In search of our Edinburgh Thomsons

and their descent from Aitkens & Gladstones/Gledstanes

by

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Memorial Plaque unveiled at Libberton Kirk 2007 - image courtesy Jean Davidson
Introduction

It is usually the families with less common surnames, located in rural communities, whose histories are the easiest to trace. The combination of THOMSON and Edinburgh was daunting and for many years I put off attacking this line of my ancestry, preferring to concentrate on more promising leads. Little did I know that the story of the Thomsons, Aitkens and Gladstones would be one of the easiest to trace, largely I believe because of the orderly way in which the Scots have cared for their records.

What was already known from family sources?

My emigrant gt grandfather was the son of Murray Gladstone Thomson, I shall call him MGT1.
- MGT1 was an Edinburgh wine and spirit merchant
- The name Gladstone had some connection with Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone
- A large oil portrait of MGT1, painted "for the bank", was brought to NZ
- Around 1860, MGT1’s widow lived at Meadow Place, Edinburgh
- When our family was leaving for NZ someone pressed a shilling into 11 year old MGT2’s hand and said "never forget you're a Gladstone". [MGT2 was grandson to MGT1, and MGT3, 4, and 5 were son, grandson and great-grandson to MGT2.]

MGT1 sounded "interesting"!
Many years ago I had looked in a current directory for Edinburgh wine and spirit merchants and found J G Thomson & Co. I wrote to enquire if the G stood for Gladstone, but sadly it didn't and they are clearly not related. A pity, as they offered me access to their archives should I come to Edinburgh.

I also read Checkland’s family biography of the Gladstones, from which I was able to establish that if there was a connection between the Prime Minister’s family and ours then it must have been in the PM's grandparent's generation or even earlier. So it was not pride in the PM's achievements which caused the Thomsons to start using the Gladstone name, though it may have been responsible for them perpetuating it through MGT3, MGT4 and MGT5 in NZ.

When I went to Edinburgh my first step was to look at trade directories of the 1840's and 50's. I quickly found that Murray G Thomson was a "Grocer and Spirit Dealer", which seemed to me quite a step down from "merchant", most grocers being described as "spirit dealers" at that time. The address was 173 Cowgate, and some directories also listed a residential address at 21 Horse Wynd.

Using a combination of parish records, census records and tombstone inscriptions, all freely available in the Edinburgh public library, I was readily able to establish the outlines of the family. These have been further fleshed out with stories handed down to various family members, details of wills at Register House, and background research in libraries.

Acknowledgments

My first acknowledgment must go to the Gladstone family for the importance they attached to kindred. “Never forget you are a Gladstone” they said, and we did remember, even though it is now almost 250 years since the marriage which brought the Gladstone name into the Aitkens, and hence the Thomsons.

My second piece of good fortune was in finding Checkland’s biography in my local university library. Other works on the Gladstones have concentrated on the political theme, with rather sparse family details. Checkland provided me with the clues that led me to Biggar and my third acknowledgement – to Brian Lambie, archivist at the Gladstone Court museum in Biggar, and himself a Gladstone descendant though in a different line. Although I have not met him myself, he has provided the pivot that has brought widely scattered branches of the family into contact with each other, and he has been most generous in sharing his time and expertise.

Finally, through Brian Lambie and through the internet I have made contact with other family genealogists each of whom has brought different scraps of knowledge and experience to enrich the story. I have drawn heavily from Jane THOMSON’s *Family History of THOMSON of Edinburgh*, from Dorothy THOMSON’s *A tree grows in Edinburgh*, and from Ian STARLING’s *From Hazelton Walls to Hazelbank, the Story of William & Isabella Kirk*. Glenys APEL in Queensland has been most generous in supplying copies of published articles and other material, and in providing contacts. Direct or indirect correspondence with Ian JOHNSTON, Roslyn ROBERTS, Jean DAVIDSON, Noeline COTTAM, Cameron GRACEY and John BARBER has contributed in many ways. It is difficult to acknowledge every detail of this text which they have influenced, and I hope this general statement will suffice. Reference to the Gladstone-Aitken Chart on page 4 shows where most of these genealogists fit into the family.

I also acknowledge with gratitude the actions of a New Zealand descendant, who on learning that the portrait of Murray Gladstone Thomson had been sold at public auction, sought out the new owners and persuaded them to sell it back to the family.
Gladstone-Aitken chart

[also showing family genealogists who have worked on this story]

- John GLADSTONES m Janet AITKEN 1694-1757
  - Mungo AITKEN m 1733 Janet WILSON
  - Janet GLADSTONES 1739-1815
  - Janet AITKEN 1736
  - Helen AITKEN 1738
  - Isobel AITKEN 1740
  - John AITKEN 1742
  - Grizel AITKEN 1745
  - Mungo AITKEN 1748
  - (ancestor of John JOHNSON)

- Jennet AITKEN 1764
  - Marion AITKEN 1765-1846 m Peter THOMSON 1751-1800
  - Janet AITKEN 1768-1792 m John KIRK
  - Mungo AITKEN 1771
  - Helen AITKEN 1773
  - Agnes AITKEN 1774
  - John AITKEN 1777
  - Mary AITKEN 1779
  - Christina AITKEN 1781
  - William AITKEN 1784
  - (ancestor of Jean DAVIDSON)

- James THOMSON 1791
  - William THOMSON 1792 (ancestor of Dorothy THOMSON)
  - Peter THOMSON 1794 (ancestor of Jane THOMSON)
  - Janet THOMSON 1797
  - Murray Gladstone THOMSON 1799 (ancestor of Mary SKIPWORTH)

- William KIRK 1793
  - Janet KIRK 1795 m James FOWLIS
  - Marion KIRK 1797
  - Thomas KIRK 1799 m Helen JAMIE
  - Betty KIRK 1800
  - Mary KIRK 1802 m John SMITH
  - Agnes KIRK 1804 m James IRVEN
  - John KIRK 1806
  - William KIRK 1808 m Isabella HALL (ancestors of Ian STARLING, Glenys APEL, Roslyn ROBERTS)
  - Margaret Gladstone KIRK 1810

Not placed on this chart, but probably related:
- James AITKEN, tailor, witness to will of John GLADSTONES in 1756
- James AITKEN, tenant in Liston Shields Kirknewton Parish in 1816
  (executor of Marion [Gladstone] MURRAY’s will)

(text: Mary Skipworth 2004)
Peter of Dalry

Peter THOMSON, miller of Dalry, Edinburgh is the earliest THOMSON ancestor whose authenticity is certain. His birth record has not been found and his parents are the subject of conjecture. What is certain is that he married Marion AITKEN on 9th April 1790.

St Cuthbert’s OPR Marriage 1790 Apl 9th:
"Peter THOMSON, miller at Dalrye Mills, and Marion AITKEN residenter there, daughter of William AITKEN, smith in the parish of Bigar, gave up their names for proclamation of bans matrimonial." This was the conventional entry of a marriage record at that time.

Dorothy THOMSON has speculated about Marion AITKEN’s residence at Dalry. Why would a single girl from Biggar come to Edinburgh? Dorothy proposes that she probably came to live with her aunt Marion [Gladstone] MURRAY, whose husband James was the superintendent at Dalry Mills. Marion apparently had no children, so it was quite natural that she might have her sister Janet’s daughter stay with her. Two years later the pattern was repeated when Janet AITKEN, Marion’s sister, “residenter at Dalry Mills” married John KIRK, smith of Colt Bridge.

Jane Thomson found some evidence that Peter may have had a previous wife and two daughters - the St Cuthberts list of inhabitants of 28th December 1790 notes a Peter THOMPSON of Dalry with an adult female and two female children in his household. When he married Marion in 1790 Peter would have been aged about 39, making a previous marriage quite likely.

Peter’s marriage to Marion was to last only 10 years. He died of “palsy” on 1st May 1800, at the age of 49, and was buried in St Cuthbert’s kirkyard. Four sons and a daughter were born to Peter and Marion in those ten years. These baptisms are recorded in St Cuthbert’s register and are annotated “witness Associate Congregation of Bristo.”

Children of Peter and Marion Thomson:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Born</th>
<th>Bapt</th>
<th>Died</th>
<th>Age at Death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James</td>
<td>23 Feb 1791</td>
<td>25 Feb 1791</td>
<td>17 Sep 1877</td>
<td>86 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William</td>
<td>13 Dec 1792</td>
<td>2 Jan 1793</td>
<td>14 Oct 1864</td>
<td>71 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>24 Dec 1795</td>
<td>31 Dec 1795</td>
<td>7 May 1872</td>
<td>76 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet</td>
<td>26 Jan 1797</td>
<td>1 Feb 1797</td>
<td>married Mr Laurie, New York</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murray Gladstone</td>
<td>17 May 1799</td>
<td>17 Sep 1800</td>
<td>24 Dec 1853</td>
<td>54 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Jane wondered if Peter was already ill when Murray was born, delaying his baptism till Marion could take him to church.

Another daughter, Christian THOMSON bapt 19 Feb 1795, is listed on the Mormon IGI. However, whereas the above births are from routine extractions of filmed registers, Christian’s record has been submitted by a church member. Christian is not included in the list taken from William THOMSON’s bible, and I found no trace of her in the St Cuthbert’s registers. I have omitted her from the list until further evidence is to hand. As will be explained, Janet as the eldest daughter is “correctly” named for her maternal grandmother. Adding Christian to this list would mean the naming “rule” had not been followed.

Dalry Mill

It is interesting to note that the first paper mill in Scotland (1590) was at Dalry, Edinburgh [refer “The paper industry in Scotland” by A.G. Thomson]. It appears that this site has been used variously over the years for paper-making and corn milling. The Edinburgh Gazette 19, 1699 advertises “… to let …. Dalry Mills, three corn mills, kilns, the garner house, yards and dovecote, with the dwelling house ….” This site is probably in the area now occupied by Murrayfield Rugby Stadium.
The lease was later taken up by Thomas GLADSTONE, merchant of Leith, who appointed James MURRAY, his favourite brother-in-law as superintendent. James in turn appointed Peter THOMSON to be millmaster. At this time the mill was doing well so Peter came at a good time.

At that period, early in the 19th century, the area of Dalry Mills would have been quite removed from the congested old city of Edinburgh, which was still largely clustered along the line between the Castle and the Palace of Holyrood, the area now called the Royal Mile. There were just beginning to be the developments of what was later called the New City along Princes Street and north from there. There were still open fields around the mill and space for children to play. The mill was on a little river known as the Water of Leith, which wound its way through the area until it flowed into the Firth of Forth at the Port of Leith. Here and there today one can view the stream from one of its bridges used by heavy modern traffic.²

Gladstone family refer to Gladstone chart page 8

At this point we need to digress a little to consider the family of GLADSTONE. The information which follows is a compilation drawn wholly from material supplied by Jane Thomson, Jean Davidson (courtesy Glenys Apel), Checkland’s Biography, and a Biggar article supplied by Brian Lambie (courtesy Glenys Apel).

As far back as 1296 Herbert de Gledstane figures in the infamous “Ragman Roll” as one of the Lairds who swore fealty to Edward I. Herbert’s descendants for generations held knightly rank and played their part in the adventurous life of the border.

The parish of Libberton lies near the town of Biggar in the upper ward of Lanarkshire. From early times it appears that a family of GLEDSTANES were connected with a smallholding property in this
parish, from which they took their name. They were GLEDSTANES of Gladstones, or in the
Scottish phrase, GLEDSTANES of that ilk. The derivation of the name is obvious enough for
anyone who has seen the area. Gled is a hawk, that fierce and beautiful bird that finds its home
among the stanes or rocks of the craggy moorlands that surround the fortalice of Gledstanes.
Unfortunately the early documents connected with this holding have been lost, and consequently
entire certainty regarding the early proprietors cannot now be obtained, but as years went by their
estates dwindled, and their social standing underwent a change until by the beginning of the 17th
century the estate of Gledstanes had been sold.

To the west of Gladstones, in the same parish, is another smallholding called Arthurshiels, and from
charters we know that a branch of the Gladstone family possessed it for a considerable period. The
following members of the family are mentioned in these charters as occupying it in succession:- viz,

- William, who died previous to 1565,
- George, who died previous to 1623, as in an assignation of the 13th of March of that year,
  by Robert Chancellor of Shieldhill, he is referred to as the "vinquhile George Gladstaines
  of Arthursiel".
- William, who witnessed a tack dated 9th June, 1641, between Robert Chancellor, younger
  of Shieldhill, and William Brown, Quothquan, of the lands of Langshot, and is supposed to
  have died previous to the year 1662, and lastly
- James, who sold the estate to a James Brown and died about the year 1680.

William, a son of the last mentioned Laird of Arthurshiels, having lost his paternal inheritance in the
parish of Libberton, set up his domestic establishment in the town of Biggar, and carried on the
business of a maltman. At that period almost every household brewed its own ale, a wholesome and
invigorating beverage, and the drinking of it seldom led to intemperate habits. Biggar, though a
small town, with some 1200 inhabitants, had a number of establishments which malted the barley
grown in the district, and supplied the malt to the inhabitants of the town and the country around.
William Gladstone died about the year 1728, and was interred in Libberton Churchyard, where his
family had a burying ground, as lairs of Arthurshiels. (refer frontispiece)

William, by his wife Christian Brown, had three sons, John, James, and William, and a daughter
named Grizzel.
Gladstone Chart

William GLADSTONES, farmer of Arthursfield in Libberton, died before 1565
George GLADSTONES, farmer of Arthursfield in Libberton, died before 1623
William GLADSTONES, farmer of Arthursfield in Libberton, died before 1662
James GLADSTONES, sold Arthursfield, died about 1680

William GLADSTONES, maltman of Biggar, son of James of Arthursfield, died about 1728. Burs Libberton, married Christian BROWN

John GLADSTONES (1694-1757) m Janet AITKEN (1700-1790) refer Gladstone-Aitken chart page 3

James GLADSTONES m Mary KID Rector Leith

William GLADSTONES 1724-76

John GLADSTONES 1727-1800 m Christian TAVERNER of Eastfield

Thomas GLADSTONES 1732-1800 m Nelly NEILSON Merchant Leith

Marion GLADSTONES d 1815 m James MURRAY of Orchardfield

Agnes GLADSTONES 1734-8 m James THOMSON of Cairnmuir

Robert GLADSTONES d bef 1803

Mary GLADSTONES lg 1802 m Richard TWEEDIE

Jean GLADSTONES d bef 1803 m Thomas DONALD tailor Penicuik

Janet GLADSTONES 1739-1811 m William AITKEN smith Biggar

Margaret GLADSTONES 1747-1758

GLADSTONE

Isobel

Janet

James

John

Alexander

Eliza

Janet m KELLO

Christian

Jean

Marion

GLADSTONE

Margaret

John (1st Bt)

Euphan

Walter

Murray

James

Robert

James

Helen

Hugh

Marion

Anne

Charles

David

Mary

THOMSON

Margaret

John

Educated

Walter

Mary

likely to be more

Marion in Peter THOMSON

Marion in John KIRK

Mungo

Helen

Agnes

John

Mary

William

AITKENS (refer Aitken chart)

Jennet

Marion in Peter THOMSON

Janet m John KIRK

Mungo

Helen

Agnes

John

Mary

William

daughter Margaret KELLO in son James THOMSON

Anne MacKenzie

THOMAS

Robertson

John Nelson

William Ewart

GLADSTONE

Prime Minister

GLADSTONE

GLADSTONE

GLADSTONE

Helen Jane

GLADSTONE

del. Marv Skidworth 2004
John Gladstones of Biggar 1693-1757

John, the oldest son, was born in 1693. He was also a maltman, and a burgess of the town of Biggar, which indicates that he was proprietor of one of the Burrow lands. A Burrow land consisted generally of 6 or 7 acres of the best land in the neighbourhood of the town, and gave the possessor the right, among other things, to cast peats in the adjacent mosses. Besides attending to his malting operations, he also had charge of the girnel belonging to the lord of the manor – Lord Fleming, Earl of Wigton. The girnel was an edifice within the walls of the Castle of Boghall and was used for storing the meal delivered to the Earl by his tenants in the name of multure or rent. The duty of the girnel man was to preserve the meal from injury, and to dispose of it to the inhabitants of the town and district. For instance, in the records of the Burgh Court of Biggar, we find that Bailie Alex Wardlaw on the 27th July 1720, "descerns the haill tenants, teuars and others, lyable to the Earl of Wigton, to pay moulter and teind all into the girmall, and any that has gotten out meal upon trust to pay John Gledstanes, giralman, ane pund and fyve shillings ... under the pain of poynding."

John held most of the chief offices of the town of Biggar at various times, being appointed quartermaster when the military were quartered there 'so that none might be wronged', and supervising the division of the peat-moss between the townsmen, a most important function, for peat was the main source of fuel and a matter of frequent argument.

John Gladstone was an active member of the Old Lodge of Biggar free Operatives, now No 167. His name was enrolled in the books of the Grand Lodge of Scotland in 1737 - that is a year after the Grand Lodge was formed. The meetings of the Lodge were occasionally held in his house. For instance, on St John's Day, 27th Dec 1745, the time of the Rebellion, the Freemasons met at his house at ten o'clock in the morning, and with drums beating and banners flying, marched to the farmhouse of Wolfclyde about a mile and a half distant, and brought the R.W.Master to Biggar, and then having ascended the Crossknowe, drank all the Loyal toasts with great acclamation. This shows that John Gladstones and his confreres were loyal to the House of Hanover.

John lived through an era when memories of the persecution of the Covenanters were strong. Sin and punishment were never far from the minds of men like John GLADSTONES of Biggar, to whom preparation for the confrontation with God was the great end of life.

By industry and frugality John acquired considerable wealth, and he was thus able to purchase the farm of Mid Toftcombs, lying a little to the east of the town of Biggar. Here he died on 1st June 1757, leaving behind him, by his wife Janet AITKEN, five sons and six daughters. To each son he left approximately sixty-five pounds, and to each daughter approximately thirty three pounds (the amounts varied according to what each had received in advance). Janet Aitken, his well beloved spouse, was to have the use of his houses in Biggar during the whole term of her life. The will was signed on 20th June 1758 and witnessed by James Brown Wright in Biggar & James Aitken Taylor.

John had left his landed property and other effects to be divided among his children, and thus the son who accepted Mid Toftcombs needed to pay a due portion of the value to each of the other members of the family. On these terms it was declined by the eldest son James, and by the second son William, but accepted by John, the third son, who had obtained a considerable fortune with his wife, and was thus able to pay off the liabilities with which it was encumbered.
The table tombstone memorial to John Gladstones and some of his descendants in St Mary’s churchyard, Biggar. It is a horizontal stone slab supported on six pillars, and is located on the right side of the path from front to side door.

In memory of

John GLADSTONE portioner in Biggar who died 1 June 1757* aged 63 or 65 years
Also Janet AITKEN his spouse who died 3 Feb 1780 aged 80 years
Also William GLADSTONE their son, died 15 June 1776 aged 52 years
Also John GLADSTONE their son and portioner in Biggar who died 20 Feb 1800 aged 73
   And Christian TAVERNER his spouse who died 12 Sept 1814 aged 76 years
James GLADSTONE his son died Feb 1772 aged 8½
Also John GLADSTONE watchmaker and portioner in Biggar who was born August 1772 and died 8th July 1851 and his family
   Marion WYLD wife of John GLADSTONE who died 13 Feb 1822 aged 43 years
   And John, Marion, and Christian their children who died in their youth
   And of Adam their son who died 3rd August 1840 aged 20 years
   And of Elizabeth GLADSTONE their daughter and wife of A CHALMERS
   And ……… GLADSTONE their daughter who died at Liverpool 13 June 1841 aged 29
   And of Alexander GLADSTONE their son who died 24th Mar 1845 aged 26 years
   And James GLADSTONE their son who died 15 Jan 1861 aged 44 years
   And John GLADSTONE their son who died at Liverpool 17th Nov 1862 aged 48 years
The following inscription is below on the front upright side
   Margaret GLADSTONE their dau, wife of David BROWN died 18th Aug 1874 aged 73
   Thomas GLADSTONE their son who died at Liverpool on 4th April 1876 aged 70 years
* This date may be misread as his will is dated 1758

As will be explained below, by the marriage of his granddaughter Marion AITKEN to Peter THOMSON of Dalry, John GLADSTONES of Biggar and the ancient lineage of Gledstanes became part of the THOMSON ancestry.
The Rise of the Gladstones

John’s fourth son, Thomas (1732-1809), with no prospects for advancement in Biggar, was sent at age 14 to Leith, the port of Edinburgh, to be apprenticed to a wine merchant and learn the ways of the world of business. Throughout his life he maintained contact with his relations at Biggar, becoming accepted as the man of business of the family.

Thomas soon switched from the wine trade to corn, which seemed more promising, and then began to diversify. He imported grain cargoes from the Baltic, and invested in a syndicate of Greenland whalers. He also had an interest in one of the earliest sulphuric acid plants, for which he imported brimstone from Italy in exchange for cargoes of herring. He remained however a merchant of the second order, not overly ambitious, preferring to do his own bookwork without employing a clerk.

Thomas’ eldest son John seems to have been outstandingly talented, both physically and intellectually. He was energetic and ambitious, and unwilling to be limited by the opportunities available in his hometown, Leith. Being on the east coast, the main focus of its trade was with the Netherlands and the Baltic, whereas west coast ports such as Glasgow and Liverpool were better placed to trade further afield. Furthermore the English were doing everything in their power to deny Scottish traders a share in lucrative international markets.

John visited Liverpool and found it booming, the greatest of the slaving ports, handling much of the trade to the West Indies and the Americas. He also saw the industrial vigour of its hinterland when he visited Manchester, selling his father's oil of vitriol to the cotton men. At age 23 John entered into a business partnership in Liverpool and began a business career which was to bring him great wealth and eventually a knighthood. From this Liverpool base Sir John’s son, William Ewart GLADSTONE launched a political career that was to culminate in his appointment as Prime Minister of Great Britain.

Gladstone/Thomson connection

These Gladstones of Leith and Liverpool, though kin are not ancestral to our Thomsons so why include them in the Thomson story? The answer relates to abundant evidence that distant kin were not forgotten in those days. As certain individuals became more affluent, they would look out for the interests of their less fortunate kinsfolk, commonly by offering apprenticeships or positions of responsibility in their businesses. Thus Sir John GLADSTONE (he changed the spelling of the name) gradually found positions for his six brothers in his enterprises, or helped them to establish independent businesses. He also endowed a Scots church in Liverpool, which became the focus of the expatriate Scots community.

We have already seen that Thomas GLADSTONE appointed James MURRAY, husband of his sister Marion, to be superintendent of Dalry mill. It is possible that Peter THOMSON’s appointment as miller was another example of family patronage as will be explained in the next section.

Peter of Dalry’s parents and in-laws

Among his many siblings, Thomas GLADSTONE had two more sisters of interest in our story. His sister Janet married William AITKEN, the blacksmith at Hartree by Biggar, and it was Marion, their daughter, who became Peter THOMSON’s wife. A stone survives in Biggar churchyard to this couple and some of their descendants. To find it, go past the front door of the church, turn right and stone is near the next corner.
In memory of
William AITKEN, smith of Hartree, who died 20th Dec 1822, aged 87 years
Also Janet GLADSTONE his spouse who died 21 Sept 1813 aged 71 years
Also their daughter Mary AITKEN wife of John MITCHELL in Westrow who died 13 Mar 1842 aged _2 years
Also the above John MITCHELL who died 17 Nov 1851 aged 58 [or 68?] years
William WHYTE, born 11 Jan 1795, died 21 Oct 1871
Janet MITCHELL his wife born 15 Sep 1807 died 7 Dec 1870 [or 1876?]
Marion WHYTE his daughter born 28 May 1842 [1840?] died 10 Nov 1877

William and Janet may have been related as Janet’s mother was a Janet AITKEN.

Another of Thomas GLADSTONE’s sisters was Agnes who married a James THOMSON, and this couple may have been Peter’s parents. If this is correct, then Peter and Marion were first cousins, a very close relationship but not unheard of, as there was another first cousin marriage among Peter and Marion’s grandchildren. The close relationship would be the more understandable if Marion were Peter’s second wife as suggested above. When a widower was left with young children another family member was often brought in to take the mother’s place.

James and Agnes THOMSON appear in the OPR for Skirling in the parish of Biggar when the Kirk Session records the payment of 00-14-00 for proclamation of banns on 30 Oct 1759. This date might appear to rule them out as Peter’s parents, as he was reported to be 49 at the time of his death in 1800. However 14 shillings was a large sum in those days, suggesting something irregular in this payment. It is possible that payment had been delayed, and it is also possible that Peter’s age was incorrectly recorded in the death entry.¹

In support of accepting James and Agnes as Peter’s parents is the choice of James as the name for Peter’s eldest son, as expected if Scottish naming tradition had been followed. [Refer to appendix 2] Peter’s second daughter would have been expected to bear his mother’s name, but unfortunately only one daughter is known to have been born to Peter and Marion so no evidence can be gleaned from that quarter. There were two Agnes THOMSONs among Peter’s grandchildren, but it is not clear for whom they were named.

Marion’s widowhood

When Peter died in 1800 he left Marion with four sons and a daughter under the age of 10. She would have 46 more years before her death at age 81. This was not an encouraging prospect for the children and yet the four sons were all educated and established in their own businesses in due course. So how were they supported?

In a situation like that there were two possibilities: remarriage, or the generosity of the wider family, and here Marion was quite fortunate in her maternal grandparents and uncles, the Gladstones. As suggested above, the Gladstones looked after their own, and supporting evidence is to be found in the will of Marion’s aunt, Marion [GLADSTONE] MURRAY, widow of the James MURRAY who was Peter’s boss at Dalry. This Marion died in 1815, apparently without children of her own. In a very complex will which named 28 of her relatives, she divided the joint estate of herself and her husband in 26 shares of which 2 were to be divided among the children of Marion AITKEN’s parents, and another 2 among the children of Peter THOMSON’s supposed parents. In addition Marion received a cash legacy of £15, reinforcing the suggestion above that Marion AITKEN may have been living with Marion MURRAY, as niece/companion, before her marriage. Refer to Appendix 1 for a transcript and interpretation of Marion MURRAY’s will.

Add to this the fact that Sir John GLADSTONE, who was well known for his philanthropy, was Marion AITKEN’s first cousin and we have another potential contributor to her support.

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Marion did eventually remarry in 1805, but by that time the eldest of her children would have been leaving home to take up apprenticeships.

St Cuthbert’s registers record the new family:

10 June 1805  David FERRIER, Porter dealer, Fountain Bridge, and May AITKEN also THOMSON residing there gave up their names for proclamation of Banns matrimonial.

12 December 1808  David FERRIER, labourer, Portsborough (Edinburgh) and Marion AITKEN his spouse had a son born 19 Dec 1808 named Robert.

Robert FERRIER was remembered as “my step-brother Rev Robert FERRIER of the Free Church, Thain” with a legacy of 19 guineas from his eldest half brother, James THOMSON.

Marion died at the age of 81 on 20 Nov 1846 and is included on the family memorial of her eldest son James in St Cuthbert’s churchyard, Edinburgh.

*Peter and Marion’s descendants – the eldest son James Thomson* refer to Thomson chart page 14

James became a farmer of some means and lived in Roseburn House, Murrayfield, Edinburgh. He appears in the Edinburgh Postal Directory of 1840, as a farmer at Roseburn House and Holmes Broxburn. He married his 2nd cousin Margaret KELLO (1801-1863), granddaughter of Janet GLADSTONE and William AITKEN, on 4 May 1823, and died in 1877 at the age of 86 with an estate valued at £15,000. His grave is in St Cuthbert’s Kirkyard with an elaborate stone mentioning his mother and 7 of his children in addition to himself and his wife. His will mentions legacies totalling more than £6,000, without including the portions of his sons Alexander and James.

James and Margaret had 9 children, of whom 2 sons and 2 daughters survived their parents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Born</th>
<th>Died</th>
<th>Age death</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexander</td>
<td>3 Jan 1824</td>
<td>31 Aug 1892</td>
<td>68 years</td>
<td>Interred at Dalry&lt;br&gt;Minister Free Church Millerston Glasgow&lt;br&gt;Married cousin Charlotte THOMSON&lt;br&gt;1/2 share residue of father’s will</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet</td>
<td>9 Oct 1825</td>
<td>16 Aug 1861</td>
<td>36 years</td>
<td>Interred at Abernethy&lt;br&gt;Married Rev Robert STEVENSON&lt;br&gt;her dau Mgt rec’d £1500 in James’ will</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>10 Aug 1827</td>
<td>14 Sep 1858</td>
<td>31 years</td>
<td>Died before her father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret</td>
<td>11 Sep 1829</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Married George GILLESPIE, Melbourne&lt;br&gt;received £1500 in father’s will</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James</td>
<td>10 Sep 1831</td>
<td>17 Jun 1832</td>
<td>8 months</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joanna</td>
<td>7 Sep 1836</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christina</td>
<td>16 Sep 1840</td>
<td>30 Apr 1879</td>
<td>39 years</td>
<td>Married John SMITH, grocer, Edinburgh&lt;br&gt;received £1500 in father’s will</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Jane</td>
<td>29 Mar 1845</td>
<td>31 Jul 1900</td>
<td>55 years</td>
<td>Unmarried in 1877, £1700 in James’ will&lt;br&gt;Married Rev James PATON&lt;br&gt;Buried Boxhill, Melbourne, Australia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If these 4 brothers were following the Scottish naming pattern:
The eldest sons should all be Peter. James broke the rule, but his first son already had 3 cousins called Peter.
Second sons should be named for their mother's fathers: John KELLO, William PARKER, Lamont SCOTT, William INGLIS. Did James have a son John who died about 1829?
The eldest daughters should be named for the wives' mothers: Janet GLADSTONES, Ann GIBSON, Jean CHAMBERS, Alison DEAN. William broke the rule this time.
2nd daughters should all be named Marion for their father's mother. Correct for all.
3rd sons should be named for their fathers - if that name is already taken an uncle or grandfather could take his place.
3rd daughters should be named for their mothers - correct in all cases.

Looking for clues to Peter's (the miller of Dairy) father's name: James is the most likely, since he named his eldest son James.
Alexander is the 2nd choice, occurring in 2 branches when it seemed to be the father's turn to select a name.

dat Mary Skipworth 2004
James and Margaret’s eldest son, Alexander, married his cousin Charlotte THOMSON, William’s daughter. He was a Free Church minister at Millerston, Glasgow, and had children, was widowed and re-married. He died intestate with an estate valued at £159.18.6d, the value probably indicative of the sacrifices made by those who broke away from the established church. His executors were Charlotte Parker THOMSON and Margaret Kello THOMSON of the F.C. Manse, Millerston. With his executors being two unmarried daughters his line had probably terminated, which may be just as well given that these girls had parents (Alexander and Charlotte) who were first cousins, grandparents (James Thomson and Margaret Kello) who were second cousins, and possibly great grandparents (Peter Thomson and Marion Aiken) who were first cousins. Thus they descended from three of the children of John Gladstones of Biggar.

James and Margaret’s son James II farmed at Carlops (about half way between Biggar and Edinburgh) where his children were born. He lived at “The Cottage”, giving rise to further speculation that the James THOMSON and Agnes GLADSTONE (who farmed Cairnmuir, which is nearby) could be possible ancestors. This James II was later an architect and land valuer with premises at 53, afterwards 71 George St, Edinburgh. He lived in Roseburn House after his father, until his own death on 19th Jan 1916. His will, dated 13 Sept 1913 named as executors his sons John Lorimer THOMSON of Dundee and James Alexander THOMSON of Jersey. Estate value £3635.

Peter and Marion’s descendants – the second son William Thomson

I am indebted to the work of Dorothy THOMSON, William’s gt grand-daughter, for details of William’s life additional to the public records. She was able to consult inscriptions in his family bible and other papers retained by family members in Canada and in England. William married Charlotte PARKER on 20 Aug 1812 in St Andrew’s Church, Holborn, London. He was a baker, at Chapel Street Edinburgh to about 1821 then at No 39 West Nicholson Street Edinburgh. The 1851 census shows him to be a Master employing 3 men, one of whom was his son Murray. In his house at that time he had one 19 year old female servant and his daughter Janet, who was a governess. By 1857 he had retired to Charlotte Villa in Murray Street, Scieennes Hill, a relatively new area. The 1861 census records that Charlotte Villa had 10 rooms with windows, so it was quite substantial.

William died on 14th October 1864 at the age of 73 and Charlotte his wife on 28th March 1858 aged 63. Their grave is in St Cuthbert’s Kirkyard with an elaborate upright granite monument. Her death certificate shows that Charlotte had been born in Glasgow, the daughter of William PARKER and Ann GIBSON. William and Charlotte had seventeen children, only six of whom survived both their parents. The list which follows is compiled from St Cuthbert’s registers, census returns, and their tombstone inscribed with details of the whole family.

William’s will and inventory shows his estate to have amounted to £3884, a considerable sum at that time, to be divided among the six surviving children and the sons of Peter and William who had both predeceased their father. Murray was to inherit the business and also to have his presentation gold watch. Charlotte was to have a silver tea service which had been presented in 1833 by the Union Barm company in recognition of his services as their treasurer. He valued the honour greatly and instructed that the watch and the tea service should be kept as heirlooms. [Barm is a yeast product.]

A photograph survives, showing William as a somewhat bald, elderly man, with thin face, large nose, and deep-set eyes. He appears to be well dressed in the fashion of the time.
William & Charlotte's children:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baptist</th>
<th>Died</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>18 Sep 1846</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Baker, of Charlotte St, Leith, died of inflammation, buried Rosebank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>April 1823</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Gibson</td>
<td>21 Feb 1818</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James</td>
<td>Jan 1850</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>cloth merchant in 1841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William</td>
<td>July 1842</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>baker in 1841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander</td>
<td>May 1823</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>May 1823</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander</td>
<td>Dec 1824</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>Mar 13 1880</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>m. Rev Alexander THOMSON (cousin)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann</td>
<td>21 Feb 1843</td>
<td>16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet</td>
<td>Nov 14 1868</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>governess in 1851</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary</td>
<td>1831</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agnes</td>
<td>1835</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murray</td>
<td>18 Jun 1909</td>
<td>74</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George</td>
<td>12 Jan 1903</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>ironmonger in Manchester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eliza Scott</td>
<td>12 Dec 1905</td>
<td>68</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles John</td>
<td>2 Jun 1911</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>bookseller in Edinburgh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

William seems to have had a much poorer survival rate among his children than his brothers experienced. He was slow to have the later ones baptised and some seem to have missed altogether.

**Peter and Marion's descendants – the third son Peter Thomson**

Peter, the third son, referred to as Peter of Peffermill to distinguish him from his father, married Agnes SCOTT (daughter of Lamont SCOTT, brushmaker of Edinburgh, and Jean CHAMBERS) on 8 Dec 1819. When James their son registered his mother’s death, her mother’s name was given as Marion CHAMBERS. James had mixed the names of his two grandmothers.

In the list of Burghers for Edinburgh dated 28th Oct 1820 Peter became a “Burges by right of his wife.” This enabled him to trade and he became a Grocer and Spirit Dealer at 281 High Street.
Peter and Agnes’ children were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Born/Bapt</th>
<th>Died</th>
<th>Age at death</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jane</td>
<td>born 1 Nov 1820 &lt;br&gt;bapt 19 Dec 1820</td>
<td></td>
<td>married John DICKSON &lt;br&gt;the Gun Shop, Edinburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>born 1 Mar 1822 &lt;br&gt;bapt 27 May 1822</td>
<td>12 Jul 1839</td>
<td>17 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamont</td>
<td>born 17 Jan 1824</td>
<td></td>
<td>stationer’s apprentice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion</td>
<td>born 15 Mar 1826</td>
<td></td>
<td>living, unmarried in 1871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William</td>
<td>born 4 Oct 1827</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agnes</td>
<td>born 18 Jun 1828</td>
<td></td>
<td>married George MORRISON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William</td>
<td>born 24 Nov 1831</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James</td>
<td>born 18 Apr 1834</td>
<td>17 Sep 1911</td>
<td>77 years &lt;br&gt;married Anna SPENCE &lt;br&gt;factor for Earl Roslyn, Dysart, Fife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>born 20 Mar 1836</td>
<td></td>
<td>married Alex WHITE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morris</td>
<td>born 1 Apr 1838</td>
<td></td>
<td>Named for his mother’s brother ?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morris</td>
<td>born 30 May 1840</td>
<td></td>
<td>twin, living unmarried in 1871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>born 30 May 1840</td>
<td>3 Aug 1844</td>
<td>4 years &lt;br&gt;twin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murray</td>
<td>born 25 Mar 1843</td>
<td></td>
<td>married Annie JONES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janet or Jessie</td>
<td>born 1 Dec 1846</td>
<td></td>
<td>married Andrew MELVILLE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Agnes bore 14 children in 26 years, the first at the age of sixteen. Eight are known to have survived to adulthood, quite a good record considering the living conditions of those days in The High Street where half of them were born.

In 1822 Peter’s address was 259 High Street, in 1824 he had moved to Craigs Close. In the 1833 Edinburgh Postal Directory he is described as merchant. In 1834 Peter moved to farm 80 acres at Peffermill. In 1851 he had 3 labourers, and in 1861 3 men and a boy but only 64 acres, probably due to the building of houses on his land. The 1861 census describes him as auctioneer, and his house had 8 windowed rooms.

In 1866 Peter moved to Bogleys farm, 123 acres, near Dysart, and was presented with a silver teapot inscribed from friends and neighbours “on your removal from Peffermill.” The 1871 census described his house as having 9 windowed rooms. Morris aged 30 and Marion aged 40 were unmarried and still at home. Jane THOMSON, his gt gt grand-daughter-in-law, felt that he must have been quite a character and worked hard to achieve so much. It is therefore ironic that he should meet an unfortunate death after many years farming. The local paper went into gorey details, suffice to say that “a young spirited bull escaped and was being chased by a man and a boy.” Peter arrived on the scene between 7 and 8am and said “leave it to me, he knows me.” Unfortunately the bull didn’t, as Peter was not completely dressed. “Curtains” Peter! He is buried with his wife in Dysart cemetery.
Murray Gladstone THOMSON became a Grocer and Spirit Dealer like his brother Peter. All grocers were described as "spirit dealers" at that time. Edinburgh trade directories of the 1840's and 50's list his shop at 173 Cowgate, and some directories also list a residential address at 21 Horse Wynd.

The 1851 census shows it to have been quite a small enterprise, employing one man (and that a son). It also shows the children being educated to their early teens and then the sons being apprenticed. Money for education was apparently available. The Thomsons were the sole occupants of 21 Horse Wynd, unlike the houses in some other Wynds and Closes where a different family lived on each floor. This Horse Wynd has now been demolished and is not to be confused with another of the same name off Cannongate.

The 1851 entry for 21 Horse Wynd (off Cowgate) was as follows:

Murray G THOMSON, head, age 57, grocer, master employing 1 man, b. Edinburgh
Grace THOMSON, wife, age 57, domestic duties, b. Lanarkshire, Libberton
William THOMSON, son, unm, age 24, grocer asst, b. Edinburgh
Marion THOMSON, dau, unm, age 21, domestic duties, b. Edinburgh
James THOMSON, son, unm, age 19, lithographer apprentice, b. Edinburgh
Murray THOMSON, son, age 17, chemist apprentice, b. Edinburgh
Robert THOMSON, son, age 14, scholar, b. Edinburgh
Grace THOMSON, dau, age 10, scholar, b. Edinburgh
Helen HERD, servant, age 21

This was the period, 1853, when John Gray, who was to become famous in death through his faithful terrier Greyfriars Bobby, enlisted with the Edinburgh police force. John’s beat was the Upper Cowgate, Grassmarket, Greyfriars Kirkyard, Candlemaker Row, the grounds of Heriot’s Hospital and the Cattle Market. Jock and Bobby would have been known to Murray Thomson, the grocer. Forbes Macgregor attempts to set the scene in his booklet Greyfriars Bobby, referring to the Cowgate as “full of nothing but thieves and worse.” Constables patrolled in pairs, each with a watchdog.

The census suggested that Murray had died between 1851 and 1861. Greyfriars burials yielded nothing, so I studied the map and my next guess proved correct. Among the burials at the Southern cemetery, now know as The Grange, was: Murray Gladstone THOMSON, died December 24 1853, aged 54, 8 Meadow Place, of diarrhoea.
Headstone of Murray Gladstone Thomson, died 24 Dec 1853 The Grange Cemetery, Edinburgh

[Stone set into side boundary wall, to the left from main entrance gate.]

Although the provisions of his will were relatively simple, it filled 25 pages of the Register with tedious legal details. His wife, three brothers and eldest son were named trustees and guardians of the younger children.

His widow Grace received his gold watch, household furniture and goods, and the whole estate income provided she did not remarry. The children received one hundred pounds each. The business and stock were to be offered to his son William at valuation with no charge for goodwill. On Grace's death the estate was to be divided equally among the children.

As well as the will there was an inventory SRO Reference SC 70/1/82 page 197.
Inventory 30 Jan 1854 of M G THOMSON, grocer and spirit dealer, Cowgate, who died at Edinburgh, testate on 24 Dec 1853. Stamp 120 pounds

Cash in house 96.02.02
Current a/e Western Bank Scotland 210.03.02
Current a/e Clydesdale Bank 95.02.07
5 Shares Western Bank Scotland @ 71.17.6 359.07.06
171 Shares Clydesdale Banking Co @ 12.5.00 2094.15.00
67 Shares Edinburgh & Glasgow Bank @ 4.13.6 313.04.06
100 Shares Edinburgh & Leith Brewery Co @ 3.3.0 315.00.00
25 Shares Edinburgh & Leith Gas Co @ 32.0.0 800.00.00
Life Policy Scottish Provident Institution (6 May 1839) 700.00.00
Lent to Alexander Ryle (or Kyle), baker Leith, with int 146.06.08
Lent to James THOMSON, Roseburn, Murrayfield 58.06.08
Shop stock, furniture appraised by Peter THOMSON auctioneer 573.18.00
Book debts due to dec'd by:
George Sleigh, tailor Morningside 3.00.00
Miss Sime, Kerr St, Edin. 15.06
William Smith, draper, High St 3.00.00
Alex Kyle, baker, Leith 1.07.08
Mr Wright, Dundas St 2.14.04
James THOMSON, Roseburn 13.02
Miss McFeely, Blair St 1.01.07
Millar & Fairley, Horse Wynd 2.03.00
Black, Morningside 9.09.00 24.04.03
Household furniture, linen, plate etc 287.07.06
Total [sic] 6113.18.00

Signed Wm THOMSON [one of the trustees], Thomas Inglis, Commissioner appointed for taking of oaths [might be a relative of Grace's? but I noted he signed for the next will registered as well]. Reference to "Settlement executed by him [MGT] on 17th July 1847", which I take to be the date of the will.
What can we learn from the will and inventory? The trustees evidently included his three brothers and it was useful to have addresses for them. Nothing unexpected in the will, but the inventory is a treasure if only we can interpret it in terms of values at that time. Note that it concerns movable property only. If he owned land and buildings these would have been administered separately under Scottish law.

The oil portrait of MGT1 is said to have been painted "for the bank," but banks do not usually require portraits of their customers. Perhaps the inventory throws some light on the question. He certainly held shares in three banks, but £2000 worth is not likely to have brought him a directorship. The best suggestion that I can offer is that his bank shares were doing quite well, and on the strength of this he decided to commission the portrait. It was probably sent out to New Zealand after Grace’s death, as it would have been lost in the fire on the William Brown if Peter had been bringing it with him.

The debtors in his business are of interest. Three are apparently gentry; two also owed him other money, one probably his brother; and six have addresses well removed from Cowgate. These suggest that the business served more than the crowded tenements off Cowgate/High Street. It certainly seems to have brought him a good income, one which allowed his widow to describe her occupation as "shareholder".

I was able to locate the house at 8 Meadow Place to which he moved in the early 1850's. It is very pleasantly situated with its own small walled garden, looking out across several acres of parkland, The Meadows. Not quite as posh an address as the Georgian squares of the New Town, but definitely respectable. In 1970 it was given B grade listed building status (refer British Listed Buildings website): dated 1805, a 2 storey terrace of 8 3-bay houses. The properties are enclosed by continuous high coped rubble walls with pedestrian gateways to South Meadow Walk from some of the gardens (including No 8). On the rear (south) side this block fronts onto Roseneath Terrace. The Canmore database provides an alternate address of 4 Roseneath Terrace. It is easier to locate as the latter.

Murray did not enjoy the more pleasant environs of Meadow Place for long, as the 1861 census shows Grace aged 61 as a widow living with her unmarried son Murray, 27, designated Dr of Medicine, Lecturer in Chemistry.

Murray had married Grace INGLIS, whose christening (as Gressel INGLIS) at Libberton on 1 Nov 1795 is recorded in the parish register, daughter of William INGLIS and Alison DEANS.
Murray and Grace had the following children:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Born/Bapt</th>
<th>Died</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peter</td>
<td>31 July 1879</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>Printer, emigrated to NZ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alison</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Married Andrew FRASER 1848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William</td>
<td>4 May 1909</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>Grocer with father, emigrated to Saskatchewan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Married William WHITE 1854</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James</td>
<td>1858</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Artist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murray</td>
<td>13 Jan 1895</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>MD, lecturer chemistry, to India</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Possibly a Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace</td>
<td>31 July 1840</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Children of Murray Gladstone Thomson & Grace Inglis:**

1. **Peter Thomson 1823-1856, printer**

Murray and Grace’s eldest son, Peter, was apprenticed printer to Neill & Co, Edinburgh. He was married in Edinburgh on 14 June 1848 to Elizabeth Watson MacKENZIE (more on her family below), by whom he had two sons and a daughter, and lived initially at Roxburgh Place, Edinburgh. About 1854 they moved to Liverpool where they remained only briefly, before moving again to St Andrews about 1856. Here Peter established a printing business of his own and published the “St Andrews Pictorial Magazine.” After about three years in St Andrews the family decided to emigrate to New Zealand, seeking some improvement in Elizabeth’s health, as she suffered from tuberculosis.

As the family prepared to depart a relative pressed a shilling into young Murray’s hand, saying “Never forget you are a Gladstone.” Indeed, he did not, for his son, grandson and great grandson in New Zealand were each in their turn given the name “Murray Gladstone THOMSON.” But the detail of the relationship was forgotten, only the vague memory surviving that the name referred to the former English Prime Minister. Finally 130 years later the relationship has been verified, and we know that Prime Minister William Ewart GLADSTONE was second cousin to Murray Gladstone THOMSON, grocer and spirit dealer. Ten year old Murray was being reminded that his great great grandmother was the Prime Minister’s great aunt, quite a remote connection but worth remembering because of the power and prestige of the Gladstones.


A chart of his New Zealand descendants, showing their relationship to the Gladstones and Aitkens appears on the following page.
NZ Thomsons and their descent from John Gladstones of Biggar

John GLADSTONES of Biggar 1693-1757
  m Janet AITKEN

Thomas GLADSTONES, corn merchant of Leith, Edinburgh, 1732-1809
  m Nelly Neilson

Sir John GLADSTONE, merchant of Liverpool, 1764-1851
  m1 Jane HALL,  m2 Anne Mackenzie ROBERTSON

William Ewart GLADSTONE, Prime Minister, 1809-1898
  m Catherine GLYNNE 1812-1900

Janet GLADSTONES 1739-1813
  m William AITKEN, Smith of Biggar, 1734-1822

Marion AITKEN 1766-1846
  m Peter Thomson, miller of Dalry, Edinburgh, 1751-1800

Murray Gladstone THOMSON, grocer and spirit dealer Edinburgh, 1799-1853
  m Grace INGLIS 1795-1870

Peter THOMSON, printer & publisher St Andrews, Scotland & Dunedin, NZ, 1823-1879
  m1 Elizabeth Watson MCKENZIE 1824-1862 m2 Mary McNAIR 1835-1925

Murray Gladstone
  THOMSON 1850-1942
  m Grace THOMAS 1854-1920

David Brown
  THOMSON 1852-1920
  m Marion

Sarah
  CLEMENTINA THOMSON 1865-1940

Grace Inglis
  b1868-1872 d1871

Peter
  THOMSON T 1889-1920

Mary
  THOMSON 1872-1971

Robert Gillies
  THOMSON 1873-1874

Margaret Beith
  THOMSON 1875-1940

Alison
  THOMSON 1897-1987

James Duncan
  MORISON PATERSON 1900-1982

Murray Gladstone
  THOMSONS 1877-1937

Mary Eliza
  Isabella 1875-1940

Murray Gladstone
  Sarah 1875-1975

Murray Gladstone
  Sarah Gladstone 1877-1940

Elizabeth Clementina
  Sarah Clementina 1878-1879

1883-1884

Marion
  1880-1950

Ruby 1884-1963

Margaretta Janet Grace 1885-1975

David left his first family about 1888
Marriage 1893 to Agnes CHADWICK

Ethel 1893-1969

Agnes 1894-1971

Murray 1896-1951

Thomas 1899-1968

Sarah 1901-1990

Genealogists in this family include:
Cameron GRACEY, descendant of David Brown THOMSON's daughter Isabella [WELCH]
John BARBER, descendant of David Brown THOMSON's daughter Marion [BARBER]
John CAMPBELL, married to descendant of David Brown THOMSON's daughter Sarah [GRANTLEY]
Mary SKIPWORTH, descendant of Sarah Clementina THOMSON's son Robert [SCOTT]

del. Mary Skipworth 2010
Elizabeth Watson MacKenzie (first wife of Peter Thomson, printer) and her family

The spelling of her surname has varied in the records, but “Mac” has been used more frequently. Her father’s name is established from her marriage entry:

"Registered Proclamations 2 June 1848. Peter THOMSON printer res 21 Horse Wynd in parish Old Greyfriars Edin. & Elizabeth Watson MacKENZIE res No 5 Roxburgh Place dau of John MacKENZIE shopman in Leith".

The 1851 and 1861 census of Edinburgh both show that Elizabeth was born about 1824 at Tain in Rossshire. Her husband Peter entered the exact date 6 Mar 1824 in the Morison Family Bible belonging to Elizabeth’s stepdaughter. In the former census Elizabeth’s sister Clementine is found living with the Thomsons, born in St Cuthbert’s parish, Edinburgh about 1825.

The parish register of Tain records the birth on 4 Mar 1824 of Elizabeth, daughter of John McKenzie and Sarah Brown, a variation of 2 days which we will have to ascribe to Peter’s forgetfulness. No other births to this couple were found at Tain. Looking for a marriage for Elizabeth’s parents we find in the parish register for North Leith the marriage of John McKenzie and Sarah Brown on 31 Jan 1823. This marriage is accepted because of the known association of John McKenzie with Leith, and because of the choice of names for Peter and Elizabeth’s children. Eldest son should have been named for Peter’s father - Murray Gladstone Thomson - correct. Second son should have been named for Elizabeth’s father - John MacKenzie Thomson. In fact he was named for Elizabeth’s mother’s family - David Brown Thomson. Eldest daughter should have been named for Elizabeth’s mother - Sarah Brown Thomson. Since Brown had already been given to David they apparently preferred to recognize Elizabeth’s sister Clementine who lived with them when Sarah was a baby, thus Sarah Clementine Thomson was named.

From the date of her parent’s marriage it is apparent that Elizabeth was their first born child. We can therefore predict that her maternal grandmother should be Elizabeth Watson. Her sister Clementine, born a year later should have been named after her paternal grandmother Clementine MacKenzie. No records were found to support these predictions.

John and Sarah MacKenzie also had a son who emigrated to Nelson prior to 1861, but had by early 1862 moved on to Nelson. His name is not known.

Children of Murray Gladstone Thomson & Grace Inglis: 2. William Thomson 1827 - 1909

Murray and Grace’s second son William worked with his father in the grocery business, which he inherited under his father’s will in 1853. He was listed as the proprietor in the 1855 directory. By 1862 Robert Mackintosh had taken over the business at 173 Cowgate. There was a William THOMSON at 2 Leggat's Land, grocer and spirit dealer, but this is probably a different person.


In 1861 census of Edinburgh [on Ancestry.com] the family was as follows:
William Thomson, head, 34, born Edinburgh, retired gracer [grocer], 17 Archibald Place
Annie R Thomson, wife, 25, born Kirkaldy, Fifeshire
William M Thomson son 1 year 10 months, born Edinburgh
Robert M Thomson 10 months, born Edinburgh
Jane Smith, 17 servant
In the 1871 census of Edinburgh [on Ancestry.com] the family was harder to find as the surname is listed THOMPSON, and Annie named as Jane. Never-the-less the following is quite a good match:

William Thompson, head, married, 44, born Edinburgh, Printer reader, 21 Drumdryan St, [St Cuthbert's parish] [William appears to have joined his brother Peter in the printing trade]

Jane R Thompson, wife, 36, wife, born Kirkealy, Fifeshire

William Thompson, son, 11, born Edinburgh

Robert Thompson, son, 10, born Edinburgh

1881 census Edinburgh 27 Oxford Street [image viewed on Scotland’s people]:

William Thomson Head, married 54, Asst Printers Reader, born St Cuthberts Edinburgh

Annie Robertson Thomson, 46, wife, born Kirkaldy, Fife, Scotland

William Murray Thomson, unm, 21, stationer, born St Cuthberts Edinburgh

Jemima Thomson, dau, 8 scholar, born St Cuthberts Edinburgh

Grace Allison Thomson, dau, 6 scholar, born St Cuthberts Edinburgh

[son Robert may have died before 1881, and there may have been other sons who died young to explain the large gap in the family. The two daughters are named respectively for their mother’s mother and their father’s mother, which would be correct for the two eldest daughters if the Scottish naming pattern was followed.]

William and Ann are known to have had the following children:

William Murray THOMSON born 1859 - 1927 married Grace Jeanie WHITE (?) in Canada

Robert Marshall THOMSON 1860 -

Murray Gladstone THOMSON 1862-1863

Jemima THOMSON 1873 -

Grace Alison THOMSON 1874-1935 married Albert Thomas WATSON 1901 in Saskatchewan

In 1884 this family emigrated to Canada as evidenced by the 1901 Canadian census, where they are found homesteading at Hayward Saskatchewan. Hayward no longer exists, but was near Lipton, which is about 15 km north of Fort Qu'Appelle, itself about 50 km north-east of the city of Regina. By 1901 Jemima had left home, she is said to have married a John WATSON, but I have not found any trace of her. Ann died in 1906 and William in 1909. They are buried in Fort Qu'Appelle cemetery with their son William Murray who died in 1927 [section A, row 6, plots 47, 48, 49]. They were brave pioneers to take on the Canadian wilderness when William was already 57.
William Murray THOMSON married Grace Jeanie WHITE, probably in Canada as she did not arrive from Scotland until 1889. In 1901 they are listed farming next to William’s parents. By 1906 they had moved to Fort Qu'Appelle where William Murray was postmaster for 11 years around 1900, he later became Treasurer of the School District and RM of North Qu'Appelle. To celebrate Saskatchewan's centenary in 2005, the Saskatchewan Gazette reprinted a small selection of notices from around 100 years ago, among them the appointment of William Murray Thomson of Qu'Appelle, to be Notary Public on April 10, 1907.

Two postcards entitled "The Hunter's paradise, Qu'Appelle Valley, Sask." and "Sioux reserve, Fort Qu'Appelle, Sask." which mention William Murray THOMSON can be viewed at
http://library2.usask.ca/postcardsquappelle/vvlxx1252.html
http://library2.usask.ca/postcardsquappelle/fqlxx1209.html

William Murray and Grace Jeanie had five known children:
Murray Gladstone THOMSON, born 1897, died 1916, buried Ottawa.  
Canadian Virtual War Memorial: In memory of Sapper MURRAY GLADSTONE THOMSON who died on January 6, 1916  
Military Service Number: 3499  
Age: 18  
Force: Army  
Unit: Canadian Engineers
Gertrude M THOMSON b 1900,
Arthur D THOMSON b 1903,
Harold W THOMSON b 1906
Grace THOMSON b 1908

William Murray THOMSON’s sister Grace Alison THOMSON married Albert Thomas WATSON in 1901 in Saskatchewan. Grace was the great grandmother of Richard GIOKAS of Edmonton, Alberta, whose genealogy is found on his website http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/g/i/o/Richard-W-Giokas/index.html
It is worth remarking that Grace’s first cousin Peter Thomson had married Elizabeth Watson MacKenzie, wondering whether there might be a link through the Watsons.

Children of Murray Gladstone Thomson and Grace Inglis: James Thomson 1832 - 1858, artist

James, the third son, was apprenticed to a lithographer. He died in London at the age of 26 and is remembered on his father’s tombstone. He was probably the son reputed to have been an artist who was a member of the Royal Academy. His sister Grace asked to have her portrait painted, but was told that she was too ugly! He was not the painter of his father’s portrait.

Children of Murray Gladstone Thomson & Grace Inglis:

Murray Thomson 1834-1895, MD, analytical chemist, ?missionary in India

The fourth son, Murray, was apprenticed as a chemist, and then went on to take an M.D. at Edinburgh University. He is listed in "Edinburgh Medical Graduates 1705-1866" list for 1858. His dissertation was entitled "On Sulphureous Mineral Waters", and he received one of three prizes among the 58 M.D.s that year. The title implies that his study was chemistry rather than medicine, and four others that year were in botany or zoology fields, there being no Science degrees at that time. Murray also published "Report .... in virtue of remit made to him in January 1862 to investigate and report as to the cause or causes of the offensive smells in the west side of the city and from the water of Leith," Jan 1863. The 1862 P.O. Directory lists him as "M.D. and F.C.S., lecturer in Chemistry and anal. chemist". At that time he had an office at 8 Infirmary St though he lived with his mother at Meadow Place.
Murray is said in the family to have been a medical student with Simpson of anaesthetic fame. Simpson was 23 years older than Murray so would not have been a student friend, but he was indeed Professor of Obstetrics at Edinburgh University when Murray was taking his degree, so they could have been acquainted. Dr Simpson visited the Thomsons at Meadow Place and wrote a "recipe" for Murray’s sister Grace, who suffered from migraines. It went something like: enough quinine to cover a sixpence, and enough ? phenacetin ... etc. It was brought to NZ but is now lost.

Murray spent most of his working life in India. One story in the family is that he founded a medical college in India, another that he was a missionary – which may be closer to the truth. An Indian cookery book and several engraved metal plaques survive in the family, sent by Murray from India. He married Gertrude HANNAH (from Ipswich) on 4 Feb 1875 in Roorkee, Bengal, India. Murray returned to England some time after 1891 (not in the 1891 English census) and died at Gypsy Hill Surrey in 1895. By 1901 Gertrude was living with two daughters, Rose and Katherine at Lambeth, London, where they employed a cook and a housemaid. The census shows the girls had been born in 1878 and 1886 at Simla, in the Himalayan foothills, dubbed the summer capital of India as it was much frequented by the British at that time.

The 1901 census also includes two Thomson boys born at Simla, Robert b.1884 and John b.1887. They were at a boarding school at Godalming Surrey and are probably from the same family. I have been told that there was a son who shot himself after losing his mother's money at Monte Carlo.

Bob Scott mentions in his 1918 diary visiting "Aunt Gertrude" [actually great aunt] in London, and I have a postcard sent by Bob addressed to Mrs G Murray THOMSON, 5 Pitt St, Kensington, London, 10/3/1918. [I suspect the G stands for Gertrude in this address, acknowledging her widowhood. Initially I assumed the G was Gladstone, but Gladstone is not included in Murray’s name in any of the documents I have found relating to him.]

Katherine, a spinster, eventually lived at Hemel Hempstead in Hertfordshire, and maintained contact with her New Zealand cousins and their children until around 1944. In a letter written to Katherine in 1932, her cousin Sarah Scott refers to Katherine’s cousin Alicia – most likely related on her mother’s side. Katherine sent Sarah a bank draft each Christmas, which must have been generous as the gain made on the exchange rate between English and New Zealand pounds was sufficient to be distributed among the Sarah’s grandchildren as “chocolate money.” I had a book “Our princesses [Elizabeth and Margaret Rose]and their dogs” in which my father placed an inscription “from Cousin Katherine, Hemel Hempstead” which I understand was purchased with this chocolate money.

Children of Murray Gladstone Thomson & Grace Inglis: Robert Thomson 1837 – , minister?

Robert THOMSON, the fifth son, was said to have been a staunch Plymouth Brethren, possibly a minister. He visited his brother Peter in Dunedin and presented him with a bible. He may have been the Uncle Robert visited by Bob Scott in May 1916 at 27 York Place, Harrogate, if so he would have been 79 at that time. This Robert's wife's sister was a Mrs McFarlane, Colinton, Edinburgh, wife of Rev McFarlane.

Other descendants of Murray Gladstone Thomson and Grace Inglis

The daughter, Grace, has been referred to above, under her brothers, Murray’s and James’ sections.

The second daughter Marion married William WHITE, missionary of the Church of Scotland to Calcutta, in 1854. It may have been her experience in India which influenced her brother Murray to go out to India. MGT2 told of playing with his cousins from India at his grandparent’s home in Edinburgh. The family was introduced to curry on that occasion, which made the Scottish cousins stick their tongues out. The date was no later than 1861.
A daughter is said to have come to Fortrose, NZ. She is supposed to have had a portrait of Mrs MGT1 (Grace INGLIS). Dr Marshall MacDonald, was said to be a descendant. He may have been an ophthalmologist.

Another branch of the THOMSON family came to New Zealand, the parents of Donald MARK and his sister (about 1922). He was an elder at First Church, Dunedin and had an adopted son Bruce Mark killed in WWII. From CWGC website I have verified: No 8246 Sergeant Bruce MARK, 20th Bn NZ Infantry, died 7 July 1941 aged 23 and buried at Phaeleron War Cemetery on the outskirts of Athens. Parents Donald Bruce and Mary Jessie Mark of Dunedin.

A story I have been told which makes no sense to me is that “one of the Thomsons was at college with Gladstone.” William Ewart Gladstone was educated at Eton College and Oxford. I feel certain that the sons of Peter Thomson the miller would not have been sent to either of those establishments, and Edinburgh University was the choice for the only grandson known to have gone on to tertiary education.

*Never Forget You're a Gladstone*

The name Gladstone was perpetuated among the descendants of Janet Gladstones and William Aitken for approximately 200 years, well into the 20th century when most of the family had forgotten exactly how they related to the 19th century British Prime Minister. In Queensland, there was Edward Gladstone Gilchrist Kirk, OAM, born 1924, and there have been 2 earlier Kirks who bore the name. Dorothy Thomson noted the name was occasionally used among the descendants of Peter (of Dalry) Thomson’s second son William in Manitoba, and Mary Skipworth found it used in separate lines from Peter’s fourth son Murray in Saskatchewan and in New Zealand. Solving the exact relationship has been an exciting challenge for several current genealogists.
Appendix A: [I am endebted to Brian Lambie for drawing our attention to this will]

Will of Mrs Marion Gladstones or Murray, Relict of James Murray of Orchardfield Feb 19th 1816
Vol 142 Fol 23 Transcribed by Mary Skipworth 2003, image provided by Scottish Documents

Cautioner David Watson Writer in Edinburgh dated 17th day February one thousand eight hundred and sixteen years ----- The testament Testamentum and sum of money which was adl debled vesting aruing to Umquhill Mrs Marion Gladstones or Murray Relict of James Murray at Orchardfields near Edinburgh at the time of her decease who died upon the fifth day of February one thousand eight hundred and fifteen years. Made and given up by the defunct herself on the first day of October one thousand eight hundred and two years in so far as it concerns the nomination of her Executors and now made and given up by Thomas Gladstones formerly merchant in Leith and now in Liverpool and James Aitken Tenant in Liston Shields Kirknewton Parish is so far as it concerns the inventory after Written which Thomas Gladstones and James Aitken along with Thomas Gladstones Senior Merchant in Leith and John Ogil Writer in Edinburgh both since deceased the defunct nominated and appointed to be her Executor in mutual settlement executed between her and James Murray on the First day of October one thousand eight hundred and two years and two years and registered in the Burgh Court Books of Edinburgh the fourteenth day of August one thousand eight hundred and four years which is hearafter engrossed.

Follows the Inventory In the first the said Umquhill Mrs Marion Gladstones or Murray had pertaining and belonging to her at the time of her decease foresaid five pound Stirling part of the sum of one hundred and sixty five pounds contained in a receipt at the British Linen Company to Thomas and Hugh Gladstones for behoof of the defunct dated second day of July one thousand and fourteen years. Extending said partial sum of five pounds Sterling herein given up and Confirmed in Scots money to Sixty pounds.

Summa

**************************************
Summa of the Inventory £ x -------- [Mary Skipworth's comment: value not stated in the original.]

Follows the Mutually Settlement between the Defunct and the said James Murray
Know all men by these presents. We the said James Murray of Orchardfield near Edinburgh and Marion Gladstones Spouse for the love favour and affection which we have and bear for each other and in order to prevent disputes and controversies betwixt our relations after our deaths . Mutually agreed to grant these presents in the manner underwritten. Therefore we do mutually assign and dispose to and in favour of the longest liver in liferent for liferent use of the said longest liver. All and sundry goods geui debts Sums of money heritable and moveable household furniture and plenishing and others whatsoever vesting pertaining and belonging to us or either of us at the time of our deaths by Bond Bill Account or any other manner or way whatsoever with the power to the Survivor of us to pursue for intromet with the said goods and gear debts sums and effects that shall happen to be resting and belonging to the person prediceasing for the purposes of our respective liferents only. But it is hereby expressly conditioned and declared that in the case of the said Marion Gladstones shall survive me the said James Murray in that event she thereby bound and obliged to pay Rachael Murray sister to me the said James Murray the sum of Five pounds Stirling each year during her natural life annually with ligat Annualrent of each terms of payment during not payment of the same And further it is hereby mutually understood betwixt ourselves not withstanding of what is before expressed that immediately after both our deaths our said goods and gear shall be settled in the manner hereafter Specified and for that purpose nominate and appoint Thomas Gladstones Senior and Thomas G. junior both Merchants in Leith James Aitken Tenant in Liston Shields Kirknewton parish and John Ogil writer in Edinburgh and the Survivor or Survivors of them to be our Executors for the special purposes of the payment of the several legacies respectively after mentioned and with the powers hereafter expressed and in the first place in the event of both our deaths we hereby mutually legate bequeath and dispose and make over to the executors beforenamed.All and Sundry goods gear debts Sums of money heritable and moveable household plenishing and furniture and others which shall have been resting pertaining and belonging to us at the time of our decease of the longest liver with the said Executors to insomuch with uplift service and discharge if need be to pursue for the same and to soon as funds are collected they the said Executors or Survivors or survivor of them as said it shall out of the said funds pay the several sums of money and legacies to the persons respectively
aftermentioned and desvagl at the first term of Whitsunday or Martimas that shall happen after
the said funds are collected as said is, tuwit. To Marion Gladstones dtr of the late John
Gladstones farmer at Eastfield now wife of James Auchinleck Mason in Drumelsior fifteen
pounds Stirling To Margaret Gladstones widow of Peter Crawden late shipmaster in Leith twenty
pounds Sterling. To Murray Gladstones merchant in Liverpool son of the said Thomas
Gladstones senior fifty pounds To Marion Gladstones spouse of the Reverend John Watson at
Glasgow dtr of the said Thomas Gladstones senior fifteen pounds. To Marion Aitken widow of
Peter Thomson late Miller at Dalry fifteen pounds Sterling and to James Aitken tenant at Liston
Shields twenty pounds Stirling, and also to Isobel and Janet Gladstones daughters of the late
James Gladstones Schoolmaster in North Leith Ten pounds Stirling and failing any of them by
decease to their children equally amongst them and aforesaid legacies are completely paid with
Annualrent of the said respective Legacies until payment then we hereby mutually ordain the
foresaid Executors to devide the remainder of our means in Twentynine Shares or equal portions
amongst the persons after mentioned. Towit four shares of the said remainder of our means and
estate to John White son of Alexander White late Tennant in Shirlane in liferent and after his
decese to his children equal amongst them or if no children after his decease to the children of
Alexander White his brother in fie four shares to Alexander White in liferent all the days of his
life and after his decease to his children equally amongst them or if no Children to the Children of
John White his brother in fie. Five and one half shares to Isobel White dtr of said Alexander
White and spouse of William Proudfoot wright in Thirland in liferent and to her children equally
amongst them in fie And also one share to Thomas Crawden eldest son of the late Peter
Crawden in fie which fourteen and a half shares we hereby mutually appoint to be paid out and
secured by aforesaid Executors for the persons above named but always under the burthen of
paying the Interest of these shares to the said Rachel Murray sister of me the said James Murray
yearly during her life and after her death the liferent and fee of the foresaid shares shall take
place in the manner above descrbed but until the said Rachael death shall not be apportioned
and paid and furthermore appoint two shares of our said means and estate to be paid to Isobel
and Janet Gladstones foresaid daughters of the late James Gladstones schoolmaster in N Leith
one share to be equally divided amongst the children of the said John Gladstones deceased
farmer at Eastfield of Symington. viz To John Gladstones Watchmaker in Biggar to Alexander
Gladstones Tennant in Cleugh of Kilbucho Elizabeth Spouse of Robert*(crossed out) Thomas
Spouse of William Somerville in Thripland Kilbucho parish equally amongst them To Jean
Gladstone a half share and Marion Gladstone spouse of James Auchinlick half a share besides
the fifteen pounds legacy allowed her. Two shares to be paid to the children of said Thomas
Gladstones senior betwixt them equally. Two shares to be paid to the children of Agnes
Gladstones spouse of James Thomson farmer at Cairmuir equally betwixt them. Further two
shares to be paid to Mary Gladstones spouse of Richard Tweedie in Biggar during all the days of
her life after her death to be paid to her sons equally and in order the said Mary Gladstones may
be paid we hereby empower said Executors to secure said two shares for that purpose. Further
two shares to be paid to Janet Gladstones Spouse of William Aitken Smith in Hartree in liferent
and to her children equally amongst them in fie the said two shares to be also secured by
aforesaid Executors for the liferent of the said Janet Gladstones and further one and a half
shares to be paid to the children of the deceased Jean Gladstone late wife of Donald Thomas
Taylor in Pennicuik equally betwixt them but which last one and a half share shall not be payable
till the said children severally attain the age of twentyfive years complete with legal
interest,thereof from respective terms of payment till paid,and lastly one share to Thomas
Crawden and the other children of Margaret Gladstones foresaid for her liferent and to the
Children equally amongst them when they arrive at the age of twentyone years in fie and finally
we dispense with the delivery hereof and declare that the same though found lying beside us at
the time of our death or in the custody of anyother person shall be valid and Sufficient as
dilevered in our own liferent And we Consent to the Registration hereof in the Books of Council
and Session,Burgh Courts of Edinburgh of others Competant therein remain for preservation and
therefore Constitute.

our Prors in witness whereof there presents written upon this and two preceeding pages of
Stamped Paper by Thomas Gladstones.

[more detail about the witnessing and signing has been left out here]
Summary of the above will as interpreted by Mary Skipworth:

First there were some particular legacies to individuals who [I assume] had special needs or to whom the Murrays were obligated:
- Rachel Murray [James' sister] 5 pounds per annum  
- Marion Gladstones, [dau of John of Eastfield] wife of James Auchinleck Mason  15 pounds [niece]  
- Margaret Gladstones [widow of Peter Crawden] 20 pounds [Marion’s niece by her brother Thomas]  
- Murray Gladstones, [son of Thomas] 50 pounds  [nephew]  
- Marion Gladstones, [daughter of Thomas senior] wife of Rev John Watson, 20 pounds [niece]  
- Marion Aitken, widow of Peter Thomson, 15 pounds [niece]  
- James Aitken, 20 pounds  [he was the executor]  
- Isobel and Janet Gladstones, daughters of James, 10 pounds [nieces]

Then I looked at the division of the estate into 29 shares. I noted that a life interest in 14 1/2 shares was to go to James’ sister Rachel Murray. She seems to be the only living Murray sibling. However, after Rachel's decease the 14 1/2 shares she had an interest in were to be divided between the Whites and Thomas Crawden:
- 4 shares for John White,  
- 4 shares for Alexander White**,  
- 5 1/2 shares for Isobel White, wife of William Proudfoot and 1 share for Thomas Crawden.

From this I have assumed that the Whites and Crawdens were relatives on the Murray side. Possibly the late Alexander White had been married to another Murray sister.

The other 14 1/2 shares went to Marion's [Gladstones] relatives:
- 2 shares to the daughters of James Gladstones, schoolmaster  
- 1 share to be divided among five children of John Gladstones, deceased farmer of Eastfield Symington, so John the watchmaker, Alexander of Cleugh, Elizabeth wife of Pairman, Janet wife of Kello, and Christian wife of Sommerville all got 1/5 of a share.  
- 1/2 share to Jean Gladstones  
- 1/2 share to Marion Gladstones wife of James Auchinleck  
- 2 shares divided among the children of Thomas Gladstones senior [2/11th share each]  
- 2 shares divided among the children of Agnes Gladstones, wife of James Thomson  
- 2 shares divided among the children of Mary Gladstones, wife of Richard Tweedie  
- 2 shares divided among the children of Janet Gladstones, wife of William Aitken  
- 1 1/2 shares divided among the children of Jean Gladstones (dec), late wife of Donald Thomas  
- 1 share divided among the children of Margaret Gladstones, widow of Peter Crawden

There is a slight puzzle about Thomas Crawden getting a mention in the Murray side, and then again with all his siblings on the Gladstone side.

** A little on the Whites. Marion Aitken's granddaughter Charlotte Thomson married an Alex White in 1866 at Libberton. My correspondent Jane Thomson remarked that Alex White “had Gladstone blood”. William WHITE who married Marion, 2nd daughter of Murray Gladstone THOMSON, in 1854 may have been another member of this family.

I have attached importance to the order in which Marion dealt with her siblings' lines, and working in conjunction with the IGI birth records I think they are in birth order. I believe it was her intention not to leave anyone out, so if one of her siblings is not mentioned I believe it indicates their line had become extinct by 1802.

Appendix 2: Traditional naming pattern used by lowland Scots families

Eldest son named for father’s father  
Second son named for mother’s father  
Third son named for father  
Eldest daughter named for mother’s mother  
Second daughter named for father’s mother  
Third daughter named for mother
Sources:

1. Thomson, Jane: *Family History of Thomson of Edinburgh intermarried with Aitken and Gladstone of Biggar* Published privately
2. Thomson, Dorothy: *A tree grows in Edinburgh* Published privately
3. Starling, Ian: *From Hazelton Walls to Hazelbank, the Story of William & Isabella Kirk* Published privately
6. Information provided by Stewart sisters, Dunedin (not verified) The Stewart sisters, Molly, Grace and Jean, were unmarried granddaughters of MGT2.
7. Will of John Gladstones 1758, copy from Biggar archives supplied by Glenys Apel.

St Mary's Kirk, Biggar (below) was celebrating its 450th anniversary at the time of my visit. The architectural style, perhaps more reminiscent of an Anglican Parish Church, reflects its pre-reformation origins.

Biggar Kirk - image courtesy Glenys Apel