deceased's most intimate friends. I saw the deceased on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. He complained of constipation, consequent to the voyage from Hobart Town. He complained of a throbbing at the back of his head yesterday. He was in good spirits yesterday morning, when I saw him first. I noticed at lunch, about 2 o'clock, that he did not appear so well. He did not appear so lively and did not eat much.

The last time I saw him was about half-past 5 o'clock yesterday evening, when there was nothing unusual in his manner. I pressed him to remain for the night at the bank in consequence of the inclement weather. He declined, saying he would like to do so, but he wanted to get home to see old "Mackie" the nurse, as she would be anxious about him. (Old Mackie is a very old and confidential attendant of the family.)

He said, "I have left my overcoat in your hall." He then put on his coat and wished me good night, in the usual way. There was nothing unusual in his manner.

He conversed actively on business up to the hour of 5 o'clock. The deceased was, I believe, forty-six years of age. He was a native of Scotland, - married, and left no children.

His widow is at present in Hobart Town, (*Coincidently, Wilhelmina Oliphant's' cousins, the LeGrand's also lived in Hobart.*) to which place it was his intention to return within a few days. He was gentle in his disposition, and very social in his habits. He was strictly moral. He has not met with any disappointments, and his pecuniary circumstances were easy.

Dr. Robert D. Ward deposed: I am a legally qualified medical practitioner. On the morning of this day, March 20th, I was called to see Mr. Napier, who was said to have drowned, between half-past 6 and 7 o'clock. I dressed and went as soon as possible to his house. I found the body, which I recognized as that of Mr. Napier, lying on its back, dressed in a coloured dressing gown and night shirt. The body was on a table in the verandah of the house. It was quite cold and must have been dead for at least an hour before I saw it.

There was mud on his beard and mustache. There was a slight bit of blood on the left temple, which was caused by a contusion so slight as to be scarcely perceptible. There were no other marks on the body, which was well nourished though slightly built.

The appearance of the body is not consistent with death by drowning. The appearances are more in accordance with death by syncope (fainting) than by drowning. In a peculiar state of the system syncope would be a natural result of a sudden and unexpected immersion in water and would account for the absence of the usual symptoms, which ordinarily characterize death by drowning.

Dr. John Le Gay Brereton deposed: I am a legally qualified medical practitioner of the Board of New South Wales, and was the medical attendant of the late Robert Napier, whose body I have now viewed in this house. For the last fifteen months, more or less, the deceased has been under my treatment. When I was first called in, Mr. Napier was suffering from general debility, so I ordered him to rest from his business, which a change of circumstances prevented him from taking until quite recently. He was not suffering from any active illness. I was very intimate with the deceased, and he was very calm, his mind perfectly clear, and he had an equable temper. He never showed any signs of insanity. He was a cheerful man and fond of society.

By Mr. Slade: I have heard the evidence of Dr. Ward and quite concur in his opinion that the symptoms were equally consistent with death by syncope (fainting) as by drowning. I should conclude there had been no effort to save himself. Even if the act had been intentional there would have been more of the ordinary symptoms of drowning than are now present.

A postmortem examination having been ordered, Dr. Ward and Dr. Le Gay Brereton were recalled, and gave their evidence as to the result of a postmortem examination. There was no appearance in any organ to lead to the supposition that he died from drowning. The lungs were natural and healthy. The heart was healthy and showed no evidence of death having arisen from asphyxia, but, on the contrary, indications of its having occurred from syncope. It was their opinion that syncope was the immediate cause of death.

The jury returned the following verdict: We find that Robert Napier, aged forty-six years, was found dead in a waterhole situated on the premises lately occupied by him at the North Shore, district of Sydney, on the 20th instant; but how he got into the said waterhole we have no evidence to say. We further find that the said Robert Napier died from syncope (fainting).

(**END OF INQUEST**)

1872 – *MR. JAMES NAPIER,* (Wilhelmina Oliphant's other adoptive Nephew)

The Age Newspaper, Melbourne, Tuesday December 24th, 1872

INQUEST ON MR. JAMES NAPIER.

The inquest on the body of Mr. James Napier, particulars of whose death have already appeared, took place yesterday at the Eagle Hotel Corio Street, Geelong, before Dr. Foster Shaw. No evidence was given to show how the deceased came by his death; but the testimony of Dr. Day went to prove that from the appearance presented by certain portions of the deceased's body, when taken out of the water, death could not have been by drowning.

The doctor read passages in favor of this theory from Guy's Forensic Medicine, and said similar views were expressed in Taylor's Medical Jurisprudence. – The coroner was of the opinion that the appearance presented by the deceased were not Inconsistent with death caused by asphyxia, as it was a well-known fact that the bodies of persons who have suffered death by hanging usually presented the same appearance; he would, however, leave the jury to decide whether it was necessary to make a post-mortem examination.

The jury retired, and, after a long consultation, returned a verdict of, found drowned. Captain Voium stated that the diary of the deceased, which was folly kept, had not been found amongst the papers, he had no reason to suppose that the deceased contemplated suicide, but he had observed him to be much depressed since the dissolution of the partnership of the firm he was connected with.

He also noticed that he was unusually low-spirited the day after the sale of the furniture (Thursday last). When the deceased did not return the witness felt rather uneasy and gave information to the police. Mr. Harwood briefly examined the witnesses on the part of the friends of the deceased, with a view, of showing that the death might have been caused by the deceased falling into the water while in a fit, (seizure) or of suffering from heart disease.

1864 – *RACHEL OLIPHANT*

Not long after the death of Rachel's brother, the last heir male of Gask, James Oliphant 10th Laird in 1847, as mentioned before, a volley of family members tried to figure out who were the rightful heirs to the estate.

Being the first child of the marriage between Laurence Oliphant, 8th Laird of Gask, and Christian Robertson, and heiress of Ardblair in Perthshire, Rachel Oliphant, from whom many old traditions of the family were sprung, born in 1797 was the last one of her generation.

Her Nephew Thomas Kington was working on solidifying what he considered his rightful inheritance of Gask and was apparently in line to inherit Ardblair upon Rachel's passing as she had no children. I was unable to find the information told to me about a so-called squabble and dispute between her and her nephew Thomas over whom Rachel thought was really entitled to inherit Ardblair and Gask. It was reported she was very outspoken about who she thought should inherit the estate, and that she was the main holdout for the transfer of title moving forward. That is of course, until she suddenly or conveniently died in 1864.

Once again, I'm not suggesting anything nefarious was going on, and or her nephew had anything to do with her conveniently timed departure, but the circumstances and timing would certainly make one's eyebrow raise, at least it did with me anyway.

1867 – *CAREL NARET OLIPHANT*, CLAIMANT TO GASK

After an extensive search by the lawyers Hunter & Conning, via newspaper advertisements, one comes on the track of the Oliphant branch in the Netherlands, presumably attentively created by the noted publicist and writer Sir Lawrence Oliphant of Australia, who as mentioned before, and apparently like Rachel Oliphant, didn't believe the current occupants of Gask were the rightful heirs, and merely interlopers, that is until Carel Naret Oliphant through his contacts with the Leyden publisher named Evert Jan Brill was found.

As it turned out, Carel Naret Oliphant, met the conditions for the inheritance and went to London in 1865 and testified, that he and his sister Maria had stayed for a short time with their grandfather James Oliphant in Leyden Holland and that they heard him tell the story of their great grandfather who fled Scotland after the 1715 rebellion and came to France, eventually to be in Leyden. His grandfather or great-grandfather was re-

portedly lineally connected to the Lords Oliphant.

After an intense negotiation with the family members living at the Gask estate, the father Carel, and his son Charles, gave up their claim for the peerage title but did manage to keep a generous annual annuity for life. However, Carel and his son Charles did not have much time to enjoy this annual annuity from their claim as Carel died September 26, 1867, just two years after their journey to London, and then Charles his son died less than a year later in 1868. According to the death certificate, Carel died on the couch in his house in Leyden, and no other explanation was given as to a cause. Nor was there much said about Charles his son's death. Was this just an unbelievable coincidence? Whatever the circumstances were surrounding the deaths of these two gentlemen, again, the timing seemed unusually suspicious.

1896 - MARGARET HARRIET 'HENRIETTA' STUART

There was another incident I found peculiar and seemed a little unusual involving an extended family member Ethel Graham who seemed to be keeping a very close eye on what was going on in regard to the settlement of the Gask Estate.

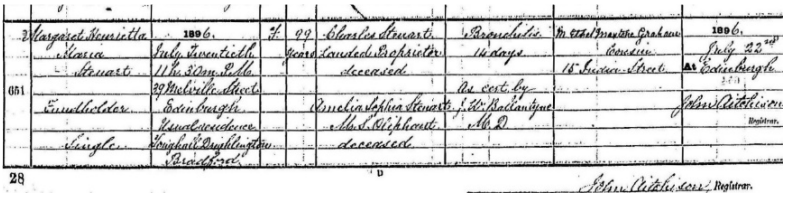
Wilhelmina Oliphant's Niece, Eliza Brenton Morgan, nee' Oliphant, who was the natural granddaughter of William Oliphant Esq. Customs Collector, and living in Newfoundland Canada, was corresponding with one of her half-cousins, Miss. Harriet 'Henrietta' Stuart, in Edinburgh Scotland who was the daughter of Amelia Sophia Stuart, nee' Oliphant, and granddaughter of Laurence Oliphant 8th of Gask.

I didn't find anything mysterious about Miss. Stuart's passing per se, because she was up there in age. But I did find it particularly interesting that in the coroner's report a particular family member was listed as the first one on the scene to claim the body before anyone else got there and is listed as next of kin. Miss. Steuart left in her Last Will, what little possessions she had were to be left to her great grand Nephew John Nairne Durrant Stuart of Dalguise. Maybe it's just me, but I found this a little unusual only because this same individual who was so very closely tied to everything else that was going on surrounding the settlement of the Gask Estate shows up to claim the body. So... Henrietta's story fell under the category of unusual tales.

It's merely supposition but one might think as keen as Ethel was to all the latest legal drama, and family proceedings going on surrounding the estate,

she would have no doubt confiscated any potential correspondence that might implicate or identify any other potential family members. Especially those who Ms. Stuart was corresponding with connected to their extended family line. i.e. their half-cousins in Newfoundland.

1896 – CORONER'S REPORT FOR MARGARET HENRIETTA STUART



After I discovered this, I made every reasonable effort to find any letters of correspondence in Newfoundland between these two cousins Mrs. Eliza Oliphant Morgan, and Miss. Margaret Stuart. According to these preceding articles, they were clearly maintaining correspondence with each other.

Eliza Oliphant Morgan had a nephew John Charles Bailey who later moved to Canso Nova Scotia and had one daughter Emily and a son JC Jr. He was the only one of this side of the family to have any children. Eliza's nieces, Jane Caroline Oliphant Bailey and her sisters, Emily and Laura, all died without issue. I never investigated whether Charles their brother and or any of his family might have had anything in the way of correspondence between these women, his Aunt Eliza, or his sister Jane and Miss Stuart.

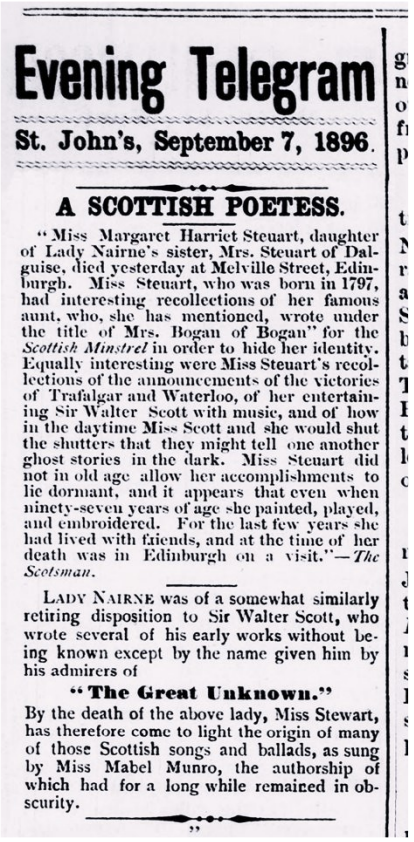
There was an old trunk full of letters discovered at the old Bailey homestead in Oderin Nfld. in 1997 by one of the Bailey descendants, and some of the letters dated back to 1790. I reviewed the remaining letters and there were some from Jane Oliphant Bailey, but were mostly between her and her mother-in-law, and nothing to indicate any correspondence between her and Miss Steuart or of her Aunt Eliza's correspondence with their cousin in Scotland.

Barbara Bennett, the family member who found the letters said a Gentleman whom she thought was an attorney came to visit her from London and was interested in the historical significance of these letters. She was under the impression he was only interested in anything related to the Telegraph Office or Cable House and she didn't pay attention to any of the Oliphant correspondence, as it wasn't as much of an interest to her as the letters related to her ancestor Samuel Bailey were. Barbara said she believed

this Gentleman may have even taken a few letters but couldn't recall what he might have taken. Again, she said her main interest was those from her relatives, and she eventually donated the letters to the local archives in St. John's, except for a few directly related to her side of the family. I asked her if she still had this Gentleman's contact information, and she said it was so long ago, she didn't recall what she did with it.

Jane Oliphant Bailey – Eliza's niece and her family were all aware of what was going on with the Gask estate. However, as previously mentioned, due to the Primogeniture inheritance laws in those days, they were powerless to take any action regarding their immediate family as her uncle, Robert Cassells Oliphant and his sons were the senior heir males. I can only speculate, that if found, these letters would have only added additional confirmation to the family's connection.

These articles were found by the researcher Edward Chafe in Newfoundland and were found in the Evening Telegram St. John's Newfoundland. The first is the announcement of Miss. Stuart's death, and the second is about the association and relationship between Eliza Oliphant Morgan and Henrietta Stuart. Also, a perfect example of how newspaper articles can sometimes have misspellings of names, Harriet as it says in the article, and another one in Belfast Ireland, has Henrietta listed in both articles incorrectly. Her Last Will clearly lists her as Margaret Henrietta Maria Stuart. Also, in the first article they spell her last name Steuart -Stuart, and Stewart, differently in two places.



Evening Telegram

St. John's, September 7, 1896.

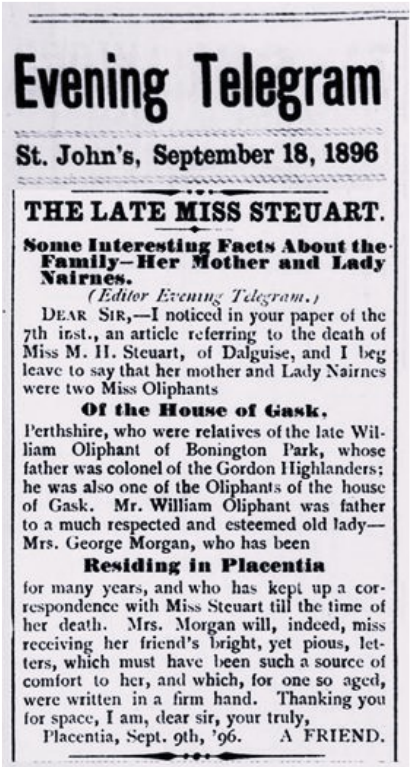
A SCOTTISH POETESS.

"Miss Margaret Harriet Steuart, daughter of Lady Nairne's sister, Mrs. Steuart of Dalguise, died yesterday at Melville Street, Edinburgh. Miss Steuart, who was born in 1797, had interesting recollections of her famous aunt, who, she has mentioned, wrote under the title of Mrs. Bogan of Bogan" for the *Scottish Minstrel* in order to hide her identity. Equally interesting were Miss Steuart's recollections of the announcements of the victories of Trafalgar and Waterloo, of her entertaining Sir Walter Scott with music, and of how in the daytime Miss Scott and she would shut the shutters that they might tell one another ghost stories in the dark. Miss Steuart did not in old age allow her accomplishments to lie dormant, and it appears that even when ninety-seven years of age she painted, played, and embroidered. For the last few years she had lived with friends, and at the time of her death was in Edinburgh on a visit."—*The Scotsman.*

LADY NAIRNE was of a somewhat similarly retiring disposition to Sir Walter Scott, who wrote several of his early works without being known except by the name given him by his admirers of

"The Great Unknown."

By the death of the above lady, Miss Stewart, has therefore come to light the origin of many of those Scottish songs and ballads, as sung by Miss Mabel Munro, the authorship of which had for a long while remained in obscurity.



Evening Telegram

St. John's, September 18, 1896

THE LATE MISS STEUART.

Some Interesting Facts About the Family—Her Mother and Lady Nairnes.

(Editor Evening Telegram.)

DEAR SIR,—I noticed in your paper of the 7th inst., an article referring to the death of Miss M. H. Steuart, of Dalguise, and I beg leave to say that her mother and Lady Nairnes were two Miss Oliphants

Of the House of Gask.

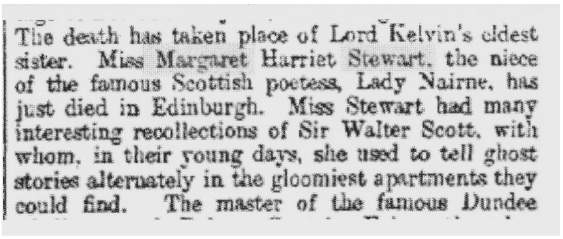
Perthshire, who were relatives of the late William Oliphant of Bonington Park, whose father was colonel of the Gordon Highlanders; he was also one of the Oliphants of the house of Gask. Mr. William Oliphant was father to a much respected and esteemed old lady—Mrs. George Morgan, who has been

Residing in Placentia

for many years, and who has kept up a correspondence with Miss Steuart till the time of her death. Mrs. Morgan will, indeed, miss receiving her friend's bright, yet pious, letters, which must have been such a source of comfort to her, and which, for one so aged, were written in a firm hand. Thanking you for space, I am, dear sir, your truly,

Placentia, Sept. 9th, '96. A FRIEND.

The following article is a copy of a similar notice found in a Belfast Ireland newspaper about Miss. Steuart's passing. Notice the spelling of her name. Again, an example of how it can be confusing to researchers, but clearly the same woman.



The death has taken place of Lord Kelvin's eldest sister. Miss Margaret Harriet Stewart, the niece of the famous Scottish poetess, Lady Nairne, has just died in Edinburgh. Miss Stewart had many interesting recollections of Sir Walter Scott, with whom, in their young days, she used to tell ghost stories alternately in the gloomiest apartments they could find. The master of the famous Dundee

In following up on the information in this Belfast article, that stated she was the eldest sister to Lord Kelvin. I was unable to verify his connection.

The research into this started getting into the possibility that she was his half-sister and that he possibly took the last name of his biological mother, to gain the title of Lord Kelvin, etc. It started going down a rabbit hole with unverifiable information. It did lean toward a Gask connection, but there again was unverifiable due to missing records. The information I found indicated that his father was a Mr. Thomson a Mathematician, and professor who home-schooled all his kids who became very proficient in math, and one of his sons became a professor of math and taught at Glasgow University. Although interesting, the story started getting rather complicated and didn't really lend anything else to our story, so I dropped it.

These stories and unusual tales are only a few of the ones that really stood out to me and or that I was able to find available information on. There were a few others I didn't delve into because some of this information could be from a Sherlock Holmes Novel and could go on and on but doesn't really have anything to do with the subject of this book per se, So... although interesting, it didn't really provide any more information on our missing young boy, so I didn't pursue this any further. I was however interested in finding out what happened to the sons of Dr. James Oliphant of the infamous Tyne Bridge Murder Story, and their niece Janet who Ethel mentions in her book, '*The Oliphants of Gask*.' It would be interesting to find out when and how exactly they died, but although unusually suspicious sounding, these are stories for another day.

Chapter 15

Lieutenant Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr. Esq.

Robert Cassells Oliphant *- b. August 24, 1819, in London England. Christened Aug 25th at St. Marylebone Church, London. d. October 2nd, 1894, (heart disease and Asthma), age 74 yrs. in the George St. Asylum for the Infirm & Destitute, Parramatta, NSW, (Buried Oct 3rd, 1894, Rockwood Cemetery, Homebush, NSW. m. 1.)* ***Mary Anne Harwood****, on March 22nd, 1847, St. Mary, Haggerston, London England. She was born about. 1819, presumably in London. d. 1862, presumably in NSW Sydney. She was the daughter of* ***John Harwood Esq.*** *of London. He married 2.)* ***Clarence Howard Jamison****, b. abt. 1826, England, d. 1882, Lismore Australia. She had no children with Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr.*

When Robert Cassells Oliphant was around 13 years old, he tragically lost both his parents, he went to live with his oldest sister Jane Elizabeth Perchard, born Oliphant in Newfoundland for a few years. He later decided to join the Army.

1842 - JOINS NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT

London Gazette, Issue 20169 – published on November 25, page 2.

Robert Cassells Oliphant to be ensign in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

At the age of 22, he received his commission in the Army as an Ensign to the Newfoundland Companies. Shortly after, he was shipped off to London England, and was soon involved in a skirmish between the British and India. Don't quote me on this, but I believe it was called the *Raj War*.

1846 - PROMOTED TO LIEUTENANT

London Gazette, Issue 20681, published on December 8th, page 2.

Royal Newfoundland Companies, Robert Cassells Oliphant, from the 80th Regiment, to be Lieutenant, vice Hunt, promoted.

According to the War Office Records in Kew London, Robert's appointment to Lieutenant was not purchased, as was sometimes the case with more affluent families, where they would purchase a lieutenantship for their sons in hopes of keeping them out of harm's way and increasing their chances of returning home. To have earned this position was considered a prestigious accomplishment.

1847 - *FURLOT FROM ARMY*

The Aberdeen Journal (Scotland), & The London Gazette, War Office, Wednesday February 24th.

Memorandum – The removal of Lieutenant Robert Cassells Oliphant from the 80th Regiment of Foot on Dec 8th, 1846, has been canceled. (Was this because of his approaching marriage?)

1847 – MARRIAGE TO 1ST WIFE

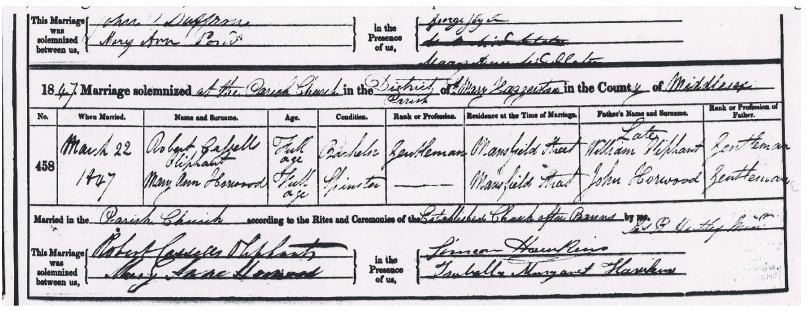
March 22nd, London, England, Marriages, and Banns, 1754 – 1921 for Robert Cassells Oliphant. (Interactive.ancestryinstitution.com.)

Robert Cassells Oliphant bachelor 28, gentleman, residence, Mansfield St. Haggerstone. Father was the late William Gordon Oliphant, – Gentleman.

Mary Anne Harwood, of full age 28, spinster, residence Mansfield St. Haggerstone, Father – John Harwood, Gentleman.

Witnesses; Simpson and Isabella Margaret Hawkins.

Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr.'s first marriage certificate.



No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
459	March 22 1847	Robert Cassells Oliphant	Full age	Bachelor	Gentleman	Mansfield Street	late William Oliphant	Gentleman
		Mary Ann Harwood	Full age	Spinster	—	Mansfield Street	John Harwood	Gentleman

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church after Banns by me, [illegible]

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Robert Cassells Oliphant / Mary Anne Harwood

In the Presence of us, Simon Hawkins / Isabella Margaret Hawkins

Shortly after marrying Mary Anne Harwood, they had their first, and only son, Robert Cassells Oliphant Jr. There is a short window between the marriage date and the birth of their son Robert Jr. who was born Dec 1847. A birth record for Robert Jr was never located.

1850 – SELLS LIEUTENANTSHIP

In Harts Annual Army list, it shows Robert Cassells Oliphant of the 80th Regiment of foot as retired by sale of commission.

More information can be found at the; *National Archives in Kew London in the Monthly Muster Roll of the Eightieth Regiment of Foot, for three months ending the 31st of Dec 1850. Ref: WO12 Vol # 8492.*

Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr. returned to civilian life in 1850, after selling his commission of lieutenant, and there began a brief period of a few years where we lost his paper trail until he showed up in NSW Australia, or more specifically Albury, just outside Sydney, where he purchased 200 plus acres of land.

1853 – ARRIVES IN AUSTRALIA

Barque, (Ship) 'Katherine Stewart Forbes' arrived in Fort Jackson, (Sydney) NSW, on 7th, June 1853, from London.

Passengers: Mr. Olephant {sic}, wife and son.

Emigration to Australia – Robert's death registration, in Oct 1894, says he was in NSW 41 years, arriving in 1853, in 1857, he says he's been in the colony 4 years. So, this ship log is more than likely for him and his family. (*Transcriber error*)

Robert Cassells Oliphant must have applied soon after their arrival for an appointment with the NSW government, because by August, he was appointed as a Court Official at Albury, NSW.

Coincidentally, this was a prestigious position, and you would either need to be politically well-connected i.e. his military ranking, or related to Nobility to be considered, much less obtain such a position.

1853 – BECOMES CLERK OF PETTY SESSIONS ALBURY

Albury NSW Government Gazette, 9th, August 1853, page 1333.

His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to appoint Mr. Robert

Cassells Oliphant to be Clerk of Petty Sessions at Albury. By his Excellency's command, E. Deas Thomson, Colonial Secretary.

1854 – LAND PURCHASE

February 1st – May 16th, New South Wales Government Gazette (Sydney) page. 1013. Registry of Deeds Office, Supreme Court.

The deeds specified in the annexed list have been enrolled in this office, under the provisions of the Act of the Government and legislative Council, 13th Victoria, having been transmitted to the surveyor General to be forwarded to the Colonial Treasurer for delivery to the Grantees.

Robert Cassells Oliphant, Cumberland, 46 Acres, County Lot #45, - 97 Acres, County Lot #42, and 90 Acres, County lot #53, more or less. Witness; Sir. Charles Augustus Fitz Roy.

Also, Property granted to Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr., Feb 1854, NSW Australia Vol # 1383, Folio 99. Which was named 'Little Gask,' after he took possession. The Estate was later sold or part of his insolvency case, and called 'Trowers Estate, near Botany Bay.'

There was an article that said Robert Cassells Oliphant was given a Grant of land. However, according to the original deeds, it appears he purchased the land outright, which was well over 200 acres, in Albury NSW alone. But then there was another estate apparently granted to him, which we listed above, and he called it 'Little Gask' near Botany Bay, Sydney. I thought this was an interesting choice of names.

To purchase all this land would have taken a considerable amount of money and for a young 32 yr. old military gentleman, recently married, with a young child in tow, to have suddenly come into, begs the question. Where did he get all this money? We know he sold his lieutenantship, but how much could that have realistically been worth? We can only assume it came from the sale of Bonnington House in Edinburgh, and there is no evidence anyone from the Gask Estate ever paid him any sort of settlement. Needless to say, it was interesting that he named this one estate, 'Little Gask.'

Ironically, Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr. listed his occupation as Gentleman on his Marriage Certificate, to Mary Anne Harwood in London. There again, indicating he was of a wealthy family, and had no need to work. The question is why did he list it this way? I can only assume it was about the

time he sold Bonnington House. Or did he manage to convince Hunter & Conning of his connection to the Gask family, and receive some sort of undisclosed settlement? If he did, he certainly kept it to himself and never mentioned anything to his brothers and sisters back in Newfoundland. Or was he wanting his new father-in-law to feel secure in the fact that his daughter would be well looked after.

It just seemed odd that he didn't list or mention his military title on his marriage certificate because it seemed to be associated with his identity on everything else he did throughout the rest of his life.

1855 – SEEKS FORTUNE IN GOLD RUSH

Shortly after settling in Albury, and as mentioned in his son's obit in 1928, Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr. had fallen victim to the allure and seduction of a get-rich-quick scheme and was drawn to the big Gold Rush going on in Victoria. He moved his family there to take part in it but only stayed for about six months. It was said he had little success.

You have to ask yourself, how much money or land did he lose in this venture? And did he take a leave of absence from his position with the Municipal Council? It might give us some insight into his character, as well as an indication he was a little bit of a spendthrift like his father because their stories ended somewhat the same. It was rumored he was a bit of a gambler. I guess the fruit doesn't fall far from the tree as the old saying goes.

1856 – DISCHARGE FROM MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

It was listed in an article that Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr. was discharged from his position as Court Bailiff for the Municipal Council of Sydney due to, as they put it, 'Intemperance.' Or was it because he simply abandoned his post for greener pastures. This ended any records of any sort of occupation or career for him for at least the next thirty years or more, however he was briefly listed as an insurance salesman. Maybe this was his side gig for extra income while he sold off all his land.

However, he later filed a petition for an allowance of 50 pounds per annum, in addition to his salary for his services to the Corporation, and it was referred to the finance committee. I guess as a retirement pension or severance package from the Government.

1857 – NEWSPAPER NOTICE - *The Argus (Melbourne) 26th, August.*

Mr. Robert Cassells Oliphant, who arrived in these colonies about four years ago, is desirous of stating, in reply to an advertisement which appeared in one of the Melbourne papers, some six months since, that he can be heard of by any communication addressed to the General Post Office, Sydney.

(I wasn't exactly sure what this notice was all about, and there doesn't seem to be any follow-up in any of his records.)

1857 – DEATH OF UNCLE

Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr.'s Uncle Edward Cundell, who was a former business partner of his father died at New Norfolk, Tasmania, on 31st Oct. There wasn't any information that would indicate they had a close relationship. He seemed to be more closely connected to his aunt Agnes 'Cundell' Atkinson, who was living at Cumber St. Parramatta, Sydney. I assume a funeral for his Uncle was held in Tasmania.

1858 – RECEIVES PENSION - *Sydney Morning Herald Aug 23rd.*

Municipal Council, Allowance to Corporation Bailiff.

A meeting of the Municipal Council of Sydney will be held today at two o'clock, for considering the following notice of motion. "That the report of the Finance Committee, received by Council on the 16th instant, recommending that an allowance of 50 pounds per annum be made to Mr. Robert Oliphant, as bailiff to the Corporation, in addition to fees received by him, be adopted. Though they stated it as an inconvenient time to consider a question of this kind, the alteration was made, and the resolution was put and carried.

1859 – FILES FOR INSOLVENCY *Oct 5th,*

Insolvency Court Weds, Before the Chief Commissioner of Insolvency Estates.

Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr. filed in Insolvency Court and started liquidating all his assets. As a condition of his insolvency, he was allowed to retain his household furniture and wearing apparel, (clothes) and given one month to pay his rent.

1861 – INSOLVENT CONCLUSION

SMH - *March 14th, In the estate of Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr., a meeting took place, and the insolvent attended. They agreed no other debts were owed,*

and the meeting terminated.

1862 – DEATH OF 1ST WIFE - *NSW Registry of Deaths 364/ Sydney district.*

***Oliphant** – Mary Anne Harwood, wife of Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr. age 43.*

There was no obituary found in the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper, but there was an announcement from a Reverend Hayden, cautioning the public against Mr. Oliphant, who he claimed was trying to obtain money under the pretense of paying for the funeral expenses of his deceased wife. I guess this would have been like a poor family today setting up a 'Go-Fund-Me' page used to help the family cover unexpected medical and burial expenses, but according to this Rev., who I guess frowned on this behavior, placed an ad in the paper to reprimand and shame him.

It was never discovered what Mary Anne's cause of death was, but she was relatively young.

1864 – MARRIAGE TO 2ND WIFE - *NSW RGD 529/1864*

Robert Cassells Oliphant, born England, commission agent, age 45, resident of Sydney, NSW. To Clarence Howard, widow, born England, aged 38, resident of Kiama, NSW. 'Signed with her mark,' Presbyterian ceremony in Elizabeth St. Sydney. Celebrant, James Fullerton, Witnesses –George B. Wood, and Catherine Howard.

SMH, Thurs, 21st, July 1864 page 12.

Oliphant – Jamison – June 22nd, at Sydney, by the Rev. James Fullerton, L.L.D., Lieutenant Robert Cassells Oliphant, late of H. M. 80th Regiment of Foot, and formerly of Bonnington Park, Edinburgh, to Clarence Howard, of Jamberoo, NSW. Widow of the late Dr. Thomas Jamison.

Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr. second marriage didn't last very long, and she left him to go stay with her family up North in the Lismore district of Australia. Her family were listed as 'Cedar Getters.' Apparently involved in the harvesting of cedar trees and lumber for sale. Clarence Howard Oliphant nee Jamison was the widow of Dr. Jamison who was originally from Dublin Ireland. No relation to the Jamieson's on Robert's mother's side of the family, who were living in Tasmania.

1864 – DEATH OF AUNT

Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr. lost his widowed Aunt, Agnes (Cundell) Atkinson, who died in Hobart Tasmania on September 30th, 1864. It's unclear why she was in Tasmania when she passed because she lived in Parramatta NSW. Maybe visiting her sister Margaret who lived there. Her Brother Edward's family lived there too. She apparently died intestate or her Will was never probated.

1868 – SONS MARRIAGE - his only son Robert Cassells Oliphant Jr. (see his entry)

1879 – THE BELFAST NEWS – *Thursday, April 24th, Issue 19854, (Belfast Ireland)*

Robert Cassells Oliphant – The party who advertised for Mr. Robert Cassells Oliphant in the Australian papers some time since, will hear of him by applying to William O'Keeffe & Sons, Solicitors, 4, Nassan Street, Dublin.

This was a random article found in The Belfast Ireland News. I have no idea what it was about but thought I would add it to the list of articles related to Robert C Oliphant Sr. His half Aunt Wilhelmina had died in 1874 leaving her estate to her half Niece, who was named after her. Her niece's husband died shortly after, and this niece moved to Dublin to live with one of her daughters. This may have had something to do with this, but again, I'm not sure.

1882 – MISSING - *February 8th, (Victoria Police Gazettes, and NSW Police Gazettes)*

It's unclear what exactly took place here, but there were several articles placed in different newspapers around NSW, by Robert's son, and the local sheriff's office claiming Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr. went missing. Which read.

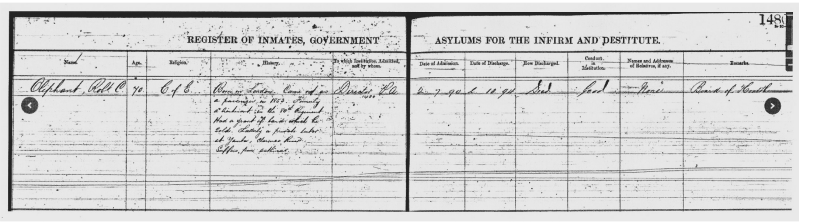
***Sydney**, - Missing from his home, No. 78 Bathurst Street, since the 17th of Feb, ultimo, Robert C. Oliphant, 60 years of age, 5 feet 6 inches high, stout build, gray hair, slight whiskers, scar under the lower lip, one tooth out of upper jaw; dressed in dark coat, light trousers and vest, and black hat. Carries a sliver open face lever stopwatch with hair guard attached. Information to the inspector General of Police.*

1882 – DEATH OF 2ND WIFE - *23rd Feb 1882.*

Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr.'s second wife Clarence Howard Oliphant died fifteen days after his disappearance. Not saying he had anything to do with it, but maybe he got word she was ill or dying from her family or friends, or had some sort of accident, etc. and he wanted to visit her before she died. There are questions about this that don't seem to have any answers. The timing of his disappearance with her death just a few weeks later seemed more than just a coincidence. No one knows for sure what happened, but he eventually returned home.

After 1882 we lose track of Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr. on paper anyway, for the next seven years. I didn't find any census records indicating where he lived, or who he may have been living with, but then he shows up in 1890 being admitted to what amounts to a nursing home for the infirm. This was during the time of the great depression, and he might have fallen on hard times, but this facility was for the destitute.

1890 - 1894 NSW – HOSPITAL RECORDS FOR ROBERT C. OLIPHANT SR. 1840 -1913.


REGISTER OF INMATES, GOVERNMENT ASYLUMS FOR THE INFIRM AND DESTITUTE.

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Name | Age. | Religion. | Illness. | Date of Admission. | Date of Discharge. | How Discharged. | Conduct in Institution. | Name and Address of Relatives, if any. | Remarks.

Oliphant, Robt C. | 70 | C of E. | Senile Decay | Bonnington House

Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr. had a granddaughter who, according to a census record, lived just around the corner from this facility. She might have spent time with or at least visited with her grandfather while he was there over the next four years.

It's merely supposition but Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr. and his younger brother George Treacher Oliphant, who was living in Newfoundland at the time, and coincidentally the only other surviving male of this generation in this line, must have spoken at some point about what they would do with Bonnington House in Leith and or what they would do if approached about providing evidence of a connection to the Gask family. Or how they could answer the question from Hunter & Conning regarding their grandparents' marriage. There was no evidence they were communicating with their Aunt Wilhelmina who still lived in Scotland and certainly would

have known about their family relations and or any potential inheritance.

George mentions in a letter, years later, that it would have all gone to his older brother Robert anyway, which gave me the impression, the topic was discussed at some point, and this would have been according to primogeniture inheritance law during this time. Meaning any wealth the family had would be left to the oldest male in the family.

Incidentally, it was later determined that 'primogeniture,' the passing of wealth to the eldest son – was accused of creating strict social hierarchies and was later abolished. The goal was to level the social playing field and change the theory about the emergence of equitable inheritance customs. Also, the goal was to empower women. Specifically, to enhance gender and class equality in the political and social realm. Abolishing the law would promote relative financial equality and be done in the spirit of family pride. Share and share alike.

Since Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr. was the eldest surviving male in his family, he would have technically been the rightful heir, provided he could present evidence of his connection, or as the Attorney suggested, prove his grandparent's marriage. Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr. would therefore have been eligible to file a petition for the dormant title, to become 11th Lord Oliphant.

Greg Ross, a researcher in Edinburgh, found a Sasine (Court) record where Robert Cassells had sold Bonnington House in Leith, about the time he left for Albury NSW, which could account for the resources to purchase several large tracks of land there. Greg never sent it to me before he died, and I had no reason to doubt him, but I didn't see it as significant at the time and later couldn't find it in the Sasines.

As for any potential payout or settlement from the Gask Estate to Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr., There was a Trust set up to handle any possible payouts or settlement negotiations handled by the proprietors of the estate, and therefore, no records of any transactions would be available except possibly in the Charter Chest at Gask if they even still exist. Certainly, these agreements would not have been made available to the public and, as mentioned before, any arrangement made concerning the Gask Estate would have been handled by "Hunter & Conning," Barristers, for Thomas Kington, and Ethel Maxtone Graham, and would have been settled out of probate court privately as previously mentioned. To my knowledge, none of the records from these attorneys have ever been seen. which is no doubt by design.

I often wondered if Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr. Esq. had ever spoken to his half-aunt, Wilhelmina Oliphant about any of this. After all, she was living in Montrose Scotland at the time. Did she ever have any involvement in handling any affairs surrounding her half-brother's estate? Specifically, Bonnington House. We don't have any indication they were communicating, but I did wonder if she ever discouraged her nephew Robert from having any involvement with his half-cousins on that side of the family. Did she tell him to take whatever they might offer him, "if anything," and take his young son and new bride to Australia with the rest of their extended family? It just seemed odd that he just took off to Australia instead of going back to Newfoundland where his brother and sisters were.

When it came to finances, Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr. seemed to follow in the footsteps of his father in this area. There also doesn't appear to be any indication he had a great relationship with his only son, because there were no signs outwardly of any interaction between them. It would appear by all indications, that he was more than likely an embarrassment to his family, and his relationship with his son was strained.

Nevertheless, his only son Robert Cassells Oliphant Jr. would succeed his father as senior male in the hereditary line, therefore making him the rightful heir to the title and dignity. That is, if he chose to pursue it. I don't know if his father ever prepped him regarding his family history, or even gave him information about his family line. You might think the fact that he named one of his properties 'Little Gask,' that there was some indication the subject was broached, and being around his Aunts and Uncles from his grandmother's side of the family he surely had to know about his family connections back in Scotland, but just how deep, he may not have known.

Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr. is buried at Rockwood Cemetery – Parramatta, New South Wales, Sydney. Zone B – Section L – Allotment 1522. Date of interment; March 10th, 1894, aged 74 years.

Chapter 16

Robert Cassells Oliphant Jr

Robert Cassells Oliphant Jr. *- b. Dec, 1847, reportedly in St. John's Newfoundland, but no record was found. d. December 17th, 1928, in Paddington, NSW Sydney, at age 81 years. Burial took place at Waverly Cemetery, Paddington NSW. He married* ***Annie McGrath,*** *1868, she was b. 1847. d. November 28th, 1932, Paddington, NSW. She was the daughter of* ***Patrick and Sarah McGrath.***

Robert Cassells Oliphant Jr. being the only son, was the successor to his father and rightful heir male to the Oliphant peerage title and dignity. However, there's no indication he ever pursued the title. His great Aunt Agnes lived in Parramatta NSW, and his great Uncle Edward Cundell and grandmother's side of the family were living in Hobart Tasmania, so... he had to have interacted with them, and I'm sure on numerous occasions they would have explained his family heritage and ties to his relatives back in Scotland.

The family was aware of the Gask estate, and the family connection, because one of his cousins, Margaret LeGrand Jamieson, who lived in Tasmania and was the granddaughter of Robert Jr.'s grandmother's sister, mentioned communication between her family and his aunt, Eliza Oliphant Morgan in Newfoundland. So, they were all in contact with one another, and the subject clearly was discussed. Perhaps he just wasn't interested in looking into any title or finding out what happened with the Gask Estate. Then again, maybe his father already explained that they made some sort of agreement, and he was paid off, or there was nothing else to it. We may never know for sure, but if he did, there certainly wasn't any indication of it in writing.

Robert Cassells Oliphant Jr.'s death certificate in Paddington, NSW, lists him as 81 years old, which would confirm his birth date of 1847. The Obit

says he was born in Newfoundland. However, after a thorough search of St. John the Baptist Church records in Nfld., where his father and his aunts attended when they lived there, there were no records found. That's not to say it didn't take place somewhere else, but I wasn't able to find anything. His Uncle George Treacher Oliphant was living in Aquaforte Nfld. around this time, and they may have registered it there. Unfortunately, those records are missing, and there was no mention of his birth in the family bible.

The only reason this seemed a little confusing was his parents married in London in Mar of 1847. The question was, did Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr. and Mary Anne Harwood go to Nfld for a brief period around Christmas when he was born in Dec? It just seemed to be a very tight window between the birth of Robert Cassells Oliphant Jr., and his parents location, which appeared to be London. I didn't find a birth or christening record registered in either London or Nfld.

After Robert Jr.'s birth date, there is a gap in their paper trail up until his father sells his lieutenantship in 1850, which shows they are living in London. From there, we lost them again until they arrived in Australia in 1853.

1853 – ARRIVE IN AUSTRALIA

Barque, (Ship) 'Katherine Stewart Forbes' arrived in Port Jackson, NSW, on 7th, June 1853, from London.

Passengers: Mr. Olephant {sic}, wife and son. (transcribers error)

Emigration to Australia – I didn't find much on Robert Cassells Oliphant Jr.'s formative years. I know he was about six years old when they arrived in Australia, and according to his father's occupation, they lived in Albury for a few years where he most likely went to school.

1856 – FAMILY MOVES TO PADDINGTON NSW

When Robert Jr. was about 9 yrs. old, his father gets discharged from his position as Court Bailiff for intemperance.

It seems like things were a little unstable for the family for the next few years, because his father lists his address as a Post Office box in Paddington, Sydney, and his occupation as Commission Agent, which was an 'insurance salesman.' His great Aunt Agnes Cundell Atkinson lived in Paddington, and they were in this area when Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr.

filed for insolvency.

1862 – DEATH OF MOTHER

At age 15, Robert Cassells Oliphant Jr. loses his mother to unknown causes. There wasn't an obit found, nor any information of her burial. They might have moved in with his great Aunt Agnes, who was a widow, and living in Paddington NSW at the time.

1864 – FATHER REMARRIES –

Robert Cassells Oliphant Jr.'s father remarried, and it's unclear whether Robert Jr. was still with his dad at this point. He was 17 yrs. old, and there doesn't appear to be any indication of involvement on paper. i.e. census records, etc. It's unclear who or where he was living at the time. I suspect he was living at his aunt Agnes' or he might have been off at college.

1868 – MARRIAGE - NSW Registry 336/1868

OLIPHANT, ROBERT and MCGRATH, ANNIE, SYDNEY DISTRICT.

Robert Cassells Oliphant Jr. bachelor, age 21, marries Annie McGrath, Spinster, age 21, 1868.

1868 - **1890** BIRTH OF CHILDREN.

Robert Cassells Oliphant Jr. and Annie McGrath had Eleven Children. The family first lived at Kent St. Sydney, and moved to 11 Comber St, Paddington NSW. This was his great Aunt Agnes's old house, and the family lived at the same address for decades. Robert Jr. was a Sheriff in the District Court at Paddington. 11 Comber St., their address, was just around the corner from the Courthouse.

Robert Cassells Oliphant Jr. and Annie McGrath had the following children.

1.) Harriet Ida Oliphant – *b. 1868, in Sydney NSW, d. Sept 5th, 1892, Paddington, age 24. Never married and died without issue. Buried Sept 7th, at Waverly Cemetery, Paddington NSW.*

General Notes.

NSW RGD 2529/1968 Birth, Oliphant Harriet I. parents, Robert and Annie, Sydney District.

NSW RGD – 10360/1892 Death, Oliphant I. Parents, Robert and Annie, Paddington District.

Sydney Morning Herald – Weds Sept 7th, 1892, page 1.

***Oliphant** – Suddenly at her parent's residence, 11 Comber Street, Paddington, Ida Harriet, the dearly beloved eldest daughter of Robert and Annie Oliphant, aged 23 years and 9 months.*

2.) Mary Florence Oliphant – *b. 1870 in Sydney, NSW, d. 1872, in Sydney NSW, age 2. Buried at Waverly Cemetery, Paddington, NSW.*

***General Notes;** NSW RGD 1193/1872 Death,*

***Oliphant** - Mary F. parents Robert and Annie, Sydney District.*

3.) Lillian Beatrice Oliphant – *b. 1872 in Sydney, NSW, d. Nov 22nd, 1948, in Eastwood NSW, age 76. She married **Charles Edward Parr** in 1894. He was born abt. 1859, d. Nov 30th, 1922. They had five children, two Boys and three girls.*

General Notes.

SMH Monday 22nd November 1948, page. 12.

***PARR** – Lillian Beatrice – November 18th, relic of Charles Parr, late of Trelawney Street, Eastwood. Loved mother of Marjorie and Geoffrey. Eldest daughter of the late Robert and Annie Oliphant, and devoted sister of Nellie, Elsie, and Percy. Peace Perfect Peace. Privately interred, at Brighten General Cemetery, Caulfield S. Victoria, Nov 19th, 1948.*

4.) Ellen 'Nellie' Harwood Oliphant – *b. 1875 Sydney, NSW d. Aug 1st, 1957, Sydney NSW age 82. Unmarried, died without issue.*

General Notes; SMH Aug 1st, 1957, Newspaper clipping.

***OLIPHANT** – Nellie Harwood – August 1st, 1957, at St. Vincent's Hospital, eldest daughter of the late Robert and Annie Oliphant of Paddington. Privately Cremated.*

5.) Robert Cassells Oliphant III – *b. 1877 Sydney NSW d. 1877, 5 months old, Infant.*

General Notes; NSW RGD 1780/1877 Death,

OLIPHANT *– Robert Cassells III, Son of Robert and Annie, Sydney District.*

6.) Elsie May Oliphant – *b. 1878 Sydney NSW d. August 6th, 1952, NSW. In Lismore NSW, Age 74. Unmarried, died without issue.*

General Notes.

NSW RGD 22093/1952 August 6th, 1952, Death. SMH.

OLIPHANT *– Elsie May – August 6th, 1952, Suddenly, Lismore, Base Hospital, daughter of Robert and Annie, devoted sister of Nellie, and Percy, late of Paddington. Peace Perfect Peace, Interred Lismore.*

7.) Austin Oliphant – *b. 1883 Sydney, NSW d. Aug 23rd, 1940, Sydney, NSW. Aged 57. Buried Aug 26th, at Botany Cemetery. Incidentally, the Botany Bay area was where the estate they called 'Little Gask' was located. It was long sold by this time. Austin m.* ***Violet M. Coss*** *in 1904. She was b. 1884, d. unknown. They had one son,* ***Roy Reginald Oliphant****, who succeeded his father as senior heir male of the line.*

General Notes.

NSW RGD 8303/1904 Marriage, Oliphant, Austin and Coss, Violet M. Sydney District.

NSW RGD 13369/1940 Death,

SMH, Monday August 26th, 1940, pg. 8

At Private Hospital, Darlinghurst, Austin Oliphant, eldest son of the late Robert and Annie Oliphant, of Paddington, aged 57 years.

8.) Reginald Oliphant – *b. 1884 Sydney, NSW d. Sept 10th, 1929, Sydney, NSW. Aged 45. Buried Sept 11th, at Botany Cemetery. Unmarried, died without issue.*

General Notes.

1915-1918 Australian Imperial Force, No. 189, Private Reginald Oliphant, 1st Pioneer Battalion. Enlisted Oct 5th, 1915, returned to Australia June 12th, 1919.

NSW RGD 11547/1929 Sept 10th, Death.

SMH Weds 11th, Sept 1929 pg. 13

OLIPHANT *– Sept 10th, at Sydney Hospital, Reginald, second eldest son of Annie and the late Robert Oliphant of 11 Comber Street, Paddington. (late 1st, Pioneer Battalion A1F) aged 44 years.*

The relatives and friends of Mrs. Annie Oliphant and Family are invited to attend the funeral of her beloved son, and their loving brother, Private Reginald Oliphant, who will leave the private mortuary Chapel of Mr. Charles Kinsela, 143 Oxford St. Sydney this afternoon, at 3 o'clock, for the Church of England Cemetery, Botany.

9.) Leslie Oliphant – *b. 1886 Paddington, NSW d. 1886 Paddington, NSW.*

(Died as Infant)

General Notes; NSW RGD Death 4891/1886

OLIPHANT *– Leslie, parents, Robert and Annie, Paddington.*

10.) Percy Oliphant – *b. 1887 Paddington, NSW d. Jan 1st, 1963, Sydney, NSW. Aged 76. m.* ***Ethel Lucinda Williams*** *in 1920, in Randwick, NSW. b. 1890 in Grenfell, NSW d. Sept 4th, 1980. In Bondi. Aged 90 years. She was the daughter of* ***Morgan Samuel and Lucinda Williams****.*

General Notes; 1914 -1918 WWI, Australian Imperial Force/ Army Medical Corps.

1920 – Marriage NSW RGD 17822/1920

OLIPHANT *– Percy and Williams, Ethel L., Randwick District.*

1929 – Death of Father, Percy witnessed his father's death certificate.

1930 – Percy's marriage seems to have been short. By 1930, the NSW Electoral Rolls shows him living back at the family home at 11 Comber St with his sisters. In later years Ethel, his former wife lived at various addresses in and around NSW, eventually ending up in Bondi where she died at 90 yrs old.

1936 – 1949 Electoral Rolls, 11 Comber St. Paddington.

Percy Oliphant (Salesmen)

Nellie Oliphant, home duties (sister)

Elsie May Oliphant, home duties (sister)

NSW RGD 332/1970 Death,

OLIPHANT – *Percy, parents Robert and Annie. Sydney District*

Percy and Lucinda never had any children, and it doesn't appear he ever remarried. He died at age 83.

11.) Roy Oliphant – *b. 1890 Paddington, NSW d. 25th, Nov 1911 Paddington. Age 21. Unmarried, died without issue.*

General Notes.

NSW RGD 15907/1911 Death

SMH, Saturday 25th, November 1911 pg. 15

OLIPHANT *– The friends of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Oliphant and Family, are kindly requested to attend the funeral of their dearly beloved Son and Brother, Roy; to leave 11 Comber St. Paddington, Today, Saturday, for Waverly Cemetery.*

1928 – DEATH**,** JUDGES TIPSTAFF & SHERIFF, LATE MR. OLIPHANT

The Sun Sydney, & The SMH, 18th, December, pg. 10, & pg. 3.

OLIPHANT – *The funeral of the late Robert Oliphant, late of 11 Comber St. Paddington, and late of the District Court. Robert, husband of Annie Oliphant, and only son of the late Major Robert Cassells Oliphant, 80th Regiment, aged 81.*

By the death yesterday of Mr. 'Bob' Oliphant a picturesque figure has been removed from the District Court. As tipstaff for the past 16 years, Mr. Oliphant made a study of the whims and foibles of the judges who have presided in the District Court Jurisdiction, and his tact and courtesy gained for him the respect of litigants and members of the legal profession.

Frequenters of Randwick Racecourse will miss him on Saturday next, as for many years past he was engaged in the paddock turnstiles. Mr. Oliphant, who was 81 years of age, had been ill only about a fortnight prior to his death. A native of Newfoundland, he came to Australia when very young, and

joined the cosmopolitan crowd that went to the goldfields to try their fortune in those stirring times. The deceased leaves a widow and grown-up family.

The funeral will take place today at Waverly Cemetery.

1932 - DEATH OF WIFE

NSW RGD 18773/1932 Paddington District

SMH, Wednesday, 30 November 1932, pg 10.

OLIPHANT – *November 28th, at her residence, 11 Comber St. Paddington, Anne, relict of the late Robert Oliphant, in her 85th year. Privately interred, Waverly Cemetery, Nov 29th.*

THE END OF A DYNASTY

Although Robert Cassells Oliphant Jr., heir to his father, had quite a large family. Sadly, only one grandson would go on to carry the Oliphant name. As a result of this grandson not having any children of his own, there would be no heir males left in this line to continue the hereditary peerage title. At this point, the dignity would then transfer to his great grand Uncle George Treacher Oliphant's line whose surviving members were now living in the United States.

As we look back over the unfolding story as it relates to the transferring of the peerage title, with its prestige and perceived power and privilege it held in ancient times and seemingly in modern times, we must take into consideration what our modern western-influenced society thinks of hereditary titles and positions. It's important to note that the laws, traditions, and attitudes toward a hereditary title have dramatically changed since the title went dormant in 1748.

There are only a small percentage of people who follow what's been going on in regard to who officially holds any type of position of authority in the Oliphant family hierarchy today. In recent years as mentioned before, discoveries are continually being unearthed, and the more that is revealed, it becomes more evident who is entitled to say they are descended from the senior male line. Nevertheless, this is a subject for another time and we will continue to follow the senior males of this line of Oliphant's through Australia until it ends, and then detail the transition to the senior males of this line and the extended branch of this family into America.

Setting all the pomp and circumstance aside that seems to go along with this ancient tradition of passing the torch, so to speak. The next ranking heir male in the senior line is still an enigma, and the validity is still being sorted out. Which, going full circle, we arrive once again at the truth as it stands today. In comparing hundreds of years of family tradition, evidence, and lore, against all the continual denial and opposing opinions, there's no denying the obvious facts surrounding this issue that has persisted for centuries and the truth about what happened to the young boy William Oliphant and how we ended up here remains self-evident.

Even though it might be entertaining on the surface, the Western World has somewhat frowned on the idea of hereditary birth rights, noble titles, aristocratic lines of descent, or adding titles to one's name, due in part to an ever-prevailing sentiment that everyone is deemed equal and there appears to be a lot of animosity, jealousy, and resentment toward anyone who may have been born into such a position through no fault of their own.

A certain element of Western society says Christianity is part of the reason for not allowing monarchy in America, and claim it was the reason for the Revolutionary War, etc., but this is an entirely different subject matter altogether, and could be the subject of another book. Nevertheless, we'll stick to the subject at hand, which is the male descent of William Oliphant, the Bulker, the missing young boy of the senior male line of the Lords Oliphant. This is what happens in aristocratic families when their line are devoid of any heir males. However, in our case, we do have an extended male line on the other side of the globe, which we will explore in more detail later.

If we go back to what Laurence Oliphant, 5th Laird of Gask was dealing with about 300 years ago on the subject that we covered in great detail in an earlier chapter called, 'The Scramble for the Peerage', you can see what a controversial subject it was among family members even then. Now, try to interject the modern sentiment and attitudes toward the subject today, you can imagine the division of ideals one has to contend with. We also covered the DNA subject in an earlier chapter as well. Nevertheless, I felt it was important to clarify, and the truth behind this story needed to be told. Exactly what this means moving forward as we near the end of this Australian dynasty, can only be judged based on the evidence discovered, and not in the court of public opinion.

THE LAST HEIR MALE IN THE AUSTRALIAN LINE

When Austin Oliphant's father died in 1929, he succeeded his father Robert Cassells Oliphant Jr. as the senior heir male of this branch of the Oliphant family in Australia. Therefore, he was eligible to file a petition for the peerage title and dignity, provided he was even aware of his position. Interestingly enough, and possibly unbeknownst to him, he was serving in an unofficial role for about eleven years, when he suddenly died at the early age of 57, in 1940. Austin was then succeeded by his only son Roy Reginald Oliphant as senior male of this line of Oliphant's for the next 31 years. Which by the way, was quite a long reign of succession in the scheme of things. That is until he died without issue in 1971.

It remains unclear if Austin Oliphant, Roy's father was aware of his family's status as far as their connection to the now defunct Gask Estate, and or his connection to the senior male line of Oliphant's. Because he and his brother Reginald were living in the Botany Bay area of NSW, which incidentally was where the 'Little Gask" Estate was located before it was sold, which was once owned by their grandfather Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr. I'm not exactly sure how he originally obtained it, because the paperwork was a little dicey but his name was clearly on the deed I saw. Now... I had to ask myself; how would that name have come about had they not had some awareness of their family background? There was no indication Austin or Reginald ever lived in the house because by this time it had long been sold, and may have been part of the insolvency of Robert Sr. The pictures of the house I saw from the water during the time the Trower family owned it and later sold, were really nice. I had a copy of the picture once but was unable to locate it for this book.

Roy Reginald Oliphant *– b. 1908 in Sydney, NSW d. Aug 14th, 1971, in Glenroy, Victoria, age 63. Son of Austin Oliphant and Violet Mary Coss, Sydney District. m. 1.)* ***Mary Bridget Balmer****, in 1928. Daughter of* ***Hugh McBride and Mary Balmer****. She was b. 1908 d. May 14th, 1971, in Blacktown, NSW. Age 63. - m. 2.)* ***Thelma Lovett*** *in 1971. Daughter of* ***William A. and Lucy Lovett****. She was b. 1908 in Newcastle, NSW, d. June 25th, 1992, in Melbourne, age 84. She was cremated and buried in a Wall Niche at Fawkner Memorial Park, Melbourne June 25th, 1992, next to Roy.*

As I reflect on Roy's life. It's once again a reminder that despite what family we are born into it doesn't necessarily mean we will live lives marked by today's standards, with great deeds or notable achievements in comparison to the grand scale of accomplishments the noblemen, counselors, and

champions who were our ancestors managed to achieve. It would seem a tough act to follow without the financial resources and grooming necessary to prepare you for such a life. However, these are different times altogether.

General Notes.

1928 – MARRIAGE - NSW RGD 5075/1928

OLIPHANT – *Roy Reginald, and Mary Bridget Balmer. Sydney District.*

Roy and Mary's marriage didn't appear to last very long, because by 1936, Roy was living in Cairns, with a woman named Thelma Lovett, who he eventually married. Mary Bridget, his first wife was listed in the Electoral Rolls as living at another address in East Sydney until 1954. Since she was Catholic, Divorce apparently was not an option.

Soon after Mary's death on May 14th, 1971, Roy married his longtime partner Thelma Lovett, in August of that year. Roy was 62 years old at the time and sadly died that same month. August 16th, 1971. Thelma Oliphant lived in their home in Melbourne for another 21 years, and died at the age of 84, on June 25th, 1992. As previously mentioned, they were cremated, and buried side by side, at Fawkner Memorial Park, Melbourne, 4th Ave, Wall Niches, (North Side), Section 2, Compartment C, Niche 15.

1939 – 1945 WWII Australian Army/ Service # VX28016

OLIPHANT – Reginald,

Place of enlistment, Caulfield Victoria.

Enlistment; June 24th, 1940 – Bombardier, 3 Anti-Aircraft Regiment

Next of Kin; Oliphant, Thelma

Date of Discharge; May 13th, 1942

1949 – Electoral Rolls.

119 Exhibition St. Melbourne Victoria

Roy Reginald Oliphant, (Hotel Proprietor)

Thelma Oliphant, Home duties. (stay-at-home wife)

1971 – DEATH -VIC RDG 19770/1971

OLIPHANT – *Roy Reginald, August 16th, 1971, Glenroy, Victoria. Age 63. Father Austin, Mother Violet Williams Oliphant.*

Roy Reginald Oliphant never had any children from either marriage. Thus, officially ending the progeny of males from Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr. thereby exhausting this line of male descendants.

OLIPHANT MALES OF THIS LINE IN NORTH AMERICA

Following the ancient tradition of the patrilineal system of tracing family lineage regarding the primogeniture inheritance laws through the father's side of the family until it is exhausted. We must now go back to chapter ten, where Col. William Gordon Oliphant Jr. Esq., only had two surviving sons. The eldest was Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr., who we just traced until all the males in his line were exhausted. And now we return to his only surviving brother George Treacher Oliphant, and his line of descending males.

At the time of Roy Reginald Oliphant's death in Australia in 1971, his 2nd cousin 1x removed Corp. John Gordon Oliphant, was living in Liverpool New York, and would have been the oldest surviving senior male in the line of Roy's great grand-uncle George Treacher Oliphant, who was the only surviving brother of his great grandfather Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr., making his second cousin 1x removed the rightful heir male to the peerage title, and dignity.

However, it's always much easier if you have a chart to follow the line of descent as a reference. Although we covered this in an earlier chapter, I will begin another lineal chart for the North American side of this line to keep things in perspective.

Chapter 17

George Treacher Oliphant

***George Treacher Oliphant**, b. May 9, 1825, London England, d. Dec 9, 1909, St. John's Nfld. He was the fourth son born to **Col. William Gordon Oliphant Jr. Esq. and Jane Elizabeth Cundell**. He married **Sarah Payne Winsor**, in 1849, Aquaforte, Nfld. She was the daughter of **Peter Winsor II and Sarah Payne** of Devenshire England. Sarah had three children from her previous marriage who went by the Surname Jones.*

George Treacher Oliphant and Sarah Winsor had the following children:

1. ***Eliza Anne Oliphant**, b. May 5, 1850, Aquaforte NL, d. 1922, Bay Bulls, NL. She married, **Michael Anthony Glynn** in 1871, Aquaforte, Nfld. They had 2 children.*

2. ***Jane Elizabeth Oliphant**, b. 1854, Aquaforte NL, d. Unknown, Torbay, Nfld, she married **Joseph Coaker**, Dec 20, 1881. They had 3 children, who all died before age 6. Joseph her husband died, and she remarried a man by the name of John Shaw or Snow, and it was rumored they had two daughters. The C of E records in St. John's Nfld were never searched.*

3. ***George Lindsay Oliphant**, b. 1856, Aquaforte NL, d. Dec 16, 1940, St. John's, Nfld. He m. 1.) **Alice Mary Joseph Strapp**, February 7th, 1884, in Avondale Nfld. She was b. 1865 Harbor Main Nfld. d. May 2nd, 1896, in Harbor Main Nfld. at 31 years old. She was the daughter of **Patrick Henry Strapp and Elizabeth Mulloney**. They had two children, William and Isabella, who both died as infants. m. 2.) **Anastasia Maria Gough**, June 30, 1897, Salmonier, Nfld. She was the daughter of **John and Bridget Doody Gough**. She was b. January 3rd, 1877, in Salmonier Nfld. d. July 6th, 1941, in St. John's Nfld. They had 6 children, which I*

will cover later.

4. ***William Peter Oliphant**, b. 1858, Aquaforte, NL, d. Nov 3, 1877. Never married, Drowned at age 19 yrs. old, in Aquaforte Nfld. And died without issue, as listed in the Oliphant family bible.*

5. ***Sarah Mary Oliphant**, b. Jan 16, 1859, Aquaforte NL, d. unknown in Boston Mass, USA. She married **Henry Furlong**, Oct 20, 1882, and they had 11 children. Sadly, most of them died. You can read her story in the family history.*

Not having had much of a secure formative foundation or family life, George Treacher Oliphant ended up living a rather unassuming life after he found work in a fishing house in Aquaforte Nfld, working for Peter Winsor II, who later became his father-in-law when George married his widowed daughter Sarah Payne Jones, nee Winsor.

Sarah and her sister converted to Catholicism from the Church of England in 1857 and she became the first Roman Catholic school teacher on the Southern Shore. The rest of their immediate family along with her husband George Treacher eventually followed suit and became Catholic. This is listed in our Oliphant family bible and the religious conversion later became a real bone of contention between Treacher and his only surviving sister, Eliza Oliphant Morgan, and the rest of the Winsor family who remained Church of England.

All this information on George Treacher Oliphant and his family line is covered extensively in the Oliphant's of Newfoundland genealogy. But to keep the story centered on the main topic regarding the missing young boy, later discovered to be William Oliphant the Bulker, and rightful heir male to the peerage title, I'll cover the important details so that the story is easier to follow. The main objective here is to show his line of descent.

1836 – STARTING OVER

By the age of 10, George Treacher Oliphant had lost most of his immediate family. As previously mentioned, he lost his three brothers William, John, and Lindsay, in London, and then both parents. Then later his sisters, Jane Elizabeth, and Margaret Mary, who he lived with in St. John's. Then his only surviving brother Robert Cassells Oliphant joined the Army and left the island. According to what George later wrote in a letter, he wasn't really sure what happened to his brother Robert. He mentions that he thought he might have died in the War in India.

1849 – MARRIAGE, *record from the Church of England Aquaforte and are now missing*.

George Treacher Oliphant to Sarah Payne Jones, of Aquaforte. Church of England. He is the 4th, oldest son of Col. William Gordon Oliphant Jr. Esq., of Bonnington Park Leith. She is the eldest daughter of Peter Winsor II, Merchant of Aquaforte Nfld, and Sarah Payne. Relict of the late Capt. George Jones of Aquaforte.

It was around 1847-48 that Laird Laurence James Oliphant 10th of Gask died, and the article we showed before searching for any heir males of his line, or that of the senior male line, or that of Dr. James Oliphant, and whoever could show proof of descent from either of these two gentlemen or the senior male line of the Lords Oliphant, would be entitled to inherit the Estate of Gask.

It was no secret among the remaining family members in Newfoundland that they were related to the Gask line of Oliphant's somehow, but how exactly, was still a bit of a mystery. Mainly because of the sporadic, and dramatic way the family left Scotland, and moved around the last few years of their parents' lives, and then the fact that they were kids when they left for PEI Canada and then lost both parents soon after arriving. It was a very tumultuous and traumatic time, to say the least, and left them all in a bit of turmoil.

I do know that Robert and George's only surviving sister Eliza Oliphant Morgan later corresponded with their half-Cousin Margaret Harriet Steuart, in Edinburgh. The granddaughter of Laird Laurence James Oliphant 8th of Gask. Perhaps she was trying to establish some sort of documented proof of their connection. In either case, had it not been for the newspaper articles from the St. John's Evening Telegram about Margaret Steuart's passing, and then the follow-up article explaining Eliza Oliphant Morgan's relationship with Margaret and their corresponding, we might not have known they were in touch with each other.

1853 – GEORGE'S BROTHER ROBERT LEAVES FOR AUSTRALIA –

By this time, we find out that George Treacher's older brother Robert Cassells had left for Sydney, never to be heard from again. George has dismissed the notion of any inheritance due to the primogeniture inheritance laws and goes on with his life. That is until he is discovered by a gentleman, Samuel Grant Oliphant years later, who was doing research into his own

line, and trying to figure out if he might be entitled to some part of the Gask estate. Which I cover in more detail later.

1877 – DEATH OF YOUNGEST SON - *November 3rd, 1877, Aquaforte Nfld.*

George Treacher and Sarah Oliphant lost their youngest son William Peter Oliphant in a tragic drowning accident at the age of 19. William never married, nor had any children. His death is listed in the Oliphant family bible.

After William's death, George and Sarah vowed not to let their only surviving son George Lindsay, become a fisherman, or get into the seafaring business. So, they encouraged him to do something else, and he joined the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary or police force.

1894 – DEATH OF OLDEST BROTHER - Oct 2nd aged 74 years.

George Treacher loses his oldest and only surviving brother Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr. to heart failure, in Sydney Australia**.** (see Robert Cassells Oliphant Sr.)

1898 – LETTERS BETWEEN GEORGE T. OLIPHANT & SAMUEL GRANT OLIPHANT

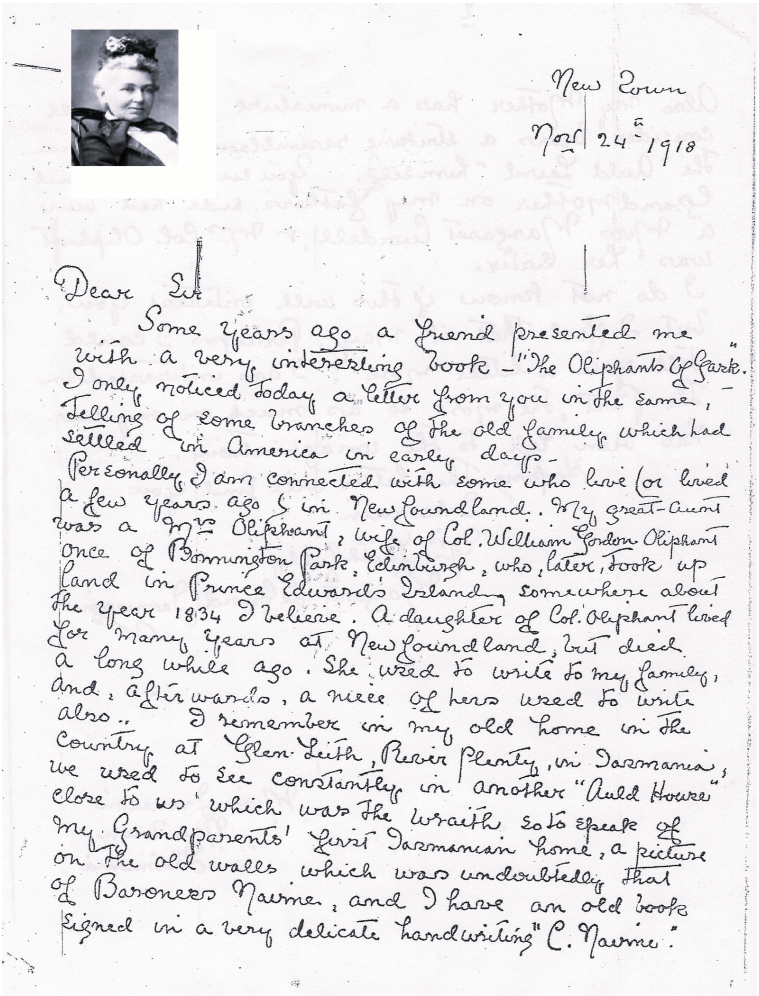
There are a few years of relative inactivity, 'paper trail wise,' regarding any information surrounding what was taking place in Scotland, as it relates to the Newfoundland branch of the family. There were a few deaths, and births of some extended family members, which are all covered in previous sections, and the Newfoundland Oliphant genealogy.

In an earlier chapter, I presented a letter that was written to Samuel Grant Oliphant from a friend of his who just so happened to be passing through Newfoundland and heard of a Sergeant Oliphant. In the next few pages, we'll cover portions of some of the correspondence that took place between George Treacher Oliphant and Professor Samuel Grant Oliphant, regarding what George Treacher knew about his family, and how it relates to the Gask family.

As I mentioned before, George Treacher Oliphant's knowledge of his heritage was spotty at best. Without the advent of modern technology, that we have today, tracing one's lineage this far back then would have been a monumental task, with endless amounts of correspondence, etc. If you didn't have the resources to hire an Antiquary to do the work for you, or it

wasn't already documented in a family bible or charter chest, it would be a massive undertaking.

One of the letters found in Samuel Grant Oliphant's papers at the Pennsylvania Historical Society archives in 2000 in the Oliphant family file labeled Newfoundland, and written to Samuel, from a cousin of George Treacher's, mentions Eliza Oliphant Morgan and her niece Jane Oliphant Bailey corresponding with her family in Tasmania. As previously mentioned, Samuel was doing his own independent research to try and discover any heir males to the Gask estate, as well as try and find his own possible connection.

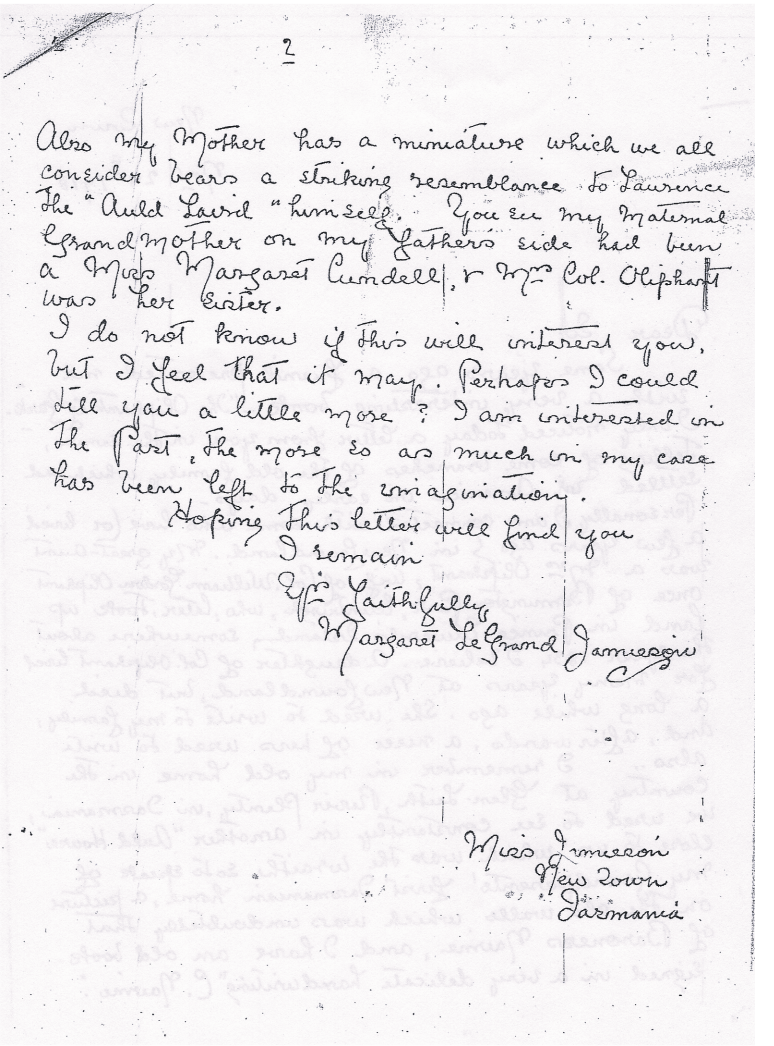


New Town
Nov 24th 1918

Dear Ed

Some years ago a friend presented me with a very interesting book – "The Oliphants of Gask." I only noticed today a letter from you in the same, – telling of some branches of the old family which had settled in America in early days –

Personally, I am connected with some who live (or lived a few years ago) in Newfoundland. My great-Aunt was a Mrs Oliphant, wife of Col. William Gordon Oliphant once of Bonnington Park, Edinburgh, who, later, took up land in Prince Edwards Island, somewhere about the year 1834 I believe. A daughter of Col. Oliphant lived for many years at Newfoundland, but died a long while ago. She used to write to my family, and, afterwards, a niece of hers used to write also.. I remember in my old home in the Country at Glen Leith, Penny Plenty, in Tasmania, we used to see constantly in another "Auld House" close to us which was the wraith so to speak of my Grandparents' first Tasmanian home, a picture on the old walls which was undoubtedly that of Baroness Nairne, and I have an old book signed in a very delicate handwriting "C. Nairne."



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Also my Mother has a miniature which we all consider bears a striking resemblance to Laurence The "Auld Laird" himself. You see my Maternal Grandmother on my Fathers side had been a Miss Margaret Cundell, & Mrs Col. Oliphant was her Sister.

I do not know if this will interest you, but I feel that it may. Perhaps I could tell you a little more? I am interested in The Past, The more so as much in my case has been left to The imagination.

Hoping This letter will find you
I remain
Yrs Faithfully
Margaret LeGrand Jamieson

Miss Jamieson
New Town
Tasmania

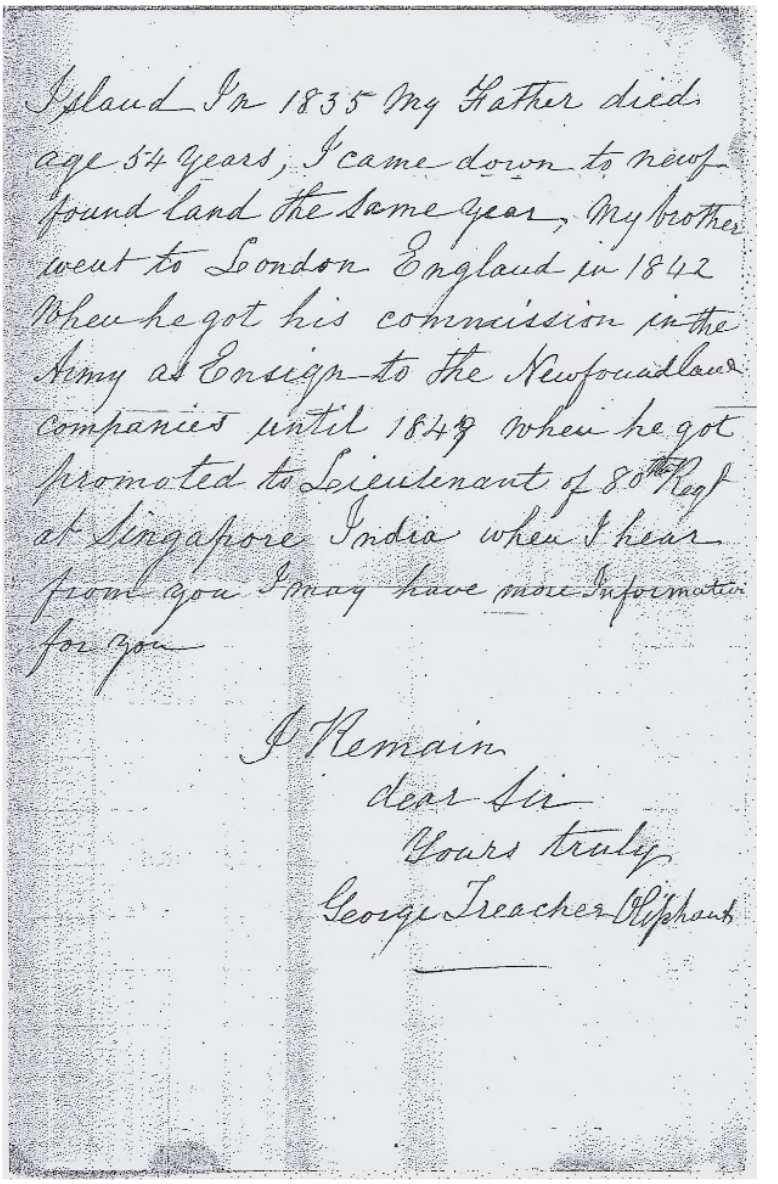
This next letter was found at the Pennsylvania Historical Society archives and was from George Treacher Oliphant to Samuel Grant Oliphant, giving him a bit of family info. I still haven't been able to establish George Treacher's grandfather's marriage, nor did I see anything about the daughter of General Gordon that he alludes to. It was also discovered later his grandfather William the Customs Collector died in 1811, not 1801 as George stated in this letter.

Aquaforte
Ferryland District
Dec 15th 1898.

Mr Samuel G. Clikhart.

Dr Sir—

I Received a letter from my son Yesterday from St Johns, wishing me to write you all particulars about our family My Grand Father was thirty years collector at Leith in Scotland until he died in 1801, He married the daughter of General Gordon who was killed in the battle of Waterloo My Father William Gordon Clikhart was Colonel of the Leith Volunteers until they were disbanded after the battle of Waterloo, we left Scotland in 1833 for Prince Edward



Island In 1835 My Father died
age 54 Years, I came down to new-
found land the same year, My brother
went to London England in 1842
Where he got his commission in the
Army as Ensign to the Newfoundland
companies until 1843 when he got
promoted to Lieutenant of 80th Regt
at Singapore India when I hear
from you I may have more Information
for you

I Remain
dear Sir
Yours truly
George Treacher Oliphant

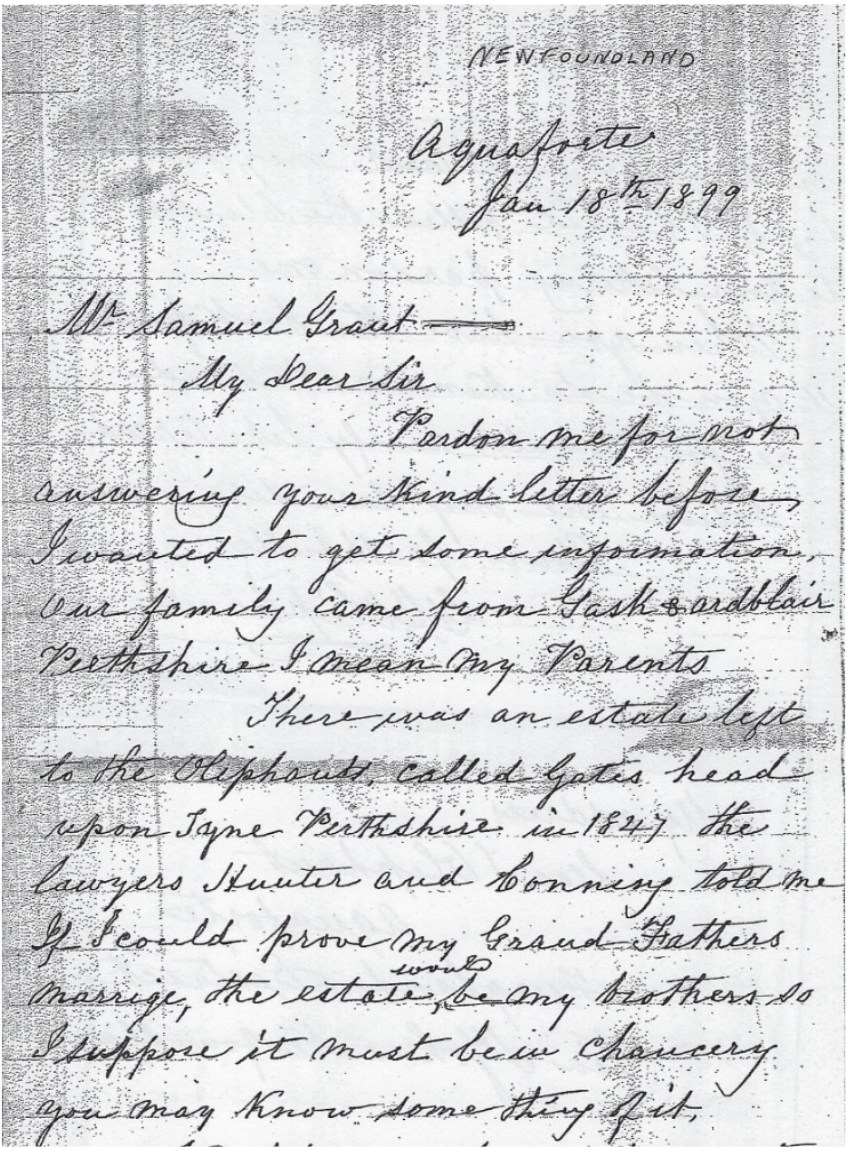
Samuel wrote back to George in Dec of that year explaining what a monumental work he was undertaking trying to trace his line, as well as all the other branches of the Oliphant family's related to the Gask, Condie, Kellie, and Rossie, lines, and how it was also tradition in his family that his ancestor Duncan Oliphant was from Perthshire, the home of the Gask line, and that he believed his family might be related but unfortunately said

he had no documented evidence in hand.

However, looking back over the work that was completed by Samuel, since he passed. He was never able to establish a connection to the Gask line of Oliphant's and apparently never felt confident enough to take that leap of faith to publish his book on the Oliphant's. More than likely due to the numerous missing records from around Perth where the family was located. Samuel was able to trace Duncan, his ancestor back to Perth, but that was it. Nevertheless, his papers and correspondence which are a treasure trove for anyone doing Oliphant research are housed at the PHS and can be viewed by the public.

1899 – GATHERING INFO FOR SGO

Samuel and George continued to write for the next year and basically covered what limited knowledge George Treacher Oliphant had of his family. This next response from George gives some idea of his confusion about the geography of where New Castle Upon Tyne, was in relation to where the Gask estate was in Perth.



NEWFOUNDLAND

Aquafortis
Jan 18th 1899

Mr Samuel Grant

My Dear Sir

Pardon me for not answering your kind letter before I wanted to get some information, our family came from Gask & ardblair Perthshire I mean My Parents

There was an estate left to the Oliphants, called Gates head upon Tayne Perthshire in 1847 the lawyers Hunter and Conning told me if I could prove my Grand Fathers marrige, the estate would be any brothers so I suppose it must be in chancery you may know some thing of it,

In this previous letter, George mentions he needed to get more information.

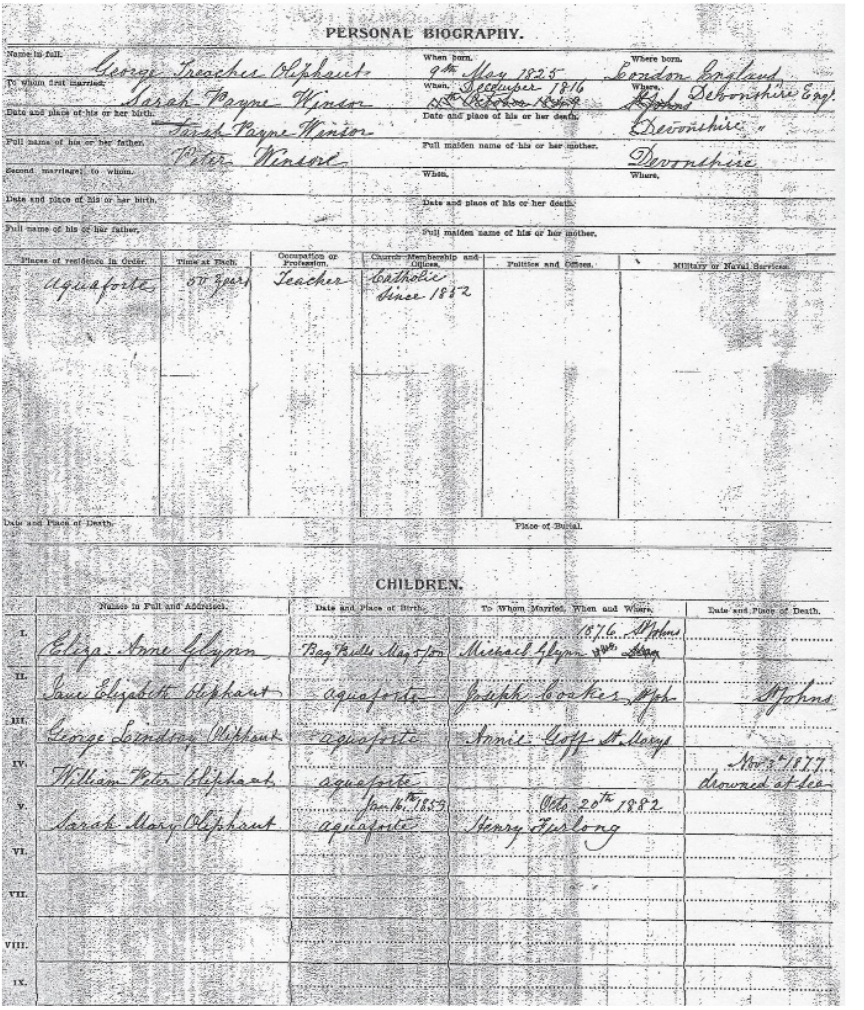
Considering he and his sister Eliza Morgan were the only ones left of that generation, and she was corresponding with their cousins in Tasmania, and their half-cousin Henrietta Steuart in Scotland, we can only assume this is what he meant.

An interesting part of this letter is that George T. Oliphant mentions that the attorneys Hunter and Conning, who were handling any settlements of the Gask Estate were in contact with him and told him that "*if they could prove their grandparents' marriage*," they would be entitled to the estate." or that the Estate would belong to his older brother, Robert Cassells Sr. Then he mentions it must be tied up in Chancery by now. (Court). However, as mentioned before, the proprietors of the estate were handling any and all claims out of probate and dealing with them through a private trust, therefore leaving no paper trail. I can only assume any letters or correspondence were destroyed in the fire of 1903 that burned his son George Lindsay Oliphant's house down in St. John's where Treacher lived before this tragedy.

In March of that same year, George Treacher sent Samuel a family form, which I also obtained a copy of from the PHS in 2000. George Treacher Oliphant said to Samuel.

"I hope you will pardon me for omitting in the last, that I had an old maiden Aunt living in Montrose Scotland called Wilhelmina Oliphant. She died in 1847. (later found out to be 1874) The only sister my father had. If we knew we were going to be deprived of our parents in such a short time, we might have known more."

The following forms are copies of what George Treacher Oliphant sent to Samuel Grant Oliphant on his family line as far back as he knew.



PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY.

Name in full. George Treacher Oliphant
When born. 9th May 1825
Where born. London England

To whom first married. Sarah Payne Winsor
When. December 1846
Where. St Johns Lab. Devonshire Eng.

Date and place of his or her birth.
Date and place of his or her death.

Full name of his or her father. Jared Payne Winsor
Full maiden name of his or her mother. Devonshire

Second marriage; to whom. Peter Winsor
When.
Where.

Date and place of his or her birth.
Date and place of his or her death.

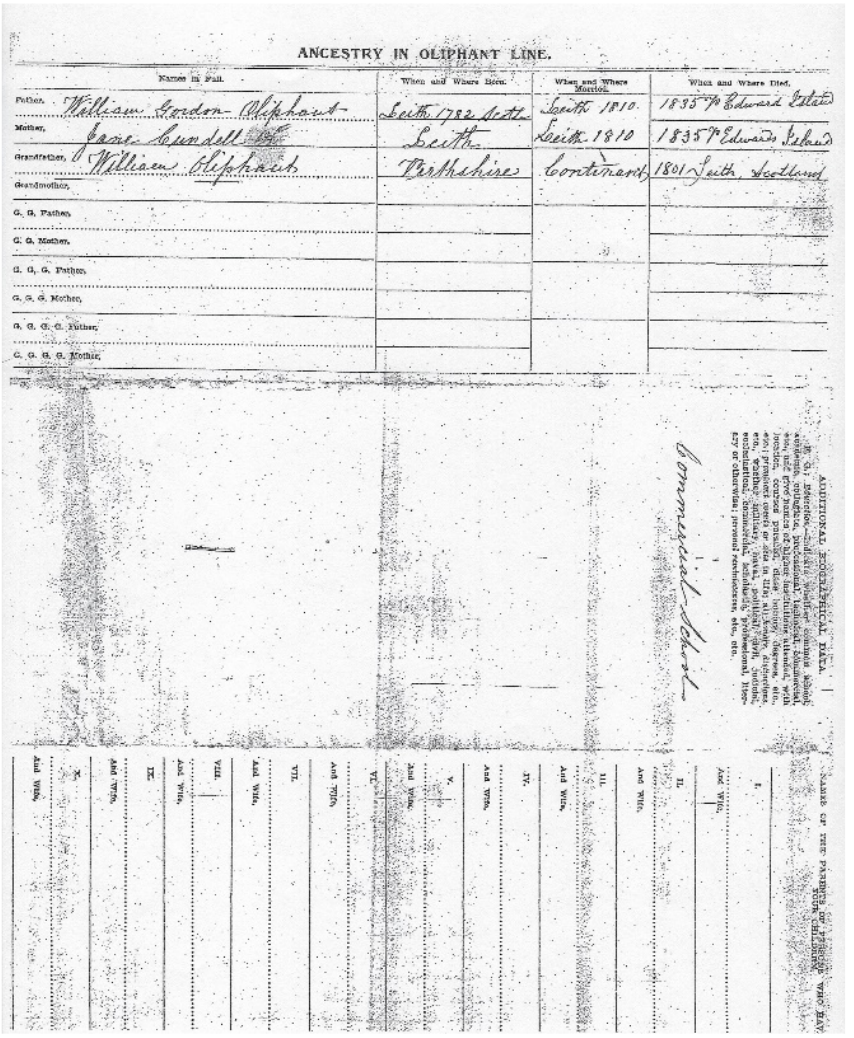
Full name of his or her father.
Full maiden name of his or her mother.

Places of residence in Order.	Time at Each.	Occupation or Profession.	Church Membership and Offices.	Politics and Offices.	Military or Naval Services.
Aquaforte	5th year	Teacher	Catholic since 1852		

Date and Place of Death.
Place of Burial.

CHILDREN.

	Names in Full and Address.	Date and Place of Birth.	To Whom Married, When and Where.	Date and Place of Death.
I.	Eliza Anne Glynn	Bay Bulls May 5th	1876 St Johns Michael Glynn 19th Sept	
II.	Jane Elizabeth Oliphant	Aquaforte	Joseph Cooker Esqr	St Johns
III.	George Lendrey Oliphant	Aquaforte	Annie Goff St Marys	
IV.	William Peter Oliphant	Aquaforte		Nov 5 1877 drowned at sea
V.	Sarah Mary Oliphant	Jan 16th 1859 Aquaforte	Octo 20th 1882 Henry Furlong	
VI.				
VII.				
VIII.				
IX.				



ANCESTRY IN OLIPHANT LINE.

Names in Full.	When and Where Born.	When and Where Married.	When and Where Died.
Father. William Gordon Oliphant	Leith 1782 Scotland	Leith 1810.	1835 Mt Edwards Estate
Mother, Jane Lundell	Leith	Leith 1810	1835 Mt Edwards Estate
Grandfather, William Oliphant	Perthshire	Continent	1801 Leith, Scotland
Grandmother,			
G. G. Father,			
G. G. Mother,			
G. G. G. Father,			
G. G. G. Mother,			
G. G. G. G. Father,			
G. G. G. G. Mother,			

Commercial School

ADDITIONAL ECCLESIASTICAL DATA.

NAMES OF THE PARENTS OF THEIR CHILDREN WHO HAV

I. And Wife,

II. And Wife,

III. And Wife,

IV. And Wife,

V. And Wife,

VI. And Wife,

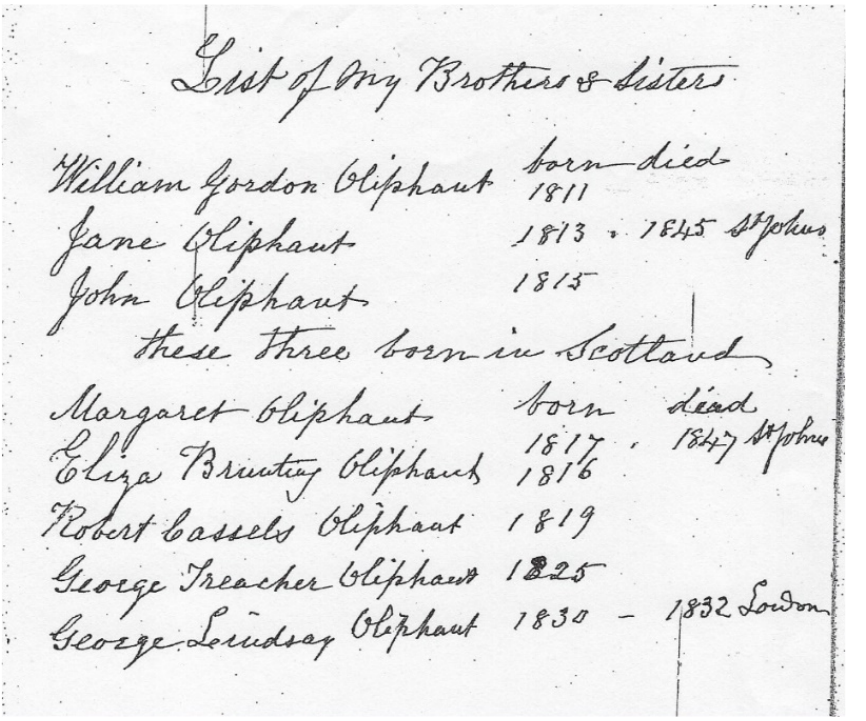
VII. And Wife,

VIII. And Wife,

IX. And Wife,

X. And Wife,

George Treacher also sent a handwritten note listing his brothers and sisters to Samuel as well.



List of my Brothers & Sisters

	born	died
William Gordon Oliphant	1811	
Jane Oliphant	1813	1845 St Johns
John Oliphant	1815	

these three born in Scotland

	born	died
Margaret Oliphant	1817	1847 St Johns
Eliza Brantry Oliphant	1816	
Robert Cassels Oliphant	1819	
George Treacher Oliphant	1825	
George Lindsay Oliphant	1830	1832 London

You can view a more detailed history of each one of George Treacher's brothers and sisters, listed under Col. William Gordon Oliphant Jr. Esq.'s history in Chapter 10.

In July of 1899, George Treacher once again writes to Samuel to tell him, that he and his sister Eliza Oliphant Morgan are the only two left in their family of this generation. Eliza had been widowed for some time and living with her niece Jane Oliphant Bailey in Hearts Content Nfld and was 82. Even though he doesn't mention it in this letter, his brother Robert Cassells passed in 1894, which would make this statement accurate. He mentions his memory is fading and doesn't really have much more information to share about his family other than that the tradition has always been they are from the house of Gask and Ardblair in Perthshire.

1899 – Sept 14th, TREACHER SENDS SGO A PERSONAL PHOTO

George Treacher sends Samuel Grant a photo of himself, and in Samuel's response, he mentions that he and his wife after looking at it, said, he can infer by the nature of his wife's remarks, that the Oliphant's are all good-looking, and seems to be a characteristic of the family.



George Treacher Oliphant



Sarah Payne Winsor Oliphant

1900 – LAST CORRESPONDENCE WITH SGO

January 29th was the last correspondence between George Treacher Oliphant and Samuel Grant Oliphant. I guess Samuel found out what he wanted, and from what his gg grand nephew, Ken Middleton said to me, Samuel thought there was a high likelihood that Treacher and his family were related to the Gask branch of the Oliphant's somehow, but just how exactly, wasn't abundantly clear to him.

1901 – MOVES TO CITY OF ST. JOHN'S

George Treacher's wife Sarah retired from teaching, and they moved from Aquaforte, into the City of St. John's to live with their only son George Lindsay Oliphant, and his family.

1903 – DEATH OF WIFE

Sarah Payne Oliphant, nee Winsor, d. July 24th, 1903 aged 87. There wasn't an Obit found, so it can only be assumed she died of natural causes. We do know Sarah died at her son George Lindsay's house. She left to mourn, her husband of 53 years, George Treacher Oliphant, three children from her previous marriage, Charles, Emily, & Caroline Jones, a son, Sgt. George Lindsay

Oliphant, daughters, Eliza Oliphant Glynn (Michael), Sarah Oliphant Furlong (Henry), Jane Elizabeth Oliphant Coaker (Joseph), several grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, friends, and extended family. Predeceased by her first husband, Capt. George Jones, and a son William Peter Oliphant. Burial took place at Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery, St. John's.

Also, that same year. Their son George Lindsay's house burned to the ground and was a total loss. In addition, like a phoenix rising from the ashes the same year, Lindsay and Annie's son Douglas Oliphant was born.

1909 – DEATH – *December 18th, age 85. (Evening Telegram, St. John's Newfoundland.)*

WELL KNOWN MAN ENTERED

Mr. George T. Oliphant, father of Sergeant Oliphant, who does duty in the Magistrate's Court, died Saturday night after an illness of short duration. He was well known, and highly respected in the city and had reached the ripe age of 85 years. His funeral, which took place yesterday afternoon, was largely attended. Besides the Sergeant, he leaves two daughters to mourn him. The interment was at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

George Treacher Oliphant and his wife Sarah Payne Oliphant nee Winsor are buried in Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery in St. John's Nfld. with two of their grandchildren, Alphonsus and Mildred. Both children of Lindsay and Annie Oliphant.

Chapter 18

Sergeant George Lindsay Oliphant

George Lindsay Oliphant - b. 1856, Aquaforte NL, d. Dec 16, 1940, St. John's, Nfld. aged 84. (Cerebral Hemorrhage) m. 1.) **Alice Mary Joseph Strapp**, February 7th, 1884, in Avondale Nfld. She was b. 1865 in Harbor Main Nfld. d. May 2nd, 1896, in Harbor Main Nfld. aged 31 years. (Internal Problems) She was the daughter of **Patrick Henry Strapp, and Elizabeth Mulloney.** m. 2.) **Anastasia Maria Gough**, June 30th, 1897, Salmonier, Nfld. She was b. January 3rd, 1877, in Slamonier Nfld. d. July 6th, 1941, aged 64, in St. John's Nfld. (Pleurisy). She was the only daughter of **John Joseph and Bridget Doody Gough.**



Although this is not the best photo of both Lindsay Oliphant and Alice together, it was the only one I found. It was given to me by a family member from Harbor Main Nfld. Pictured here are Alice Oliphant on the far left, and Constable George Lindsay Oliphant on the far right.

George Lindsay Oliphant and Alice Mary Joseph Strapp had the following children.

1.)**William Oliphant** (Willie) – b. Dec 10th 1884, Harbor Main Nfld. d. Dec 10th, 1884, infant, (Typhoid Fever)

2.)**Isabella Mary Oliphant** – b. Oct 17th, 1885, in Harbor Main Nfld. d. Jan 22nd, 1886, aged 1 year. (Typhoid Fever)

Both Children and Alice are buried in Avondale Catholic Cemetery, in Avondale Nfld. Plot # A-14. Alice's Obit was pasted onto the back cover

of our Oliphant family bible.

OLIPHANT – *Alice Mary Joseph Strapp – On Tuesday last the funeral obsequies of Alice Oliphant took place at Harbor Main. The deceased had been suffering for the past twelve months from some internal trouble, and though the best medical skill had been sought and tried, all efforts to win her back to health and vigor failed. A particularly sad circumstance in connection with the death of the deceased lady was the absence of her husband, Sergeant Oliphant, who was with her up to a few days previous to her demise, but owing to the expiration of his leave of absence, was obligated to return to his station a short time since. The deceased is a sister of the Rev. P. Strapp, C.B., St. Bonaventure's College. Her early demise, at the age of 31 years, has caused widespread sorrow amongst many dear relatives and friends in her native town. The small village of Harbor Main, Conception Bay, was the scene of two funerals and interments today – those of Miss Ellen Costigan, and the wife of Sergeant Oliphant. There was a special Mass in connection with the interments, celebrated at 9 o'clock by Rev. P. O'Donnell, followed by the funeral service proper. Large numbers of people were present. May 5th, 1896.*

After the tragic loss of George Lindsay Oliphant's first wife Alice and their two children, the Newfoundland Constabulary relocated Lindsay to another outpost. He took up residence at the home of John Gough and his family. During those days in Nfld, they didn't have police departments in every outpost and the officers would rent a room or apartment in or around a private residence. There he met his second wife, Anastasia Gough, John's only daughter.

Annie, as she was called had eleven brothers, and much to the disapproval of Annie's father, they were married on June 30th, 1897. John, her father, said he thought it was too soon after Lindsay had become a widower, and disagreed with the 15-year age difference. They soon had to move to St. John's to get away from the constant meddling in their personal affairs by the family.

This is a family photo taken of Constable Lindsay Oliphant and his wife Anastasia Gough and their two youngest children John Gordon and Gertrude. Their first son Alphonsus died at nine months old.



George Lindsay Oliphant and Anastasia Maria Gough had the following children.

1.) **Alphonsus Oliphant**– b. May 2nd, 1898, in St. John's Nfld. d. Feb 6th, 1899, 9 months old. (Convulsions) Buried in Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery, St. John's Nfld. with both his grandparents. George Treacher and Sarah Winsor Oliphant.

2.) **John Gordon Oliphant**– b. February 8th, 1900, in St. John's Nfld. d. February 12th, 1985 in Liverpool, NY. Age 85. (Decline of Nature) m. 1.) **Julia Margaret French**, Aug 20th, 1918, in St. John's Nfld. She was b. Feb 26, 1898, in St. John's Nfld. d. Oct 9th, 1954, in Waltham, Mass. She was the daughter of **Patrick Joseph and Caroline Brown French**. They had nine children, which we will cover later. m.2.) **Rose Mary Duva**, Oct 5th, 1957, she was b. Dec 18th, 1920, in Syracuse, NY. d. Mar 6th, 2013, in Cumming, GA. (decline of nature). Aged 92. She was the daughter of **Potenza Luca Duva & Rose Marie Santangelo**, both from Italy. They had one daughter Denise Marguerite Oliphant.

3.) **Sarah Gertrude Oliphant**– b. Sept 2, 1901, in St. John's Nfld. d. April 14, 1925, in St. John's Nfld. (Tuberculosis) aged 24. She never married, nor had any children.

4.) **George Douglas Oliphant** – b. Aug 3, 1903, in St. John's Nfld. d. Sept 7, 1964, in Stephenville, Nfld. buried in St. Stephens Catholic Cemetery, Stephenville Nfld. m. **Elizabeth Mary Olay**, Dec 22, 1928, in Buffalo, NY. She was b. Feb 2, 1905, in Budapest Hungary. d. May 16, 1995, in Stephenville, Nfld. She was the daughter of **Anthony Olay and Mary Marton**, both from Budapest Hungary.

5.) **Mary Ethel Oliphant** – b. Nov 21, 1905, in St. John's Nfld. d. Mar 6, 1934, in St John's Nfld. (Tuberculosis) m. **Augustine Michael Duffy**, he was b. Feb 18, 1905. d. July 26, 1966, in St. John's Nfld. They had two daughters, Joan and Geraldine.

6.) **Mildred Oliphant** – b. 1907 in St. John's, d. 1908 in St. John's Nfld. 1 year old.

1903 – Shortly after George Treacher Oliphant and his wife Sarah moved in with their only surviving son George Lindsay and his family in St. John's. As mentioned before, their house at 43 Williams Street, burned to the ground, along with any family heirlooms or information they may have had about any family connections in Scotland or elsewhere. Luckily no one was injured, and everyone survived. The only reason we still have the family bible is it happened to be over at George Lindsay's sister's house, Eliza Oliphant Glynn, who happened to have it at the time of the fire.

That same year, Lindsay purchased another house just one block away at number 4 Maxie Street, St. John's, where three generations of the Oliphant family lived for many years. Incidentally, this house was recently torn down in 2023. But it was long after the Oliphants had sold it and moved away.

1903 - DEATH OF MOTHER.

There was no Obit found for Sarah Oliphant but we do know she died at her son George Lindsay's house. She left to mourn, *her husband of 53 years, George Treacher Oliphant, three children from her previous marriage, Charles, Emily, & Caroline Jones, a son, Sgt. George Lindsay Oliphant, three daughters, Eliza Oliphant Glynn (Michael), and Sarah Oliphant Furlong (Henry), Jane Elizabeth Oliphant Coaker (Joseph), several grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, friends, and extended family. Predeceased by her first husband, Capt. George Jones, a son, William Peter Oliphant. Burial took place at Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery, St. John's.*

1906 – PROMOTION TO SERGEANT IN THE NEWFOUNDLAND CONSTABULARY.

OLIPHANT –Constable George Lindsay Oliphant is to be promoted to Sergeant in the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary.

1908 – DEATH OF YOUNGEST DAUGHTER.

***OLIPHANT** – Mildred, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sgt. George Lindsay Oliphant, 1 year old. Burial at Mount Carmel Cemetery.*

1909 – DEATH OF FATHER.

Evening Telegram St. John's Newfoundland. 'Well Known Man entered' Article (see Treacher's section)

1920 – PROMOTED TO HEAD CONSTABLE.

OLIPHANT –Sgt. George Lindsay Oliphant to be promoted to Head Constable in the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary. (Equivalent to Inspector)

1925 – DEATH OF ELDEST DAUGHTER.

***OLIPHANT** - Sarah Gertrude, 24 yrs old, on April 14, St. John's – passed of TB at the Health Science Center St. John's. The eldest daughter of Annie and Sgt. Lindsay Oliphant. Burial at Belvedere Catholic Cemetery St. John's.*

1932 – RETIRED FROM THE CONSTABULARY.

Head Constable George Lindsay Oliphant is to retire after 53 years of dedicated service to the people of Newfoundland.

1934 – DEATH OF SECOND ELDEST DAUGHTER.

***OLIPHANT – DUFFY** – Mary Ethel, 28 yrs old, passed March 6th, leaves to mourn her Husband Augustus Michael Duffy, and two very young daughters, Joan and Geraldine Duffy. (Died at the Infirmary of TB) Burial at Belvedere Catholic Cemetery St. John's.*

1940 – DEATH.

Evening Telegram, St. John's, Dec 17th, 1940.

***OLIPHANT** – Passed peacefully away yesterday afternoon at his home. George L. Oliphant (ex-head constable); leaving to mourn his wife, and two sons, John G. (Jack) Oliphant, Summerville, Mass., USA., and Douglas at home. The funeral will take place Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 from his late residence, 4 Maxie Street. – 'Cause of death -(Cerebral Hemorrhage)'*

1941 – DEATH OF WIFE.

OLIPHANT – Evening Telegram, St. John's - July 6th, 1941 (Tribute) *The late Mrs. Oliphant (L.C.M)*

The news of the passing of Mrs. Annie Oliphant, widow of the late Head-Constable, George L. Oliphant RNC., at St. Clare's Hospital, did not come altogether as a surprise, for her illness had been a long and trying one. Born with the characteristic spirit of patience and fidelity of the section from whence she came. The deceased was the daughter of the well-known Gough family and friends of St. Joseph's Salmonier and Newbridge, who will now rearrange their files, as they look through the records of the past, when aging

faces lack their youthful smiles and the heads that were once bright and sunny, are now snow white with the passing of many seasons.

We pause for a moment while trying to write golden lines on the necrologigcal history and turn to one of her sons who went forth in battle with the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, and was so badly injured, and is now living on distant soil in the US, and the other son Douglas, who at the call from his sick mother's bedside came from a hive of industry in the land of the Star Spangled Banner, to be at her side at the last, so the soothing hands of mellow memory should shield the kindly features from any lack of remembrance.

And so the funeral which takes place from No. 4 Maxie Street this afternoon should be largely attended by those whose memories of the good old stock are rich with respect and fragrance. To the surviving relatives, especially Corporal John Oliphant, now in Mass., USA., and Douglas, of Marshall Motors, Ltd., in this City, the sympathy of all associates is sincerely tendered.

Whilst reflecting on the indomitable spirit of the late Head Constable Sgt. George Lindsay Oliphant, and the myriad of personal trials, tribulations, and tragedies he suffered in his life. It's once again a true testament to the resilience of the human spirit in the face of adversity, and the will to persevere. It makes one pause and we are reminded of the steadfastness of the stock from whence he came. It was said to me by a cousin, Queen Maloney of Bay Bulls Nfld, who spent a lot of her youth at the Oliphant home.

"*Uncle Lindsay would sit and stare out the window in the front parlor, with a look of great consternation on his face, and I used to wonder what was on his mind." "Aunt Annie would bring his dinner in there sometimes and he would eat alone."*

Elizabeth Maloney, aka "Queen", was the granddaughter of Eliza Oliphant, Lindsay's sister, but she called him Uncle. Coincidentally, Queen told me Aunt Annie, Lindsay's wife, taught her how to sew and they made her wedding dress. Queen was very instrumental in my research into the Nfld branch of our family. She was the family historian and a staunch advocate for the Oliphant family. Queen was the author of a book called, "Trail Wanderings" by Queen Maloney.

Queen is one of those individuals with whom I had a kindred spirit connection with, and we would sit for hours while she told me old stories from the past. I could tell so many stories of our time together, but as I mentioned before, some people have more involved stories, and to stay on

track with the main focus of this book, I will refer you to the family history where I go into greater detail about the adventures we shared.

As we now know, there were only two sons left of this line to carry on the Oliphant patrilineal lineage, and they are who I will now turn our attention to as I lay out the surviving heir males of this line of descendants, and for all intents and purposes, the rightful heirs to the peerage title and dignity after the male line of their Australian cousin's had gone extinct in 1971.



This is a photo of Head Constable Sgt. George Lindsay Oliphant when he retired from the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary in the 1930's.

Chapter 19

Corporal John Gordon Oliphant

John Gordon Oliphant *– b. February 8th, 1900, in St. John's Nfld. d. February 12, 1985, in Syracuse, NY. Age 85. (Decline of Nature) m. 1.)* ***Julia Margaret French****, Aug 20th, 1918, in St. John's Nfld. She was b. Feb 26, 1898, in St. John's Nfld. d. Oct 9th, 1954, in Waltham, Mass. (Decline in health) she was the daughter of* ***Patrick Joseph French and Caroline Brown****. m. 2.)* ***Rose Mary Duva****, on Oct 5, 1957. Liverpool, NY. She was b. Dec 18, 1920, d. Mar 6, 2013, Cumming, GA. (Decline of Nature) Cremated. She was the daughter of* ***Potenza Luca and Maria Rosa Santengelo Duva*** *of Italy. They had one daughter Denise Marguerite.*

1900 - BIRTH

John Gordon Oliphant, aka 'Jack', was born February 8th, 1900, in St. John's Newfoundland. He was the oldest son of Sgt. George Lindsay Oliphant and Anastasia Maria Gough. They resided at 43 William's Street St, John's. As previously mentioned, In 1903 when this house burned, the family moved one street over, to number 4 Maxie St. This house would be where Jack spent his formative years.

Jack, as he was called by family and friends received his formal education at St. Patrick's Hall. Later attending St. Bonaventure Collage. Soon after graduation, young John Gordon decided to do his patriotic duty, and with the help of a local priest, who helped him doctor his birth certificate to appear old enough, he joined the military. Much to the disapproval of his mother Annie, he signed up for the Catholic Cadet Brigades. Later to be called the Blue Puttees. They trained on the fields in Pleasantville Nfld. Being managed by the prominent Catholic Clergy and laity, the boys were not allowed to forget their Catholic faith and they were given every opportunity to participate in the sacraments.

1915 –JOHN JOINS THE ARMY.



John G Oliphant

In Oct 1915 a young student at St. Bonaventure College, P. J. Kennedy, who would later become a priest in the archdiocese, observed:

On Thursday, Oct 1st, the Catholic members of the first Newfoundland Regiment, went in a body to Confession and Communion. It was an impressive sight to see this touching portrayal of Catholic faith shown forth in that hour of trial and excitement... (Two days later) on Oct 3rd... the line of march to the Florizel, (The ship that was to take them to the battlefields of Europe) was lined by thousands of spectators. (The young student continued to write) Heartbroken parents said a fond goodbye to sons whom they had looked forward to as support and comfort in old age..."

Having trained for war together, they also died together. It must not be forgotten that these boys (and many were in their teens) had been friends for life. They had grown up in the same neighborhoods, gone to the same schools, played on the same sports teams, etc. When death knocked, it was not impersonal.

An obituary for a 17-year-old Private Gordon A. Mullings, tells of a friendship and bond that developed between two young men. The obituary, which was published in the Adelphian read:

"Amongst the gallant young soldiers that served with Gordon A. Mullings, was a school chum, Jack Oliphant. The boys' attachment ripened under the association of barracks, camp, trench, and battle, into a romantic soldierly friendship. The two young men set sail from St. John's. They fought side by side in France and were wounded about the same time. On the very day that Gordon arrived in Edinburgh Scotland to the hospital, he found that Jack had already recovered from his wounds and had been picked in a draft to return to France. He immediately begged his O.C. for permission to accompany his chum, and on Dec 30th, the two young St. Bon's Boy's found themselves once again in the war zone surrounded by the grim realities of the modern battlefield.

Just three weeks later, the golden cord that bound the two friends was parted, for on Jan 20th, Gordon made the supreme sacrifice of his life, for the cause of the Empire, but love ceases not with the grave, Christian hope whispers of a reunion which will know nothing of separation..."

Upon John Gordon's return from the War, he made a petition to the Supreme Court of Newfoundland for the disputation of returning soldiers to aid them in finding lodging and jobs. (*I have a copy of the letter he wrote, and it's also in the Rooms in the archives in St. John's*)

After the tragic disaster of the Florizel, (*the ship that sank off the coast of NFLD, returning from France with hundreds of young soldiers coming home from the war.*) A Catholic Mass was given for the souls of the deceased members on board being brought home from the War, as well as the ones who died during the disaster, and also for the men who died at the front and were buried in France. John Gordon Oliphant was listed in the "Order of Proceedings" as a servitor for the Archbishop at the Solemn Requiem Mass and was listed as one of the Honorary Prefects, at the breakfast in the refectory following the Mass.

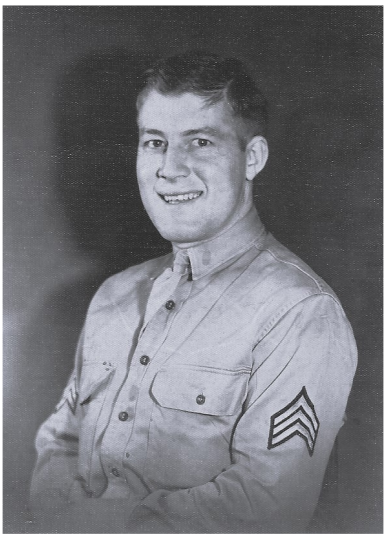
1918 – 1st MARRIAGE

Jack met and married Julia Margaret French of St. John's on August 20th, 1918, she was the daughter of Patrick French and Caroline Brown. The young couple had their first child Doug in Nfld, and later moved to Nova Scotia for a brief time and had their second child, Millie, before eventually settling in Summerville Massachusetts, where they stayed for many years. They had a total of nine children.

John Gordon (Jack) Oliphant and Julia Margaret French had the following children:

1.) ***Douglas Francis Oliphant*** *– b. 08 Jul 1919 in St. John's, Nfld. d. July 14, 2000, He married 1.)* ***Laura Julia White*** *in 1944 in Somerville, Mass. She was born on 13th, Oct 1918, d. 12th Sept 1996. She was the daughter of* ***Thomas J. White and Catherine A. Gulthrie****. m. 2.)* ***Marie Certusi****, b. 27th, Nov 1928, d. 26th, June 2001, in Medford, Mass*

SERGEANT DOUGLAS FRANCIS OLIPHANT Sr.



Sgt. US ARMY – WWII / Veteran

Sgt. Douglas Francis Oliphant Sr. succeeded his father in 1985 as the senior male of this Oliphant line in the US. On Douglas Sr's death in 2000, he was succeeded by his only son Douglas F. Oliphant Jr. which I will cover later.

2000 - DEATH – Somerville Journal/ Thursday, July 20, 2000, Pg. 6

OLIPHANT *– Sgt. Douglas F. Oliphant Sr. died July 14, 2000, at Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Medford after a lengthy illness, he was 81. (presumably Colon cancer)*

Sergeant Oliphant was born in Newfoundland Canada and was a lifelong resident of Somerville Mass USA. Mr. Oliphant was a US Army Veteran of World War II and later served as a Firefighter for the City of Somerville. He was the husband of Marie Certusi Oliphant. Father of Donna Becker of Medford, Judith Chamberlain, and Douglas Oliphant Jr., both of Somerville. Brother of George Oliphant, Dolores Brendle, Mildred Gibbons, Gertrude McCarthy, and Geraldine Oliphant. Devoted Brother-in-Law of Gerald Certusi. Also survived by three grandchildren.

A Funeral Mass was held on July 17th, at St. Raphael's Church, in Medford. Interment at Oak Grove Cemetery Medford, NH.

Donations in Mr. Oliphant's name may be made to the American Cancer Society. 30 Speen St. Framingham, MA 01701.

2.) ***Margaret Mildred Gibbons, nee Oliphant*** *– b. 11, Sep 1921 in St. John, New Brunswick d. 01 Jan 2009 in Waltham, Mass (Heart Failure & decline of Nature). She married* ***Robert James Gibbons Sr.*** *on 02nd Sep 1943 in Fort Knox, Kentucky. He was born on 29th Aug 1920 in Springhill, NS. He died in 1989 in Waltham, Mass. They had four children.*

General Notes.

2009 – DEATH,

Margaret Mildred Gibbons - September 11, 1921, – January 1, 2009

Mrs. Margaret 'Millie' (Oliphant) Gibbons, of Waltham, died Thursday, January 1, 2009, at Hospice House in Concord, New Hampshire after a lengthy illness. She was 87. Born in St. John, New Brunswick, Canada, on September 11th, 1921, Millie was the daughter of the late John Gordon Oliphant and Julia Margaret French. She and her siblings grew up in Somerville, but for more than 50 years, she lived in Waltham where she raised her family.

Millie attended Fisher Junior College and Burroughs Business College in Boston as well as Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida. She was a former president of the Catholic Women's Club and a longtime parishioner of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Church in Waltham where she had been a member of the Ladies Solidity.

She is survived by a son, Richard J. Gibbons, Sr., of Hopkinton, New Hampshire; one brother, George Oliphant of Bedford, New Hampshire; two sisters, Dolores Brendle of St. Cloud, Florida, and Geraldine Oliphant, of Ocala, Florida; Several grandchildren; Jacqueline Luetzelschwab and Stephanie Brown, both of Concord, New Hampshire, Robert J. Gibbons, III, of Hooksett, New Hampshire, R J. Gibbons, Jr., of East Wilsall, Montana, and Kellie Gibbons of Hopkinton, New Hampshire; Six great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her husband the late Robert J. Gibbons, Sr., a son, Robert J. Gibbons Jr., two brothers: the late Douglas F., and John F. Oliphant, and two sisters, Jacqueline Nagle, and Gertrude McCarthy.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Funeral on Wednesday at 10 a.m. from The Joyce Funeral Home, 245 Main Street (Rte.20), Waltham followed by a Funeral Mass in Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted Church, 880 Trapelo Road Waltham at 11 a.m. Burial will be in Mount Feake Cemetery, Waltham.

Visiting hours will be held on Tuesday from 4 to 8 p.m. Memorial donations may be made to the Concord New Hampshire Hospice House, 250 Pleasant Street, Concord, New Hampshire, 03302-1797.

3.) ***Frances Geraldine Oliphant*** *– b. 05 Mar 1923 in Lynn, Mass. d. 14 Jan 2012 in St. Cloud Florida. (Heart Failure – Decline of nature). Age 89.*

General Notes.

Geraldine Oliphant or 'Gerri', as she was called by her family and friends became a Catholic Nun early on in her life and remained so until she retired from the order. She retired near Ocala Fla. And lived with a lifelong friend, who was also a Nun, named Margaret Massy. They were roommates until Gerri could no longer care for herself, and she moved into a nursing home where she died at age 89. Gerri previously had heart bypass surgery due to coronary artery disease, and it was said she ultimately died of heart failure. Gerri requested to be cremated, and there was no obituary that I'm aware of, and her remains are buried in St. Cloud Fla.

4.) ***Gertrude Marie McCarthy, nee Oliphant*** *– b. 01 May 1924 in Lynn, Mass., d. 06 Sep 2005. m.* ***Thomas Francis McCarthy****, b. 28 Dec 1921 in Arlington, Mass. d. 07 Dec 1990 in Boston, Mass.*

General Notes.

Gertrude McCarthy, *of Arlington, formerly of Somerville, died September 6, 2005. Beloved wife of the late Thomas F. McCarthy, Sr. Mother of Thomas F. Jr. & his wife Anne McCarthy of Manchester, NH, and Kathleen Hunter of Lexington. Sister of M. Mildred Gibbons, F. Geraldine Oliphant, Dolores Brendle, and George Oliphant. Grandmother of Erin McCarthy, Kymra Kurinskas, Eric, Meghan, and Caitlin Hunter. Great grandmother of Griffin and Maeve Torrey. Companion of Anthony Russo.*

Funeral procession from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville, Saturday morning at 9am, followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Agnes Church, Arlington at 10:00. Relatives and friends are invited. Calling hours Friday 2-4 & 7-9. Interment Oak Grove Cemetery. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in Gertrude's memory to the St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.

5.) ***John Francis Oliphant Sr****. b. 04 Jun 1925 in Winthrop, Mass. d. 30 Oct 1991 in Somerville, Mass. (Heart Attack in his sleep) aged 65. m.* ***Marion Jean McCarthy*** *in Somerville, Mass. She was born on 17, Dec 1927 in Worcester, Mass, d. 27, May 2016 in Boscawen, NH. She was the daughter of* ***Timothy McCarthy and Anna Conway.***

General Notes.

Retired US Navy Veteran, and Somerville Firefighter.

1991 - DEATH – Oct 30, 1991/ Boston Globe, and Somerville Journal.

OLIPHANT – *John F. "Ollie" Oliphant died unexpectedly on Oct 30th, at his home in Somerville. He was 65.*

A lifelong resident of Somerville, he was a Somerville Firefighter for 25 years until his retirement in 1978. He was a member of the local 1240, and a life member of D.A.V. Chapter 27.

He was the husband of Marion T. McCarthy and father of Jeanne M. Brock of Wilmont, NH. John F. Jr., and Janet M. Oliphant, both of Somerville. Brother of M. Mildred Gibbons, Gertrude M. McCarthy, A. Jacqueline Nagle, Dolores T. Brendle, F. Geraldine, Douglas F. and George L. Oliphant. Grandfather of Jason L. of Cailf, Jennifer M. of VA., and Jared H. Brock.

Funeral from the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Power House Sq.), Somerville, Saturday at 9 AM. Funeral Mass in St. Clements Church, Somerville at 10 o'clock. Relatives and friends are invited. Calling hours, Thursday 7-9, Friday, 2-4, and 7-9. Interment at Cambridge Cemetery,

6.) ***Agnes Jacqueline Nagle, nee Oliphant*** *– b. 24, Jan 1927 in Winthrop, Mass. d. 17, Apr 1995 in Boston, Mass (Heart Failure). Aged 68. m.* ***Walter Nagle*** *in Somerville, Mass. He was born on 17, Feb 1912 in Charlestown, Mass. d. 30, January 1982 in Somerville, Mass.*

General Notes.

1995 – DEATH – April 19th, BOSTON GLOBE, pg 71

NAGLE – *Of Somerville, April 17, 1995, Agnes Jackie Oliphant, Beloved wife of the late Walter J. Nagle, Sister of M. Mildred Gibbons of Waltham, F. Geraldine Oliphant, Dorothy T. Brendle, both of Fla., Gertrude M. McCarthy of Arlington, Douglas F. of Somerville, George L. of Medford and the late John F. Oliphant. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Funeral from George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway Powderhouse Sq. Somerville, Thursday morning at 9 a.m. followed by a Funeral Mass in St. Clement's Church, Somerville at 10 o;clock. Relatives and friends invited. Calling hours Wednesday 2-4 and 7-9. Interment Cambridge Cemetery, Cambridge. Dedicated longtime volunteer for the 'Little Sisters of the Poor,'*

Somerville. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Jackie's name to the 'Home for Little Wanderers,' 20 Linden St. Boston MA 02134.

Agnes Jacqueline Nagle, nee Oliphant was called 'Jackie" by her family and friends, and in her sister Dolores opinion, was the prettiest of all the girls in their family. They used to call her "Miss Hollywood." Dolores said, Jackie was always upbeat and very optimistic, and was very outgoing and of a gregarious nature. She and her husband Walter Nagle, never had any children. It was said, Jackie was diagnosed with Lupus and had crippling arthritis, which caused her constant pain. Evidently from what her sister told me, this is what she eventually died from. Jackie passed in April of 1995 at age 68, in Somerville Mass.

7.) ***William Oliphant*** *– b. abt. July 1928 d. Mar 25, 1929 at 8 mths old.*

Boston Advertiser – 25, March 1929, pg. 2

OLIPHANT – *William Oliphant died tragically at eight months old along with the Oliphants house keeper, 78 year Mrs. Waite Locke when they were overcome by gas fumes in their family home at 37 Ocean Ave, when a water heater attached to a gas range in the kitchen was turned on by accident either by the house keeper or one of the children.*

Three other children and siblings of William Oliphant were home at the time and were also overcome by the Gas fumes, Gertrude, 4, John, 3, and Jacqueline 2, were brought to the hospital where they were treated and eventually recovered.

Their 7 year old sister Mildred and 9 year old brother Doug found the children and Mrs. Locke after returning home from the movies. After smelling gas and finding their siblings unconscious on the kitchen floor, they ran to a neighbors house for help.

There was considerable difficulty in an effort to restore baby William back to consciousness, but after the fire crew, and police officers, worked on him, he succumb to his injuries. The body of the young boy was taken in charge of the Medical Examiner Mr. George B. Magrath, who ordered it taken to the Northern Mortuary.

The mother Mrs. Julia Oliphant was at work in Boston at a furniture store at the time of the incident and their father, Mr. John G Oliphant was said to have been out of town at the time.

Mrs. Waite Locke the house keeper, who was the other victim in this case,

and also died that day had been widowed for many years and lived with her daughter, Mrs. Mabel Jollota. She was employed by the Oliphants for several years to care for the young children. She was born in Halifax, N. S. and leaves a sister in Hyde Park.

Other than what was in this article, no other details were given about young William Oliphant. There was no obituary or place of burial discovered.

8.) ***Dolores Teresa Brendle, nee Oliphant*** *b. 15, Oct 1930 in Winthrop, Mass. d. 5, December 2023. In Kissimmee, Fla. (Decline of nature) aged 93. m.* ***James Porter Brendle*** *in Somerville, Mass. He was born on 25th, June 1929. d. 01, July 2013 in Kissimmee, Florida. They had five children.*

General Notes.

2023 – DEATH – *December 5th, 2023, Cremation, followed by interment at Osceola Memorial Gardens, Kissimmee, Florida.*

Dolores, or 'Tibbie' as she was affectionately known by family and friends, along with her sisters Millie and Gertrude were instrumental in my discovery of this side of the Oliphant family. She told me she was in insurance sales in her early days, and always had nice things to say about everyone. She was a devout Catholic and attended Mass often until her health began declining with COPD, which had a devastating effect on her ability to get around on her own. She told me she and Jim, her husband lived in North Carolina in the early years of their marriage and lived around Jim's family. They eventually retired to South Florida and were close to their three daughters, and some of their grandchildren. Their two sons were living out of state. I spoke to her up until the last two weeks of her life, and although she was always optimistic and upbeat, she expressed being tired of being sick. It was extremely sad for me to hear her like this, but I am reminded and grateful for the many good and memorable times I had with her, Jim, and their family.

Since her family posted only a legal notice of death with no obituary. Out of respect and privacy for the family, I have omitted the names of hers and Jim's children, and grandchildren. She told me she and Jim both decided to be cremated and are interred in Niche, side by side at Osceola Memorial Gardens in Kissimmee Fla.

9.) ***George Lindsay Oliphant*** *– b. 05, Jan 1932 in Winthrop, Mass. d. 29, Sep 2014 in Bedford, NH, (Decline of Nature) aged 82. m.* ***Barbara Kearns*** *in 1951 in Somerville, Mass. She was born in 1932 in Somerville.*

General Notes.

1950- 53 - Retired US Naval Officer, World War II, served in the Korean Conflict.

2014 - DEATH - Boston Globe, and Somerville Journal, Oct 1st, 2014.

OLIPHANT *- George L. Of Bedford, NH formerly of Somerville and Medford – Passed peacefully on September 29, 2014, at the Bedford Hills Center surrounded by his loving family, after a lengthy illness. George served in the US Navy during the Korean Conflict. Beloved husband of 63 years to Barbara (Kearns) Oliphant. Loving father of Charlene Hunter and her husband David of Bedford, NH, Michele Spinale and her husband Domenic of Manchester, NH, Devoted grandfather of Michael Spinale, of Chicago Il, Nicole Janosz and her husband Stephen of Manchester, NH, Matthew Spinale of Manchester, NH. Adoring great-grandfather of Domenic and Carter Janosz of Manchester, NH. Brother of Dolores Brendle of St. Cloud, FL, and the late Douglas Oliphant Sr., M. Mildred Gibbons, F. Geraldine, William and John Oliphant, Gertrude McCarthy, and A. Jacqueline Nagle. Brother-In-Law of Dorothy Kearns of Bedford, NH, and many nieces and nephews.*

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated for George, in St. Clement Church, Somerville Friday morning at 11:00, Relatives and friends are invited. Interment Oak Grove Cemetery, Medford, MA. Arrangements by the George L. Doherty Funeral Home, 855 Broadway (Powder House Sq.) Somerville.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in George's memory to the St. Elizabeth Seton Church, Meeting House Rd. Bedford, NH 03110, or the Animal Rescue League of Bedford, 545 Route 101 Bedford, NH 03110.

George's family would like to thank the entire staff at the Bedford Hills Center for their dedication to providing George with wonderful loving care and kindness, especially the Frost Unit, each and every one was, and is so special. THANK YOU!

1954 – DEATH OF FIRST WIFE, Oct 9th, 1954 – Boston Daily Globe – Monday. Oct 11th, pg. 16

OLIPHANT – *In Somerville. Oct 9, Julia M. (French) Oliphant, Formerly of Gibbon's St., mother of Sister Mary Julia O. S, F., Douglas F, John F, and George L Oliphant. M. Mildred Gibbons, Gertrude M. McCarthy. A. Jacqueline Nagle, and Dolores T. Brendle. Funeral from 2 Benton Road,*

at Summer St., Somerville, Tuesday, at 8 A.M. Solemn High Mass at St. Catherine's Church at 9 A.M. Relatives and friends invited. Visiting hours 2 -5 and 7 -10 P.M.

John attended their youngest daughter Dolores' wedding before leaving the area, and no one in his immediate family ever heard from him again. It wasn't until years later that I discovered him in NY, but unfortunately, he had passed by this time. John had moved to Syracuse, NY, gained employment as a professional Chef, and started a whole new life.

1957 – 2nd MARRIAGE

While in NY, John/Jack met a young lady named Rose Mary Duva, and they later got married. Eventually, the couple had one daughter Denise Marguerite Oliphant.

1971 – BECOMES SENIOR HEIR MALE.



Whether he was aware of it or not, John Gordon Oliphant became the senior male heir of this line of Oliphant's upon the death of his 2nd cousin 1x removed, Roy Reginald Oliphant in 1971, who had just died in Australia, without issue. If John did know, he never made a fuss over it. However, his brother Douglas may have had some idea of this early on, due to the fact he spent more time with his dad then Jack did, and his father may have told him something that made him start using Esq. behind his name. In essence, 'heir apparent,' or a Knight in waiting.

1985 – DEATH

John Gordon Oliphant, died of natural causes at 85 years old. It was listed as a decline of nature. John Gordon Oliphant, aka Jack, is buried in Syracuse, NY.

After discovering his obit, I thought it was odd that it never mentioned any of his other children or family. Also, it never mentioned his War service, nor his original place of birth, Newfoundland. I later found out from his daughter Denise, that Jack never spoke about his former life with his new

family, and apparently, they believed the story he told them. She said he once told her; he was from France. I'm not sure what happened there, but his obit was fairly vague, and never even gave his given name.

Obituary; February 12th, 1985.

OLIPHANT - *Jack G. Oliphant, 85, of 4283 Belmont Drive, Liverpool, died Tuesday at Crouse Irving Memorial Hospital after a brief illness. A Native of Canada, Mr. Oliphant lived in the Syracuse area for 37 years. He was a retired Chef and worked at many restaurants in the Syracuse area. Mr. Oliphant was a communicant of Christ the King Church, Bayberry. Surviving is his wife, Rose Mary Duva, and daughter, Denise O. Beauchamp of Liverpool.*

Services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday in Christ the King Church. Burial will be in Assumption Cemetery in Syracuse. There will be no calling hours.

Contributions may be made to Christ the King Renovation Fund or the Moyers Corners Ambulance Fund.

Chapter 20

George Douglas Oliphant Esq.

George Douglas Oliphant – b. August 6th, 1903, in St. John's Newfoundland. d. Sept 7th, 1964, age 61. In Stephenville, Nfld. (Heart Attack) m. ***Elizabeth Mary Olay****, 22, Dec 1928, in Buffalo, New York. She was born on 02 February 1905, in Budapest, Hungary. d. 16, May 1995, in Stephenville, Nfld. age 90 (Decline of Nature) She was the daughter of* ***Anthony Olay and Mary Marton****, both from Hungary.*

1903 – BIRTH

George Douglas Oliphant was the third eldest son born to Sgt. George Lindsay Oliphant and Anastasia Maria Gough. Born in the family home at 43 William's St., St. John's and later moved when, as mentioned before, it burned to the ground. It would seem to be a very tumultuous time for the family when during that same year, his grandmother Sarah Winsor Oliphant, died in that same house, and as if that wasn't devastating enough, they lost valuable family heirlooms and irretrievable worldly possessions in that fire, all in one year.

It's hard to imagine all that devastation, and then having to start all over, when they moved just one block away to number 4 Maxie Street where it seems like things begin to stabilize somewhat, or at least for a few years. They lived at this address through Doug's formative years, and he would later return to the same house as an adult with his own family to care for his aging parents in their last days.

1922 – DOUG LEAVES NEWFOUNDLAND FOR AMERICA.

Doug, as he was called by family and friends, set off to America at age 19 to seek his fortune. He went to Manhattan, NY, and was working as a chauffeur while trying to become a professional Boxer. He eventually met

the woman who would later become his wife Elizabeth Mary Olay. She was the only daughter of Anthony Olay and Mary Marton. 'Betty', as she was called, worked as a waitress, and was also a trained nutritionist. She would prepare special dietary meals at the Trubie Hotel for guests, and also helped Doug with his diet during his boxing training.

Doug was a very gifted musician who sang and played piano. His gregarious, and personable manner made him friends easily. After being gone for about five years, his mother Annie became worried about how he was doing and asked her brother, Vince Gough to go to NY and find him, and see what he was up to.



The story, as it was told to me; Vince found Doug in NY digging a ditch with a Construction Co. When Vince made his presence known, he asked the foreman to get that young man up here, that he needed a word with him. The foreman said he's working right now. Go away and come back at the end of the day. Vince insisted and took Doug away from the site, bought him a new suit, and a cigar, and had a professional photo made of the two of them. Vince sent the picture back to his sister and said he was doing just fine. Vince also helped Doug get a job at the Fuller Brush Co. in NY.

1928 – MARRIES.

George Douglas Oliphant and Mary Elizabeth Olay married on Dec 22nd, 1928, in Buffalo NY. At Holy Trinity Catholic Church. 205 W. 82nd Street, Manhattan. Witnesses were Doug's older sister Ethel Oliphant, who came from Newfoundland for the wedding, and a guy named Patrick Scott. After the wedding, Doug & Betty resided at 108 W. 81st Street, Manhattan NY. The wedding was held just a block away from where they lived. The ceremony was performed by Rev. John J. O'Donnell.



Doug had done pretty well in the Boxing industry and was making upward of $300 a fight, and in the 1920s that was quite a lot of money.

1937 – DOUG RETURNS TO NFLD

Doug received a telegram from his mother saying his father was not doing well, and that she was finding it difficult to care for him on her own, and would he please come home. We still have a copy of his reply in a followup telegram. *"I will be home as soon as possible. Nothing else matters."*

Doug left NY in 1937 and headed back to Newfoundland with wife and son in tow. They moved into the family home at 4 Maxie St., St. John's., and Doug immediately took a job as a car salesman at Marshall Motors.

1940 – DEATH OF FATHER - *See, Former Head Constable George Lindsay Oliphant' obit*

1941 – DEATH OF MOTHER - *See, Annie Oliphant nee Gough tribute.*

After the back-to-back deaths of both parents, Doug contacted his only surviving sibling, his brother Jack, who was living in Somerville Mass, USA., to decide what to do with the family assets. They agreed to sell the family home and split the money down the middle. Doug, his wife, and only son, George, moved into an apartment at Pine Bud Avenue, in St. John's. Doug later bought a place called the "Barking Kettle Garage" and changed the name to "Doug Oliphant's Service Station."

1948 - Doug started a new business called "D. G. Oliphant & Son's on a promise from "Good Year Tire Co." that they would give him all their vulcanizing business in Newfoundland. With the lumber business being such a huge purchaser of large tires for their logging trucks, it would have been a very lucrative contract. I guess Doug had high hopes his only son George would one day take over the business, but unfortunately, George had other ideas.

Business Politics reared its ugly head, and the deal with Good Year fell

through, and Doug eventually had to close shop.

1950 – GEORGE DOUGLAS OLIPHANT ENTERS POLITICS.



Doug had always been interested in local politics and ran for City Council in 1950. Through a by-election, he won the seat as Councilor for the St. John's District. He became the director of the National Safety League. Doug made quite a few major contributions to the City of St. John's infrastructure as a Councilor.

Among some of the more notable was the introduction of Parking meters to the city, which generated a lot of additional revenue. It was said, he brought the idea from NY. He was responsible for bringing the first snowplow to Bell Island and was a staunch advocate for the City Sewer and Water systems.

Doug had lost a few family members to the dreaded disease TB, and there was an epidemic of Cholera and Dysentery in and around St. John's due to poor drinking water, so Doug took this on as his mission to clean it up. Being outspoken about this issue and other matters the City Council felt shouldn't be made public, he didn't make a lot of friends among his constituents. This too was around the time of Confederation in 1949, and there was a huge divide between Liberals and Conservatives. Doug stayed strong on his Conservative values, and this made him even more of a target for the opposition, and they pretty much controlled everything. It was said by family members that he suffered character assassination and was personally attacked and ostracized in an attempt to destroy him politically and personally for his views.

1953 – RESIGNS AS CITY COUNCILOR.

The pressure proved to be so great, that Doug suffered a mild Heart Attack and resigned from his position as a Council member in 1953. Doug's picture along with the other Councilors of 1953, with the parking meter on the desk, still hangs in the St. John's City Council Chambers at City Hall. Coincidentally, the land that City Hall in St. John's currently sits on is the same property D. G. Oliphant and Son's Vulcanizing Business was located. I can only assume Doug sold it to the City.

Doug, ever the entrepreneur, was always thinking about promotion, and business, and came up with the idea to promote Boxing bouts and professional Wrestling in Newfoundland. He had some of his old friends, and business associates from NY, as well as big stars in the Boxing and wrestling industry of the day, come to Newfoundland to promote the idea. From all indications, it was a big success. I'm not sure if it had anything to do with Dec 26th, becoming Boxing Day in Canada, but one never knows, it could very well have been. Doug never really got a lot of credit for a lot of his ideas. But Boxing and Wrestling became quite the sensation all over Canada.

1956 – DOUG MOVES TO STEPHENVILLE

Doug was later offered a position as Town Manager of Stephenville. Which would be the same as Mayor in the US. He accepted the job, and they packed up their things, left St. John's and moved across the Island to Stephenville.

After a short time in Stephenville, Doug, being the ever-consummate optimist, purchased five acres of land just outside of town. He had designs on making it into an RV Park, which was squashed by regulations put in place by his so-called buddies back in St. John's. He then was going to purchase baby chickens and start a chicken hatchery and poultry farm. Again, squashed by regulatory restrictions concocted by his political rivals. They wanted to destroy him and put every roadblock available to keep him from reaching any level of financial success, because they feared him, and knew he would be a dangerous adversary if he had a better financial footing.

One of the interesting things I noticed while visiting Stephenville was the names of the streets. Most of them were all named after American States. I was later told by Jim Cochran, one of Doug's friends and business associates, and the husband of Senator Ethel Cochran, that Doug had named the streets when he was Mayor as the town was expanding.

When the threat of the Cold War was diminished and the US Military decided to remove the Air Base from Stephenville, Doug spoke to the General in charge of liquidating the bases assets. Doug bought 12 houses and somehow managed to move six of them to his five-acre property. He was doing it under the cover of darkness, so his so-called buddies couldn't stop him. I guess he figured it was better to ask for forgiveness than to ask for permission at this point. His idea was to create a small community for the upper echelon of the Military to stay while stationed there or rent them

as cottages.

Doug also made the local paper by purchasing all the Military Vehicles, Jeeps, Trucks, and Buses, from the base, and was going to sell them to the public. There was a huge public outcry and a big uproar in the community. Then controversy started swirling about how he had an unfair advantage being the Mayor. This once again brought down the regulatory hand of his opposition back in St. John's, and a lot of unwanted attention to the whole thing.

Doug had to go on the radio and publicly apologize and said anyone interested could come and bid on the vehicles, and to contact the Military Commanders. I was told by some locals; "*The military stopped the purchase, and they barged all the vehicles out to sea and dumped them in the ocean*."

One of Doug's friends, Jim Cochran told me, that Doug was unstoppable, and if half the ideas he tried would have come to fruition, he would have been a Millionaire.

1964 – DEATH - Stephenville local paper Sept 7, 1964.

It was after a business trip to Deer Lake that Doug suffered a massive Heart Attack. He appeared to be making progress but later relapsed and died Sept 7th, 1964, at age 61. He was buried at St. Stephen's Catholic Church Cemetery along with his wife in Stephenville NFLD. He left a legacy of love and respect by all who knew him.

News Paper Article in Stephenville read.

SUFFERS ATTACK

(*Stephenville) (Staff) - Doug Oliphant, secretary of the Stephenville Chamber of Commerce, was stricken with a heart attack Friday past and taken to the Cottage Hospital at Stephenville Crossing.*

Mr. Oliphant is still a patient at the hospital, but his condition is reported to be improving.

PROMINENT CITIZEN, DOUG OLIPHANT DIES

STEPHENVILLE (Staff) - *Obituary.*

***OLIPHANT** – The business community of the town was saddened Monday morning when Douglas Oliphant 61 passed away at the Stephenville Cottage*

Hospital following a short illness. The deceased suffered a heart attack a week ago following a business trip to Deer Lake. He appeared to be making satisfactory progress but on Monday he had a relapse and passed away at 6 a.m.

Mr. Oliphant came to Stephenville from St. John's in the late 1950's to serve as Town Manager. He held the position for several years until he resigned due to failing health. For the past year, he has served as Secretary of the Stephenville Chamber of Commerce and gave unstintingly of his time and energy to the promotion of its affairs.

Prior to coming to Stephenville, Mr. Oliphant operated his own business, D. G. Oliphant & Sons in St. John's, and also served for a period as an elected member of the St. John's City Council.

While devoting considerable energies to business, Mr. Oliphant also was active in social life. Of a gregarious and affable nature, he found his pleasure with groups. One of his cherished avocations was active participation with choral groups and for years he performed in concert programs in St. John's. It is not surprising that he was a member of the Stephenville Community Singers, from here last year.

In his earlier years, he was an athlete of note and excelled at boxing, so much so, that he turned professional and fought for several years out of New York, NY. One of his more notable traits was his ability to accept his setbacks, both large and small, with a wonderful sense of humor. His philosophy being "try and change the things that you can, and accept without rancor those that you can't."

It was in that spirit that he carried with him for the past few years the mental burden of failing health. The deceased leaves to mourn besides his wife Elizabeth (Betty), an only son, George Leonard Oliphant, who is a member of the United States Armed Forces, Currently Stationed in Japan.

A funeral Mass was celebrated, and largely attended this morning at 8 o'clock from St. Stephen's Church. Interment was at St. Stephens Catholic Church Cemetery, Stephenville.

1995 – DEATH OF WIFE

STEPHENVILLE (STAFF) Tuesday, May 16th, 1995

OLIPHANT – *It is with great sadness that the family of Elizabeth Oliphant announces her passing at the Sir Thomas Roddick Hospital on*

Tuesday, May 16th, 1995 in her 90th year. She will be sadly missed by her daughter-in-law, Mary Theresa Oliphant of Atlanta Georgia, 7 grandchildren; Paul D. Oliphant, Deborah A. Oliphant, Anthony M. Oliphant, Leonard P. Oliphant, Pamela M. Oliphant, Vivian E. Oliphant, John F. Oliphant, all of Atlanta Georgia USA. 5 great grandchildren: Christopher & Melissa Strickland of NC, Joshua Oliphant of GA. Amanda Ethridge of GA. Mary Katherine Miller of NC. She was predeceased by her husband George Douglas Oliphant, and her son, George Leonard Oliphant.

Funeral services will take place on Thursday, May 18th, and 10 A.M. from St. Stephen's Parish on West Street with interment in the Roman Catholic Cemetery on West Street Stephenville. Friends may call at Russell's Funeral Home, 39 Queen St, Stephenville on Weds from 2-4 and 7-9 P.M. Flowers are greatly appreciated or donations may be made to Sir Thomas Roddick Hospital Foundation.

George Douglas Oliphant Esq. and Elizabeth Mary Olay had the following child.

SERGEANT GEORGE LEONARD OLIPHANT

George Leonard Oliphant *– b. 04, July 1934 in Manhattan, New York. d. 27, October 1992 in Atlanta, Georgia, at the VA Hospital. (Carcinoma of the Lungs) aged 59 years. m.* ***Mary Theresa Roche****, 03, March 1956 in Fairbanks, Alaska. She was born, on 02, August 1930, in Kelligrews, Nfld. d. 09, September 2020 in Austell GA, (Decline of Nature) aged 90. She was the daughter of* ***Edward Patrick Roche and Edith Mary Frances Lawlor,*** *both residents of Newfoundland.*

1934 – BIRTH

George Leonard Oliphant was born in the Women's Hospital in Manhattan NY. On the 4th of July. His grandfather, the former Head Constable, George Lindsay Oliphant had become ill, and his grandmother Annie sent for his father Doug to return to Newfoundland to help her care for him. 'Len,' as he was called by family and friends, was only 3 years old. Len and his parents went back to Nfld. and moved into the family home in St. John's with his grandparents. Len spent a lot of time with his grandmother Annie during his formative years and had a great affinity towards her.

In my opening remarks I mentioned I was accused of asking too many

questions, and one such time while I was grilling my dad on family matters, I observed him picking up a newspaper and opening it straight to the funnies. Now normally I wouldn't have found this odd, and I don't know why this struck me as interesting, but in my usual form, I asked him why. I explained to him that most people go straight to the Sports section, or the Obits, etc. He said, *"I never really thought about it, but yes, I always go to the funnies first. I guess it was because of my grandmother Annie." He said, "she would get the paper, and we would sit in the kitchen while she read the funnies. I remember she would have her apron on, and I would lay my head across her lap, while she read, and we would just laugh our heads off."* After telling me this story, he sat back quietly and paused for a moment as if recounting the memory of her, and said to me in a soft tone, *"she was my favorite person, I really loved her very much."*

Up until that moment, I had never heard him speak of his grandparents, and as though a door had been shut on this part of his life, with that question, suddenly it was opened, and I could see it in his eyes. That opened a window to even more information but also questions, which surprisingly, he gladly explained.

1940 – DEATH OF GRANDFATHER; *(see Sgt. George Lindsay Oliphant)*

1941 – DEATH OF GRANDMOTHER; *(Tribute) to Mrs. Annie Gough Oliphant.* (*see Annie Oliphant*)

Len was 7 years old when he lost both his grandfather, and then his beloved grandmother Annie. They died one year apart. He told me that he was there in the kitchen when his grandfather Sgt. Lindsay Oliphant died of a brain aneurysm. He said he felt so helpless as his poor grandmother tried to revive him to no avail. Things I would have never known, had I not asked.

Leonard later attended St. Bonaventure Catholic School for boys, he attended Mass regularly and was an Altar boy at the Basilica in St. John's for many years. His school records showed he studied Latin, French, Mathematics, Religion, English Language, Literature, Algebra, Geometry, Chemistry, as well as History & Art. He was hailed as a model student, above average. St. Bon's held school from first grade up through Eleventh grade, and the students would graduate in their eleventh year.

Leonard was also a talented musician who played Violin and Piano and was a good Harmonica player. Len's maternal grandfather, Anthony Olay was a Hungarian Symphony Orchestra Conductor, and coming from a very

musical family, his mother Betty pushed it on him. He said he was made to take piano lessons at an early age. He told me he wasn't fond of it and was made to walk to the teacher's house for lessons, and he described her as mean. "*She would crack me across the fingers*, he said" for not concentrating or for one reason or another. He said, "*I was made to play for company at the house as a boy but was very shy and didn't like it*."

Leonard was a typical teen and did odd jobs around town for extra spending money. He and his first cousin Joe Gough would shovel snow from people's walkways for money. Len had a best friend name Charlie Daly who would meet up on the way to school and were always seen together up through to graduation. Charlie became a local Dentist in St. John's.

Leonard never had his own car as a young man. According to a Cousin Queen Maloney, who was always at their house, said Len would drive his father's company van around town that said, "Oliphant and Son" on the side of it.

Leonard later met Mary Theresa Roche at a beach party in Topsail Nfld. His best friend Charlie Daly was there and said Len was playing the harmonica around a bonfire on the beach. Mary kept trying to get his attention by walking by and poking at him, etc. He finally grabbed her by the leg and pulled her down onto his lap and gave her a kiss, and then let her go and casually went back to playing.

Charlie said, "I think Len said something to the effect of, "*Now there, is that what you wanted*." They eventually started dating, and after a few years, they decided they wanted to get married. However, Len's mother had other plans for him after graduation because he was born in the US, and he was available for US citizenship if he returned and served two years in any branch of the service when he turned eighteen.

Len's mother insisted he take advantage of this opportunity, and that he would appreciate it someday. After graduation, Len's mother sent him to NY to stay at her brother Frank Olay's for a while, and he said he also stayed at his uncle Jack Oliphant's for a while too. The plan was to sign up for the Air Force, do his two-year stint, and return home to Newfoundland.

1954 – JOINS THE AIR FORCE



IN NEW YORK

Leonard Oliphant, a Graduate of St. Bonaventure's College, has now been residing in the heart of New York for several weeks, and has taken up engineering work. Born in the United States, when his father and mother were living there, he is, of course, available for Service with the American Forces, and was prepared to join as soon as the age limit would be reached. That would entail a much longer period of time with the Army, whereas being inducted on the Reserve list means a two year service.

Leonard is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Oliphant, of Adelaide Street. An uncle, John Oliphant, served as a Corporal with the 1st Battalion, Royal Newfoundland Regiment, and was badly wounded in the First Great World War of 1914-1918.

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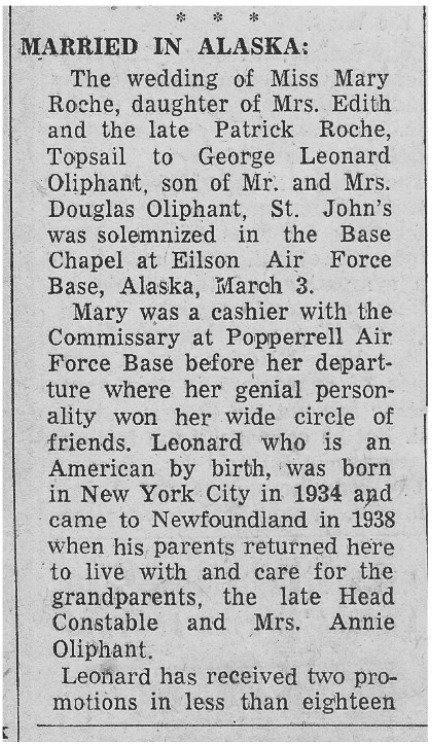
1956 – MARRIAGE

George Leonard Oliphant was transferred to Fairbanks Alaska with the US Air Force, and Mary joined him later and on March 3rh, 1956, they were married.



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MARRIED IN ALASKA:

The wedding of Miss Mary Roche, daughter of Mrs. Edith and the late Patrick Roche, Topsail to George Leonard Oliphant, son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Oliphant, St. John's was solemnized in the Base Chapel at Eilson Air Force Base, Alaska, March 3.

Mary was a cashier with the Commissary at Popperrell Air Force Base before her departture where her genial personality won her wide circle of friends. Leonard who is an American by birth, was born in New York City in 1934 and came to Newfoundland in 1938 when his parents returned here to live with and care for the grandparents, the late Head Constable and Mrs. Annie Oliphant.

Leonard has received two promotions in less than eighteen

Years later while at my grandmother Betty's funeral there were three older ladies there who were friends of my grandmother's. When they saw my mother Mary, they mumbled under their breath, but loud enough to be heard, "*That's that girl who chased after Mrs. Oliphant's son and took him away from her.*" I turned and looked at my mother with a raised eyebrow and she looked at me and said, "*Those old biddy's, don't know what they're talking about.*" I never said a word, but inside, I couldn't help but laugh.

George decided to make a career in the Military and re-enlisted after his two years was up. George had several different jobs during his career. One was a heavy equipment operator, and then he worked in the Salvage and Supply yard where they sold discarded military equipment and supplies to the public. He later told me, he really enjoyed that kind of work, and his goal was to one day open his own salvage yard, or something similar when he retired.

Near the end of his career, he moved into what was called the IGT Team where he traveled around inspecting Hospitals. When he reached the end of his career, he managed a Base Commissary (Grocery Store). He worked well with people and was always in some managerial position.

1964 – DEATH OF FATHER Stephenville Local paper (see Obit for Doug Oliphant)

1972 – RETIREMENT FROM AIR-FORCE

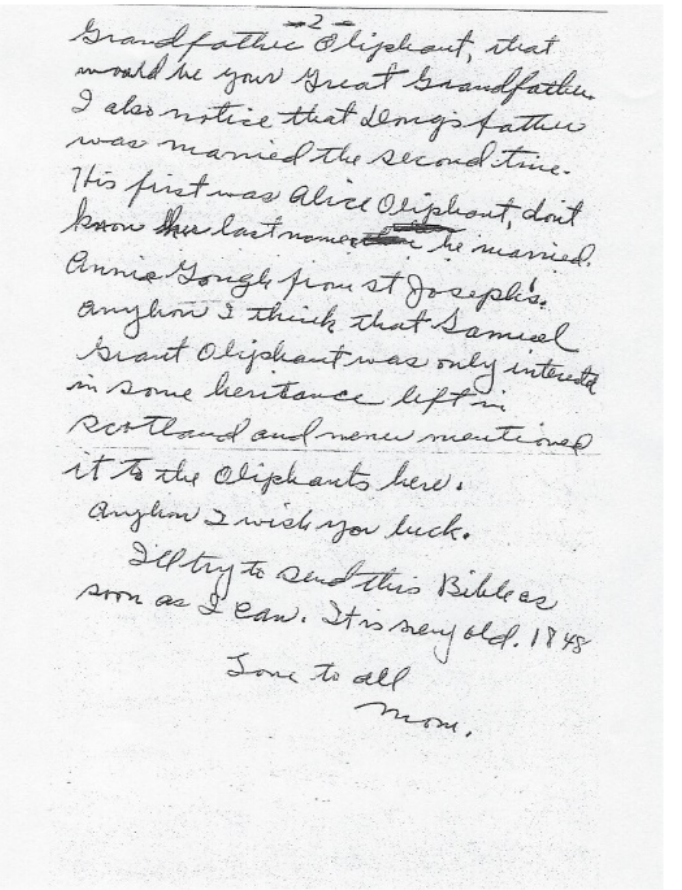
By 1972 Leonard had made the rank of Senior Master Sergeant, and retired after 20 years of service at Shaw AFB in Sumter SC. After 16 years of marriage, he and his wife Mary decided to separate, and George moved to Conway SC. Mary moved to Charleston SC with the kids. Shortly after moving, Len rented a house a few blocks from the beach on 2nd Ave, Myrtle Beach SC.

Sometime during the 1970's, and in keeping with the subject of this book. Leonard's mother Betty sent him some heirlooms of the family. One was the family bible, which I mentioned earlier survived the house fire that destroyed his grandparent's first home in St. John's Newfoundland. The bible ironically was at Leonard's great aunts house Eliza Oliphant Glynn in Bay Bulls Nfld. and miraculously survived.

This is a copy of the letter that accompanied the family bible when his mother sent it to him.

Dear Lee -

This is a start for you to find out about our ances- -tors. This is a Protestant family Bible. We received it from Mrs John Glynn [redacted] in Bay Bulls. Some of the Pages are missing about the Oliphant family tree. Which was sent to Samuel Grant Oliphant. He was a Professor in the University at Exter N.H. then moved to Washington Pa. Guess by now he has passed away. He was writing a book on the Oliphant Clan. I never heard of it myself. I'm reading the letters which were sent to



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Grandfather Oliphant, that would be your Great Grandfather I also notice that Dougs father was married the second time. His first was Alice Oliphant, dont know the last name he married Annie Gough from St Joseph's. Anyhow I think that Samuel Grant Oliphant was only interested in some heritance left in Scotland and never mentioned it to the Oliphants here. Anyhow I wish you luck.

Ill try to send this Bible as soon as I can. It is very old. 1845

Love to all

Mom.



Another Heirloom which was sent to my father was this porcelain Dog that was brought over from Scotland by his great grandfather George Treacher Oliphant as a child when he made the voyage with his parents from Scotland to Prince Edward Island in 1832. Ironically this dog survived the fire that burned down their family home in 1903. It was a tradition to hand this dog down to the oldest son of the family. Looking at it, there doesn't appear to be any monetary value to it, but from what I can

gather, it's what it represents that is significant. Resilience, Survival, and as my dad would always say, perseverance. In a way, a symbol of passing on the torch.

Sadly around 1986, George Leonard Oliphant was diagnosed with Carcinoma of the lungs, due to exposure to Agent Orange, a Chemical used in the Vietnam War, which he did a tour in 1968. A lot of Soldiers were affected by it and died as a result. When his condition worsened in 1992, he was transferred to the VA Hospital in Atlanta GA. It would be there that he would lose his final battle at the early age of 59.

George served in the Korean Conflict and was a Vietnam Veteran. He also did one tour of duty in Turkey while the US was attempting to stabilize that Region in 1970. He later said to me, "*I thought it was a ridiculous challenge, and could never understand why the US would ever get involved with trying to help people that didn't seem to want any help*."

1992 – DEATH - *Obituary; Marietta Daily Journal, Oct 30th, 1992.*

OLIPHANT - *Master Sgt. George Leonard Oliphant, 59, of Myrtle Beach SC, died Thursday. A native of Newfoundland, Mr. Oliphant moved to the VA Hospital in Atlanta in 1992 from Myrtle Beach S.C. He retired from the US Air Force after 20 years of service and was a Vietnam Veteran. He is survived by his wife, Mary Oliphant; four sons, Paul Oliphant of Austell, Anthony Oliphant of Marietta, Leonard Oliphant of Doraville, and John Oliphant of Dunwoody; three daughters, Deborah Harris of Austell, Pamela Oliphant of Atlanta, and Vivian Oliphant of Dunwoody; Mother, Elizabeth Oliphant of Stephenville Crossing, Newfoundland; and five grandchildren. Christopher and Melissa Strickland of Austell, Amanda Oliphant Ethridge of Marietta, Joshua Paul Oliphant of Austell, and Mary Katherine Oliphant Miller of Raleigh NC.*

A Catholic Service will be held at 11 A.M. today at Winkenhofer's, Flint Hill Chapel, with Fr. Eugene Hughes officiating. Burial will take place at 12:30 P.M. Monday, Nov 3rd, at the Chattanooga National Cemetery, in Chattanooga, TN, with full military honors. The family will receive friends from 9 to 11 A.M. today at the funeral home.

George Leonard Oliphant is buried at the Chattanooga National Cemetery, in Chattanooga TN; - Section D, plot #227.

2020 – DEATH OF WIFE – *Marietta Daily Journal & Charleston Post and Courier.*

OLIPHANT – *Mary Theresa Oliphant nee Roche, aged 90, passed away on September 9, 2020, from a long illness.*

Originally from Newfoundland, Canada, Mary married George L. Oliphant and the couple traveled around the world with the US Military while building their family of seven children, eventually retiring in Sumpter SC. After her and her husband separated, Mary and her children moved to Charleston SC where they lived for many years. Mary was the owner of Marie's Fashion Outlet, and Co-owner of Southeastern Sandblasting and Painting Co. She later moved to Marietta, GA, and lived there for many years. Mary later became the owner of a Hair Salon until she retired in 2003. She was always outgoing, with a great sense of humor, and will be sorely missed by her family and friends.

Mary was predeceased by her husband Sgt. George L. Oliphant, her eldest son Sgt. Paul D. Oliphant, and grandson, Joshua Paul Oliphant.

She leaves to mourn several children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Sons; Anthony Oliphant (Janet), Leonard Oliphant (Michelle) John Oliphant (Rose), daughters; Deborah Oliphant (William), Pamela Oliphant, Vivian Wilson (Jeff). Grandchildren; Christopher Strickland, Melissa Nemenz (Stefan), Spencer Wilson, Amanda Hall (Trevor), Vivian Sanchez (Richard), Hailey Oliphant, Anna Oliphant, Mary Katherine Hackmann (Ted). Great Grandchildren, Bentley Winslow Oliphant, Talia, Keren, & Jonan Nemenz, Richard & Oliver Sanchez, Campbell & Evelyn Hackmann.

A Requiem Mass and Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, September 12th, 2020, at 10 AM at Stella Maris Catholic Church, 1204 Middle St. Sullivan's Island, SC 29482.

Burial will take place at Magnolia Cemetery in Downtown Charleston following the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer's Association at alz.org.

Expression of sympathy may be viewed or submitted online at McAlister-Smith.

Chapter 21

The Last Remaining Heir Males of this Line

From the beginning of this book up until this point, we've traced and reviewed the patrilineal senior male line of one man. William James Oliphant, the Bulking Master of Leith, whom the evidence shows was the eldest son of Capt. Francis Oliphant, and the older brother of Francis Oliphant Jr. 10th Lord Oliphant.

We merely scratched the surface of the lives of those who are lineally descended and connected through marriage and mDNA to these men. Still, the main goal of this work, as mentioned in the opening statement was to stay as close to the subject matter of showing the connection between William Oliphant, the missing young boy and eventual Bulking Master at Leith, and his younger brother Francis, 10th Lord Oliphant, and the descendants of the senior male line, who by birthright would be entitled to the peerage title and dignity.

The evidence also shows that the tradition of the family connection not only remained alive throughout many generations but that there was an awareness of the primogeniture law of inheritance, and they were powerless against this ancient doctrine.

It is my professional opinion there was a deliberate attempt to neglect the life of the missing young boy William Oliphant, the rightful heir to the peerage title and dignity, and to deny him of his heritage, and that when it was discovered he was still alive and well, he confronted Laurence Oliphant of Gask on his death bed and flat out refused his heritage and told Laurence to "*Go to hell, and let all be damned* " and that there was a first-hand eye witness account to this by one of the ladies that worked in the house Mrs, Jane Mackay. I also contend that there was no reasonable effort made to find out what happened to William after his indenture to the ship the Elizabeth prior to this encounter between him and Laurence of Gask.

I've covered in great detail the patrilineal senior lines of this family, until sadly the Australian branch was devoid of any more male progeny, and it has now come down to the last few remaining males in North America.

I decided that the time has come to take that leap of faith and present these findings I have discovered over the last thirty-five years and let the naysayers, and critics say what they will. I still maintain that the story and the evidence stands on its own merit and reveals the truth about what happened, and is long overdue.

However, when the powers at be, whoever that might ultimately end up being, review this material for a potential application for a Patent to the Barony. It would be contingent on the two parties (College of Arms & Lord Lyon King of Arms) to come together according to the *Act of Union 1707,* and decide who the rightful arbiter of the designation of the title will be, and also what name or position the title would ultimately carry, whether it would be a Scottish Title, English Title, or both.

In the interim, when it is determined viable, our family has the issue of deciding who the next legitimate heir male of this line would be. An expert on the topic in England presented the question to me: "Why would you do all this work, and hand it over to your cousin to acquire the title when you might not be eligible for quite some time, if at all in your lifetime?"

My answer was simple. again, when it is determined viable, and a decision is made to proceed, my job is done. If it turns out I'm not eligible in my lifetime, it would depend on how precedence works. First of all, the relationship between me and my cousins would need to be established and verified. Once that is done assuming Douglas F Oliphant Jr. chooses to proceed, then he would be the senior male and eligible for the title. Then after John Francis Oliphant Jr. is verified, and he wishes to proceed, then he would be 'Heir Apparent,' which would leave me as third in line and I would be eligible for the courtesy of 'The Honorable', and I would graciously accept that if it comes to that. It could also mean I might be eligible to receive at minimum a CBE Knighthood or something along those lines. Which, to me would also be satisfactory.

I realize this is much bigger than me. and in my opinion, it's more about the legacy of a forgotten family lineage and the renewal of the sense of pride that was once part of this family's heritage. I knew from the very beginning this was my purpose, my calling so to speak, to put the pieces of this puzzle together regardless of where it ends up.

I've always had a relentless desire to uncover the truth behind our connection to this story, even though the estate has long since been sold and there is no longer any monetary benefit to such a discovery. I've always felt like my ancestors were guiding me and were calling me to keep pursuing this. As each little nugget of information was revealed to me, I had a sense that It was like breadcrumbs being placed in my path to serve as a reminder of the direction I needed to follow on this journey to discover the broken branch.

The likelihood of me being the senior male of this bloodline someday, although not completely unlikely, could realistically happen in my lifetime. However, just having the opportunity to make these discoveries in themselves was a monumental achievement and I'm glad I unwittingly accepted the challenge. Like I said in the beginning, I never had any ulterior motive. It was just like following a treasure map, which I've always enjoyed and loved to do since I was a kid. It was always about the thrill of the hunt for the next clue.

As I also mentioned in the beginning when the question was presented to my 2nd great grandfather George Treacher Oliphant and his siblings. "*Can you prove your grandparent's marriage*?" I knew right then that my goal was to uncover the truth. Everything else was just a result of my trying to fish out the answer to this question, and what a fascinating and surreal story it turned out to be. I was told in the beginning to be careful when doing family history research because you never know what you might find. It could turn out that you are descended from Pirates or Horse thieves or something. Keeping that in mind, I had no expectations of what I might find. I questioned my father about the letter my grandmother sent with the family bible about him looking into this matter, and he said. *"It's ridiculous, and what would we gain from it? Nothing! And if there is anything, it should be donated to the church, because it won't do anything but cause bickering and arguments, nothing but trouble."*

Although it has almost taken me half a lifetime to uncover this information, it eventually led to me publishing these findings, and as surreal as it might seem, there should be no doubt about the facts as I've laid them out. I still contend that there is no other logical conclusion that can be determined, which is that William Oliphant the missing young boy, and brother to Francis 10th Lord Oliphant, did survive and that these men and women I present in this genealogy report, are the true bloodline and natural biological descendants of William and his brother Francis Jr. 10 Lord Oliphant.

The funny thing about pursuing genealogy to this depth is the clannish-

ness you discover among the extended family that you might be meeting for the first time. I was sometimes met with cautious suspicion about what I was really after and why so many personal questions about family members. Yet at the same time, they had a fascination with the grandeur surrounding the old Scottish family estates, and with a glean might say. *Is there any monetary reward to this discovery*? which sadly, I inform them, they've all been sold and lost to time, but there was a fascination and interest in knowing exactly what happened to all the land and estates and what I plan to accomplish with all this information. Which Ironically, all I could tell them was, I had this relenting question looming over my head based on the family lore and the documentation revealed in this book about what I then thought were rumors of grandeur and family tales of or aristocratic lineage that actually starting emerging as true.

It's no wonder mistakes were made by the early antiquaries and genealogists when dealing with the reluctance of family to reveal with any accuracy the details that might unveil deep dark secrets or things they felt should remain private. I sometimes got the feeling they were more or less humoring me, and they might have thought of me as a rather eccentric family member who had simply gone off the deep end of the genealogical trail.

Nevertheless, as much as I tried to quit, I always felt if I didn't show some tenacity and follow this trail through to the end, who would? I did have a handful of family cheering me on to finish what I started. But I also understood that most people are too busy in their own daily lives and don't really have the time or energy for something this demanding and as I've discovered, a lot of people simply find family history to be pretty boring.

That nickname my dad gave me as a kid, who had that endless curiosity and a relentless need to ask too many intrusive questions about our family, "Digger O'Dell" was a perfect fit. And maybe my dad had more insight into what I would eventually do one day because Digger, the detective, never gave up until he got his man.

In keeping with the seventy-five-year living individual privacy rule, I used the obituary source of recognition to present the information on the last living heir males of the family, which is as follows - The eldest son of **Corp. John Gordon Oliphant** succeeded him as the senior male of this line in 1985, **Douglas Francis Oliphant Sr.** - who was succeeded by his only son in 2000**, – Douglas Francis Oliphant Jr.**, and as mentioned earlier, when determined viable, then Douglas Jr, would be the rightful heir male to the Peerage Title and Dignity and therefore eligible to file a Patent for the Barony of Oliphant.

The fact that it is reported that Douglas Jr. is without issue, providing this to be true, the 'Heir Apparent' or next in line would be his first cousin **John Francis Oliphant Jr.**

Should John Jr.s relationship be established and verified, he would succeed to the title, and since it was also reported he too is without issue, then he would be succeeded by his second cousins, the surviving male descendants of **Sgt. George Leonard Oliphant.**

Anthony Mark Oliphant, – also without male issue, would then be succeeded by his younger brother **Leonard Patrick Oliphant**, – also without male issue, would then be succeeded by the grandson of their late older brother **Sgt. Paul Douglas Oliphant,** by '*De Facto*' upon reaching the age of 21, should he choose to.

THE END

EPILOGUE

"The Days to Come."

Writing the last words is a difficult concept for me to imagine when reflecting on the last three hundred years of this family line, and what has been discovered. The forced silence perpetrated on this family from what can only be described as some of the most basic primordial elements of human nature, feelings of betrayal, deceit and deception, selfishness, and greed.

When I try to think about bringing this story of loss, tragedy, and the alleged deception, as well as the triumphant and indomitable spirit of endurance to some perceived notion of coming to an end, is hard for me to imagine, especially when nothing could be further from the truth.

After reviewing the long and arduous journeys, hardships, personal sufferings, and family tragedies of all those involved. I can't help but reflect on some of the self-serving attitudes of some family members who seemingly didn't care how their actions would reflect on future generations of the family.

How wrong they were; granted, some did have large families, and had it not been for that we narrowly existed. Also, one could have never predicted the high infant mortality rate and unforeseen premature deaths of some family members, and I'm certainly not condoning their efforts in that respect.

It just brought home the realization that the patrilineal line of this family is very close to becoming extinct in the next few generations, which to me seems inconceivable. I think of the newer generations that will look back on the actions of a few, and judge accordingly, as this book clearly illustrates.

Throughout my research, I have uncovered vast extensions to this bloodline through mDNA, or in other words, the female side. Therefore, to say it

will not carry on is an understatement. I digress, I'm merely referring to the subject matter as it relates to the ancient traditional sense of the patrilineal handing down of the peerage title and dignity on the male side of the senior line.

The women in this family are clearly more than capable, and are genetically connected to the senior male line and are honored as such by their mDNA in whatever respective title they take through their hierarchy in the senior female line and therefore are and will be recognized as heirs of a Cadet Branch should it come to that.

It's interesting to reflect on the family members, merely trying to survive and continue with their day-to-day lives, without the knowledge or pressure of knowing they were born into a Noble and privileged position, through no fault of their own.

The peace they experience by not having to defend that right from all the prevailing onslaughts and attacks on their legitimacy and character is but a temporary comfort. Yet here we are, faced with the fact that we or one of our immediate descendants will be the next subject under the microscope of scrutiny and have to deal with endless ridicule and be forced to carry on this enduring debate over your birthright to a status bequeathed on our family once upon a time by a Noble King, and once this book is released it will yet again be the subject of incessant questioning and challenging of the evidence, facts, and the truth behind our rightful place among the mosaic of Scottish Nobility and heirs to the dignity.

It's hard to say, write the last words in an ongoing and never-ending tale of the Oliphants or of the grandeur and intrigue surrounding the Gask Dynasty or any of the other prominent Oliphant lines and Estates, or of the people who were behind the scenes allegedly involved with dismantling who would have access to the truth to such an endless and fascinating tale.

"The children of these families exiled and dispossessed, in the old sense to which we cling, there falls a measure of human comfort; the last thrill of possessive pride, not only in the old traditional sense but in the realization of a living present, linked with a noble past that is unalterably ours, an inheritance that any stroke of fate cannot take away.

The one piece of comfort they know in their immortal wisdom, and one solace they leave with the children of their blood and race. All that has been great in the past stretches down these broken branches to be entwined into the new characters that are forming, the new sympathies, and the new aspirations.

'These children of the past know that the book can never be closed.

They also know that the best in all the story of our family cannot be taken away, that no will can alienate it, no action obscure it, and no time cover it. Everything that is noblest is possessed as freely as the beauty of a sunrise, or the sweet smell of spring. Not only in memory, not only in wistful retrospection but the traditions of our Oliphant line are also ours today."

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Stair, Institutions, I, 1, 22.

Stair, Institutions, I, 3, 1.

Stair, Institutions, I, 3, 1.

Stair and Erskine, The beginning of the modern Scottish approach to philosophical justification.

Stair, was Regius Professor of Law at Glasgow, between 1939 and 1958.

Erskine, can be characterized as a Romanist positivist rather than as a philosophical natural lawyer, but was a follower of Stairs Philosophy.

Periodicals:

The Scots Magazine

Leith Observer –newspaper

Caledonian Mercury– Edinburgh Newspaper

The Edinburgh Evening Courant – Various publication articles

The Edinburgh Advertiser – Edinburgh, Midlothian

Edinburgh Annual Register

Haddington Market– newspaper

The Aberdeen Journal - newspaper

The Gentlemen's Magazine

The Newcastle Courant – newspaper, (Newcastle Upon Tyne)

Devon & Co.Edinburgh & Leith Directory - periodical

Monthly Chronicle– July 1887

Gateshead Observer, - James Clephan

Websites:

http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/records/tax-records

http://www.open.gov.uk/gros/groshome.htm

http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/

http://legacyfamilytree.com

http://www.pro.gov.uk/leaflets/ri2145.htm Customs Records for Leith

http://www.oldandnewedinburgh.co.uk

http://www.archive.org

http://www.interactive.ancestryinstitution.com

http://www.nas.gov.uk

http://www.pro.gov.uk

http://www.familyrecords.gov.uk

http://www.statistics.gov.uk

http://www.gendocs.demon.co.uk/cem.html

https://www.ewh.org.uk/the-general-register-house

https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/

http://www.scotsgenealogy.com

http://www.decesedonline.com/

MIDLOTHIAN-L-@rootsweb.com

http://www.electricscotland.com (Alastair McIntyre, admin)

http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/

http://www.trinityhouseleith.org.uk/

http://www.angus.gov.uk

https://en.wikipedia.org/index.php-title=Lord_Oliphant

http://www.oldscottish.com