

My father's grandfather / my great grandfather

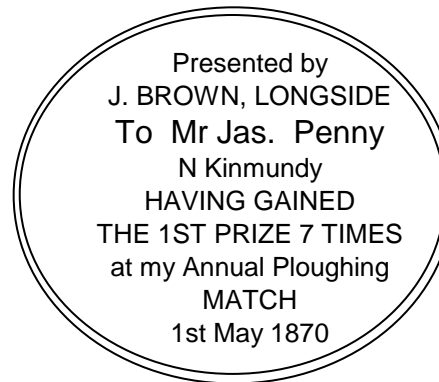
James 1839 - 1928

James's birth is recorded as Rathen. He married Isabella Hutchison on 21 December 1861. My grandfather (George 1874 to 1926) and his son, my uncle George, both had Hutchison as a middle name. I saw several Hutchison gravestones at Longside.

In 1923 James's brother Alexander (born 1845) wrote a book "Reminiscences of 75 Years of My Life" which has been a great source of family information - not least the photograph of Home Farm, Nether Kinmundy.

The significance of this gentleman for me was my father talking about visiting him at, I thought, both Nether Kinmundy and Peterculter. It appears he lived (and died) at 18 Church St, Peterculter. He certainly lived at Nether Kinmundy - hence the ploughing medal below but I wonder if my father visited him only at Peterculter. My father was born in 1909, was in Mendoza aged 3 and certainly came to Scotland by / during 1915 as his father served in WW 1. From "Reminiscences" I know that Alexander (a.k.a., not surprisingly, Sandy) went to see his brother James in Peterculter in 1910. So if my father did see his grandfather at Nether Kinmundy it could have been when they were both holidaying there. I believe my middle name is James after him.

Passed down to me and sitting on my desk is a ploughing medal James won, aged 31, in 1870. This gives the feeling of keeping some sort of long connection going.



It was not engraved in Arial!

So who was J. Brown of Longside? Could N Kinmundy mean the estate rather than the Home Farm?

Also, I wonder if there is any tie in with the Longside so-called "fein marts" of May and November to which local farm workers would come to seek and secure employment for the following six months?

Parents of William Penny:-

James 1781 - 1858



Janet Mitchell 1792 - 1857

Penny, William

b. 20 Jun 1812
Rathen
d. 19 Feb 1891
Longside (Nether Kinmundy)
m. [Mitchell, Elizabeth](#)
d. 02 Jan 1885

[Penny, James](#)

b. 10 Apr 1839
Rathen
d. 1928
Peterculter
m. [Hutchison, Isabella](#)

[Penny, Alexander](#)

b. 09 Jul 1845
Rathen (Hallmoss)

[Penny, William](#)

b. 21 Aug 1847
Longside
m. [Farquhar, Margaret \(more..\)](#)

[Penny, Elizabeth](#)

b. 31 Dec 1849
Longside
m. [Park, Joseph](#)

[Penny, John](#)

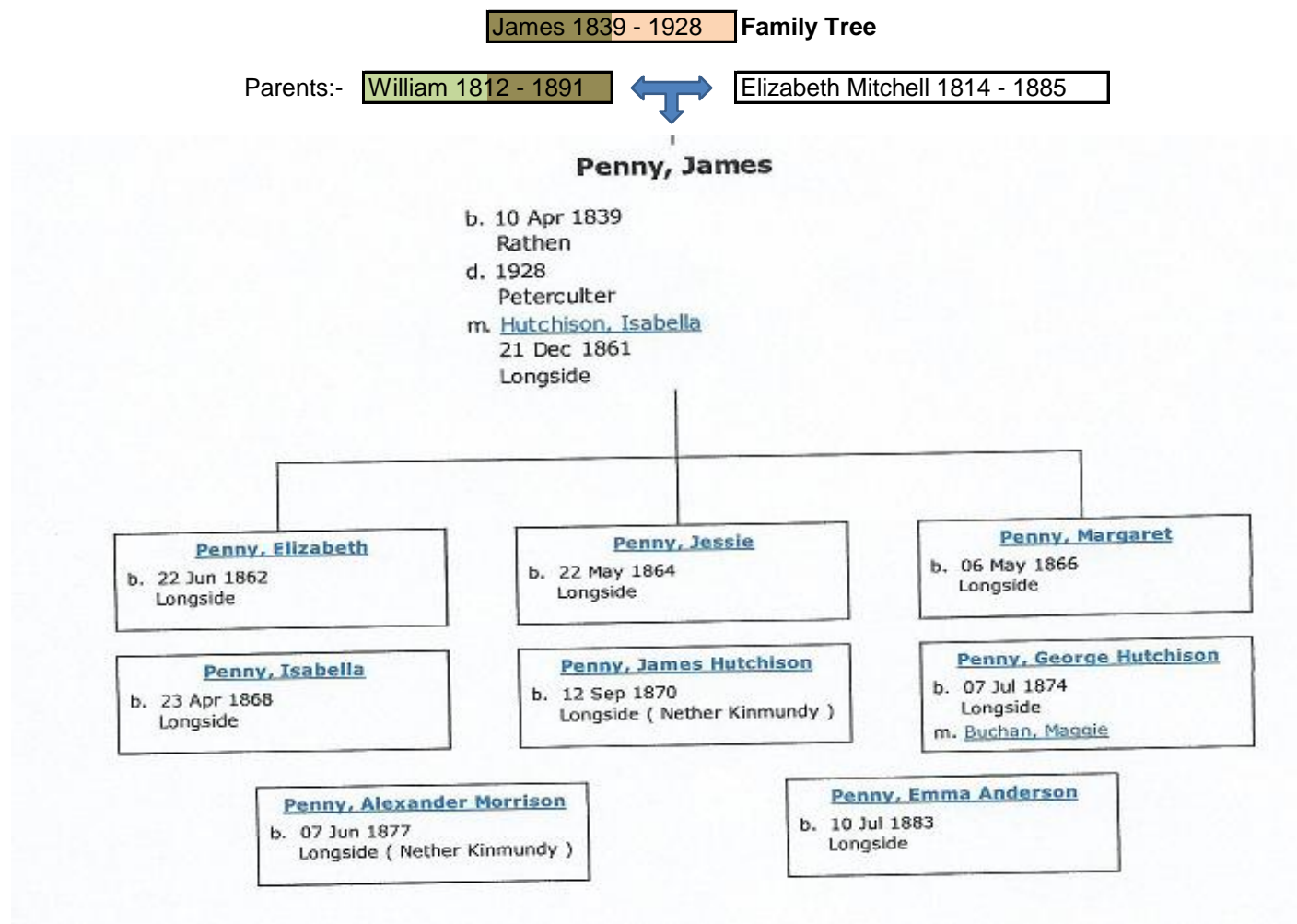
b. 10 Jul 1852
Longside
m. [Duncan, Helen](#)

[Penny, Charles](#)

b. 17 Jul 1857
Longside (Nether Kinmundy)
d. 11 Apr 1936
Longside (Kintore Cott)
m. [Donald, Joanna](#)

This part of the family tree starts with my great, great grandfather - William Penny (born 1812). He is buried in Longside church cemetery. With my grandfather (George, my father's father) signing up for the British Army in December 1915 with a London address, I am assuming the earliest my father might have gone to Nether Kinmundy was 1916/17. My great grandfather (the grandfather my father spoke of) - James Penny (born 1839) - would have been 78 when my father was 8 in 1917. My great grand-uncle - Alexander Penny of the "Reminiscences" fame - visited Nether Kinmundy in 1920 age 75 when my father was 11 (I do not know if my father ever met him but in that year Alexander visited his brother, James, in Peterculter and other family members). Thinking of my father's visits to the farm at Nether Kinmundy I wonder if it was Charles Penny (born 1857) who would have been 60 in 1917 when my father was 8 that he would have visited? This Charles's son, also Charles (born 1896), would have been 21.

→ James Penny - next page



James's address in a record from Laura Bozzay (a cousin of mine x times removed) was 18 Church Street, Peterculter which no longer seems to exist.

Extracted from Wikitree - James is in the 1851 Census living at Nether Kinmundy, Longside, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, age 12 and in the 1891 Census living at Cairney Cottages, Woodside, Aberdeen, Scotland, age 52 as an agricultural labourer.

Fiona Riddell - curatorial assistant at Arbutnot Museum, Peterhead - sent me two newspaper clippings where James Penny's exploits in ploughing contests are mentioned.

22 January 1864 – Buchan Observer

PLOUGHING MATCHES.—On Wednesday, the 20th inst., a ploughing match was held on a field belonging to Mr John Brown, farmer, Longside. Early in the day, 16 ploughs were on the field, and the work was accomplished in a manner seldom, if ever, equalled in the district. The Judges—Messrs Kiloh, Inverveddie, Cumming, Cadgerhill, and Milne, Longside—after a careful examination—had much difficulty in awarding the prizes as follows:—1 James Penny, Nether Kinmundy; 2 Wm. Morrice, Inverquhomery; 3 James Simpson, Claybills; 4 James Findlay, Crookednook; 5 Wm. Gray, farmer's son, Lynshart; 6 Robert Hebron, Denms; 7 Boyde Hebron, Nether Kinmundy; 8 Charles Ritchie, Cadgerhill. Refreshments were dealt out with no stinted hand during the day to the ploughmen and the spectators, Mr Brown's hospitality being not the least part of the day's proceedings,

9 March 1870 – Peterhead Sentinel

PLOUGHING MATCHES.

LONGSIDE.—A ploughing match came off on March 7th, in a field occupied by Mr John Brown, when a number of ploughs started, and finished their work in such a manner that the judges, Messrs Bruce, Kinmundy ; Cumino, Cadgerhill ; and Davidson, Kinmundy, had a difficult task to perform. The following is the order of merit :—
1 James Penny, Kinmundy ; 2 William Gray, Linshart ; 3 William Strachan, Longside farm ; 4 James Gall, Millbank ; 5 Allan Arthur, Drums ; 6 William Masson, Massie Brae. During the day the ploughmen and spectators were liberally entertained by Mr Brown, and after the labours of the day, the judges and a few friends sat down to an excellent dinner prepared by Mrs Brown, and spent a most happy afternoon.

All of this is very significant for me as the first connection I have with "within living memory" is my father talking about his grandfather - James 1839 to 1928. He is the first in the Penny family line I feel I can directly relate to, not least as I believe my middle name is James after him.

Carol Cowan Connection

Carol contacted me in May 2024 via my "family" website saying that her mum Joan (who is now 85) often shares the memories she has from when she was young - prompting a family history search. Carol thought that her mum shares a Great Grandad James Penny (1839-1928) & Great Grandmother Isabella Hutchison with me. Their daughter Isabella (1868-1917) - who married James Grant was her mum's granny. Isabella's daughter Anna Alexina Grant (married name Davidson) was her mum's mum.

Her mum spoke about an Aunt Maggie Penny she visited with her mum Anna at 17 Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen. Carol and her mum were passing recently, her mum saying how much she loved looking out of the window down towards the Library and HMT theatre. She said that there was a little boy who would sometimes be visiting with his mum from Inverness - myself (i.e. this author)!

Many memories flowed back for myself - a few are shared below and attached.

But first, my connection with Carol and her family.

Carol's mum does indeed share a great grandfather and great grandmother with me.

Making links back to Isabella Penny and George Hutchison Penny in the James Penny (1839 to 1928) tree shows that Carol's mum, Joan, and I are second cousins.

Here is a [marked up family tree](#).

Now – the front room. I loved the old record player (which at one time was taller than myself); it was at the right hand side of the big window. After Uncle George died my Dad and his brother my Uncle Jack cleared a lot of the flat. With my interest in the record player (gramophone) I was allowed to take it. I remember Jack saying it had not worked since the second world war and that I should "electrify" it. No need – after some WD40 it worked and still does! Apparently Grandfather bought it on his return from WW 1 about 1919. He brought back the statue of a miner and a carved shell – both by the fireplace in our sitting room. The biscuit barrel in that room came from the top of a big dresser in the back room at Rosemount and on occasion biscuits were dispensed. There is a photo of Grandma Penny and myself on top of the gramophone. [Rosemount viaduct objects](#).

I recall years ago my dad saying that the old gramophone was bought at a place called "Cocky" Hunter's. Whilst writing about the front room I did a bit of research. Amazingly I found a lot of information compiled here as ["Cocky" Hunter's - a little history](#)

On the next page are photographs with James Penny (1839 to 1928) and his wife Isabella (nee Hutchison).



My great grandfather (James 1839 to 1928) on the left with his wife (Isabella Hutchison) and presumably his son - my grandfather - (George 1874 to 1926) on the right and perhaps George's only daughter (Daisy).

Difficult to date this photo and decide upon who exactly is on Isabella's lap. George Penny's Short Service Attestation is dated 9 Dec 2015 so the photo would have been taken after he came back to the UK from Argentina.



Carol Cowan sent me this saying that James Penny looks a similar age in this photo to the one with her grandmother Anna - or could it be a few years earlier? She looked at it and thought, is that James Penny's daughter Isabella with the baby being one of Isabella's younger children Anna (born 1903), Mary (born 1905) or Alexander (born 1906)?? Isabella always appears a bit austere in her photos...? Or simply Isabella just resembles her mum and hence Carol's confusion.

James Penny (1839 – 1928), Isabella Penny (nee Hutchison) with 3 of their grandchildren:

Anna Alexina Grant (left)
 Mary Helen Hutchison Grant (right)
 At the rear is Fairlina Anderson Hutchison Grant

Taken about 1910

These photographs are in my Grandma Penny's album.
Perhaps they are related to Carol's family line?



Carol sent this photo of her family line including:-

Front Row Left to Right

Isabella Grant (Nee Penny); Mary Grant; Anna Grant (my Granny); Alexander Grant; James Grant snr

Second Row

Francis Grant; Alice Louisa Grant;

Third Row

Isabella Grant; Maggie Grant (Madge)

Back Row

Fairlina Grant; Elizabeth Grant;

NB. Not 100% sure of order in rows 3 and 4.

