Chapter 4 Our Kerr Families' Roots and Shoots

Before recounting the lives of their other children in Kirknewton and further afield, it may be interesting for readers to follow what I managed to uncover about the paths trod by my Great x 3 Grandparents James and Barbara (Henderson) Kerr until their deaths in 1891 and 1892.

The gap between the 1855 birth of daughter Barbara and the 1871 Census for Scotland has not yet been filled, apart from the death of their fourteen year old son George from Scarlet Fever in 1856.

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and the marriage of their second oldest son, my Great x 2 Grandfather Robert, to Jane Proven in 1854.

The 1871 Census shows James and Barbara residing in Mine House, Bridge of Allan, Stirling and nearby in Logie Parish, three unmarried daughters of their former employer Alexander Maconochie-Wellwood [Lord Meadowbank the Second] at Meadowbank House, Kirknewton, namely Isabella (64yrs), Elizabeth (61 years) and Anne (48 yrs)!

It is impossible to decide whether James was employed as Coachman to Mr Baldie and his large family at the Mine Road address or was continuing to serve the ladies as he had in their former home at Meadowbank. However, it seems reasonable to assume that the ladies had moved out of Meadowbank after the death of their father in 1861 to allow his heirs, either Alan Alexander or Robert Blair Maconochie-Wellwood families occupy the big house.

An item (i) in the 'Scottish Field' of January, 2005, states that it was Alan's family, but evidence from this article, and from genealogical records (ii) points to Robert's descendants inheriting the re-built house (Kirknewton House) by 1981.

(i)

'The present incumbents, Charles and Tinkie Welwood, who were born and bought up in Kenya where they lived until after their marriage, moved to Kirknewton 24 years ago when Charles inherited the house from his father Laurence Maconochie Welwood.

Charles explains. 'Most of the garden originated under Alan Maconochie the son of 2nd Lord Meadowbank in the mid-1800's. His son John married Emma Welwood and they continued to develop the garden.'

(ii)

Transcription from Old Parish Records:

JOHN ALLAN MACONOCHIE

Event(s):
Birth:

Christening: 14 APR 1848 Edinburgh Parish, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland

Parents:

Father: ROBERT BLAIR MACONOCHIE Mother: CHARLOTTE JOANNA TOD

And.

General Registry Office Record:

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i.e. Laurence Robert Maconochie-Wellwod, born on 13.08.1902 in Edinburgh to John Allan Maconochie-Wellwood and Winifred Louisa Drummond who married in London in 1892.

Back to Stirling in 1771, the following Censuses tell at least part of the story!

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1771 Census Data (foot of sheet) for James and Barbara Kerr

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Chapter 5 continues the story of James and Barbara serving the spinsters at Pitliver House, near Crossford, Dunfermline, the town where the first Wellwood in the family, Elizabeth, was born in 1752 to Robert Wellwood and Mary Preston, before she married Alan Maconochie (1748-1816) the first Lord Meadowbank in Edinburgh in 1774.