

## CHAPTER

## B12

## The COLVILLE Family

### *“ Of Scottish Origins “*

The Colville name is part of our Scottish ancestry and first comes into our line at the 4th generation where our GG-Grandfather, **Daniel McAulay** married our GG-Grandmother, **Catharine Colville**, in Govan, Lanarkshire.

Even though Catharine Colville was from western Scotland, the Colville family had their origins nearer to the east coast, in the counties of Fife and Clackmannanshire.

The name frequently appears with different spellings within the same family group—sometimes Colvil, Colvill or Colville. This has no real relevance as few people could read or write at the time and spelling was simply dependent upon how a parish clerk “heard” the name and spelt the sound when it was given at the time of baptism.

Our earliest known COLVILLE was ...

### **John COLVIL ( b.circa 1760 )**

We do not know where or when our GGGG-Grandfather **John Colvil** was born, but we do know that he married **Isabel Scotland** on 5th February 1779 at Saline. Saline is a village in Fife, Scotland, approximately 5 miles north-west of Dunfermline. 200 years later, the population was only about 1,000, so in 1779 it would have been a fairly small place. John and Isabel raised their five children in the village :-

William Colvil	b.1780	in Saline, Fife
Thomas Colvil	b.1782	in Saline, Fife
William Colvill	b.1784	in Saline, Fife
Marion Colvil	b.1787	in Saline, Fife
Elisabeth Colvil	b.1791	in Saline, Fife

We have little further information on the family and do not know when or where John and Isabel died. However, we do know that:-

**William Colvil (b.1780)** was our GGG-Grandfather (see further details below).

**Thomas Colvil (b.1782)** married **Christian Dalgleish** on 29th January 1814 in Saline.

**Marion Colvil (b.1787)** married **Robert May** on 22nd May 1824 in Saline.

### **William Colvil ( b.1780 )**

William Colvil was our GGG-Grandfather and he married Janet Murray on 19th May 1798 in Saline, Fife. They had seven children:-

James Colvill	b.1799	in Saline, Fife
William Colvill	b.1801	in Alloa, Clackmannanshire
Peter Colville	b.1806	in Alloa, Clackmannanshire
Alexander Colvil	b.1808	in Clackmannan, Clackmannanshire
Chirstan Colville	b.1812	in Saline, Fife
Janet Colville	b.1815	in Glasgow, Lanarkshire
Elizabeth Colville	b.1819	in Glasgow, Lanarkshire

From the above it appears that William moved his family around the country a bit, probably in seek of work. He must have moved west from Saline towards Alloa & Clackmannan between 1799 & 1801 (a distance of less than 10 miles) and then he returned to his home village of Saline at some time after the birth of his fourth child in 1808. After the birth of his fifth child in 1812, he made the break from the eastern side of Scotland to move westwards with his family to the city of Glasgow, where his sixth child was born in 1815.

We have no further information on the whereabouts of William (b.17800 and his wife, Janet (nee Murray), although we do know a little about some of their children:-

**William Colvill (b.1801)** married Mary Ritchie on 5th March 1821 in Glasgow. They had at least two children:-

Eliza Colville	b.1821, subsequently married John Orr.
William Colville	b.1823

**Peter Colville (b.1806)** was our GG-Grandfather. Further details below.

**Alexander Colvil (b.1808)** married Catharine Wilson on 29th August 1829 in Dunfermline. They had at least three children:-

Mary Colville	b.1832	in Saline, Fife (m.Patrick Oliphant in 1851 at Saline)
Alexander Colville	b.1833	in Saline, Fife
John Wildon Colville	b.1835	in Saline, Fife

## **Peter Colville ( b.1806 )**

**Peter Colville** was our GG-Grandfather. He was born in 1806 at Saline, Fife and on 29th June 1828, he married our GG-Grandmother, **Euphemia Clark** in Glasgow, Lanarkshire. They were both 22 years old at the time.

Euphemia (known as "Pheme) has an interesting background. She was the daughter of Duncan Clark and Catharine, but she was born in 1805 in Lisbon, Portugal. For some time, we could not understand how a girl of Scottish origin could be born so far away from her home country 200 years ago. However, we subsequently discovered that Duncan Clark had been in the army during the Napoleonic Wars and the Duke of Wellington's headquarters were at Lisbon. In those days, wives & children travelled with some of the soldiers and any babies born during that period would be registered at the headquarters.

**Duncan Clark** was born in Muckairn, Argyllshire. In 1794, at the age of 17, he enlisted to the army - initially to the Perthshire County militia (a part-time unit, locally raised in Perthshire). In 1800 he was transferred to the 28th (Duke of York's) Light Dragoons. After service at St.Domingo and the Cape Colony, this regiment was disbanded at the Peace of Amiens in 1802. Duncan was then transferred to the 78th Regiment of Foot (also called the 78th Regiment of Highlanders or the Ross-Shire Buffs). This regiment has a long history and was one of the forerunners of today's army, having been renamed as the *The Seaforth Highlanders* in 1881, *The Queen's Own Highlanders* in

1960, and finally *The Highlanders* in 1994.

During his military career, Duncan rose through the ranks and was a Sergeant Major by the time of his medical discharge in 1816 at the age of 39 years. An extract from his military discharge record is as follows:-

His Majesty's 2nd Battalion 78th Regiment of Foot, whereof Lieutenant General Sir J. Anderson is Colonel.

This is to certify that Sergeant Major Duncan Clarke in the Castle Douglas Company in the 2nd Battalion 78th Regiment aforesaid born in the parish of Muckairn in or near the town of Inverary in the County of Argyle was enlisted at the age of 27 years and hath served in the said regiment for the space of 11 years 250 days as well as in other corps after the age of 18 according to the following statement that in consequence of rheumatism & broken constitution brought on in the course of a long and zealous service is rendered unfit.

Duncan Clarke is about 5'6" in height, fair hair, grey eyes, fair complexion and by trade a Tailor.

25.06.1794 - 07.04.1800 Perthshire County (4 years 287 days as Private, 1 year as Corporal)

25.03.1800 - 24.05.1803 28th Light Dragoons (3 years 61 day as Corporal)

25.06.1800 - 01.03.1816 2nd Battalion 78th Regiment of Foot (1 year 7 days as Corporal, 9 years 87 days as Sergeant, 1 year 157 days as Sergeant Major)

The relevant part of the Regiment's history (during which Duncan Clarke served) is given below:-

"In Dec 1804, for the second time, a 2nd Battalion of the 78th Highlanders was raised. 850 men, under Lieutenant Colonel Patrick MacLeod of Geanies, assembled at Fort George, and were inspected in Jan 1805 by Major General the Marquis of Huntly. Stewart of Garth says: "This being the fourth battalion embodied in that garrison under the influence of the family of Seaforth in the course of thirty years..... This corps and the 2nd Battalion of the 79th, raised the same year, were the last corps recruited in the north under the influence of any particular family, or by officers for commissions."

The 2nd Battalion, 78th Highlanders was then trained at Shorncliffe with the 43rd and 52nd Foot and the 60th Rifles, under Sir John Moore. The 2nd Battalion later was deployed to Sicily where it was employed in the attack on Calabria and the Battle of Maida in 1806. It was then employed in the disastrous expedition to Egypt in 1807. The battalion was maintained at stations in the Mediterranean until 1809, when the remaining effective men were transferred to the 1st Battalion in India. The skeleton of the 2nd Battalion was returned home to Aberdeen where it remained for four years. The 2nd Battalion, restored to full strength, then joined the army under Sir Thomas Graham in Holland, co-operating with Bulow's Prussian force against Antwerp during the winter of 1813-14. It distinguished itself at Merxem, near Antwerp, and then remained in the garrison in the Low Countries after the peace of 1814. During this time it spent some months in Brussels where the authorities petitioned for it not to be relocated on account of the excellent conduct of the unit. The 2nd Battalion was in garrison at Nieuport during the battle of Waterloo. Soon afterwards it returned from West Flanders to Scotland. There the majority of men were discharged and the remainder formed a depot to await the return of the 1st Battalion from India. In 1817, the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the 78th Highlanders were amalgamated. The regiment then remained a single battalion corps until 1881".

Returning to **Peter Colville** and **Euphemia** (nee Clark), we know that they had eight children:-

Catharine Colville	b.1830	in Govan Lane, Ayrshire
Janet Colville	b.1831	in Govan, Lanarkshire
William Colville	b.1833	in Govan, Lanarkshire
Charlotte Colville	b.1837	in Govan, Lanarkshire
Elizabeth Colville	b.1838	in Govan, Lanarkshire
Jane Park Colville	b.1841	in Govan, Lanarkshire
Euphemia Colville	b.1844	in Govan, Lanarkshire
Mary Colville	b.1851	in Govan, Lanarkshire

**Catharine Colville (b.1830)** was our G-Grandmother (further details follow), but apart from her we know nothing of the remaining children, other than that given in the census records of the time.

In the 1851 census records, Peter Colville and family are living at Govan Factory, Govan, Lanarkshire. We're not sure what this refers to, but the town of Govan, sitting on the south bank of the River Clyde, just to the west of Glasgow, developed purely as

a result of rapidly-developing industry (particularly shipbuilding) in the early & mid-19thC. Perhaps the reference to Govan Factory is a collection of housing, built to serve the needs of the workers around a shipbuilding factory.

In 1851, Peter & Euphemia are listed as 44 and 40 respectively (not quite accurate for Euphemia, given her 1805 birth) and Peter is engaged as a Civil Engineer (although we're not sure that such an occupation would have the same meaning as it does today). Living with them are their eight children - Catharine (20, a silk winder), Janet (18, a silk winder), William (16, a wash-house boy), Charlotte (13, a silk winder), Elizabeth, Jane & Euphemia (age 11, 8 & 5 respectively, all scholars) and the infant, Mary (1).

By 1861, the family have move to 26 West Close, Galts Land, Govan. Again, this was probably an area assigned to housing for workers at a specific shipbuilding factory. Peter & Euphemia are listed as 55 and 52 respectively. Peter's occupation is then given as " Ceupene Keeper " (although we're not sure what this represents). The children living with them are Janet (27, dress-maker), William (25, engineer pattern maker), Charlotte (23, silk worker), Jane (18, silk worker), Euphemia (16, silk worker) and Mary (9, scholar).

## **Catharine Colville ( 1830-1904 )**

Our G-Grandmother, **Catharine Colville** was born in 1830 at Govan Lane, Ayrshire. She lived with her family until the mid 1850s, working as a silk winder in the local factory. On 16th July 1855, she married our G-Grandfather, **Daniel Macaulay**, at Govan Free Church, Govan, Lanarkshire.

For further information on the above, see the chapter on the MACAULAY family.