



Our McNab Ancestors

By James C. Retson

Last Revised

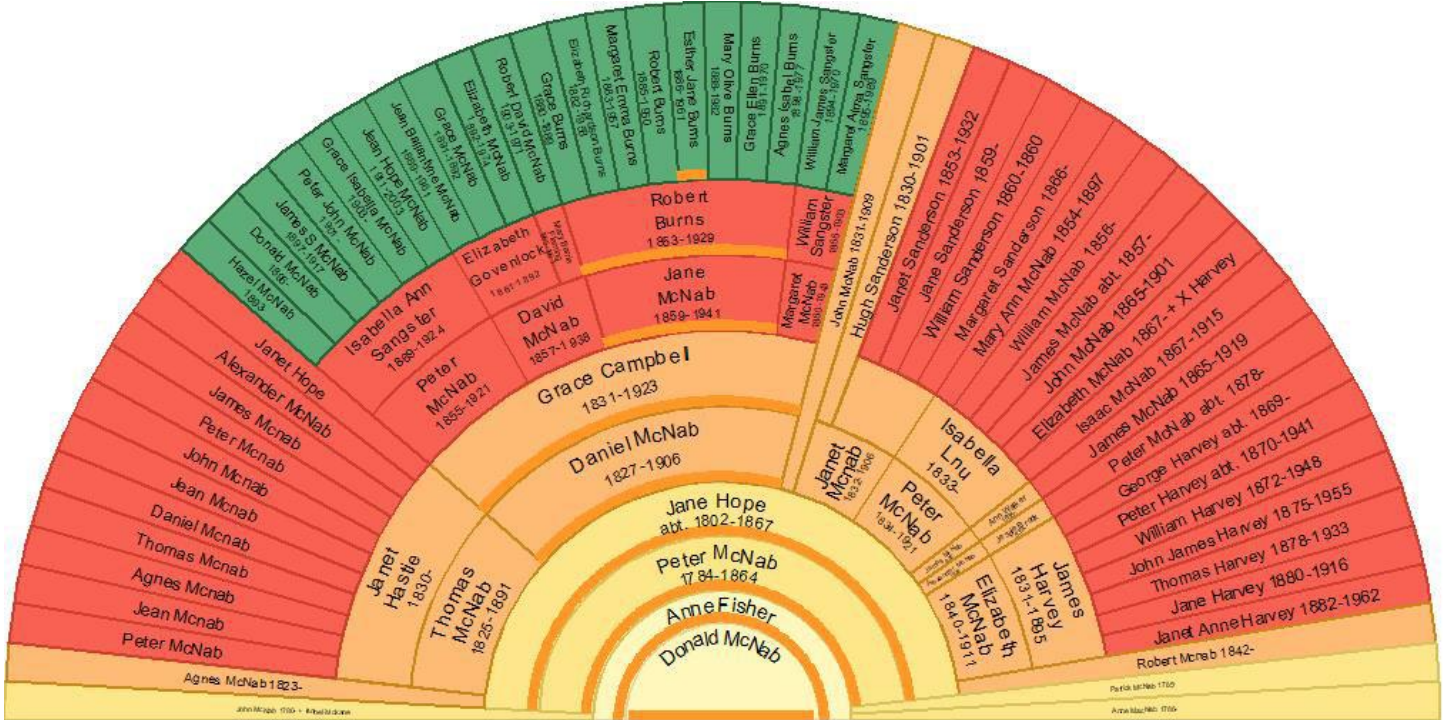
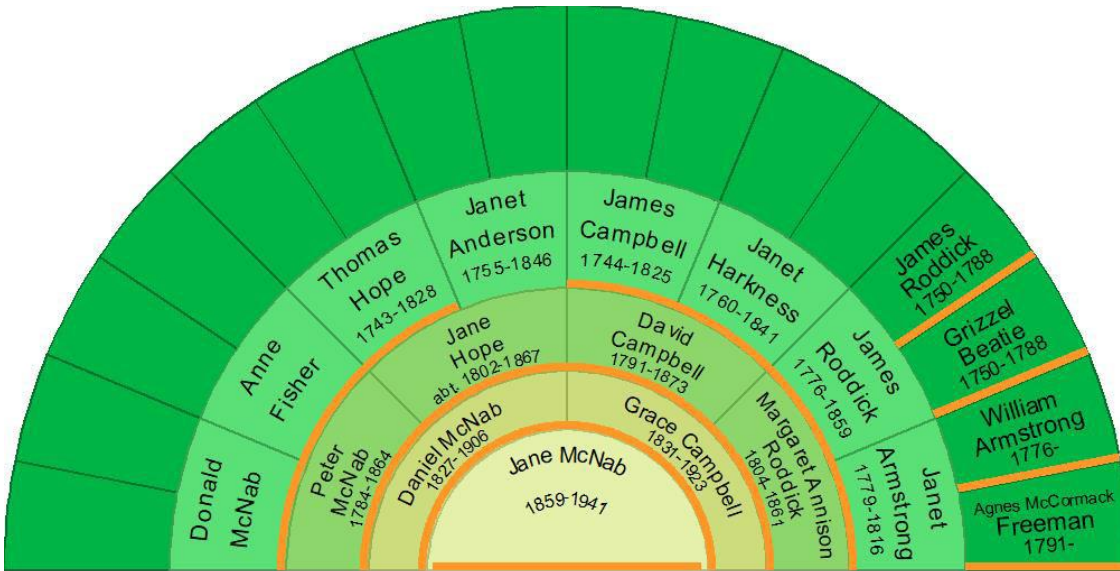
April 21, 2024

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McNab Context

Our McNab ancestors were of Scottish ancestry and one of our highlanders. The name ended with the marriage of Jane McNab to Robert Burns on 4 December 1878. I have created a descendant outline of the McNab family at <http://retson.ca/mcnabdescendants.pdf> .



Killin, Pershire, Scotland

Killin is a village situated at the western head of Loch Tay in Stirling (formerly Perthshire), Scotland. The west end of the village is magnificently sited around the scenic Falls of Dochart, the main street leading down towards the Loch at the confluence of the rivers Dochart and Lochay. The falls are crossed by a narrow, multi-arched stone bridge carrying the main A827 road into Killin. Killin railway station was on the Killin Railway. The railway station was officially closed on 1 November 1965.

The MacNab Clan were once dominant here, and have long been associated with Killin. Their ancient burial ground is on Inchbuie in the River Dochart, just below the falls, and is visible from the bridge.

Kinnell House was the seat of the MacNabs. A well-preserved prehistoric stone circle (possibly 'restored' to

improve its appearance) known as Killin Stone Circle can be seen in the grounds of the house. To the north of the village lie the ruins of the Campbells of Breadalbane stronghold of Finlarig Castle, with its associated chapel. The growing power of the Campbells eventually ousted the MacNabs, who lost Kinnell House to their rivals. In 1694 Sir John Campbell of Glenorchy, 1st Earl of Breadalbane established Killin as a Burgh of barony. In 1949 Kinnell House and its estate returned to the ownership of the Chief of Clan Macnab, but in 1978 death duties forced the then Chief, James Charles Macnab of Macnab, to sell most of the estate.

By the end of the 18th century there was a local linen industry. Flax was grown locally, spun in small mills and woven into linen by home based weavers. Today, Killin services the local rural community and the growing tourism and leisure industries. In addition to walking on Ben Lawers National Nature Reserve, fishing for trout and salmon there are various watersports available on Loch Tay. Many local vernacular buildings have been preserved or converted, allowing the village to retain much of its historic character.

1. Donald McNab and Anne Fisher

1. Donald McNab b. abt 1784, m. Anne Fisher, d.

Thanks to the research of Henry Roberts, I have the names of Donald McNab as the earliest McNab identified to date.¹ I have not yet found a birth date but the age of 79 suggest a possible date of 1784. He married Anne Fisher in Scotland.

At the moment I have identified at least four children of Donald and Ann McNab,

- i. John McNab b. 30 Nov. 1780 Killin, Perthshire, Scotland, m. Isobel Mckane
2. ii. Peter McNab b. Abt 1784 in Scotland, m. Jane Hope 19 Apr 1822 near Langholm, Westerkirk, Scotland, d. 04 Sep 1864 in Westerkirk, Dumfriesshire, Scotland,
 - iii. Patrick McNab b. 30 Jan 1785 in Killin, Perth, Scotland
 - iv. Anne McNab b. 14 Dec 1786 in Killin, Perth, Scotland

Langholm, Dumfriesshires Scotland

Langholm, Dumfriesshire known colloquially as the "Muckle Toun", is a burgh in Dumfries and Galloway in Southern Scotland which lies between four hills in the valley of the River Esk in the Southern Uplands. It is eight miles north of the Anglo Scottish border and 73 miles south of Edinburgh.

2. Peter McNab 1784 – 1859 Jane Hope

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/McNab-313> Peter McNab (1784 - 1864)

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/sources/LVS9-Z2V>

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Hope-1357>

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/sources/M3CP-PZ6>

Information on Peter McNab comes in part from a report by a McNab ancestor, possibly Elizabeth Burns, which was passed on by William W. Loucks around April 1952 and will be referred to hereafter as the McNab Report². This report³ indicates that Peter moved from Inverness and married a Jane Hope.

¹ Death registration for Peter McNab 854/3 Parish of Westerkirk, Dumfries

² Burns, Elizabeth, McNab Report and accompanying chart, April 1952

³ First paragraph of McNab Report

MCNAB

Peter McNab, a young and proud man, moved down from the Highlands, possibly Inverness, on account of religious persecution. He was a non-conformist. He married a very beautiful lady, Jane Hope, the rumour being because of her beauty. They settled in the parish of Westerkirk about six miles from Langewlm, Dumfriesshire. They had a large family, Daniel being among the eldest and Elizabeth one of the youngest. Others were Thomas, a schoolteacher; James, a dealer; Alexander, a coachman for a gentleman in Edinburgh. Daniel was a shepherd in Scotland and John, a gentleman's valet. Another ~~storekeeper~~ son, Peter, migrated to Canada and was a storekeeper in Acton, Ontario. He married a widow with one daughter. Elizabeth married a Harvey and migrated to New Zealand.

The date of the marriage with the beautiful Jane "Jean" Hope, daughter of Thomas Hope and Janet Anderson is believed to have been 19 Apr 1822 about 6 miles from Langholm, Parish of Westerkirk, Dumfries, Scotland.

He also died on September 4, 1864. He was a Meat Dealer, and his widow was listed as Jean Hope. His parents were listed as Donald and Anne McNab (nee Fisher). The informant for the register was his son Thomas who signed. This son Thomas passed away at age 66 in 1891 Westerkirk.

I also have a copy of Jean McNab's death registration which lists her as the Widow of Peter. Her parents are listed as Thomas and Janet Hope (nee Anderson). Jean passed away 8 April 1867 and the registration was signed by her son Thomas who was the informant. I made a quick check and found that Thomas Hope married Janet Anderson on 13 April 1794 in Applegarth & Sibbaldbie, Dumfriesshire.

Their children include,

- i. Agnes McNab b. 05 Sep 1823 in Westerkirk, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, Last known address in Westerkirk 1851⁴
- ii. Thomas McNab b. 07 Jun 1825 in Westerkirk, Dumfriesshire, Scotland⁵, m. Janet Hastie in 02 Jan 1874 in Westerkirk, Dumfriesshire, Scotland
- 3 iii. Daniel McNab b. 10 Mar 1827 in Westerkirk, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, m. Grace Campbell, 1 Jun 1855 in Middlebie, Dumfriesshire, Scotland (See below)
- iv. John McNab b. 02 Apr 1831 in Westerkirk, Dumfriesshire, Scotland⁶ d. 10 May 1909 in Langford, Manitoba, Canada, buried in Neepawa (apparently unmarried)
- v. Peter McNab b. 25 Feb 1834⁷ m. Isabella Lnu, d. 20 Aug 1921 in Halton, Ontario, had 6 children.
- vi. James McNab b. 1837⁸, married Ann Walker, they had at least one child
 - I. James McNab b. 26 Feb 1865, d. 02 May 1919 in Granville, New South Wales, Australia
- vii. Alexander McNab b. 12 Oct 1838⁹, married Jessie Brook 28 Nov 1873 in Edinburgh Parish, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland
 - I. Peter McNab b. St Cuthberts, Midlothian, Scotland about 1878
- viii. Elizabeth McNab b. 27 Jun 1840 in Westerkirk Parish, Dumfries, Scotland, married James Harvey

⁴ McNab Report, there is no mention of this daughter in this Report"

⁵ McNab Report, "Thomas, a school teacher"

⁶ McNab Report, "John, a gentleman's valet"

⁷ McNab Report, "Another store keeper son, Peter, migrated to Canada and was a store keeper in Acton, Ontario"

⁸ McNab Report, "James, a dealer"

⁹ McNab Report, "Alexander, a coachman for a gentleman in Edinburgh"

on 06 Mar 1868 Westerkirk, Scotland ¹⁰, d. Oct 1911 Stirling, Balcutha, New Zealand. They had at least 7 children,

I. George Harvey b. Abt. 1869 in Westerkirk, Dumfriesshire

II. Peter Harvey b. Abt. 1870 Westerkirk, Dumfriesshire, d. 20 Jan 1941 in Palmerston North New Zealand

III. William Harvey b. 21 Feb 1872, d. 18 May 1948 in Wingatui New Zealand

IV. John James Harvey b. 25 May 1875 in Westerkirk, Dumfriesshire, d. 10 Sep 1955 in Silverstream Wellington New Zealand.

V. Thomas Harvey b. 01 Jun 1878 in Riggburnfoot Parish of Westerkirk, Dumfries-shire Scotland, d. 24 Dec 1933 in Karori, Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand

VI. Jane Harvey b. 1880, Westerkirk, Scotland, d. 22 Nov 1916, in Dunedin Central, Otago, New Zealand

VII. Janet Anne Harvey b. 01 Mar 1882 at Westerhall Westerkirk Dumfries-shire Scotland, d. 31 Aug 1962, Wellington, New Zealand

ix. Robert McNab b. 17 Feb 1842 in Westerkirk, Dumfriesshire¹¹

His residence in 1841, 1851 and 1861 census are Westerkirk, Dumfriesshire

He died 04 Sep 1864 in Westerkirk, Dumfriesshire, Scotland.¹²

3. Daniel McNab 1827 - 1906 Grace Campbell 1831 – 1923

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/McNab-309> Daniel McNab (1827 - 1906)

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/998N-GYX>

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Campbell-18368>

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/998N-GYB>

Daniel McNab, son of Peter McNab and Jane (or Janet) Hope was born 10 Mar 1827 in Westerkirk, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. According to the McNab Report he was a Sheppard in Scotland¹³. He married Grace Campbell on 01 Jun 1855 in Middlebie, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. According to the McNab report she was an accomplished singer whose home was at Ecclefechan near Carlyle and a son was born in April 1856 (but see below). This family came to Canada in 1856 coming in a sailing boat and were six weeks en route. Peter had his first birthday at sea.¹⁴ It is believed they docked at Port Hope and traveled to Huron County near Walton where Dan farmed some twenty years. his brother John joined him there.

In the 1871 Census, his residence is given as Morris, Huron North, Ontario. His religion is given as Presbyterian and occupation as farmer. He is at home with wife Grace age 40 and children Peter 17, David 14, Jane Mc Nab 12 and Margret 11.¹⁵

They left Ontario in 1881 to join their two sons homesteading near Neepawa, Manitoba.¹⁶ They purchased SW 1/4 17-14-15 on January 7, 1881, which was subsequently was homesteaded by Robert (2nd) and Danile's

¹⁰ McNab Report, "Elizabeth one of the youngest", married a Harvey and migrated to New Zealand

¹¹ McNab Report, no mention made concerning Robert in this report.

¹² National Records of Scotland, 1864 Parish of Westerkirk, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, No 854/3 Death of Peter McNab, wife Jean Hope, Father Donald McNab, Mother Anne Fisher

¹³ McNab Report, "Daniel was a Sheppard in Scotland."

¹⁴ The 1901 census for Daniel gives his immigration year as 1858

¹⁵ 1871 Canada Census, Ontario, Huron North, Ontario Morris, District Number 26 Subdistrict g Division 03

¹⁶ McNab Report, "Dan, wife Maggie and John followed the boys to Neepawa and Dan got a homestead across from Dave's. I am not sure of the name "Maggie"

daughter's Jane (Jean). In 1906 Census they have granddaughter Elizabeth living in Portage La Prairie

Their children and grandchildren,

- i. Peter McNab 30 Apr 1855 in Dumfries, Scotland, m. Isabella Ann Sangster on 19 Oct 1892 at Minnedosa, Manitoba, Canada, d. 18 Feb 1921 in Langford, Manitoba, Canada. Peter left in 1878 for St Boniface and the next year for Neepawa.
 - I. Hazel McNab b. 13 May 1893 in Langford, Manitoba, Canada m. Cecil Jesse Badger 25 May 1918 in Langford, Manitoba, Canada
 - II. Donald McNab b. 19 Feb 1896 in Neepawa, Manitoba, Canada, m. Olive Hall on 31 May 1922 in Neepawa, Manitoba
 - III. James S McNab b. 10 Feb 1897 in Kelwood, Manitoba, Canada
 - IV. Peter John McNab b. 05 Aug 1901 in Langford, Manitoba, Canada
 - V. Grace Isabella McNab b. 09 Dec 1903 in Langford, Manitoba, Canada
 - VI. Jean Hope McNab b. 26 Sep 1911 in Kelwood, Manitoba, Canada, m. Saul Lang Makrauer in 1940 in Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada 03 Feb 2003 in Dallas, Texas, US.
- ii. David McNab b. 26 Feb 1857¹⁷ in Port Hope, Northumberland, Ontario, Canada, m. (1) Elizabeth Govenlock 16 Jan 1889 in Osprey, Manitoba. She died in April 1892 after birth of Elizabeth and Daughter Grace shortly after. (2) Mary Barrie Fleming 21 Feb 1894 in Bruce, Ontario, Canada d. 15 Mar 1938 Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. David went to Neepawa in 1879 to a homestead across the road from brother Peter.

By Elizabeth Govenlock

- I. Jean Ballantyne McNab. b. 13 Nov 1889 in Glendale, Manitoba, Canada, m. Bertram Francis Davidson on 17 Jan 1914 in Neepawa, Manitoba, Canada
- II. Grace McNab b. 06 May 1891 in Langford, Manitoba, Canada, d. 19 Jun 1892 in Langford, Manitoba.
- III. Elizabeth McNab b. 11 Apr 1892 in Langford, Manitoba, Canada d. 13 Oct 1974 in Calgary, Alberta.

By Mary Barrie Fleming

- IV. Robert David McNab b. 07 May 1903 in Langford, Manitoba, Canada, m. Jean Phyllis Longmire, d. 01 Oct 1971 Victoria, British Columbia

4. iii. Jane McNab b. 6 Nov 1858¹⁸ Port Hope, Northumberland, Ontario, Canada; m. Robert Burns 4 Dec. 1878 in Morris Township, Huron County, Ontario, Canada, d. 1941 Regina.

iv. Margaret McNab b. 29 Feb 1860¹⁹ in Port Hope, Northumberland, Ontario, Canada, m. William Sangster on 24 Nov 1892 at Langford, Manitoba, Canada, d. 18 Jun 1943 in Neepawa, Manitoba, Canada

He died 28 Nov 1906 in Langford, Manitoba, Canada. His wife Grace died 23 Apr 1923 in Neepawa.

4. Jane McNab 1858 – 1941 Robert Burns

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/McNab-310> Jane (McNab) Burns (abt. 1859 - 1936)

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/L2WD-WSY>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/209916509/jean-burns>

¹⁷ McNab Report

¹⁸ McNab Report

¹⁹ McNab Report

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Burns-6019>
<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/L2ZG-Q68>
https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/209135221/robert_burns

Jane McNab, daughter of Daniel and Grace McNab was born in Walton, Ontario 6 November 1858. She apprenticed with McCarter sisters in Seaforth. She married Robert Burns on 4 December 1878 in Morris Township, Huron County, Ontario, Canada. Robert Burns (2nd), son of Robert and Elizabeth Burns, was born on 14 May 1852 in Brussels Ontario. He was known as Bob.

In 1881 along with infant daughter Grace the family moved to a homestead in Elkhorn Manitoba. In 1884 he traded his land at Elkhorn, Manitoba for a quarter section at Neepawa (SW ¼ 17-14-15.) purchased by his father-in-law Daniel McNab on January 7, 1881. In winter 1884 he worked with a veterinarian in Minnedosa and in spring 1884 lived with neighbour Jack Johnston until he got a log house and stable built on his own farm. He lived there until 1897. That summer Dan McNab's homestead and moved onto it in September. They 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 in Regina. Their children include,

- i. Grace Burns, b. Mar 1880 in Brussels, Ontario; d. Jun. 1889 at Neepawa, Manitoba
- ii. Elizabeth Richardson Burns, b. 20 Apr. 1882 at Elkhorn, Manitoba; d. 1955 at Regina, Saskatchewan
- iii. Margaret Emma Burns, b.4 Sept. 1883 in Elkhorn, Manitoba; m. John (Jack) Alexander Stevenson, 15 Jul. 1913; d. 17 Oct. 1957 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; They had two children,
 - I. Jack Burns Stevenson, b. 15 May 1914, d. 01 May 1981,
 - II. Elizabeth Jean Stevenson, b. 12 Sept. 1916 who married Bill Dixon; they had 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, 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.
- v. Esther Jane Burns, b. 26 Jul. 1886Neepawa, Manitoba; m. Edward Elbert Atkinson, 25Jan 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, 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,

I. 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, Washington, U.S.A. They had two Children,

I. Isabel Elizabeth Guthrie, b. 27 Dec 1929,

II. Frank Burns Guthrie b. 13 Oct 1932 in Seattle, Washington

Appendices

Researching McNab

An earlier draft of this file had the father of Peter McNab born in 1791 and his father John McNab. This has been changed as a result of an email received from Henry McNab Jan 3, 2019:

Hi jretson,

I just wanted to point out that you have mistakenly added my 5th great grandparents John and Agnes McNab (nee Robertson) and their children as parents and siblings to your ancestor Peter McNab. I have done substantial research on my McNab branches, and my Peter passed away on 27 December 1864 in Glasgow at the age of 73. On his death registration his parents are listed as is his widow, Janet Wilson.

I looked through the Scotlandspeople website and had some credits still unused so decided to check on your Peter McNab. He also died in 1864 on September 4th. He was a Meat Dealer, and his widow was listed as Jean Hope. His parents were listed as Donald and Anne McNab (nee Fisher). The informant for the register was his son Thomas who signed. This son Thomas passed away at age 66 in 1891 Westerkirk.

I searched for a birth listing for Peter but had no luck in locating a record but did find some of his siblings who were all born in Killin, Perthshire. These were John McNab born 30 Nov 1780, Anne McNab born 14 December 1786 and Patrick McNab born 30 Jan 1785.

I also have a copy of Jean McNab's death registration which lists her as the Widow of Peter. Her parents are listed as Thomas and Janet Hope (nee Anderson). Jean passed away 8 April 1867 and the registration was signed by her son Thomas who was the informant. I made a quick check and found that Thomas Hope married Janet Anderson on 13 April 1794 in Applegarth & Sibbaldie, Dumfriesshire.

I hope some of this helps. If you want to have a copy of the death registrations for my Peter McNab I will send them and also a copy of the death registrations for your Peter and Jean which I have. I would need an email as I don't think images can be sent on this message system with ancestry.com.

Respectfully Yours,

Henry

Abbreviations

abt. About b. born bp. Baptised d. died m. married

Sources for McNab


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


Websites

Relationship to Author


4th great grandfather

	Donald McNab <hr/>
	b: Killin, Perthshire, Scotland
	d:


3rd great grandfather

	Peter McNab <hr/>
	b: 1784 Killin, Perthshire, Scotland
	d: 04 Sep 1864 Westerkirk, Dumfriesshire, Scotla


2nd great grandfather

	Daniel McNab <hr/>
	b: 10 Mar 1827 Westerkirk, Dumfries-shire, Scotl
	d: 28 Nov 1906 Langford, Manitoba, Canada


Great grandmother

	Jane McNab <hr/>
	b: 06 Nov 1858 Port Hope, Northumberland, Onta
	d: 1941 Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada

Maternal grandmother

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

Mother

	Grace Elizabeth Atkinson <hr/>
	b: 11 Dec 1916 Waskada, Man.
	d: 04 Jun 2008 Truro



James Retson