

## My grandfather and my grandmother

George 1874 - 1926



WW 1 Photograph.  
This photograph hangs in my study.

George Hutchison Morgan Penny is the first in my family line with the Hutchison middle name, presumably going back to Isabella Hutchison who married George's father James in 1861. There are Hutchisons buried in Longside cemetery. But where did the Morgan name come from? His birth is registered as Longside, Aberdeenshire on 7 July 1874. He died as a result of diabetes, on 2 November 1926 and is buried at St Peter's Cemetery in Aberdeen.

From a database provided to me by Laura Bozzay in Fenton, Missouri, at the time of the 1881 Census George lived with his mother at Scotland Road Cottage, Lenabo, Longside - also referred to as Cottars House. The 1881 Census extract, however, shows his address as Lenabo Road Farm, Auchtydore - "Auchtydore" was a Penny farm - probably John Penny 1812 to 1896 (initially at Mains of Buthlaw) who died at Auchtydore. George was shown as a scholar age 6. The school building is still there - now a private house (picture below).

On 22 December 1899 George married Maggie Buchan who was born on 4 May 1881 at Balgaveny, Ythan Wells. Her mother was Agnes Buchan and father William Henderson - I can find no details for them.

At the time of his marriage to Maggie Buchan in 1899 he is shown in a Census as a railway stoker living at 52 Powis Place, Aberdeen (now an area of modern flats). They are then shown as living at 55 Bedford Place, Aberdeen (1901 Census). Their daughter Maggie was born in 1900 (she died after a few months). 1901 Census - Old Machar, Aberdeen.



This is the school of Kinmundy, converted into a house.



55 Bedford Place, Aberdeen  
Courtesy of Street View



72 Bedford Road, Aberdeen  
Courtesy of Street View

George and Maggie emigrated to Argentina seemingly with "assisted passage". George was either a stoker or engine driver for a railway (there were several in Argentina). The timing of this move has been difficult to assess. Their daughter, Daisy, was born 19 October 1901 (died 2 October 1993) with the address as 72 Bedford Road, Aberdeen. Son, George, also had that address when he was born on 24 December 1905 (died 2 June 1980). My father, James (Santiago) was born in Bahia Blanca, an industrial city south of Buenos Aires, Argentina on 28 November 1909. The family moved to Mendoza in the foot hills of the Argentine side of the Andes. A broad gauge railway between Bahia Blanca and Mendoza opened in 1908. The Transandine metre gauge railway opened in 1910 between Mendoza and Los Andes in Chile. From a recollection my father had about Mendoza at about age 3, I am assuming the move to Mendoza was around 1910 to 1912.

Having thought the emigration to Argentina was near the turn of the 20th century, these dates suggest it was probably between 1906 and 1908/9.

Having been told that my mother's family (back two generations to Laing) and my father's Penny family had connections it seems that was not necessarily in the Argentine but more likely the Kittybrewster area of Aberdeen. My Penny grandparents lived in Bedford Place before emigrating. My mother's grandmother had a brother, Reuben Laing, who had a butcher's shop at 27 Bedford Place (prospectively at the same time).



61 Huddlestone Road, Forest Gate, London.  
Courtesy of Street View

Returning to the UK I am unsure where the family settled but George's address in his Dec 1915 Short Service Attestation (for the Duration of the War) is 61 Huddlestone Road, Forest Gate, London. I do not know if his family was with him in London or if they returned to Aberdeen - my father never mentioned anything about this period.

During World War 1 George was a munitions train driver who may have used boat trains to France from Richborough by Sandwich, Kent. There were munitions factories in London - perhaps when he lived in Forest Gate he was driving trains from factory to coast? Forest Gate is close to Hackney Marsh - the location of a munitions factory.

I have an engraved spent shell from Ypres and a statue of a miner that he brought back from WW1. With his youngest son, John Alexander (Jack) being born on 15 July 1920 (died 26 January 1992) I am assuming he was demobbed in 1919 and returned to Aberdeen from London.

My father recalled that it was just after the First World War when his father bought a second-hand cabinet gramophone which over 100 years on still plays 78s in my sitting room! [The gramophone story!](#)

My grandfather died age 52 from diabetes, when my father was 17. I recall being told that a Freemasonry organisation gave relief to my grandmother in the sum of £50 (2024 worth equivalent to nearly £4000).







King Street Cemetery, Aberdeen - photo 2014

The stone on the ground is for "Wee Maggie Penny" who was born in 1900 and died aged 7 months - she would have been my father's eldest sibling.



Courtesy of OS Maps and Street View.

William (born 1847), son of William (born 1812), is shown in the 1851 Census - age 3 - as living at Nether Kinmundy, Longside and in the 1891 Census as being at Easterton, Lenabo, Longside. I wonder where he was in 1851? If he was at Easterton then he could have been at the farm when my grandfather (his nephew) was at Scotland Road Cottage.



This could be the "Scotland Road Cottage, Lenabo, Longside" referred to above. The building is by a track leading to a farm marked on current maps as Easterton of Lenabo and "Auchtydore Farms". Auchtydore is also labelled nearby with large buildings. If this is, indeed, the "Cottars House" then my grandfather, George, lived here at primary school age in the 1870s/1880s.

The wikitree entry for George H M Penny is:-  
<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Penny-1238>

It lists siblings, ancestors, descendants etc.

At the time of the 1881 Census George's sister Isabella (age 12), James (age 10) - both scholars - and Alexander (age 3) are shown as living with their mother at Scotland Road Cottage, Lenabo.

Easterton of Lenabo - Auchtydore Farm  
 Courtesy of Street View

Some recent finds - the searches and discoveries never end!

I found the sepia photograph below in an album which I have concluded was built up by my grandmother - Grandma Penny. Her husband, George H M Penny, was a munitions train driver - I am not sure if he is in this photo but the person fifth from the left looks like him compared with an original, framed photo I have of him. Locomotive 1328 is a 2-8-0

The Railway Operating Division (ROD) was a division of the Royal Engineers formed in 1915 to operate railways in the many theatres of the First World War. It was largely composed of railway employees and operated both standard gauge and narrow gauge railways. The



A derailed and overturned British railway engine in France. The overturned engine is ROD 1859 of the Depot D'attache Dunkerque. ROD 1328 can be seen on the tracks in the background. The initials ROD stand for the Railway Operating Division of the Royal Engineers who were responsible for the operation of military trains.

Courtesy of

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object>