

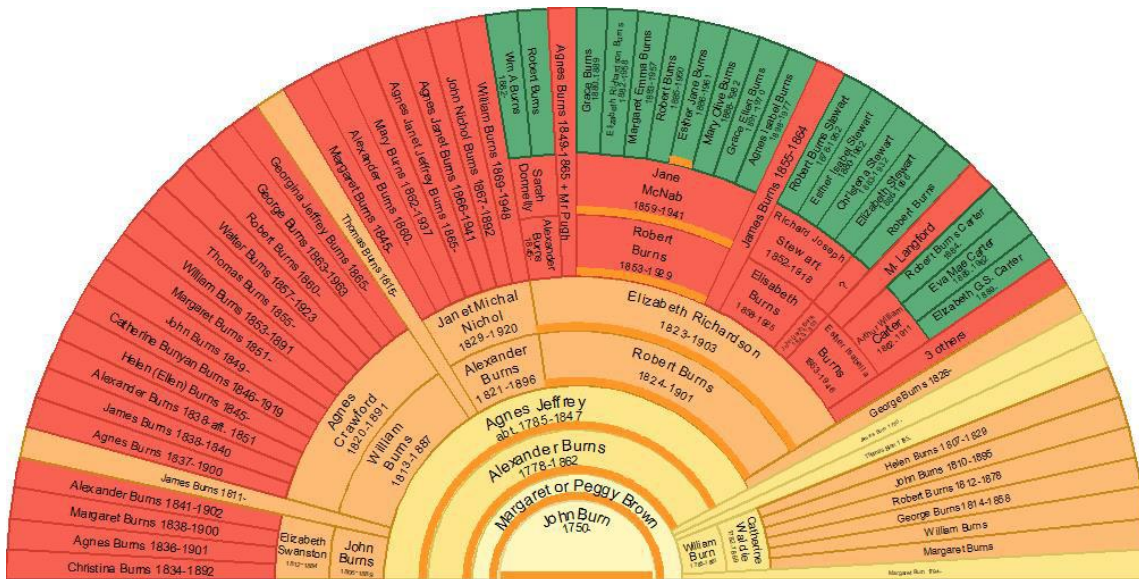


Our Burns Ancestors

By
James Clifford Retson
Last Revised
<http://retson.ca/burns.pdf>
September 30, 2023

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Burns Context

The earliest Burn ancestor discovered to date is John Burns who married Margaret “Peggy” Brown about 1768. Robert Burns born on February 13, 1824, emigrated to Canada in 1843 with wife Elizabeth Richardson. A descendant outline of the Burns family at <http://retson.ca/burnsdescendants.pdf>. The Surname Burn.

1. John Burn and Margaret “Peggy” Brown

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Burns-16519>

John Burns¹ was born possibly on 10 Jul 1740 in Drumbuy, Beith², Ayrshire, Scotland. He married Margaret “Peggy” Brown about 1768 in Carnbee, Fife, Scotland.

John Burn and Margaret Brown had the following children³: mostly born in Hownam

- i. Grisal, b 7 Jul 1776 Howham Parish, Scotland⁴
- 2 ii. Alexander Burn b. 30 Jul 1778 Howham Parish, Scotland, Baptism Jul 30, 1778).⁵
- iii. James Burn b.16 Nov 1780, bp 16 Nov 1780 in Hownam (or Hounam), Roxburgh, Scotland⁶
- iv. Robert Burn b 13 Apr 1783 Howham Parish⁷
- v. Thomas Burn b. 16 Jun 1785 in Hownam, Roxburgh, Scotland⁸
- vi. William Burn b. 16 Jun 1785 Parish Hownam, Scotland⁹

¹ Name suggested on child Alexander’s Baptism

² https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Beith,_Ayrshire,_Scotland_Genealogy

³ All children have name Burn, not Burns, except for last child Margaret Burns, b in Carnbee. Several family trees add John born 15 Feb 1774

⁴ ScotlandsPeople indexes Parish Hownam 791/38

⁵ ScotlandsPeople indexes, Parish Hownam 791/38

⁶ ScotlandsPeople indexes, Parish Hownam 791/39

⁷ ScotlandsPeople indexes, Parish Hownam 791/40

⁸ ScotlandsPeople indexes, Parish Hownam 791/41

⁹ ScotlandsPeople Indexes Parish Hownam 791/41

vii Margaret Burns b.10 Jun 1794 in Cranbee, Fife, Scotland.¹

2. Alexander Burns 1778 - 1862 and Agnes Jaffrey 1784 -

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Burns-16518>

Alexander Burns, son of John Burns of Hawick, Roxburghshire, Scotland was born 4 Mar 1773, Baptised 12 Mar 1773, at Aberlady, East Lothian, Scotland, in Wilton Parish near Hawick, Scotland.² He married Agnes Jaffrey in Bedrule, Roxburgh, Scotland on 12 Mar 1803. She was born about 1785 in Steghel, Roxburghshire, Scotland.

In 1841 census Alexander age 60 is located in Shankend Shiels, Cavers, Roxburghshire. His occupation is given as Ag Lab. His wife is given as Nancy and son Alexander age 20.

In 1851 census at age 72 he is listed as head of household in Sunnyside, Cavers, Roxburghshire. Occupation Shepherd.

In 1861 at age 81 he is listed as head of household at Sunnyside, Cavers.

She died in 21 Jan 1867 at Whitacres, Cavers, Roxburghshire, Scotland

They had 8 children, one of whom has not yet been identified,³

viii. John Burns b. 16 Oct 1806 in Lilliesleaf, Roxburgh, Scotland d. 20 Sep 1889 in Wilton, Roxburghshire, Scotland, m. (1) Janet Rae 1834 in Edinburgh, (2) Elizabeth Swanston, 22 May 1866, in Wilton, Scotland, By Janet Rae he had had four children

I. Christina Murray Burns b. 1834 m. Alexander Richardson 13 Nov 1853 in Wilton, Scotland, d. 02 Nov 1892 Hawick, Scotland

II. Agnes Burns b. 1836 in Ancrum, Roxburghshire, Scotland, m. Thomas Rutherford 27 Nov 1853 in Wilton, Roxburghshire, Scotland, d. 19 Apr 1901 in Bonchester Bridge, Roxburghshire, Scotland

III. Margaret Burns b. 1838 in Ancrum, Roxburghshire, Scotland, m. William Bruce d. 23 Jan 1900 in Hawick, Scotland,

IV. Alexander Burns b. 1841 in Ancrum, Roxburghshire, Scotland, m. Margaret Bell, d. Hawick 1902

ix. James Burns b. 20 Mar 1811 in Wilton, Roxburghshire, Scotland

x. William Burns, b. 24 Oct 1813 in Wilton, Roxburgh, Scotland, baptised 20 Jun 1853 in Hawick, Roxburgh, Scotland, m. Agnes Crawford in 1836 at Lilliesleaf Roxburgh Scotland, d. 28 Jun 1887 in Hawick Roxburgh Scotland. She was born in 1820 in Ashkirk, Roxburghshire. She died on 13 Mar 1891 in Hawick Roxburgh Scotland.

¹ ScotlandsPeople Indexes Parish Carnbee 20/302

² <https://www.ancestry.ca/discoveryui-content/view/26282480:60143>, Alexander Burn, Birth 4 Mar 1773, Baptism 12 Mar 1773, Baptism Place, Aberlady, East Lothian, Scotland, Residence Date, 1773, Residence Place Aberlady, East Lothian, Scotland, Father John Burn, Mother, Margaret Burn

³ ScotlandsPeople for George Burns

Their children included,

- I. Agnes Burns b. 1 Oct 1837 in Ashkirk Roxburgh Scotland, d.15 Oct 1900 in Hawick Roxburgh Scotland.
- II. Alexander Burns b. 16 Oct 1838 in Ashkirk Roxburgh Scotland, d. after 1851 in Hawick Roxburgh Scotland.
- III. James Burns b. 5 May 1838 in Kinross, Kinross-shire, Scotland, d 1840.
- IV. Helen (Ellen) Burns b. 2 Feb 1845 in Hawick Roxburgh Scotland, d. young.
- V. Catherine Bunyan Burns b. 27 Dec 1846 in Hawick Roxburgh Scotland, d. 26 Jun 1919 in Castleton Roxburgh Scotland.
- VI. John Burns b. 4 Mar 1849 in Hawick Roxburgh Scotland, d. young.
- VII. Margaret Burns b. 11 May 1851 in Hawick Roxburgh Scotland d. young.
- VIII. William Burns b. 20 Jun 1853 in Ashkirk Roxburgh Scotland, d. 13 Mar 1891 in Hawick Roxburgh Scotland.
- IX. Thomas Burns b. 30 Jun 1855 in Hawick Roxburgh Scotland, d. young.
- X. Walter Burns b. 20 Dec 1857 in Hawick Roxburgh Scotland, d. 10 Apr 1923 in Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland.
- XI. Robert Burns b. 29 Jul 1860 in Hawick Roxburgh Scotland, d. young.
- XII. George Burns b. 19 Jun 1863 in Hawick Roxburgh Scotland, d. 06 Aug 1963 in Hawick Roxburgh Scotland.
- XIII. Georgina Jeffrey Burns b. 10 Dec 1865 in Hawick Roxburgh Scotland, d. young.

xi. Thomas Burns b. 22 Oct 1815Wilton, Roxburghshire, Scotland¹

xii. Alexander Burns b. 3 Oct 1820, bp. 3 Dec 1820 in Wilton, Roxburgh, Scotland², m. Janet Michal Nichol, 15 Jan 1858 in Casleton, Roxburgh, Scotland, d. 1896. She was born in 1829 in New Castleton, Roxburghshire, Scotland. She died in 1920. Their children include,

- I. Margaret Burns b. 1845 in Wilton, Roxburghshire.
- II. Agnes Janet Jeffrey Burns b. 5 Jul 1865 in Cavers, Roxburgh, Scotland.
- III. Mary Burns b. 9 Jun 1862 in Cavers, Roxburgh, Scotland, 1937.
- IV. William Burns b. 15 Nov 1869 in Cavers, Roxburgh, Scotland, d. 1948.
- V. Alexander Burns b. 12 Sep 1860 in Cavers, Roxburgh, Scotland.
- VI. John Nichol Burns b. 8 Jun 1867 in Cavers, Roxburgh, Scotland, d.1892.

3. xiii. Robert Burns b.13 Feb 1824 in Wilton, Roxburgh, Scotland (Hawick nearby), m. Elizabeth Richardson, in 1844 in Brussels, Ontario in Ecclefechen, Dumfries, Scotland. (See Below)

xiv. George Burns born 21 Feb , bpt 3 dec 182624 April 1826 Wilton, Roxburgh, Scotland³

¹ Ancestry.com, Scotland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950 (Provo, UT, USA, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014), Ancestry.com, Record for Thomas Burns. <http://search.ancestry.ca/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=60143&h=22029308&indiv=try>.

² FamilySearch.org, FamilySearch Family Tree, FamilySearch, "Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950," database, <i>FamilySearch</i> (https://familysearch.org/pal:MM9.1.1/FMMH-NBF : 10 February 2018), Alexander Burns, 03 Dec 1820; citing , WILTON, ROXBURGH, SCOTLAND, reference , index based upon data collected by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City; FHL microfilm 1,067,954.

³ ScotlandsPeople Old Parish Records, Wilton Parish, Roxborough, 810 page 22

In the 1851 census Alexander is listed as an Agricultural labourer at Cavers County: Roxburghshire Address: Shankend Shields. In the 1851 census he is listed as a shepherd. He died on 22 Jun 1862 in Cavers, Roxburgh, Scotland.

Alexander Burns died 22 June 1862 at Whiteacres, Parish of Cavers, Roxburgh.¹



Hawick² and Wilton Parish

Hawick is a town in the Scottish Borders council area and historic county of Roxburgh in the east Southern Uplands of Scotland. It is 10.0 miles (16.1 km) south-west of Jedburgh and 8.9 miles (14.3 km) south-southeast of Selkirk. It is one of the farthest towns from the sea in Scotland, in the heart of Teviotdale, and the biggest town in the former county of Roxburghshire. Hawick had a resident population of 2016 was 13,730. The nearest major airports are at Edinburgh, 57 miles (92 km) away, and Newcastle, 56 miles (90 km) away.

Sunnyside is near Hawick.

Wilton, is a parish, in the district of Hawick, county of Roxburgh; containing the hamlets of Appletree-Hall and Dean, and a small portion of the town of Hawick. This place, of which the name in ancient records is written Walltown and Willistown, may be regarded as a suburban district to the town of Hawick.

3. Robert Burns (1) 1824 - 1901 Elizabeth Richardson 1823 -1844

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Burns-6025>

Robert Burns, son of Alexander Burns and Agnes Jeffrey was born 3 Feb 1824 in Wilton, Roxburgh, Scotland (near Hawick)³. Various manuscripts indicate that Robert was the youngest of seven sons, but in actual fact he was the 7th child of eight, not all of which have been identified to date.⁴

Robert was a tailor in Hawick, Scotland. He also served a brief period in the Enniskillen Dragoons before leaving for Canada at the age of 19 in 1843.

He had no knowledge of any manual labour but farmed near Brussels in Huron County, Ontario when he came to Canada. Without experience he built himself a shelter, cleared a section of his land, cutting timber, removing stumps before putting in his first crop with oxen.

¹ Scotland. "Statutory Deaths 1855-1970," database with images. *ScotlandsPeople*. (<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk> : accessed 28 September 2023), image, death registration, Alexander Burns, died 22 June 1862, Parish of Cavers, County of Roxburgh; citing Statutory Registers no. 785/19.

² <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawick>,

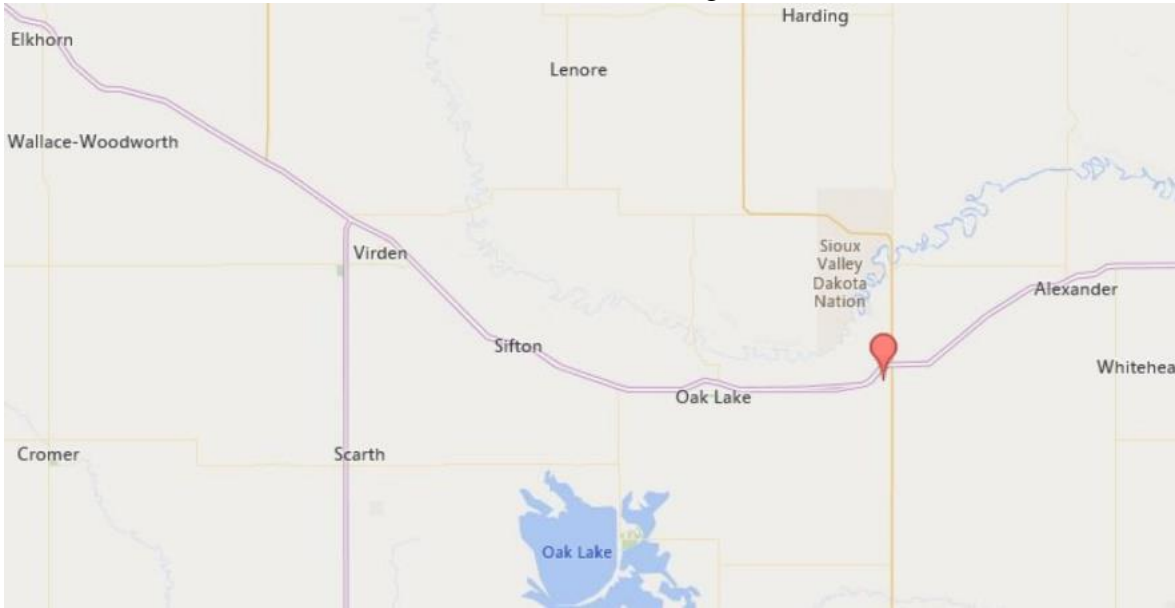
³ Scotland, "Search Old Parish Registers (OPR) Births/Christenings (1553-1854)," database, *ScotlandsPeople* (www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk: accessed 30 January 2007), entry for Robert Burns, birth: 13 February 1824, baptism 28 March 1824, Wilton Parish, Hawick, Roxborough, accessed 17 September 2023.

⁴ Historical Record of Robert Burns II and His Family (Hereafter referred to as Burns Report), Century Family Farm, to date the author has been able to identify 7 of which Robert is the sixth.

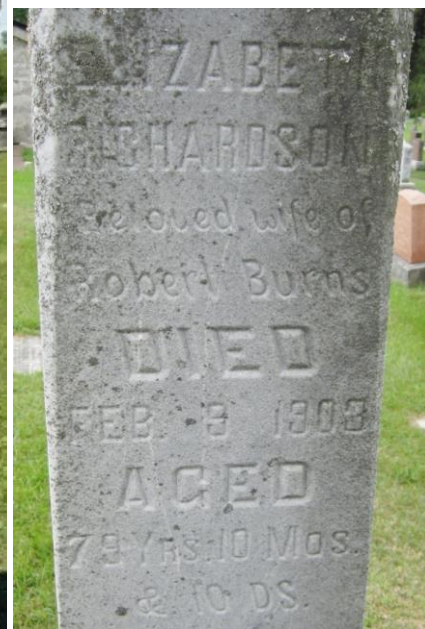
His wife to be, Elizabeth Richardson, daughter of Samuel Richardson and Helen McMin, sailed to Canada in 1844 being at sea six or seven weeks. She was born on 14 Nov 1823 in Ecclefechen, Dumfries, Scotland. They married, he at age 20 and her 21 and lived on the farm near Brussels, Ontario

Their children include

- i. Alexander Burns, b. 1845 Brussels, Ont. M. Sarah Donnelly
d. 19 Feb 1894, Merrill, Wisconsin
- I. Robert Burns
- II. William Alexander Burns, b. Dec 1882 Michigan



- ii. Agnes
"Nancy" Burns,
b. 1849, Brussels,
Ont. d. 1865 m.
Mr. Pugh, died of
Pneumonia at age
16.
- 4 iii. Robert
Burns, b. 14 May
1852 Brussels,
Ontario, m. Jane
McNab, Dec
1929 Regina,
Sask.
- iv. James Burns,
b. 1855 Brussels,
1864 d. Brussels.



- Killed at age 9 by a kicking steer.
- v. Elizabeth (Lizzie) Burns b. 27 Aug 1858 m. Richard Joseph Stewart 19 Dec 1877, Seaforth, Huron, Ontario d. 4 Nov 1925 Griswold, Manitoba (red marker on picture)
- I. Robert Burns Stewart b. 11 Sep 1878 Brussels, Ontario, d. 09 Sep 1952 Griswold, Manitoba
- II. Esther Isabel Stewart b. 23 Sep 1880 Walton, Ontario, m. 21 Oct 1903 Brandon, Manitoba, d. 31 Oct 1962 Griswold, Manitoba
- III. Christena Stewart b. 22 Oct 1883 Griswold, Manitoba, m. H. Edwin Chaplin 02 Sep 1903 Balcarres, Saskatchewan, d. 04 Feb 1932 Balcarres, Saskatchewan,

IV. Elizabeth Stewart b. 01 Jul 1886 Griswold, Manitoba, m. Earnest Newborn McGirr 30 Dec 1916, d. 02 Feb 1956 Dauphin, Manitoba

- vi John (Jack) Burns, b. 1860 Brussels, Ontario d. 31 Dec 1903 Jack Burns farmed at Elkhorn, Manitoba. He was fatally injured when his sleigh load of coal was struck by the Transcontinental Express at Elkhorn on Dec 31, 1903.

7. Esther Isabell Burns, b. 27 Sep 1863 Brussels, Ontario, m. (1) Arthur William Carter 27 Mar 1883 (d.29 Dec 1911), m. (2.) Ernest Langford 26 Jun 1926 London, Ontario
Children by 1st husband,

I. Robert Burns Carter b. 06 Feb 1884 McKillop Township, Huron County, Ontario, m. Oida Lizzie Whitely 05 Jul 1910 Huron, Ontario, d. 21 Jun 1955 Assiniboia East, Saskatchewan, Canada

II. Eva Mae Carter b. 04 Nov 1885 McKillop Township, Huron County, Ontario, m. John Charles Filmor Black

III. Elizabeth Nellie Stewart Carter b. 15 Sep 1889 Brussels, Ontario

Robert Burns died of cancer in Brussels Ontario September 10, 1901. His wife died in Brussels on February 9, 1903

4. Robert Burns (2nd) 1852-1929 Jane “Jean” McNab 1858 – 1941

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Burns-6019>

Writing in "The First Century of Langford 1881-1891 W. I. Burn indicated that Robert (2nd) was one of eleven children born to Robert Burns and Elizabeth Richardson in 1853. He in fact was born 14 May 1853 in Brussels, Ontario. He married Jean McNab in Ontario on 4 December 1878 (Marriage registry give surname as McNabb) in Morris Township, Huron County.

In the spring of 1881 along with infant daughter Grace they travelled by train to somewhere passed Portage la Prairie at the end of the line. Their first homestead was at Elkhorn. The land at Elkhorn was not very productive and in 1884 or 1885 they moved to Neepawa where Jean's parents had settled. There they homesteaded on a quarter section at Neepawa (SW ¼ 17-14-15.) purchased by his father-in-law Daniel McNab on January 7, 1881.

It was hard going initially. When they had a crop failure there was not enough money from the previous crop to carry on. According to Robert, after a total failure they lived through a whole winter by trading horses. He had a good team in the fall and kept trading for a poorer team getting a little money “to boot”. At the end of the winter, he had a very poor team but was able to put in a crop with it. He same winter he tried to make a little money by hauling wood from Riding Mountain. He would leave home about 4.A.M driving 18 miles. After cutting the wood he would star his homeward journey hoping to sell his load of wood or exchange it for merchandise.



While time were at times tough they always had food, mostly products from their own farm. The children were well dressed for Jane (McNab) Burns was a wonderful sewer. She would at time sew for neighbours but would never accept money as this would have been a reflection on a man for his wife to work for money.

The initial log house was simple with hooked rugs on the floor and crocheted tidies on homemade chair backs.

The log house was replaced by a large house, barn and granary. They enjoyed community pleasures such as barn raisings, quilting bees, picnics, dances, church suppers and school concerts. Their oldest daughter Grace died in a diphtheria epidemic in June 1889 at the age of nine.

The family was brought up in the strictest Presbyterian tradition. It was a grave sin to sing anything but hymns on Sunday. Elizabeth Burns recalls her brother Robert being reprovved for whistling Annie Laurie on Sunday. Shoes were polished Saturday night and the girls' dresses starched and ironed. On Sunday they drove six miles to church in Neepawa where even the youngest child was expected to sit still during the long Presbyterian service. Usually, the attended Sunday school in the afternoon where Jane taught a class of boys. Robert was on the Board of Management. Frequently the family would be invited to have dinner with friends in town between morning service and Sunday school. The family kept open house for friends on the farm and many people would drive out from Neepawa for dinner or have their children spend a week's holiday in the country.

He retired from farming in 1917 and moved to Regina, renting the farm to son Bob who had been given the first quarter. Robert died in 1929 and his wife in 1941.

Their children include,

- i. Grace Burns, b. Mar 1880 in Brussels, Ontario; d. 4 Jun 1889 at Neepawa, Manitoba buried 04 Jun 1889 Neepawa Riverside Cemetery Lot 138 Block B Range NW 1/4 NG
- ii. Elizabeth Richardson Burns, b. 20 Apr 1882 at Elkhorn, Manitoba; d. Mar 1958 at Regina, Saskatchewan. She taught school for several years. She moved to Edmonton where she took a business course. She returned to Regina where her parents had moved in 1917. She served as secretary to the chief of police for 26 years. She wrote a note entitled The Burns Family in Canada dated 29 Mar 1952.
- iii. Margaret Emma Burns, b. 4 Sep 1883 in Elkhorn, Manitoba; d. 17 Oct 1957 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; m. John (Jack) Alexander Stevenson, 15 Jul 1913; They had two children Jack Burns Stevenson, b. 15 May 1914, d. 01 May 1981, Elizabeth Jean Stevenson, b. 12 Sep 1916 who married Bill Dixon; three children Donald William Dixon, b. 19 May 1948, David John Dixon, b. 19 Jul 1949 and Margaret Dixon, b.1952, d. 1952
- iv. Robert Burns (3rd), b. 2 May 1885 in Neepawa, Manitoba; d. 30 Nov 1950 at Neepawa, Manitoba. In 1917, he married Florence Cruickshank from the Oakdale district. They lived on the family farm after Robert's parents retired to Regina and had three children, Robert (4th), Agnes and Jean. A new house was built on the farm in 1917 after the original structure burned. All the furniture, doors and windows were saved by friends and neighbors who came by to help. The 1920's were prosperous and enjoyed a rewarding lifestyle. The 1930's were plagued by dust storms but eventually four-foot-high fence walls were built. Each fall, a load of wheat was taken to the "grist mill" and exchanged for enough flour to last the winter. Wood was cut and hauled either from Riding Mountain or the Sand Hills. In the fall of 1936, a polio epidemic hit the district and all three children were stricken. The youngest daughter, Jean, died at age 10.

Robert and Agnes grew up on the Neepawa farm attending the local Osprey Grade School and then Neepawa High School. Robert married Doris Osborne of the Eden district, and Agnes married Earl Tomlin of Neepawa. Agnes and Earl Tomlin raised two children, Richard and Penny. They have two grandchildren, Darin, son of Richard, and Katie, daughter of Penny. Agnes and Earl moved back to Neepawa.

Robert and Doris resided on the home farm from 1946 to 1958, after which they moved to Neepawa where Bob worked as a car and implement salesman while continuing to operate the farm. Robert (4th) died in 1980.

5 v. Esther Jane Burns, b. 26 Jul 1886 Neepawa, Manitoba; m. Edward Elbert Atkinson, 25 Jan 1912, d. 13 Feb 1962 at Vancouver, British Columbia, See below

- vi. Mary Olive Burns, b. 6 Feb 1888 in Neepawa, Manitoba; m. Roy William Egbert Loucks, 16 Aug 1916, in Regina, Saskatchewan d. Jun 1982 at Regina, Saskatchewan. They had two children,
 I. Jessie Isabelle Loucks, b. 17 May 1917 in Regina, Saskatchewan, m. Bob Foster 03 Jul 1944 in Baltimore, Maryland, died 1998 in Vancouver British Columbia
 II. William Wentworth Loucks, b. Jun 1921, m. Helen Louise Macaulay 01 Sep 1944 in Ste. Hyacinth, Quebec d. 20 Mar 2010 in Toronto, Ontario. They had three children Heather Louise Loucks b. 29 Apr 1945 in Montreal, Quebec; Roy William David Loucks 30 Oct 1946 in St Thomas, Ontario, Canada; Robert Macaulay Loucks 10 Mar 1952 in Toronto, Ontario.
- vii. Grace Ellen Burns, b. 9 Mar 1890 in Neepawa, Manitoba, m. Frank Inches Cochran, 1927 in Regina, Saskatchewan; d. 1970. They had one child, Margaret Grace Cochran, b. 07 Nov 1929
- viii. Agnes Isabel Burns, b. 4 Jun 1898 in Neepawa, Manitoba; m. Frank Sidney Guthrie 1926, d. 18 Sep 1977 in Seattle, 1977 Washington, U.S.A. Two Children,
 I. Isabel Elizabeth Guthrie, b. 27 Dec 1929, in Seattle, Washington, d. 27 Dec 1929 in Seattle, Washington, m. (1) Gerald Williams m. (2) James McLeod. By Gerald William she had 4 children, Janie Elizabeth Williams m. Larry Garris; Deborah Marie Williams m. Unknown Sawtell; Frances Isabel Williams m. Neil Humphrey; Gerald Williams
 II. Frank Burns Guthrie b. 13 Oct 1932 in Seattle, Washington. D. 02 Jul 2001 Seattle, Washington

5. Esther Jane “Jean” Burns 1886 – 1961 Edward Albert Atkinson 1887- 1957

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Burns-5655>

Esther Jane Burns, daughter of Robert Burns and Jane McNab, called Jean, was born July 26, 1886¹.

The 1891 Census has her listed as Jennie Burns Glendale District , Marquette District, Religion Free Church, living with her father Robert age 37, Mother Jane age 32, Older Sisters Lizzie age 9, Maggie age 7, Brother Robbie age 6, and younger siblings, Ollie and Baby burns.

In 1901 census at age 14 she is living District Macdonald, Langford Sub District, with her father Robert age 47, Mother Jean age 42, Siblings Elizabeth age 18, Margaret age 17, brother Robert age 15, younger sisters Mary O. Grace age 13 , Grace E age 10 and Agnes B. age 2

In 1906 Canada Census, age 20, she is located in Township 13, 14, in ranges 14, 15 16 West district Portage La Prairies, with Father Robert age 53, Mother Ester J age 47, Sisters Lizzie age 24, Margaret age 22, brother Robert age 21, Sisters Olive M age 18, Grace E age 15 and Bella A age 8.

I have yet to locate her in 1911 census.

She told part of her story to her daughter in 1952 in the 3rd person:

She was born just 14 1/2 months after the son Robert. She graduated from grade 11 in Neepawa and then attended Normal College in Winnipeg for three months where she got a second-class certificate.

Jean taught school for eight years and on January 25, 1912, married Ed Atkinson 25 January 1912, a plumber and tinsmith. They lived for five years at Waskada, Manitoba, [1912 to 1917] and during this period three of their four children were born; Ethel Jean born October 30, 1913; William ["Billie"] Burns, July 24, 1915; and Grace Elizabeth, born December 11, 1916.

¹ Province of Manitoba Vital Statistic Agency Extract for Esther Jane Burns Registration Number 1886-005330
<http://vitalstats.gov.mb.ca/Query.php>, mother maiden Name Jane McNab

On November 6th [1915] Billie underwent an operation for an obstructed bowel and succumbed six hours. He was buried in the Burns' plot at Neepawa Cemetery. During the five years at Waskada this family found financial going hard and in 1917 moved to Kerrobert, Saskatchewan. Ed worked for wages for one year, then, with little capital, undertook to set up his own shop. Obstacles which seemed insurmountable were overcome but whenever prospects looked brighter illness smote hard. On November 1, 1920, a son, Robert Donald was born. During his first year he suffered with digestive ailments and that year Jean was bedridden with both arthritis, neuritis, the doctor's verdict being that she 'd never walk again. However, she did, but the next year was laid up again for three months. Three years later, in 1924, Ed was unable to work 98 days. Then in 1926 Jean underwent the first of a series of major surgeries and in December 1928 Donald had an appendectomy operation and thirty days later died December 30, 1928, at age 8. He was buried at Kerrobert.

On May 26, 1905, she was licensed with a teacher license for one year with certificate to be made permanent after one year teaching.

1916 Census has family living in Village Waskada, Brenda, husband father Edward age 29, daughter Jean age 2.

The 1921 census finds the family in Kerrobert, Kindersley District Saskatchewan with husband Edward Albert age 34, daughters Ethel Jean age 7, Grace Elizabeth age 4 and Robert Campbell Atkinson 7/12.

The 1931 census finds the family in Kerrobert, Kindersley District Saskatchewan with head Edward Albert and Jean both age 34, daughters Ethel Jean age 17, Grace Elizabeth age 14.¹

In the depression she entered several essay contests to win several prizes including a contest, "Why every woman needed an electric Iron." and first prize in a contest with Saskatchewan Phoenix.

In 1937-38 her husband worked in Timmins taking a course in air conditioning. In the winter of 1942-43 he worked his trade at an internment camp in Medicine Hat. In the fall of 1943, they moved to Meyerthorpe, North of Edmonton. In the summer 1944 he set up a gunsmithing and plumbing business in Wilkie, Saskatchewan. In 1948 they moved to Vancouver.

Jean had a rough life with several operations. She belonged to a women's missionary society.

Husband Ed died 14 Jan 1957 in Vancouver, British Columbia.

After the death of her husband, she traveled to Nova Scotia where she met all her grandchildren. She read to them and one James (the present author, then called Clifford) and in about Grade 3 was particularly fond of her. After she returned to Vancouver he corresponded with her for some years before she passed away.

She died 11 February 1961 in Vancouver. She was buried in Mountain View Cemetery, 5455 Fraser St., Jones new Block 20 A, Plot 14 Disc 214

¹ Ancestry.com, 1931 Census of Canada (Lehi, UT, USA, Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2023), Ancestry.com, Library and Archives Canada; Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; Seventh Census of Canada, 1931; Folder Number: T-27344; Census Place: South Battleford, Saskatchewan, Canada; Page Number: ht. Record for Jean Atkinson. <https://search.ancestry.ca/cgi-bin/sse.dll?db=62640&h=5389241&indiv=try>.

Appendices

Abbreviations

Abt. About aft. After b. born bp. Baptised d. died m. married

Researching Burns

Currently I am searching for Parents of John Burns husband of Margaret "Peggy Brown". I have a John Burns born July 10, 1740, whose father is William.

The Wikitree profile has birthdate of Jul 13, 1740, which links with the christening date Jul 13, 1740, with parents William Burns in Beith.

The Family Search profile has the Mar 12, 1740, in Hamilton with parents John Burns and Ann Nasmith, as his birth. There is another birth Jun 1, 1740, to John Burn in Cargill

There are 3 different John Burn / Burns born in 1740 in Hamilton, Cargill, and Beith. I know there was a child born to John Burn in Cargill with no mother listed.

Burns Descendants

<http://www.retson.ca/burnsdescendants.pdf>

Sources

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Burns, Esther Jean (Burns) Atkinson, *Historical Record of Robert Burns 11 and His Family*, April 11, 1952. (Referred to as Burns Report)

Burns, W.I. "The First Century of Langford 1881-1891, in Neepawa Book

General resources

Durie, Bruce, *Scottish Genealogy*, 3rd Ed Stroud, Gloucestershire: The History Press, 2009

Epperson, Amanda, *The Family Tree Scottish Genealogy Guide: Cincinnati, Ohio*, 2018

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Scotland_Genealogy

Websites

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Burns-16518> Alexander Burns (1778-1862)


<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Burns-6025> Robert Burns (1824 - 1901)

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Burns-6019> Robert Burns (1853 - 1929)


<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Burns-5655> Esther Jane Burns (1886 - 1961)

Relationship of Burns to Author


4th great grandfather

	John Burn b: 10 Jul 1740 Drumbuy, Beith, Ayrshire, Scotlan d:
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3rd great grandfather

	Alexander Burns b: 25 Jun 1778 Hoonum, Roxburghshire, Scotlan d: 22 Jun 1862 Cavers, Roxburgh, Scotland
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2nd great grandfather

	Robert Burns b: 13 Feb 1824 Hawick, Scottish Borders, Scotlan d: 10 Sep 1901 Brussels, Huron County, Ontario,
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Great grandfather

	Robert Burns b: 14 May 1853 Brussels, Huron County, Ontario d: 31 Dec 1929 Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada
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Maternal grandmother

	Esther Jane Burns b: 26 Jul 1886 Neepawa, Manitoba, Canada d: 11 Feb 1961 Vancouver, British Columbia, Can
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Mother

	Grace Elizabeth Atkinson b: 11 Dec 1916 Waskada, Manitoba, Canada d: 04 Jun 2008 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S
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<p>James C. Retson Author</p>
