

Duncan (Dewar) Buchanan

1868 – 1949

Stevedore and sometime Engineer

Duncan Buchanan was born in George Street, in the Parish of Crieff, Perthshire, on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1868. He was the second child to Archibald Buchanan and Margaret Dewar, the first being his older sister by two years, Jessie Helen Dewar. A third sibling, Archibald would arrive in 1871.

**1868 BUCHANAN, DUNCAN (Statutory Births 342/00 0070)**  
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1868 BIRTHS in the Parish of *Crieff* in the County of *Perth*

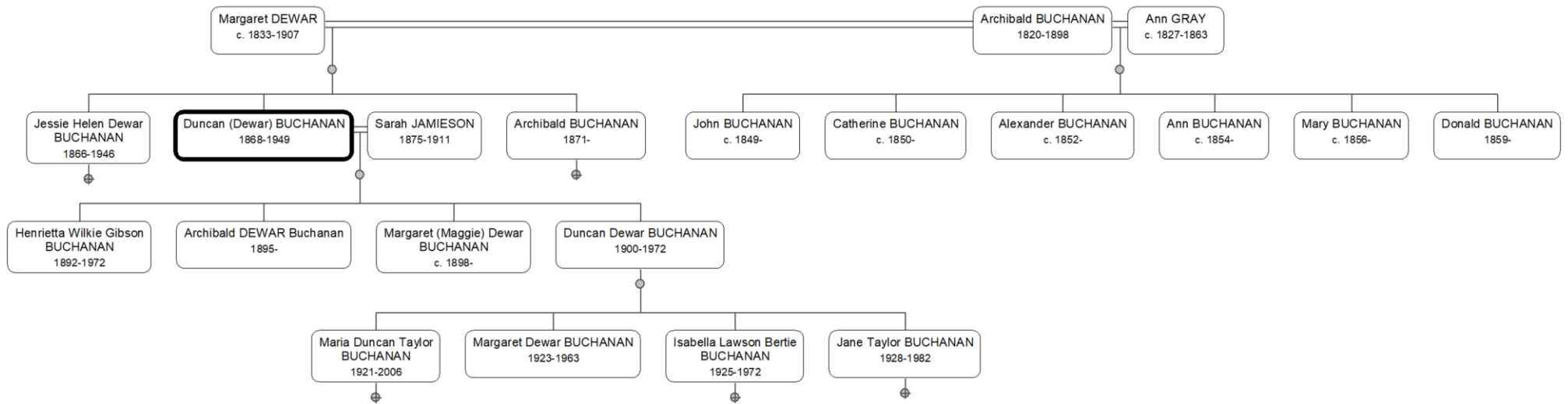
No.	Name and Surname.	When and Where Born.	Sex.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother. Date and Place of Marriage.	Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
	<i>Duncan Buchanan</i>	<i>1868 June 14<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> George Street Crieff</i>		<i>Archibald Buchanan Blacksmith Margaret Buchanan m. J. Dewar 1861 November 10<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> Dundee</i>	<i>Archibald Buchanan Home Father</i>	<i>1868 June 23<sup>rd</sup> H. Crieff R. B. Thomson Registrar</i>
	<i>Jane</i>	<i>1868</i>		<i>James Miller</i>	<i>Thomas Miller</i>	<i>1868</i>

Documentation exists indicating that Duncan’s father Archibald had previously been married to Ann Gray with whom he had six other children including; John circa 1849, his sister Catherine who was about a year younger, Alexander around 1852, followed at roughly two-year intervals by Ann and Mary then Donald on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1859. Sadly, Ann suffered for almost a year before dying of pulmonary tuberculosis aged just 36, in 1863 at home in 5 Bridge Lane, Perth.

Archibald was born in Acharn, by Kenmore in Perthshire in 1820 but by 1851 had travelled the thirty or so miles to live within the town of Perth. He and Ann, with children John and Catherine, lived in Mill Street. A blacksmith by trade, whose job was important in the community, providing services such as shoeing horses, repairing tools, and creating metal implements for everyday use. Specialist skills were in constant demand but it’s not yet understood whether he had a private workshop or worked for someone else.

Crieff was burnt to the ground in 1716 by ‘Chevalier’s Highland adherents’, better known as followers of Bonnie Prince Charlie’s father, Prince James Francis Stuart – Chevalier De St. George and the town was threatened again during the ‘45’ when a second fire destroyed parts but not all, of it. Scottish-Places.info

By 1871, Duncan, his sister Jessie and half-brother Donald, were registered in Crieff alongside Duncan’s mother Margaret - who was noted as a ‘blacksmith’s wife. Duncan’s grandmother, Elizabeth Dewar, who had reverted to her maiden name of McGregor on the Census after the death of her husband Duncan Dewar in 1867, was noted as ‘head of household’. In a separate entry, Duncan’s father Archibald was recorded in the small village of Killin, some 44 miles to the west of the family home but closer to his birthplace where he continued his work as a blacksmith. Did Duncan’s job as a smith take him away or was he perchance visiting kinfolk in the area?



*Duncan Dewar Buchanan family tree showing direct lineage on the left and half siblings on the right.*

In the 1870's, as Duncan was growing up, the town of Crieff was an important, busy and thriving market town. At the centre of a number of Scotland's old drove roads, it was the site of the country's largest cattle market. Famously, in the previous century, John Macky wrote 'A Journey Through Scotland', part of which was about the town and he tells of there being *'at least 30,000 cattle sold there, most of them to English Drovers; who paid down above 30,000 Guineas in ready money to the Highlanders; a Sum they had never seen before, and proves one good effect of the Union'*. Drove roads were simply routes used for droving or walking livestock over long distances. Many roads were ancient routes used to move large herds or flocks between seasonal grazing areas, markets etc. and used high as well as low ground. The 'roads' were usually wide, at least 40 feet but sometimes wider to accommodate many beasts.

For centuries Crieff had a number of local and weekly markets for selling and trading various goods. The two most popular fairs were the Michaelmas Fair, held in October and the St Thomas's Fair in December of each year. The population expanded during these periods with people travelling from far and wide. As well as the livestock sales there was lots of other essential goods for sale including shoes, cloth and tinware as well as a multitude of decorated stalls selling nice things to eat. The busy festival-like atmosphere would be complete, as far as the local children were concerned, when the entertainment by jugglers began.

The early history of the droving industry is to a large extent the story of the gradual transition from lawless cattle driving to lawful cattle droving. The process of change began to be apparent about the end of the fifteenth century and gradually acquired momentum, with the Union of the Crowns in 1603 helping the trend towards the legitimate movement of livestock. However, it seems droving was one of the few sectors of the Scottish economy to benefit from the Union of Parliaments in 1707, as it was after this that droving in the sense of large-scale organised movement of livestock on foot to established markets became a marked feature of Scotland's economy.

Crieffmuseum.org

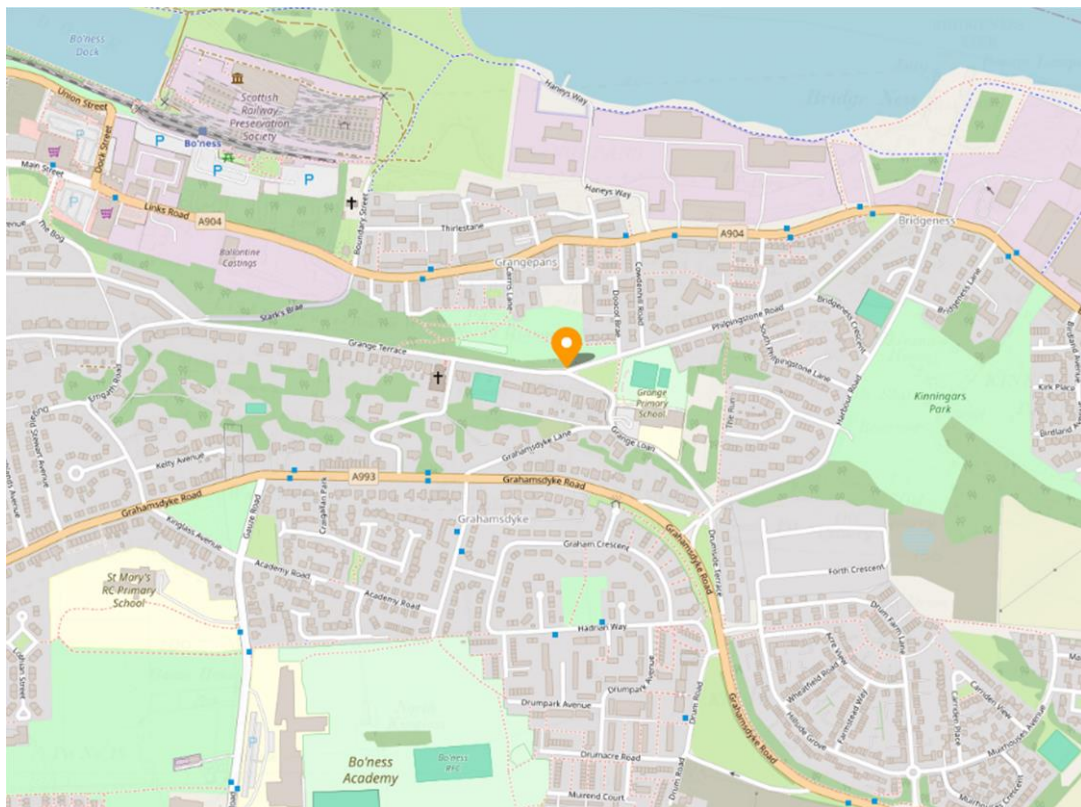
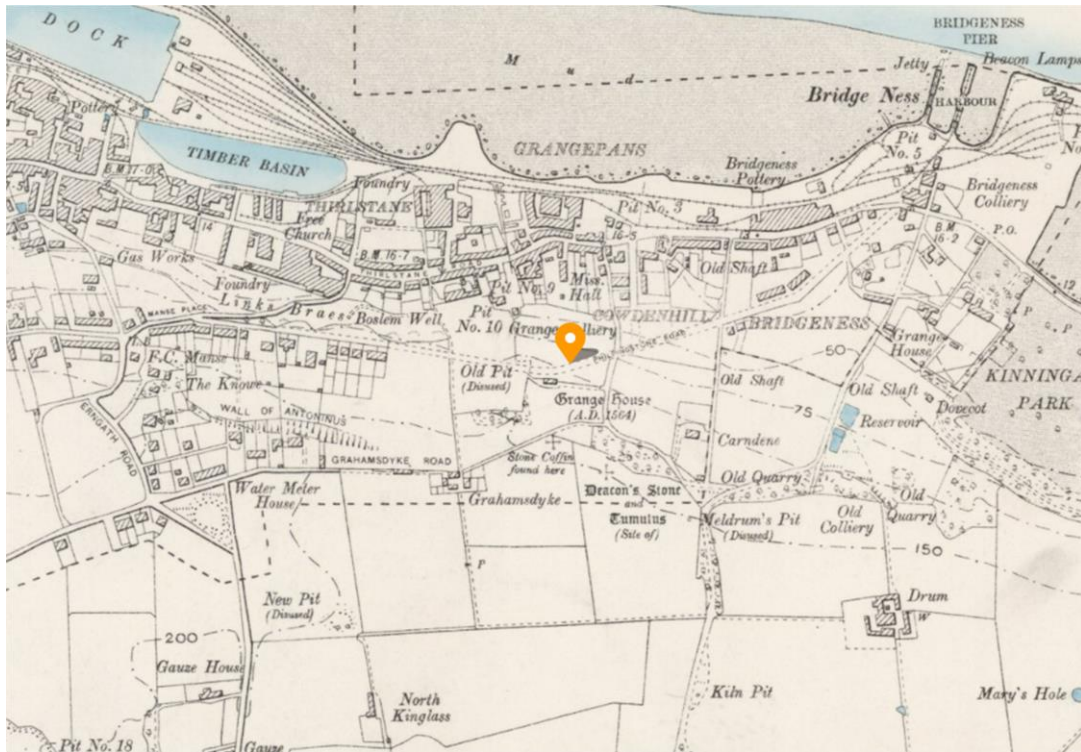
By the time Duncan was 13, the household had travelled onwards to a new home at Turnbolls land, Grangepans, Bo'ness - noted on early twentieth century maps as Borrowstounness. The Grangepans areas was part of the estate for Grange House on what is (in 2024) now the Grange Terrace/Grange Loan area of the town. His father Archibald, 60, continued work as a blacksmith whilst second wife and Duncan's mother, Margaret, who was much younger at only 44, looked after the children. Duncan and his brother Archibald were both at school but Jessie, 14, was already working as a farm servant at Kirkton of Fortingall, sixty miles north of Bo'ness and near her mother Margarets ancestral home.

The reference to 'Turnbolls land'<sup>1</sup> continues to be researched but Grangepans was a seat of salt manufacture in the local area, and was established as one of the earliest industries in the town, having at its peak in the middle of the nineteenth century, six salt pans in operation, producing about 23,000 bushels or almost a million litres annually. Salt making was an important industry in Grangepans. The sea water was originally pumped up to the pans by

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<sup>1</sup> Turnbolls Land '1st floor' is referenced in the 1881 census as being in the Parish of Carriden. The floor reference suggests that the 'land' mentioned may refer to a building or tenement, similar to 'Gladstones Land' in Edinburgh.

large pumps handled by several men or women, often with young people helping them. Was Duncan involved?



*The junction of Grange Terrace/Grange Loan shown on (bottom) 2024 OpenStreetMap and (top) Ordnance Survey Map Linlithgowshire I.N.E. published 1897 – Courtesy National Library of*

Settling in to Bo'ness, Duncan continued to study at school. He was a natural problem solver and had an attention to detail that might baffle others so it was no surprise when he expressed an interest in engineering as a career. There were many coal mines locally but also the railway and a number of ironworks and potteries, so perhaps an apprenticeship? At the age of 23, Duncan referred to himself and was referred to as an 'engineer' but the search goes on to determine which industry he apprenticed or worked in.

About this time Duncan met Sarah Black or Jamieson, who originated from Bo'ness. Born on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1875, she was almost seven years younger than Duncan. On her birth certificate her mother Catherine Black noted Sarah's surname as 'Black or Jamieson' and in the same document under the heading 'Name and Profession of Father' it states;

*'Catherine Black wife of Robert Jamieson [...undeciphered text...] who, she declares, is such the father of the child and further that she has had no communication with him since they ceased to live together about the year 1873'*

Feasibly, the '1873' was simply poor memory on the part of Catherine and it should have read 1874 to tie in with the birth in 1875?

The creation of salt in Scotland was an enormous industry. Scotland boasts over six thousand miles of coastline, and an abundance of coal, which makes salt panning an ideal choice in these areas. It began sometime in the twelfth century, and some historians attribute the first salt panning to groups of monks that lived on Scotland's coasts.

To make the salt, you gather seawater in huge wide and shallow metal pans, which are heated very gently from underneath by burning coal, until salt crystals form on the surface of the water. And something that Scotland has a never-ending supply of, is seawater. At the height of salt production some of the salt pans measured twenty feet long and twelve feet wide.  
kinneil.org

When Duncan married Sarah Jamieson on an autumnal day in Bo'ness on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1891, she was noted as 18 whilst he was 23. According to her birth certificate, she was actually 16, the legal age for marriage in Scotland at that time, so why did they lie about it? She was noted as a domestic assistant and her 'missing' father Robert recorded as deceased. Robert's death however, actually took place almost 11 years later when he committed suicide by drowning in the Union Canal near Auldathie Bridge, less than a mile from his home at Duntarvie Castle.

Seven months later, on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1892, the couple's first child was born. Henrietta Wilkie Gibson Buchanan's place of birth was noted as 87 North Street Bo'ness but Duncan's occupation given as dock labourer. Had Duncan lost the engineering job or opted for something completely different? This fact, coupled with the age discrepancy on the marriage certificate prompted further research into the key dates associated with the couple;

13 <sup>th</sup> Mar 1875	-	Sarah Jamieson is born
18 <sup>th</sup> Sept 1891	-	Claiming to be 18, she marries
7 <sup>th</sup> Apr 1892	-	Henrietta Gibson Wilkie born

From Henrietta's birth, a nine-month pregnancy meant conception was about 7<sup>th</sup> July 1891 so Sarah was most likely pregnant when the couple married, however, her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday was not

until 13<sup>th</sup> March 1891 and when they discovered she was pregnant, neither partner may have realised the exact time frame which further indicates that they may have had an intimate relationship on or before her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885, which was not devolved, raised the age of consent from 13 to 16 and introduced measures intended to protect girls from sexual exploitation. Had the authorities investigated and determined that unlawful intercourse had taken place, Duncan might have ended up in jail.

The Henrietta Gibson element of Henrietta's name came from Sarah's grandmother but the name Wilkie does not currently appear in either's ancestral trees to date.

When their second child arrived on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1895, he was named after grandparents; Archibald (paternal) Dewar (maternal) Buchanan and whilst Duncan was still labouring in the docks, he has added 'Dewar' between his own given birth names of Duncan and Buchanan, perhaps as a homage to a loving mother?

The name 'Dewar', taken from Duncan's maternal ancestors and originates from the Gaelic Mac an Deoraidh, 'son of the pilgrim or sojourner' and is also an occupational name for a custodian of holy relics, normally a hereditary office.

The Dewar family of Glendochart, Perthshire, preserved the double shrine of St Fillian's crozier and the Coigreach for many centuries. A crozier is a staff of office usually surmounted by a crook, which represents the pastoral authority of a bishop, symbolising their role as the shepherd of their 'flock'. The St Fillian's Crozier dates to the eleventh century.

The Coigreach, was made as an elaborate shrine to encase the St Fillian's Crozier, dates from the 13th century and incorporates panels of filigree removed from the Crozier.

Traditionally, this object-pair was imbued with the power to heal both humans and livestock, and was used for blessings.

Over time the Dewar family became known by the Gaelic name for a keeper of symbolic relics – *deòradh* – and in turn this became more commonly anglicised as 'Dewar'. Thus by the fourteenth century this was the usual rendering of the surname of the keepers of the Coigreach.



*The St Fillian's Crozier and Coigreach are two separate yet connected objects. Both are associated with Fillian, who according to tradition was an early-medieval abbot who settled in Glendochart in Perthshire. - National Museum of Scotland*

Life as a dock labourer in 1895 was gruelling, physically demanding, and often dangerous. Dockers, also known longshoremen, and lumpers - whose speciality was moving timber to and from ships - played a crucial role in the loading and unloading of vessels in Bo'ness.

Dock labouring involved heavy manual tasks, including lifting and carrying sacks of grain, crates of goods and other cargo as well as stacking and re-stacking the thousands of pit props needed by local mines.

There were some cranes to help with the tasks but most labouring required the men to have strength and endurance, which often led to physical strain and both short- and long-term injuries.

They worked long hours, sometimes up to 14 hours a day, depending on the arrival and departure schedules of ships and unfortunately for Duncan and the other men, employment was usually casual and irregular. Much of the hiring of dockers and lumpers took place on a daily basis, known as 'on the call,' leading to job insecurity and even then, wages were low and inconsistent, fluctuating with the availability of work and the whims of employers.

The changing seasons also had an impact with exposure to the elements being a constant challenge. Jobs had to be completed quickly so that ships were able to sail on the best tide so employees

worked in all weather conditions, from freezing cold to sweltering heat.

Perhaps Duncan was lucky in at least finding regular employment or maybe he suffered from injuries and was unable to work



*Nineteenth century sailing ships being unloaded by lumpers – Falkirk local*

every day. The docks were often dirty and hazardous, with the risk of accidents from falling cargo, machinery, and slipping on wet surfaces ever present.

Unions and labour organizations began to form towards the end of the nineteenth century, advocating for better wages, working conditions, and job security so strikes were common as dockers sought to improve their situation, thus further inhibiting short-term financial stability.

One of the benefits Duncan undoubtedly profited from was the strong sense of camaraderie and solidarity, due in part to the shared experiences but also as a means of mutual support.

Why Duncan gave up his engineering profession to become a dock labourer is anyone's guess. Cutbacks, failure or injury? Was it injustice, a new challenge or simply a whim? Whatever the reason, we are unlikely ever to know, but he was destined to remain such for decades.

Duncan's older sister Jessie, who already had one child, married her long-time sweetheart John Stewart, with whom she had worked closely for a number of years. The couple married in Perth but although Duncan saw Jessie infrequently these days, he and his wife likely made the journey to the Waverly Hotel to celebrate with the families.

When Duncan's son Archibald was born, the couple were living at 57 South Street, Bo'ness. South Street is a long narrow street running from a slightly wider end at number 1 to a single traffic route at around number 78. Many of the two storey buildings, built around 1860, remain today but their use has changed overtime from houses to a mixture of houses and shops.



*Postcard of South Street Bo'ness circa 1862 looking towards number 57 in the far distance – Courtesy Scottishshale.co.uk*

On the cold morning of Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 1898, a daughter – Margaret, known as Maggie was born to the couple but she was not to be the last.

Later in the year, Duncan's father Archibald took the train through to Edinburgh to visit Duncan's half-brother Alexander, a son from his first marriage, and planned to stay over. He arrived in Edinburgh with a chesty cough which grew in strength and severity over a short time until a doctor had to be called to Alexander's home in St Leonards Hill, but the doctor was too late and Archibald died. Pneumonia was given as the reason. The household were devastated.

No record has yet been found regarding Archibald's interment and neither is it clear whether the remains lie in Edinburgh or were transported back to Bo'ness. There were no crematoria in Edinburgh at that time either. The first, and only Scottish crematorium had opened in Glasgow three years previously.

The costs of burial in the late nineteenth century might range from £2 to £10 to include the coffin, burial plot, and basic services. Granted an even cheaper arrangement was available for 'working-class families', whereby a more modest funeral might cost around £3 to £5 but even that cost for Archibald's wife Margaret was a huge amount of money. Considering that the



average weekly wages for unskilled workers might be around 10 to 15 shillings (20 shillings equalled £1 so 15 shillings or what we know today as 75), even a modest funeral represented a significant expense for the family.

Life went on and two years later, at the turn of the century, Sarah was pregnant with her fourth child but the intimate nature of the home they lived in, allowed little room for manoeuvre so they moved to a larger house at 14 South Street, the opposite end of the street to number 57. The limited distance, less than 200 yards, suggests it was probable that the household's possessions were moved by cart; packing up one morning and moving - then unpacking that same afternoon; to reduce any potential wage loss. Maybe she managed it on her own but it was about this time that she attended the doctors. She had been feeling under the weather for a few weeks and found it difficult to concentrate, which was maybe due to the lethargy and tiredness she felt; conceivably the effects of the pregnancy?

The distance to Duncan's job at the docks was much the same from either house but the extra space the new home afforded was badly needed. Subsequently, following the move into a new residence and the obligatory unpacking, Duncan, the fourth child, was born.

At 32 and 25, they were still young parents but with four children under eight, they both had very busy lives; one at home and the other at the docks. Soon, Sarah's medical tests were completed and the doctor explained to her that she had an autoimmune disorder called Graves' disease, in which the thyroid gland produces too much thyroid hormone. It may have been brought on by pregnancy, infection or even stress but also had a hereditary element. He went on to explain that it was not fatal but she could expect to be tired and sometimes forgetful as well as suffering irregular heartbeat. The only 'real' treatment was rest. I expect Duncan was shocked when he heard the news, but they just carried on.

An anomaly on the 1901 Census described their home address as 11 South Street but recorded as it was between numbers 12 and 16, and alongside schedule number 11, suggests an input error by the enumerator. Henrietta and Archibald were both at school by this time, with a daily walk of less than 250 yards to reach its doors. Duncan may have helped the children with schoolwork when he had the chance.

The population of Bo'ness continued to grow throughout the nineteenth century and by the beginnings of the twentieth had reached almost 7,000 souls. New buildings were going up everywhere including an imposing looking town hall in the Glebe Park area and a new church, St Andrews, to replace the Free Church in Boundary Street.

Business was booming generally but Duncan continued in the labouring job. Outside of work, he had time to socialise. Pubs and inns were central to social life, serving as gathering places where men drank, chatted, and caught up on local news and gossip and many pubs offered entertainment such as music, darts or billiards. Then there were the working men's clubs where he might meet up with friends from the docks and read a daily paper.

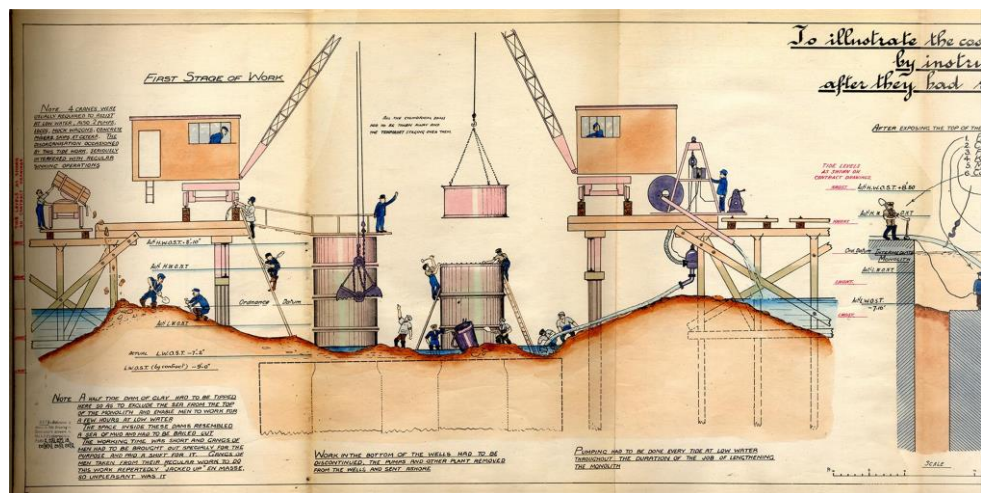
He was still young enough to enjoy a game of football, which was hugely popular. Local teams of factory, mine and dock workers attracted home-grown interest and frequently fierce competition, so even if he didn't play, he may well have cheered the teams on from the sidelines.

When his father died, such was the income level of Duncan's widowed mother Margaret that she had to return to work. Occasionally she dropped in to see some of her grandchildren, or have a meal with the family but Duncan worried about the distance she had to walk between her home and the house where she worked at Kinneil and may have suggested she move closer to them and the centre of the town.

She did move, just around the corner from Duncan and Sarah but was only there a short time when she passed away. It must have seemed like his father had died just days ago, when they buried his mother. She was 71 so had lived a full life but the loss was felt by Duncan and his brother and sister.

When the Rosyth dockyard construction began in 1909, just across the Firth of Forth from his normal workplace, Duncan might have considered a move. At the time, the Royal Navy was strengthening its presence along the eastern seaboard of Great Britain and the ports on the south coast of Britain were

considered too far way to do this effectively. Plus, the new town of Rosyth was planned as a Garden City - a twentieth century urban planning movement promoting satellite communities



*Rosyth Dockyard construction 1909 – Courtesy Institute of Civil Engineers*

surrounding a central city, to house the workers so accommodation was bound to be superior? In the end, he stayed where he was; he had responsibilities.

As the end of the first decade of the twentieth century drew near, Duncan took stock. His wife had been getting noticeably worse and was bedridden a lot now. Her disease, which she had suffered for a decade, was taking its toll. She forgot who he was some days and although the children were able to understand, the impact on their young lives was not lost.

Sadly, Sarah died in her bed on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1911 at the young age of 35. Although she was known to have been ill, a post mortem was carried out. The results recorded in an amendment to her death certificate noted she had died of a 'combination of Exophthalmic goitre', known as Graves disease, from which she had suffered for ten years, Dropsy – a swelling under the skin, known generally today as 'Oedema', and Cardiac failure. After so much time living with the additional pressures on her heart, it finally gave out. Sadly, understanding of the causes of and treatment for Graves disease - including iodine and thyroxine - came just too late for poor Sarah.

An anomaly between the date on the death certificate – 10<sup>th</sup> January, and the Procurators investigated date – 8<sup>th</sup> January, perhaps shows the state of Duncan's mind at the time. Had the

body lain for two days or was he just mixed up when he registered the death? In 2024 a cure for Graves' disease remains elusive.

People who have Graves' disease may experience one or more of a range of symptoms: anxiety or nervousness, fatigue,

difficulty concentrating, memory problems, rapid or irregular heartbeat or palpitations and/or chest pain, increased appetite, diarrhoea, hand tremors, sweating, difficulty sleeping, moodiness or irritability, weight loss, hair loss, infrequent menstrual periods, lighter-than-normal menstrual flow, enlarged breasts (among men), enlarged thyroid (goiter), muscle weakness, difficulty swallowing, difficulty breathing and eye pain. Even with only some of these symptoms Sarah must have been badly incapacitated and yet the couple still managed to raise four children. The first proper treatment for Graves disease appeared in 1943 when the use of radioactive iodine was first trialled but it was not until the invention of Beta-blockers in the 1960's that a more effective regime was introduced. The disease remains incurable.

Following her death, certainly after the 1911 census, by which time they had moved to 1 East Pier Street in Bo'ness, the family drops off the radar but re-appear in later years.

The National Union of Dock Labourers and Riverside Workers was established by 1908 so it's plausible that Duncan was a member<sup>2</sup>, although similar unions existed. It later became part of the Transport and General Workers Union, in about 1969.

Duncan had to keep working and there is likely a reasonable explanation as to why ALL the family dropped from sight.

Name, Age, and Sex,	When and Where Died	Cause of Death
Sarah Jamieson w Buchanan 35 years Married Female;	Found dead in bed about 6.30 A.M. on 8 <sup>th</sup> January 1911. In the house at East Pier Street Bo'ness Linlithgowshire Occupied by James Buchanan East Pier Street B + Co's	Heart failure Certified by Dr. Sinclair, Bo'ness



This rosette carries at its centre the badge of the Dock, Wharf, Riverside and General Workers' Union. The rosette and badge shown here is dated to between 1899 and 1922.

Society for the Study of Labour History

<sup>2</sup> Membership lists exist for the period 1910 and 1917, a time when Duncan may have been a member, but a site visit is necessary to review the details.

As a young woman at the age of 20, Henrietta, Duncan's eldest child met and married her beau, Alexander C Millen. In the first days of Spring in 1912, they attended 'The Manse' where 'according to the forms of the established Church of Scotland and witnessed by William Allen and Margaret D Buchanan, Henrietta's sister, they wed.

Whether as a couple, they tied the knot, got hitched, walked down the aisle, took the plunge, got spliced, plighted their troth or simply became man and wife, was their choice. The result was the same.

In the folklore of many cultures around the world, knots make an appearance as a symbol of unity. And while the phrase 'tying the knot' may perhaps stem from a symbolic knot, physical



*Bo'ness Parish Church Manse c.1900 – Courtesy Falkirk Collections*

knots have actually been used in marriage ceremonies. The wedding tradition called handfasting is an ancient Celtic practice that bands couples together with a piece of cloth tied around their hands. Historians believe that around the eighteenth century, handfasting was actually a trial for marriage that lasted for a year and one day. If the bond lasted this long, then the wedding might commence. Handfasting rituals were legally binding in Scotland until the

Marriage (Scotland) Act in 1939 which changed the rules. It was once more recognized as legal in 1977 when the law was changed again. The normal place for a wedding ceremony was the home of the bride's parents but Duncan had limited room so the manse was the next best option and perhaps the minister's choice.

At the end of the nineteenth century and beginning of the twentieth, weddings began to be held in hotels and restaurants and so on and church weddings were the exception rather than the rule.

Life went on. The First World War may have seemed to appear, to Duncan, from nowhere. I imagine talk on the docks and in the pubs and clubs where people met was rife. Maybe newspaper cuttings were passed around at break times and there was always talk of volunteering. At 45, Duncan was 48 months beyond the age of conscription but his son Archibald aged 19 was not. The



*Scottish Steel - Soldiers charge with fixed bayonets – Courtesy Scottish Daily Express*

Scots Guards, based at Glencorse Barracks near Edinburgh, seemed like a good choice so after saying goodbyes, off he went; for four years.

From Archibald's Service Certificate we know he was 5 feet 11 1/2 inches tall and weighed 142 lbs or 10 stone and a pound, which puts his BMI – Body Mass Index, at 'healthy'. Chest measured only 37 inches so he was relatively slim built and he was noted as having a 'small round scar on his left shoulder'. There was no mention as to the cause of the scar.

Following a short spell in the Scots Guards, Archibald transferred to the Machine Gun Guards Regiment but additional research is necessary to determine if this was the amalgamation of the

The Guards Machine Gun Regiment was a regiment of the British Army, formed for service in the First World War. When the Guards Division was formed in August 1915, it included three machine gun companies, with a fourth added in March 1917. In April 1917, the four companies were grouped together as a single battalion named the Machine Gun Guards, before being re-designated by Royal Warrant in May 1918 as the Guards Machine Gun Regiment. In June, the regiment was reorganised into battalions. Wikipedia

Guards machine gun companies or a Scottish equivalent.

Archibald survived the war and continued to serve in the military, returning at some point to Glencorse Barracks where the home unit of the Scots Guards were based, just outside the City of Edinburgh. Unfortunately, disaster befell him when on 25<sup>th</sup> January 1924, three soldiers, Archibald Dewar Buchanan, Luke McLean and Thomas Lupton Maude of the Royal Scots Depot, Glencorse Barracks, admitted a charge involving the reset of monies. Reset is the crime of possessing property knowingly acquired by theft - or by robbery, fraud or embezzlement - and intending to retain it.

Duncan's outrage and anger undoubtedly influenced his son's future because Archibald was never heard from again. Family anecdotes suggest that he left for Canada at the earliest opportunity and never returned to Scotland.

home.—Central News.

**MAN ROBBED OF £240.**

**SOLDIERS IN TROUBLE FOR RESET.**

At Edinburgh Sheriff Court to-day three soldiers, Luke McLean, Archibald Dewar Buchanan, and Thomas Lupton Maude, belonging to the Royal Scots Depot, Glencorse Barracks, admitted a charge involving the reset of money which formed part of a sum stolen from a man in a public-house.

It was stated by the Fiscal that the man who lost the money had been robbed of £240, the thief apparently being a soldier who had, it seemed, so far escaped the police. He had given it was stated, McLean and Buchanan a £20 note each. McLean, continued the Fiscal, came into Edinburgh with his note and tried to cash it in a jeweller's premises on the pretence of making a small purchase. The shopkeeper, however, seemingly became suspicious and detained the man and sent for the police. In the case of Buchanan it was stated that he had apparently hidden his £20 in the barracks, and meeting Maude in Edinburgh, told him where to find it. Maude undertook to go and get it. He did go and joined Buchanan in town later. But the police, who had been on the lookout, effected the arrest of the soldiers with the £20 still in their possession.

Sheriff Jameson sent McLean to prison for three months, but in the case of Buchanan, whose culpability, remarked the Sheriff, did not seem to be so great as McLean's, the sentence was six weeks' imprisonment.

In regard to Maude the Sheriff said he had apparently been trying to help a comrade in a difficulty by getting the money for him, and in the circumstances he would dismiss him with an admonition.

In a statement to the Sheriff Maude said he had had four and a half years' commissioned service during the war. He added that that he was not aware he had been handling stolen money, and remarked: "I have certainly made a fool of myself."

**HOMELESS GERMANS.**

**STRIKE SERIO-COMEDY AT KIRKCALDY.**

*Edinburgh Evening News 25<sup>th</sup> January 1924*



Margaret (Meg) Smith Clinkscales Taylor – Private Collection

At the end of the war, Duncan was working as a stevedore when his youngest son, Duncan (junior) married Margaret Taylor at the United Free church of Scotland at 46 Lauder Road, Edinburgh on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 1920. Within eight years, this couple gave Duncan four grandchildren, known throughout my own generation as the sisters; Marie, Magga, Isa and Jean.

Life for a widowed fifty-year-old Stevedore in the 1920's cannot have been simple. He may have had to shop, cook, clean and generally look after himself. He had some experience after the death of his wife Sarah some ten years before but he might also have leant on his children or caring neighbours. He had damaged or worn clothes to mend, buttons that needed sewing on and he had to get himself up in the morning. It's unlikely he had enough extra money to afford paid help but he managed somehow to change his bedding, iron shirts and perhaps cook.

By the 1921 census he is noted as living with daughter Henrietta, her husband and their daughter, Duncan's granddaughter Henrietta, at 14 Renfrew Street, Blythwood, Glasgow. He was fortunate to have found work with the company Balmer & Sons in Glasgow as a stevedore but as the proverb states 'all work and no play makes jack a dull boy'.

A visit to a local pub might seem inconsequential but as a hub of social activity, it was a god send.

There was darts of course, and skittles, dominoes or cards, as well as a friendly natter over a beer or two. The Black Bull was a must and The Coach Inn was full of labourer friends and may have been a favourite. Scottish Pale Ale was the most drunk beer but with various varieties including 50/-, 60/- and 70/-, plus the inimitable McEwan's beer. A man was spoilt for choice.

Darker beers were popular in Glasgow for their robust flavours and no pint of beer ever went without a 'chaser', a nice whisky, served in 1/3 gill's, to wash the beer down.

Many pubs also sold food and with this, a sanctuary for Duncan and other men was readily available:



Scotch Broth: A filling soup made with barley, meat -typically lamb or mutton -, and vegetables such as leeks, carrots, and turnips. Fish and Chips: Though traditionally English, this dish was also popular in Scottish pubs. Battered and fried fish, typically haddock - straight from the dockside -, served with deep-fried potato slices. Black Pudding, typically fried and served with bread. Oatcakes served with cheese or cold meats. Haggis of course, obviously served with 'neeps and tatties' or Cullen Skink, made with smoked haddock, potatoes, and onions, which was particularly popular in the coastal areas.

The Romans introduced us to the earliest iteration of a pub, known as the 'tabernae'. These establishments, often located along bustling roadways, served as local stopovers offering simple food, wine, and ale to soldiers and weary travellers. As the Roman influence receded, the Saxons stepped into the limelight, introducing us to the concept of alehouses. These venues were usually homes where ale, brewed by the lady of the house, was served alongside simple yet hearty fare. The alehouse marked a pivotal point in the evolution of pub food, as it began to bridge the gap between home-cooked meals and public dining.

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In 1927 Duncan's daughter Maggie, a restaurant waitress, married William Webster Hunter in Glasgow. William was originally a general dealer but became a commercial traveller in later life. His father had been a confectioner so William's job may have been related.

When the Second World War arrived, Duncan was in his seventies. Labouring tasks kept him generally fit but no one is capable of interminable slaving. It is unlikely Duncan had any involvement in the war but he certainly kept occupied. Around this time, he reverted to being an engineer of sorts, perhaps returning to his apprenticeship of fifty years previous. Maybe he just like to tinker.

Any story of a booming economy based on heavy industry is going to have a 'but' in it, and Bo'ness's story is no exception. The middle half of the 1900s was a period of steep decline for the town and the distillery ceased operation in 1925.

When he died in the Spring of 1949, Duncan was in his eighties and, after living in the Bo'ness area for a large part of his life, death occurred and his residence was noted as Glasgow. The reason for him moving to the city remains unclear although both his daughters had affiliations there. Son Archibald was apparently living in Canada [although a trace has yet to be found] and by then Duncan, Maggie and Henrietta all had homes in Edinburgh. The cause of death was myocardial degeneration plus hypertension, not unexpected in a man of his age.

His death certificate, reported by his son Duncan from Edinburgh, didn't record employment as you might expect as a lifelong dock labourer or stevedore, instead it noted his occupation as 'engine fitter'. As a young engineer he may have aspired to a specialisation and not to be outdone had moved homes to finally achieve this goal.

Bo'ness harbour was closed in the 1950s, unable to compete with the better facilities at nearby Grangemouth. Then the branch railway closed. The local shipbuilding industry first turned to shipbreaking, using the materials from the ship, especially steel, to be recycled and made into new products, to make a living, then closed altogether soon after.

Only the coal industry flourished, and Kinneil Colliery saw major investment through the 1950s and 1960s before it too closed in 1983.