Family of

Donald Sinclair

1802-1871

of Reay, Caithness, Scotland
Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, England
Nelson, New Zealand

by

Mary Skipworth
(great great granddaughter)

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25 June 2016

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Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

William SINCLAIR of Stempster, Reay, Caithness

William SINCLAIR of Isauld, Reay, Caithness

John SINCLAIR of Stempster, m. Catherine MANSON 1762-1841

Catherine SINCLAIR m. McDonald of Scrabster

Andrew SINCLAIR 1793 -

unknown SINCLAIR

Donald SINCLAIR 1802-1871

m1 Hannah LANDELS 1801-bef 1841

m2 Isabella BELL act 1805-1883

daughter SINCLAIR died young

Hannah SINCLAIR 1835 - after 1876

m Harrison Beatsey/Bentley

Madelena SINCLAIR "Madge" 1835-1911

m Joseph Foord WILSON II

Manson SINCLAIR 1846-1871

unmarried

George Bell SINCLAIR 1849-1923

m Rebecca Lee HODGSON

AINSWORTH

Sydney Harrison AINSWORTH 1876-

Bessie Madeleena

Sarah Isabel WILSON 1857-1939

m George Clifford Pease JENNINGS

John Sinclair WILSON 1859-1932

m Alfred Pearson RAWSON

Joseph Foord WILSON 1861-1886

unmarried

Norman SINCLAIR 1864-1899

m1 Mary Frances GALLAGHER

Kenneth SINCLAIR 1875-1876

m2 Ina Beatrice BURGESS

Isabel Madeline "Madge"

SINCLAIR 1878-1937

m Robert Francis MULLAN

JENNINGS

Charles Clifford JENNINGS 1882-1939

m Emily Rose BING

Madeenas Harriet JENNINGS 1884-1968

unmarried

John Sinclair JENNINGS 1887-1933

m Viola Eone PARSONS

Natalie Lærdner JENNINGS 1889-1972

m Charles LITTLE

Noel Wilson JENNINGS 1891-1917

unmarried, killed WW2

Wilmot Mary RAWSON 1879-1963

m Frederick William DUNN

Henry Foord RAWSON 1881-1953

m Constance E H BREMNER

Emily Constance RAWSON 1883-1975

unmarried

Thomas Frederick RAWSON 1886-

nothing further known

Geoffrey Fere RAWSON 1890-1977

m Doris E M HINDLESMITH mno BEARD

Manson John Joseph WILSON 1890-1897

m1 Robert Hamilton SCOTT

m2 James MANSION

Jean Sinclair MULLAN 1905-1987

m James MANSION

Donald Sinclair MULLAN 1903-1963

m Edith Crima LAMB

Compiled by Mary Skipworth 25 June 2016
Family of Donald SINCLAIR

First Generation (Parents and Siblings)

1. John SINCLAIR, younger son of William SINCLAIR, was born in March or April 1762 in Stempster, Reay, Caithness, UK, and baptised in Reay on 6 Apr 1762. He died on 26 Feb 1841 in Berwick upon Tweed, Northumberland, UK, aged 78.

John’s father William farmed the lands of Stempster and his older brother was another William Sinclair who farmed Isauld in the parish of Reay. John also had a sister Catherine married to McDONALD, a farmer of Scrabster - 10 miles to the east near Thurso. These details are taken from a memorandum dictated by John to his son Donald on 17th August 1838. Unfortunately, matching records have not been found in the parish register – refer to page 37. Nothing further is known about John’s siblings.

Sinclairs have been Earls of Caithness since the 13th century, opening the possibility that we descend from a branch of the noble family. However, it also sometimes happened that families requiring the protection of a Laird would adopt his family surname. By analysing DNA it might be possible to work out whether two families have had a common origin, and to estimate the date at which the split occurred. Investigators have been looking for evidence of a link between Sinclair families in Reay, and a family descended from the Earls. Work is ongoing.

Our particular Sinclairs are associated with lands of Stempster and Isauld in the parish of Reay. To date we do not have records to link our Stempster / Isauld Sinclairs to other Reay families, nor even to other Stempster / Isauld Sinclairs. Neither do we have a living male Sinclair descendant to provide DNA for Y chromosome testing. So, although in terms of geographic proximity, as well as of social standing, it seems quite possible that we are linked to Sinclairs whose DNA may match that of the Earls, proof is lacking. At this point I have an open mind.

At the age of about 17 John enlisted in the Sutherland Fencible Regiment of Foot. He served for four years, and on his discharge in 1783, at “the end of the present war” [American War of Independence ?], he was described as being 6 feet tall, with fair complexion, blue eyes, and brown hair and was by trade a labourer. According to the army discharge document (held in the family – refer Appendix 1) he was aged 24, so he may have falsified his age to qualify for enlistment.

John’s rank was sergeant, a non-commissioned officer, so, although classed as a labourer in civilian terms, he must have showed some promise or have been able to purchase his appointment as a sergeant.

Upon discharge from the army John returned to Reay and married Catherine Manson about 1783. Their son Andrew was baptised on 19 Oct 1783, described as being “of Shebster”. Shebster is a hamlet adjacent to the Stempster lands, and John may still have worked with his father on Stempster, the farm which he later took over. For about twenty years he continued to farm Stempster, and during this period a second child whose name is unknown was added to the family.

Then in 1802 a third child, Donald, was born at Stempster when John was aged forty. As no other children are mentioned in John’s probate document (Appendix 1), it is assumed that Donald was the only child to survive his father.

To maintain the farm for 20 years until Donald could take over may well have presented a serious challenge for John. Added to that was the prospect of “The Clearances” already
under way in some areas where landlords were driving small farmers off the land to make way for large scale sheep-farming.

So gradually John returned to the army. To raise an army at that time, the Crown contracted with a gentleman of means such as the Duke of Sutherland, either by payment of bounty money for each soldier recruited, or by allowing him to sell Officers’ commissions. Soldiers’ pay was very low, but they were clothed, housed and fed, which may have been sufficient incentive if times were hard.

At first John held commissions in local units: Lieutenant, Caithness Highlanders, 2nd March 1794, and Lieutenant, 1st Battalion Rothsay and Caithness Regiment of Fencible Infantry, 25th March 1794. Units which include the terms 'Fencible' or 'Militia' in their titles, indicate recruitment for home service only, and John may have reverted to civilian life in times of peace. Up to this time his regiments were based in the north of Scotland, so he would not have been moving far from his family.

The Sinclairs must have left Reay between 1802 when Donald said he was born there, and 1804, the date of the next surviving document: John Sinclair, Gentleman, was appointed to be a Lieutenant in the Royal North Lincoln Militia. Twenty-one years had passed since his first discharge and his status had changed from labourer to gentlemen along with a promotion from Sergeant to Lieutenant. He may have had to purchase this appointment.

We do not know whether his wife and children moved with him to Lincolnshire at this time, but it appears that they were soon to be established at Berwick upon Tweed where Donald had his schooling and served his apprenticeship. This piece of the story has been remembered in the family because of the coincidence of Donald meeting up with Joseph Wilson, a former school friend from Berwick, on the wharf in Nelson, New Zealand as he prepared to disembark from the immigrant ship in 1843. Thirteen years later Joseph’s son would marry Donald’s daughter.
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

From the Lincoln Militia he received further promotion in 1806 to be Ensign of the First Royal Veteran Battalion, and was ordered to report immediately to the Adjutant General in London. In 1810 he was appointed Adjutant in the same Battalion, having already filled this position in an acting capacity for nearly two years. His Major reported him to be a "good and meritorious Officer" whose "attention, assiduity and intelligence" had been found "beneficial in the Discipline of the Corps".

His sword inscribed: "The gift of the non-commissioned officers of the 1st Royal Battalion to Adjutant Sinclair" has been passed down in the family.

The Major's recommendation was written from Gibraltar Bay, so possibly the Battalion was garrisoned at Gibraltar.

The appointments as Ensign and Adjutant were both signed personally by King George III, and the originals of these and other documents have been retained in the family. Facsimiles can be found in Appendix 1.

1821 list of Army Officers who have been allowed to retire on full pay includes Adjutant John Sinclair

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adjutant</th>
<th>David Crooks</th>
<th>Ensign 1 Feb. 1810</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Sinclair</td>
<td>Ensign 14 Aug. 1806</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The veteran battalions were made up largely of soldiers who were no longer fit for active service, and like the militia were required for garrison duties at home in times of war, particularly in this period of the Napoleonic Wars.
In 1820 the family was still at Berwick upon Tweed, as evidenced by references written for son Donald by Berwick lawyers. Berwick was an army garrison town, and John was still the 1st R. V. Battalion's adjutant, at Berwick, in 1830. By this date he would have been 68, but in his memorandum he refers to his position as "Adjutant, reduced 1814", so for his later years he would have been receiving minimal pay for minimal duties. When he died at Berwick in 1841, aged 78, his wife had predeceased him, and his estate was sworn at under fifty pounds [Appendix 1].

John married Catherine MANSON about 1783 and had three children all baptised in Reay, including Donald born in 1802 when John was 40.24

Their children were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>i.</th>
<th>ii.</th>
<th>iii.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Andrew SINCLAIR 1783 -</td>
<td>[unknown] SINCLAIR nothing further known</td>
<td>Donald SINCLAIR 1802 - 1871 refer to page 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The information above is based on a memorandum written by Donald: The wording ..... "On 17th August [1838] my late father told me......" seems to imply that John died about that time.

The following quotation 4 may help the reader to form a picture of the Caithness area:

What can I say about that dreary country of Caithness? Even when the sun shines it is a desolate, unfriendly land; in mist and rain it is ‘the end’. .........

We passed ruined crofts, sad relics of lives long past. The chimneys of most of them were still standing, ivy-covered, many of them blackened by fires of peat which had been quenched for ever.

In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries terrible times came upon the hardy people who just managed to make a tolerable living from these barren lands. Greedy landlords brought sheep to the hills and found they paid
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

handsomely. Lairds like Sir John Sinclair of Thurso, and the Dukes of Sutherland, gave many of their tenants notice to quit. Those who refused to leave were evicted and saw their houses burned to ashes. Not even the aged were spared, for there was the smell of money in the air, and sheep meant gold. Small, self-supporting communities were in the way.

A Gazetteer of Scotland describes Reay: …. on the north coast of the counties of Caithness and Sutherland ….. watered by the rivers Halladale and Forss, which abound in trout and salmon. Heights, variously mountainous or hilly, occupy all the district, except along the coast; but they possess no scenic interest or distinctive character. A band along the coast, and a narrow belt along the Halladale, are almost the only low or flat grounds. The soil of the arable lands is generally fertile. The aggregate amount of land in tillage does not exceed 2,200 acres.

Stempster (also spelled Stemster) has almost disappeared as a community and is not usually marked on modern maps. Google Earth shows that the area, south and west of the Bridge of Forss, has been developed for wide-spread arable and beef farming. It can be located on sheet 115, one-inch Victorian Ordnance Survey Map.

Instructions for finding Stempster: Proceed east from Reay on A836 to the Bridge of Forss. Turn right immediately east of the Bridge and proceed south until the substantial farm at Lythmore is reached. Turn right (west) at Lythmore and cross the Forss, pass a farm on your left and proceed to the end of the road in an area marked Stemster small-holdings on www.Streetmap.co.uk but apparently now one large farm based at Stempster House.

![Map of Reay and Stembster area](image_courtesy_electrichistory.com)
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

Our Sinclairs, farmers of Stempster in Reay, probably lived at Stempster House in the late 18th century.
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

Second Generation (Self)

4. Donald SINCLAIR (John) was born in 1802 in Reay, Caithness, Scotland, died on 13 Sep 1871 in Nelson, NZ at age 69, and was buried with his son Manson in Wakapuaka Cemetery, Nelson.

Donald’s life is detailed in a separate document - an outline only is included here.

Donald married Hannah LANDLES (or LANDELS) on 15 Jul 1831 in Berwick upon Tweed, Northumberland, UK. She was probably Hannah born 6 Dec 1801 in Berwick upon Tweed, daughter of James LANDELLS and Margaret DODS. She is assumed to have died in Berwick between 1836 and 1842 as she was not recorded there in the 1841 census.

Donald and Hannah’s children were:

5  i. [daughter] SINCLAIR died before 1842 refer to page 11
6  ii. Hannah SINCLAIR born about 1835 refer to page 11
7  iii. Madalena "Madge" SINCLAIR 1836 - 1911 refer to page 11

In 1842 Donald embarked for Nelson, New Zealand arriving in the Phoebe on 29 Feb 1843. He had left the children with his housekeeper, Isabella BELL, who had been recorded in his household at the 1841 census. He had been sent as agent for an absentee land-owner, but his intention was to remain in Nelson if he found the place agreeable.

After settling himself he sent for Isabella and his daughters from Berwick, but their arrival in Nelson has not been traced. Natalie Little writes of tittle-tattle in Nelson about Grandpappa living with his children’s nurse, leading to Donald’s decision to marry her.

Donald remarried Isabella BELL on 24 Apr 1845 in Nelson. Isabella was born about 1805 in Scotland, died on 26 Jun 1883 in Cable Bay, Nelson, at age 78, and was buried there in the Native burial ground. They were married by Rev C L Reay of the Church Missionary Society (Church of England). Isabella was 40 and Donald 43.

Nothing is known of Isabella’s origins, except that she was born in Scotland. She was almost certainly the housekeeper present in Donald’s household in 1841 in Berwick upon
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

Tweed. A family of Bells lived next door, but this may only have been coincidence. She had brought Donald’s two daughters to Nelson. Two sons would be born of the marriage, Manson (named for his paternal grandmother Catherine Manson) in 1846, and George Bell in 1849, when Isabella was aged 44. (Age is calculated from stated age at death, which may not be accurate.)

At the time of her death she had been living with her son George on their farm at Delaware Bay. The condition of the roads at that time made taking her to the public cemetery at Wakapuaka impractical, and their good friends Jim and Julia Martin at the Pah offered the use of their burial ground on the sandspit. There was an understanding that they would not be visiting the grave. Today, some of the graves have been exposed by coastal erosion and concern is felt about possible desecration of the remains.

Isabella’s grandchildren called her Belltini, a name which probably dates from the time when as Miss Bell she cared for Donald’s little girls.

Donald and Isabella’s children were:

8 i. Manson SINCLAIR 1846 - 1871 refer to page 13
9 ii. George Bell SINCLAIR 1849 - 1923 refer to page 14

signature from deed of 1863
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

Third Generation (Children)

5. [daughter] SINCLAIR (Donald ⁴, John ³) died young before 1842 in Berwick upon Tweed.

Madge told her grandchildren that after the death of her sister, a heavy farm cart was placed on the grave with men guarding it every night until the threat of grave robbers had passed.

6. Hannah SINCLAIR (Donald ⁴, John ³) was born about 1835 in Berwick upon Tweed.

1841 census Berwick upon Tweed: H Sinclair, a female aged 6 was living with Donald SINCLAIR, Madln SINCLAIR, and Isabella BELL at Berwick

Natalie Little noted: Great-grandfather Sinclair was a martinet and Hannah wanted to marry a man her father disapproved of, so he said if she married him he would cut her off and have nothing more to do with her. She left home and her sister Madge never found out what became of her. However, years later when Jack Jennings was working for the Eastern Telegraph Company at Cable Bay, Nelson, he came across a young Australian boy he liked very much. On comparing notes he found the boy was a grandson of Hannah Sinclair, and thus his second cousin.

Hannah Sinclair married Harrison Beattey (or Bentley) AINSWORTH in Nelson in 1871, when she was about 36.

The marriage took place at the bride’s residence Haven Road, Nelson, Rev Patrick Calder, Presbyterian, officiating. Hannah was a spinster, said to be resident in Nelson for 10 years (actually at least 25 years). The groom was a bachelor, resident in Nelson for 3 years, occupation cook.⁷⁴

Hannah and Harrison Bentley AINSWORTH had two children

10 i. [unknown female] AINSWORTH
11 ii. Sydney Harrison AINSWORTH 1876 –

Sydney Harrison AINSWORTH was born on 28 July 1876, at McQuarrie St, Sydney, son of Hannah (nee Sinclair) age 41, born in England, which fits with the census record from Berwick. She had previously had one female child, deceased. The parents were said to have married in NZ (which fits), though the date is given as April 1869 instead of April 1871.

Sydney Harrison AINSWORTH could be father of the lad referred to above as meeting Jack JENNINGS. [refer transcript of his birth certificate, appendix 6 page 38]

7. Madalena SINCLAIR "Madge" (Donald ⁴, John ³) was born about 1836 in Berwick upon Tweed, died on 25 Aug 1911 in Christchurch, NZ at age 75,²⁶ and was buried in Linwood cemetery.²

Madge came to New Zealand when she was about nine, with her sister Hannah and their nurse Isabella Bell, later their stepmother. Before leaving England her mother and a sister had died. Her father remarried and in due course she acquired two half-brothers. Stories passed down to her grandchildren refer to the horrors of their journey to New Zealand, with many children dying. Their survival was attributed to Isabella having a private hoard of food available.

Madge married Joseph Foord (II) WILSON on 18 Jun 1856 in Nelson.⁵ Joseph was born about 1830, died on 21 Sep 1901 in Motueka, NZ aged 71, and was buried in Motueka.⁶
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

Joseph was the son of Donald Sinclair's old school friend from Berwick. Dr Joseph Foord Wilson (senior) had arrived in Nelson on the London in 1842, and as Health Officer for the colony one of his duties was to inspect newly arrived ships. On going to check the Phoebe he was surprised to hear his old school nickname, and to find Donald Sinclair among the passengers.

Madge and Joseph lived first at Hawkesnest, Waihopai, not far from present day Blenheim. Natalie Little has written of their early married life: When my grandmother and grandfather married he took her up the Wairau Valley where he managed a large sheep run, no one else for miles, no bridges over deep rivers. When my mother was born she was alone and luckily a neighbour miles away came to her assistance. [This lady] had known she was going into the wilds and sensibly learnt all about delivering babies before she went, so certainly saved my mother's life.

When my mother was 6 months old my grandmother rode to Nelson carrying the baby in front on the saddle. There was a lovely photograph in a leather case that I liked looking at. Mother a dear little baby sitting on a table, a hat with an ostrich feather all round and Grandma very stern in a riding habit.

In the 1860s Joseph went to another very isolated place miles out of Oamaru, Papakaia. They thought Bessie was soon to be needing schooling so she was left behind and spent part of her time in Nelson with Mr Sinclair her grandfather and the rest of the year with her other grandfather Dr Wilson in Motueka. She was aged 10 before she rejoined her siblings by which time she had “lost her place in the family.” It was during this period that Bessie was taken to be photographed by her grandfather, whereupon the other grandfather, not to be outdone, arranged to have his photograph taken with her as well in the identical setting.

In retirement Joseph returned to his father's old home in Motueka where he held various Government posts such as clerk and interpreter in the Magistrates Court, Registrar of births, deaths and marriages, Registrar of electors, vaccination inspector, inspector of...
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

slaughterhouses. He served his community as a member of Motueka School Committee, chairman Motueka Institute & Library, member Motueka Borough Council, and Churchwarden St Thomas’ church.

OBITUARY: Mr Joseph Foord Wilson, a highly respected resident of Motueka, passed away last Saturday after a long and painful illness. The deceased was 70 years of age, and had resided here for many years. He was formerly Clerk of the Court here, and in the early days acted in a similar capacity in Nelson. He had also been Returning Officer for the old Motueka electorate, and up to within a short time of his death he held the office of Registrar of births, deaths, and marriages. Mr Wilson was of a kindly disposition, and had many friends, all of whom regret his death. Although it was known for some time that his case was hopeless, when the death was announced it was hardly realised by many that he was gone and that his familiar face would be seen no more. Mr Wilson was a scholarly man, having received his education at the Auckland College. He was buried on Sunday afternoon, a very large concourse following the hearse. The funeral ceremony was conducted by the Rev T. Johnson, of whose church Mr Wilson had been for many years lay reader.

Joseph died in 1901, and Madge’s son-in-law George Jennings had died in 1893. The two widows lived together at 482 Hereford Street, Christchurch. Madge’s death certificate indicated that she had suffered from rheumatoid arthritis for 30 years.

Madge and Joseph’s children were:
12  i.  Bessie Madelena WILSON  1857 - 1939  refer to page 17
13  ii.  Sarah Isabella WILSON  1859 - 1932  refer to page 18
14  iii.  John Sinclair "Jack" WILSON  1861 - 1886  refer to page 18
15  iv.  Joseph Foord (III) WILSON  1864 - 1949  refer to page 18

8. Manson SINCLAIR (Donald 4, John 1) was born on 29 May 1846 in Nelson,2 died there on 17 Jul 1871 at age 25, and was buried in Wakapuaka Cemetery, Nelson. A monument to his memory was erected by his school friends.

Manson was educated at Nelson College, spending 10 years from 1856-1866. He and his brother are recorded as first day pupils. In 1870 he witnessed a deed as clerk for his father, and was preparing to join him in practising law, though his preference is said to have been farming.

Signature of Manson Sinclair, articled clerk to Donald Sinclair.

Among his community services he was captain Nelson Volunteer Fire Brigade, founded 1866.

He was also Captain of the city Company Nelson Rifle Volunteers. He was a keen shot and won a handsome trophy for marksmanship in the form of a Scottish dirk with an elaborately carved handle. It is ironic that this interest led to his death in a shooting accident. Refer to appendix 1 for an account of the inquest and funeral.
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9. George Bell SINCLAIR (Donald 4, John 1) was born on 2 Feb 1849 in Nelson, and died on 17 Sep 1923 in Westport, NZ at age 74.  

George’s first names were not registered initially, but were added on 18th May 1849. He had an older brother Manson, and a half sister Madge who was 13 at the time of his birth. Manson died when George was 22, but he retained a strong bond with Madge, naming his only daughter after her.

About 1909 George took his grand-daughter Joan Mullan with him on a visit to Christchurch. Joan was only four, but remembered a very elderly lady in black mittens. She associated the name Jennings (Madge’s daughter’s surname) with this visit, and provided the clue that “Dr Jennings of Invercargill” (#34 below) was a relative. Were it not for Joan’s reminiscence of ‘Aunt Madge’ it is unlikely that the two branches of this family would have retained any knowledge of each other. Natalie (Jennings) Little remembered meeting George once in Christchurch “and was proud to go out with him, 6’4” and straight as a ram.”

George attended Nelson College from the age of 7 for eight years, one of eight pupils enrolled on opening day. Like his father and his brother he joined the local Militia, and on 16 May 1872 was appointed Captain in the Nelson City Rifles Volunteers, the commission being signed by Governor G F Bowen.

In June 1871 George advertised his services as surveyor, supplementing his income with a tobacconist’s business. The latter advertisements appeared during the year October 1871 - October 1872, after which he seems to have concentrated his efforts on surveying.

During his residence in Nelson he took part in public affairs and was for some time a member of the Waimea County Council, the Nelson Education Board, and the Licensing Committee.

1870: invested £10 in Culliford Goldmining Coy, Wangapeka (capital £20,000)
1871: appointed a mining surveyor for the Province of Nelson (Nelson Provincial Gazette)
1872: Clerk of the Course at the Waimea South Steeplechase
1881: listed in Motueka electorate for a section at Moutere Bluffs, also residence Nelson
1884: appointed a JP, served occasionally on the Bench and on Grand Juries.
1889: elected school committee Suburban North
1890: Deputy Returning Officer, Southern Maori Electorate, Wakapuaka district

From about 1883-1890 he leased a farm at Cable Bay from Jim and Julia Martin [Matenga]. Refer to his wife’s Recollections for details of this period.

He moved to Westport in 1897 where he was engaged in surveying in the mines, and later became engineer to the Westport Harbour Board.

1908: Coroner for Westport.
1910: elected member Institute of Surveyors
1914: appointed engineer/secretary Westport Harbour Board (previously acting engineer)
1917: nominated Trustee to look after soldier’s farms in Buller County
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

CYCLOPEDIA OF NZ 1905: Mr George Bell Sinclair has held office as draughtsman to Westport Harbour Board since 1901. He was born in Nelson and was educated at Nelson College where he and his brother were the first two to enter as pupils. He began his professional life as a surveyor under Nelson Provincial Government and afterwards held office as Government District Surveyor of Nelson for many years. Mr Sinclair was one of the earliest to take out a licence as a surveyor in Nelson. He has resided in Westport since the year 1897. During his residence in Nelson he took part in public affairs and was for some time a member of the Waimea County Council, the Nelson Education Board, and Licensing Committee. He also took an interest in local school committees. Mr Sinclair was appointed to the Commission of the Peace about the year 1885. He is a freemason, and is attached to Lodge Southern Star, English Constitution, Nelson. In 1875 Mr Sinclair married a daughter of the late Mr W.C. Hodgson, Inspector of Schools Nelson, and has one son and one daughter.

The Sinclair property "The Pines" was on corner of Packington and Romilly Streets, Westport. Three quarters of an acre, it was later subdivided and the house half demolished.

Orawaiti Middle Cemetery Section D, Row 11 & 12, Block 3, plots 653, 654
In loving memory George Bell Sinclair 1849-1923, Rebecca Lee Sinclair 1851-1940, and their daughter Madge Mullan 1879-1937. [Rebecca was buried in Invercargill]

George married Rebecca Lee HODGSON on 20 Jan 1875 in Nelson. Rebecca was born on 29 Sep 1851 in Wakapuaka, Nelson, died on 5 Apr 1940 in Invercargill, aged 88, and was buried in Invercargill. Her son-in-law had died in 1920, and until Madge’s death in 1937 the two widows, Rebecca and Madge lived together at The Pines.

17 Oct 1877 Mrs G B Sinclair, Brook St, advertised for a good general servant, same 1878
Rebecca spent her later years at Castlerock with her granddaughter Joan Scott. Her *Recollections* written in 1932 provide details of her life.\(^{42}\)

George and Rebecca's children were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>i.</th>
<th>Norman SINCLAIR</th>
<th>1875 - 1876</th>
<th>refer to page 18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>ii.</td>
<td>Kenneth SINCLAIR</td>
<td>1877 - 1954</td>
<td>refer to page 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>iii.</td>
<td>Isabel Madeline &quot;Madge&quot; SINCLAIR</td>
<td>1878 - 1937</td>
<td>refer to page 19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

George Bell Sinclair at *The Pines*, Westport with his daughter Madge Mullan and granddaughter Joan Mullan
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

Fourth Generation (Grandchildren)

12 Bessie Madelena WILSON (Madge SINCLAIR⁷, Donald⁴, John¹) was born in 1857 in Wairau Valley, NZ,²³ died on 3 Jan 1939 in Christchurch, at age 82, and was buried in Bromley Cemetery, Christchurch.⁷

Bessie married George Clifford Pease JENNINGS (third son of the late David JENNINGS of Fernhurst, Pangatotara) on 1 Mar 1881⁸ at St Thomas' Motueka, Rev Poole assisted by the Right Rev the Bishop of Nelson officiating (at this time George was Secretary to Bishop Suter⁴⁵). George was born in 1853 in Motueka, died in 1893 in Riwaka, NZ at age 40 of rheumatic fever, and was buried in Motueka.⁶¹

George attended Christ's College, occupation - teacher
Master of Bishop school, Nelson, later headmaster Riwaka (from about 1886 to 1893)
After Joseph Wilson's death in 1901, Bessie and the children moved in with Grandma (Madge)

Bessie and George's children were:

19   i.  Charles Clifford JENNINGS  1882 - 1939  refer to page 20
20   ii. Madelena Harriet JENNINGS  1884 - 1958  refer to page 20
21   iii. John Sinclair JENNINGS  1887 - 1933  refer to page 20
22   iv.  Natalie Lardner JENNINGS  1889 - 1972  refer to page 21
23   v.   Noel Wilson JENNINGS  1891 - 1917  refer to page 21

Bessie and George also had a stillborn son on 19 Mar 1886.

Bessie Wilson in her widowhood, with her children
L to R: Natalie, Bessie, Noel, Madelena, Clifford, John
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

13. Sarah Isabella WILSON “Belle” (Madge SINCLAIR, Donald, John) was born in 1859 in Motueka, and died on 6 Apr 1932 in Wellington, NZ at age 73. She was buried in Porirua cemetery.

Electoral rolls: 1896 Motueka, 1900-1919 Masterton, 1928 Franklin

Isabella married Alfred Pearson RAWSON on 4 Jan 1879 in Motueka, 4th son of Dr Thomas Edward RAWSON. Alfred was born in 1850, died on 5 Dec 1911 in Masterton, NZ at age 61, and was buried in Archer St cemetery, Masterton.

Alfred was a surveyor in Motueka when his children were young, moving later to Masterton, refer Rawson document for further details.

Isabella and Alfred’s children were:

- 24 i. Wilmot Mary RAWSON 1879 - 1963 refer to page 21
- 25 ii. Henry Foord RAWSON "Harry" 1881 - 1963 refer to page 22
- 26 iii. Emily Constance RAWSON 1883 - 1975 refer to page 22
- 27 iv. Thomas Frederick RAWSON 1886 - refer to page 22
- 28 v. Geoffrey Frere RAWSON 1889 - 1977 refer to page 22

14. John Sinclair "Jack" WILSON (Madge SINCLAIR, Donald, John) was born about 1861 in Motueka, died unmarried on 9 Oct 1886 in Wellington, NZ aged 24, and was buried in Bolton St cemetery, Wellington. His remains were disinterred and transferred to a mass grave during construction of the motorway.


Occupation: Dentist of Blenheim. Refer to appendix 2 for further details.

15. Joseph Foord (III) WILSON (Madge SINCLAIR, Donald, John) was born on 2 Feb 1864 at Coal Creek, Waikouaiti, Otago, NZ, died on 13 Aug 1949 at age 85, and was cremated at Waikumete cemetery, Auckland, NZ.

He attended Nelson College in 1877, then spent 4 years in the Post & Telegraph dept. He qualified as a dentist on the basis of 3 years pupillage and a certificate of competency issued by the University Senate 1866. He operated as a dentist in Hokitika, Greyouth, Blenheim, Nelson, Invercargill at various times. He resided later in Hamilton, and finally in Auckland. Refer also appendix 2. He was adjudged bankrupt at Greyouth in 1892. In 1903, with a partner, he lodged a patent application for a spring hook clip to attach a luggage label. In 1909 he drove his car into a stationery train which was standing across the road, in poor visibility one misty night.

Joseph married Margaret Elizabeth "Tot" WILLIAMS in 1886. Their children were:

- 29 i. Manson John Joseph WILSON 1886 - 1887 refer to page 22
- 30 ii. Madeline "Maddie" WILSON 1888 - 1957 refer to page 23
- 31 iii. Flora "Flo" WILSON 1890 - 1963 refer to page 23
- 32 iv. Belle WILSON 1893 - 1939 refer to page 23

Joseph and Tot were divorced in 1930 and he married Ina Beatrice BURGESS in 1930. Ina was born about 1887, died in 1974 and was buried in Pye's Pa cemetery, aged 87. Ina was sole beneficiary of Joseph’s will signed 23 May 1935. Probate value £648

16. Norman SINCLAIR (George Bell, Donald, John) was born on 25 Nov 1875 in Nelson and died there on 25 Jan 1876, aged 2 months.
17. Kenneth SINCLAIR (George Bell³, Donald⁴, John ¹) was born on 10 Apr 1877 in Nelson,¹⁸ and died on 21 Apr 1954 in Sydney, Australia at age 77.¹²

Attended Nelson College. Apprenticed to Anchor Shipping Line foundry in Nelson as a fitter and turner. Worked for Anchor Line, then for Union Steam Shipping Co. He was chief engineer on some of the K boats (colliers) such as the Kororai and Kaimanawha, then on banana boats to the Islands - Tofua, Navua, then on ferries on the Melbourne/Launceston run eg Loongana, Ulimoroa, then on trans-Tasman, Bluff to Melbourne such as Marama, Moeraki.

He was chief engineer on the Niagara when she was sunk by a German mine off Whangarei with no loss of life one calm morning in June 1940. She was carrying a secret consignment of more than eight tons of gold bullion, payment from England to the United States for munitions. At this time the Niagara and Aorangi did regular trips to San Francisco. Ken was USSCo Commodore engineer. [from Joan Manson’s recollection]

Kenneth married Mary Francis GALLAGHER "Minnie" on 27 Sep 1904 in Dunedin, NZ.¹⁹ Minnie was born in 1873 in Reefton, Westland, NZ, died on 29 Jun 1964 and was buried in Hastings, NZ, aged 91.⁴⁸ They had no children.

18. Isabel Madeline "Madge" SINCLAIR (George Bell⁹, Donald⁴, John ¹) was born on 4 Aug 1878 in Nelson,²⁰ and died on 9 May 1937 in Westport, at age 58.⁵²

The story of Madge’s contribution in the 1918 flu epidemic is told by Joan Manson in Denniston, then and now by Les Wright c 1998.

Madge lived with her parents at The Pines after her husband’s death.

Madge married Robert Francis MULLAN (1878-1920) on 3 Aug 1904 in St John's Westport.²¹ Robert was buried aged 41 on 5 Aug 1920 in Orawaiti middle cemetery, Westport.

A pharmaceutical chemist, Robert died unexpectedly of cellulitis, an infection of the skin and underlying tissues - commonly caused by a virulent strain of Staphylococcus aureus. Joan described it as an infected throat which quickly swelled until it obstructed his airway.

Madge and Robert’s children were:

33 i. Joan Sinclair MULLAN 1905 - 1987 refer to page 23
34 ii. Donald Sinclair MULLAN 1908 - 1983 refer to page 23
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

Fifth & Sixth Generations (Great & 2x Great-Grandchildren)

19. Charles Clifford JENNINGS (Bessie Madelena WILSON, Madge SINCLAIR, Donald, John) was born on 20 Mar 1882 in Nelson, died in 1939 in Christchurch, at age 57, and was buried in Bromley Cemetery.

Educated Christ’s College courtesy of great aunt Mary, Lady Jennings of Reigate

Obituary [Press 1 Aug 1939]:

The death occurred at his residence, in Worcester street, recently, of Mr Charles Clifford Jennings, who for 25 years practised as a dental surgeon in Invercargill, after gaining experience with the late Dr. A. Paterson, of Christchurch. He was born in Nelson on March 20, 1882, being the eldest son of George Clifford Pease and Bessie Madelena Jennings. His grandparents had settled in Nelson almost 100 years ago. He was educated at Christ’s College, where he was prominent in football and athletics, and showed exceptional artistic ability. He was particularly interested in physical culture. Apart from his professional work, Mr Jennings was widely known as a talented art worker in metals and wood. In this way he gave valuable assistance to the raising of the Invercargill war funds. An ardent church worker, having been on St. John’s vestry for many years, he made a Communion set in silver for that church and did similar work for many other churches. For many years he was a member of the advisory board of the Plunket Society. He is survived by his widow, one son Dr George Clifford Jennings (Oxford), two daughters, Mrs Arthur H. Robins (Invercargill), and Miss Margaret Jennings (Christchurch), and two grandsons.

Clifford married Emily Rose BING (1877-1953) on 22 Dec 1909. Their children were:

35  i. Mary Babette JENNINGS was born on 29 Jan 1912 in Invercargill, and died in 1992 at age 80. She married Arthur Horace ROBINS in 1931. 3 sons, 2 daus.

36  ii. George Clifford JENNINGS MB ChB (NZ), FRCS (Eng), FRACS was born on 21 Jun 1913 in Invercargill, died on 19 Jul 1971 at Raumati, Wellington, and was buried in Karori Cemetery, Wellington. Orthopaedic Surgeon. He married Faye HINCHLEY (1916-2006) and had 3 daughters.

37  iii. Margaret Lancilla JENNINGS was born on 27 Jan 1917, and died on 11 Mar 1976, spinster of Otaki, intestate. She was cremated at Palmerston North. Admitted Waihopai School 1927

20. Madeleena Harriet JENNINGS “Madelaine” (Bessie Madelena WILSON, Madge SINCLAIR, Donald, John) was born on 28 Jan 1884 in Nelson, died unmarried in 1958 at age 74, and was cremated at Karori Cemetery, Wellington.

21. John Sinclair JENNINGS “Jack” (Bessie Madelena WILSON, Madge SINCLAIR, Donald, John) was born on 1 Jun 1887 in Riwaka, and died on 7 Jul 1933 in Christchurch, age 46.

1900: Ranked 6th of 16 country boys in entrance examinations for Nelson College

1902 - 1903 attended Nelson College

Employed for a period at the Sydney cable terminal, at Cable Bay, Nelson. Employed - Eastern Extension Telegraph Coy, Singapore;

1933: hotelkeeper of Christchurch

Jack married Viola Eone PARSONS in Hong Kong. Viola was born on 21 Mar 1886 and died in 1981 at age 95. She was of Merivale, Christchurch in 1945.

They had 2 sons:

38  i. John Noel JENNINGS was born on 28 Jun 1919 (in Hong Kong ?), and died in 1993.
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

39 ii. Peter Sinclair JENNINGS was born on 6 Jun 1921, died on 17 Apr 1945 in Europe at age 23, and was buried in Rheinberg War Cemetery, Kamp Lintfort, Nordrhein-Westfal, Germany. Flight Lieutenant (pilot). 46

22. Natalie Lardner JENNINGS (Bessie Madelena WILSON12, Madge SINCLAIR7, Donald2, John1) was born in the Riwaka schoolhouse on 23 Aug 1889,22 and died in 1972 at age 83.

   Attended Motueka District High School, then won scholarship to Nelson College for Girls.

   Natalie married Charles LITTLE. They had a son:

40 i. Richard Gordon Duff LITTLE was born in 1915 in Lower Moutere, Nelson, died on 21 Jul 1979 at age 64,56 and was cremated in Nelson.

23. Noel Wilson JENNINGS (Bessie Madelena WILSON12, Madge SINCLAIR7, Donald2, John1) was born on 25 Dec 1891,65 was killed in action on 7 Jun 1917 in World War I at age 25, and was buried in Messines Ridge Memorial Mesen, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.46 Private 130281, Auckland Infantry Regiment.

   Attended Nelson College 1908-1909
   Noel was a journalist, starting as a junior reporter on the Christchurch Press, then working on a paper in Stratford, and finally on the Auckland Herald.45

24. Wilmot Mary RAWSON (Sarah Isabel WILSON13, Madge SINCLAIR7, Donald2, John1) was born on 9 Dec 1879,57 died on 12 Nov 1963 at age 83, and was cremated in New Plymouth, NZ. She had been living in New Plymouth in the care of her daughter Wilmot Patricia QUIRK.

   Wilmot married Frederick William DUNN on 28 Aug 1907 in Masterton.58 Frederick died on 25 Jun 1943, aged 75 and was buried in Kelvin Grove cemetery, Palmerston North. Frederick was a farmer at Rawhiti, Pahiatua in 1911, then a land agent of Masterton 1920s & 30s. During this period Wilmot and the children were in Wellington. Later Wilmot and Frederick lived at Savage Cresc Palmerston North.

   Their children were:

   attended West School Masterton 1920; Seaount school 1921; married 1944 Gerard Henry Joseph REDDING (1913-2001) and had 2 sons.

42 ii. Alfred Wilson DUNN (known as Bill) born Wellington 20 May 1911, died 12 Mar 1987 Grafton NSW; attended West School Masterton 1920; Seatoun 1921; farm worker moving many times around NZ, retired NSW; married 1937 Wanganui Nancy Evelyn WHITLOCK (1910-1989); 4 sons, 3 daughters.

43 iii. Wilmot Patricia DUNN born Masterton 29 Nov 1914, died 14 Aug 1987 Southport, Queensland; attended West School Masterton 1920 Seatoun 1921, 1923, married (1943) John Dearmead QUIRK (1905-1974); 1 son 1 daughter.


Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)


   At Motueka school 2 Oct 1887 - 12 Dec 1895, previously at Miss Poole's private school, Attended Nelson College 1896-97; Electoral Rolls 1905 Masterton; 1911 Wellington North; Staff Bank NSW 1899-1946, Prominent in Association of Bank Officers in 1919 - refer to Appendix 3.

   Henry married Constance Ellen Hamilton BREMNER on 25 Mar 1908. 68 Constance was born on 11 Mar 1881. [Surname BRENNER in the marriages index but BREMNER in the births.]

   Two of their children were:

   46  i. Harry Robertson RAWSON was born in 1908 in Dunedin, 40 and died in 1963 in NSW. watchmaker

   47  ii. David Hamilton RAWSON was born about 1915 and died in 1942 at Port Moresby, 2nd Officer Australian Merchant Navy. 46

26. Emily Constance RAWSON (*Sarah Isabel WILSON* 13, *Madge SINCLAIR* 7, *Donald* 4, *John* 1) was born on 8 Nov 1883, 60 and died on 31 Aug 1975 in Porirua Hospital, NZ at age 91.

   At school Motueka 1892 - 1898, then Masterton Winner, commissioner's scholarship 1897 Motueka

27. Thomas Frederick RAWSON (*Sarah Isabel WILSON* 13, *Madge SINCLAIR* 7, *Donald* 4, *John* 1) was born on 11 Apr 1886 in Motueka. 67 No death or marriage found in NZ or NSW.

   At school Motueka 1891 - 1898, then Masterton Not found NZ Ei Rolls after 1911 of Kuripuni, Masterton Surveyor's cadet Natalie Little wrote of Tom: Tom was always a vagrant and got into trouble for going to sleep under hedges instead of his own bed. Once he was missing and they found him beating a drum with the Salvation Army. He disappeared in the end and it wasn't till the war came that Aunt Belle knew where he was, he had enlisted from Australia. Said to have gone to Sth Australia, using the name Tom HOLMES, worked for GM Holden.

   Noted: petition of a Thomas Frederick Rawson 5 Feb 1951, seeking a bus franchise in the City of Bellville [Journal Legislative Assembly of Ontario] - could a be different person.

28. Geoffrey Frere RAWSON (*Sarah Isabel WILSON* 13, *Madge SINCLAIR* 7, *Donald* 4, *John* 1) was born on 7 Sep 1889 in Motueka, 66 died on 23 May 1977 in Whangarei, NZ at age 87, and was buried in Maunu cemetery, Whangarei.

   At school Motueka 1895 - 1899, Masterton 1899, 1900 land agent 1911 Masterton Farmer, Waikaraka and Whangarei Involved in Social Credit movement, Bay of Islands electorate Headstone: Cpl G F Rawson Wgtn Mounted Rifles died 23 May 1977 aged 87 years 1 NZEF

   Geoffrey married Doris Elinor Margaret HINDLESmith (nee BEARD) on 4 Feb 1920. 38 They had 1 son and 1 daughter. Doris was born on 7 Jul 1892, first married Arthur HINDLESmith (2nd Lt, died 1918 in France), and died aged 96 in 1988 in Whangarei.

29. Manson John Joseph WILSON (*Joseph Foord (III) WILSON* 15, *Madalena SINCLAIR* 7, *Donald* 4, *John* 1) was born on 9 Aug 1886 in Hokitika, NZ, 64 died on 30 Mar 1887 aged 7 months, and was buried in Hokitika. Probably named for his grandmother's half brother Manson Sinclair, who had died in 1871.
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

30. Madeline "Maddie" WILSON (Joseph Foord (III) WILSON15, Madge SINCLAIR7, Donald4, John1) was born on 5 Feb 1888 in Wairau District,63 and died on 22 Jul 1957 in Christchurch aged 69.

Maddie married Harold Vincent ROWE, MA, on 26 Dec 1917 at Kakanui, Otago.73 Harold was born on 1 Jun 1894 and died on 21 Mar 1959 in Christchurch, at age 65. They had 2 daughters.

Harold was a maths teacher, Christchurch Boys' High School

31. Flora "Flo" WILSON (Joseph Foord (III) WILSON15, Madge SINCLAIR7, Donald4, John1) was born on 2 Jun 1890 in Hokitika,33 and died aged 73 on 16 Aug 1963 in Christchurch.30

Florence dau of Joseph F Wilson admitted to Invercargill Middle school 1896

Flo married Clarence James Messiah BERRYMAN on 2 Jun 1923. Clarence was born on 25 Nov 1890 and died on 28 Jun 1965 at age 74 in Christchurch.29 They had 1 son.

1960: Manager of Totara St, Christchurch, previously commercial traveller

32. Belle WILSON (Joseph Foord (III) WILSON15, Madge SINCLAIR7, Donald4, John1) was born on 13 Sep 1893 in Wairau District,34 died on 30 Aug 1939 at age 45, and was buried in Oamaru, NZ.

Belle married Thomas Gideon TYSON on 30 Aug 1922 in Otepopo Presbyterian Church, North Otago.49 Thomas was born on 27 Dec 1892, died on 20 Jan 1983 at age 90, and was buried in Oamaru. They had no children.

Gardener of Kakanui, NZ Gazette 1917 Military callup; same 1914 el roll

33. Joan Sinclair MULLAN (Madge SINCLAIR18, George Bell9, Donald4, John1) was born on 5 Jun 1905 in Westport,61 died on 22 Jun 1987 in Palmerston North, at age 82, and her ashes were buried with Bob in Invercargill. refer Mullan document for further detail of Joan's life

Joan married Robert Hamilton SCOTT (1889-1944) "Bob" on 22 Jan 1932 in Westport. They had 1 son and 1 daughter. Refer to Scott document for further detail of Bob's life.44

Joan remarried James MANSON on 18 Apr 1969 in Christchurch. James was born in 1894 in Craigieburn, Canterbury, NZ, died on 27 Dec 1971 in Christchurch, at age 77, and his ashes interred in Johns Rd Crematorium Memorial Gardens.

Company Director, Waters-More Ltd, General Merchants, Hanmer Springs. Formerly hotel manager, with his first wife Nettie (Janet McDonald), of Hanmer Lodge Ltd.

34. Donald Sinclair MULLAN (Madge SINCLAIR18, George Bell9, Donald4, John1) was born on 23 Apr 1908 in Westport,62 died on 13 Oct 1983 in Timaru, at age 75, and was buried at Burkes Pass, South Canterbury, NZ.

Educated Westport High School, passed Junior National Scholarship Nov 1921

Lands and Survey Cadet 1925, Colonial Motor Company 1930

Professional accountancy examinations 1933

Manager Timaru Motors Ltd 1933, then Managing Director in 1952

Appointed to Colonial Motor Company Board of Directors in 1962

Retired from Timaru Motors 1971, CMC 1973, lived at Lake Tekapo in retirement

Don married Edith Orma LAMB on 27 Jul 1935 in St Mary's church, Esk Valley, St Andrews, NZ. Orma was born on 15 May 1913 in Timaru, and died on 13 Feb 2006 in Wanaka, NZ at age 92. They had 1 son and 2 daughters.
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

Appendix 1: John Sinclair - documents
[these have been typed using fonts and layout to mimic the originals as closely as possible]

His Majesty's Sutherland Fencible Regiment of Foot commanded by

These are to certify, that the bearer hereof John Sinclair Forst has served in the above-said Regiment, and in Captain McLean's Company, for the space of Four years, and is, for the reason below mentioned, discharged from the said Regiment; he having received his Pay, Arrears of Pay, Cloathing of all sorts, and all his just demands, from the time of his inlisting in the said Regiment, to this day of his Discharge, as appears by his receipt on the back of his Discharge. He is discharged, having Served To the end of the Present Warr Faithfully & Honestly.

And to prevent any ill use that my be made of this Discharge, by its falling into the hands of any other person whatsoever, here follows the description of the above-said John Sinclair aged 24 Years. Six feet inches high, Fair complexon, Brown hair, Blue eyes, born in the parish of Reay in the county of Caithness by trade a Labourer.

Given under my hand and regimental seal at Inverness this third day of May 1783.

James Sutherland Lt Col

[Handwritten text]

I John Sinclair Forst do acknowledge to have received all my Pay, Arrears of Pay, Cloathing of all sorts, and all other just demands, from the day of my inlisting in the said Regiment to this day of my Discharge. John Sinclair Forst

Witness present

James McKay Forst

Hugh Sutherland

[Handwritten text]
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

Brownlow Duke of Ancaster and Kesteven Marquis and Earl of Lindsey Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum of the County of Lincoln and City of Lincoln and County of the same

To John Sinclair Gentleman

I reposeing Special Trust and Confidence in your Courage and Conduct to do His Majesty good and faithful Service by Virtue of the Powers and Authorities to me given by His Majesty's Command under the Great Seal of Great Britain have Constituted and appointed and by these Presents do constitute and appoint you the said John Sinclair to be Lieutenant in the Royal North Lincoln Militia. Into your Care and Charge duly to exercise as well the Superior Officers as Solders thereof in Arms wheresover there is or shall be occasion and to use your best Endeavours to keep them in good Order and Discipline and they are hereby commanded to obey you as their Lieutenant. And you are to observe and follow such Orders and Directions (from time to time) as you shall receive from His Majesty from me my Deputy Lieutenants or other Superior Officers according to the Rules and Disciplines of War in pursuance of the Trust hereby reposed in you.

Given under my Hand and Seal the Seventeenth day of June in the Forty fourth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign King George the Third by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland King Defender of the Faith etc And in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and four.

Ancestor of Kesteven Lord Lieutenant

Typewritten copy prepared by M Skipworth 1 February 2000
Horse Guards
19 August 1806

Lieut. Colonel Gordon has received
The Commander in Chief’s Commands to acquaint
Lieut John Sinclair, that His Majesty has been
pleased to appoint Him to an Ensigncy in the
1st Royal Veteran Battalion, and His Royal Highness
desires He will immediately report himself to The
Adjutant General in London

Lieut. John Sinclair
Lincoln Militia

Typescript copy prepared by MSS 1 February 2009
George the Third by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c To our Trusty & Wellbeloved John Sinclair Gent

We do by these Presents, Constitute and Appoint you to be Ensign to that Company whereof Esq is Captain in Our First Royal Veteran Battalion, Commanded by Our Trusty & Wellbeloved Lieutenant General James Stewart

You are therefore carefully and diligently to Discharge the Duty of Ensign by Exercising and Well disciplining both the inferior Officers and Soldiers of that Company and We do hereby, Command them to Obev you as their Ensign and You are to observe and follow such Orders and Directions, from Time to Time, as you shall receive from your Colonel or any other your Superior Officer according to the Rules and Discipline of War, in pursuance of the Trust hereby reposed in You. Given at Our Court at Saint James’s the Fourteenth day of August 1806 in the Forty-Sixth Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty’s Command

Typescript copy prepared by MSS 1 February 2000
Gibraltar Bay May 22nd 1810

Sir,

The Adjutancy of the 1st Royl Veteran Batallion, under my command, having become vacant by the appointment of Lieut Stevenson to a Staff situation at York Hospital, Chelsea, I beg leave to Recommend (with the concurrence and approbation of Lt General Stewart) Ensign John Sinclair as the successor.

Ensign Sinclair has been acting as Adjutant to the 1st R. V. Battalion for a period of nearly two years – his attention assiduity and intelligence has been found beneficial in the Discipline of the Corps, and I feel that in justice to him as a good and meritorious Officer and also with a view to the advantage of the Battalion, it is proper for me to bring his Services and Pretensions under your Excellency’s consideration.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Excellency’s most obedient

Humble servant

His Excellency

Lt General Campbell

Commander in Chief

Simon Fraser

Major Coms 1 RV B

Typescript copy prepared by M Skipworth 1 February 2000
George the Third by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c To our Trusty and Wellbeloved John Sinclair Gent Greeting. We do, by these Presents Constitute and Appoint you to be Adjutant to Our First Royal Veteran Battalion, Commanded by Our Trusty and Wellbeloved Lieutenant General James Stewart.

You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the Duty of Adjutant by doing and performing all and all manner of Things thereunto belonging. And you are to observe and follow such Orders and Directions from Time to Time as you shall receive from Your Colonel, or any other your superior Officer according to the Rules and Discipline of War. Given at Our Court at St James’s the Nineteenth day of April 1810 in the Fiftieth Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty’s Command

Typescript copy prepared by MS 1 February 2000
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

Administration
of the effects of
John Sinclair
deceased
Dated 4th June
1841
Extracted by Haden
Glennie Farquhar
& Haden Proctors
Doctors Commons

Typescript copy prepared by MSS 1 February 2001
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

William by Divine Providence Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of all England, and Metropolitan, To our well beloved in Christ Donald Sinclair, the natural and lawful Son of John Sinclair late of Berwick upon Tweed in the County of Northumberland an Adjutant of the first Royal Veteran Battalion. Widower, deceased. Greeting

Whereas the said John Sinclair (as is alleged) lately died Intestate, having whilst living, and at the time of his Death, Goods, Chattels, or Credits, in divers Dioceses or Jurisdictions, by reason whereof the sole ordering and granting Administration of all and singular the said Goods, Chattels and Credits, and also the auditing, allowing and final discharging the Account thereof, are well known to appertain only and wholly to us, and not to any inferior Judge: WE being desirous that the said Goods, Chattels, and Credits, may be well and faithfully administered, applied, and disposed of according to Law, DO therefore by these Presents grant full Power and Authority to you, in whose Fidelity we confide, to administer and faithfully dispose of the said Goods, Chattels, and Credits, and to ask, demand, recover, and receive whatever Debts and Credits, which, whilst living, and at the Time of his Death, did any way belong to his Estate, and to pay whatever Debts the said Deceased at the Time of his Death, did owe, so far as such Goods, Chattels, and Credits will thereby extend, and the Law requires: You having been duly sworn by Commission well and faithfully to administer the same, and to make a true and perfect Inventory of all and singular the said Goods, Chattels, and Credits, and to exhibit the same into the Registry of our Prerogative Court of Canterbury, on or before the last Day of December next ensuing: and also to render a just and true Account thereof on or before the last Day of June which shall be in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight hundred and forty two. And We do by these Presents ordain, depute, and constitute you Administrators of all and singular the Goods, Chattels, and Credits of the said Deceased. Given at London the fourth day of June in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight hundred and forty one and in the thirteenth year of Our Translation

[Signed by three]

ENTERED AT THE AUDIT OFFICE
10 June 41
T R Denis

Deputy
Registers

Typescript copy prepared by M. Skipworth 1 February 2000

- 31 - 25 June 2016 Compiled by Mary Skipworth
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

Appendix 2: Manson Sinclair (#8 above) - Inquest and Funeral

REPORT OF INQUEST ON MANSON SINCLAIR

The Inspector of Police gave evidence: On Tues morning last, 11 July, at 20 minutes to 9, he was working in his garden when he heard 2 reports of firearms. He looked in the direction of Mr Sinclair’s property and saw the deceased walking away from the back of the house. A minute after he heard another report and almost immediately after that a fourth. The last 2 were from near Brougham St which is the boundary on the South of Mr Sinclair’s land. The deceased was frequently in the habit of practising with his revolver in the morning. 4 of the barrels are discharged and one is still loaded.

A neighbour gave evidence of Mrs Sinclair calling her over the hedge to come and to send for a doctor. He was standing in his bedroom when she first saw him. She nursed him till he died, died at her house.

Doctor: saw him at 9.30, bullet wound 1/2” below the breast bone. Deceased said that after firing once or twice he wanted to remove the chamber as the lock went stiff. To do that he held the pistol by the barrel with the muzzle directed towards his body, and whilst he was doing that the hammer went down on one of the loaded barrels which exploded. He was knocked flat on his back but got up and went inside ..... bullet extracted following day about midday, appeared to be doing well, Doctors left, then George had to chase after them on horseback ...... in great pain ......died at 9 min to 5 “this morning” [Monday 17th]

FUNERAL OF MR. MANSON SINCLAIR

The body of this unfortunate gentleman, whose decease we announced in our last, was conveyed to its final resting place, in the New Cemetery, on Wednesday afternoon. Various causes contributed to impart unusual interest to the funeral. The genial character, and fine manly nature of Mr. Sinclair, won for him a large circle of friends, while the manner of his death, which so suddenly removed from us one of the most stalwart of our native-born young men, caused a shock, which was felt almost universally. The connection of the deceased with several public bodies - Captain of the City Volunteers, Captain of the Fire Brigade, a member of the Masonic body, and of one of the lodges of Odd-Fellows, gave the funeral a public character, as members of all these bodies took part in it. The funeral procession was formed in the following order, by Past Masters Scaly and Squires:-

| Volunteers Band |
| Masons - Southern Star Lodge:- |
| Steward |
| Master Masons - (two and two) |
| Steward |
| Treasurer and Secretary |
| Brother Moutray, with the Bible, supported by the two Deacons |
| W.M. Burn, supported by P.M.’s Shepherd and Younger |
| Clergy |
| Fire Brigade. The Hearse, Fire Brigade |
| Mourning Carriages |
| Odd-Fellows - Loyal Howard Lodge |
| Mourners |

As the procession advanced up Bronti Street into Trafalgar Street South on its way to church, it had a most imposing appearance, while the measured tread of the large concourse of mourners, keeping step to the music of the Dead March, played by the band, imparted great solemnity to the scene. Arrived at Christ Church, the body was carried by members of the Fire Brigade into the centre aisle, the Volunteer sword and belt of the deceased, and his Fireman’s helmet and coat, resting on the coffin. After the Rev. G. H. Johnstone had read the first portion of the Burial Service, the body was re-conveyed to the hearse, and the procession having re-formed, proceeded round the East side of Trafalgar-square, along Nile Street East, down Collingwood Street, and through the Wood, on its way to the Cemetery - the band all the while playing the Dead March, and the different bells of the city tolling their solemn notes. Arrived at the grave, the officiating clergyman completed the Burial Service, which was followed by the reading of a most impressive Masonic address by W. M. Burn. This ended, the Worshipful Master cast a lambskin apron upon the coffin - regarded by Masons as a badge of innocence, and a bond of friendship - the brethren marching around the grave, and each casting into it an evergreen sprig. The Volunteers then advanced to the grave, over which they fired three volleys, which closed the sad ceremony. We will not venture to estimate the number of persons who followed the body to the Cemetery, or of those who were waiting its arrival at the church, but no such gatherings were ever seen before in Nelson on a similar sad occasion.
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

Appendix 3: Rawson & Wilson, Dentists (refer The Colonist 10 Dec 1888)

Among the apprentice dentists trained by the Rawson dental practice in Wellington, initially by Henry RAWSON, and after his death by his brother Herbert, was John Sinclair WILSON (#12 above), brother of Sarah Isabel WILSON, who in 1879 would marry another Rawson brother, Alfred.

After he had qualified, John Wilson was engaged to travel in the northern districts of the South Island on a fixed salary, practising under the name Rawson & Wilson. An arrangement was eventually made whereby Rawson sold the practice to Wilson for £300, of which £150 had been paid by the time of Wilson’s death at age 25 in 1886. The death notice indicates that John died at Herbert Rawson’s home in Wellington, suggesting that a cordial relationship existed between the two men.

Some time previous to John Wilson’s death, his younger brother Joseph had also qualified in dentistry with Mr Rawson, but had left on bad terms. He had been practising on the West Coast, but in 1886 came to Nelson with a view to taking up his brother’s practice. Prior to coming, he sent an advertisement to the Nelson papers that he would shortly arrive, and subsequently he saw an advertisement from Mr Rawson that he had no connection with Mr Joseph Wilson. There was also an advertisement in the Colonist: “Wilson & Rawson, a member of the firm will visit Nelson shortly,” which the Wilsons (father and son) asserted had been inserted in error, without instruction.

Mr Rawson sent a lawyer’s letter demanding that the latter advertisement be withdrawn, and Joseph Wilson then advertised (without seeking legal advice) that he had no connection with Rawson & Wilson. A court action followed, with the Wilsons suing Rawson, alleging that the value of the business had been diminished by his demands regarding use of the name, and in consequence refusing to pay the balance outstanding on the purchase price.

Evidence was also given that at the time of purchasing the practice, John Wilson had offered to drop the Rawson name, but had been encouraged to retain it “in the meantime” until he was established. Joseph Wilson gave evidence that he understood he was taking over the practice "without the right to use the Rawson name."

Alfred Rawson gave evidence that his father-in-law, Joseph Wilson snr, had discussed the continued use of the Rawson name and asked him to consult his brother, whose reply, that on no account would he sanction the use of the name by Joseph jnr, was immediately forwarded to the father. The final outcome of this unfortunate altercation has not been discovered. Joseph Wilson went on to practice dentistry in Blenheim, Greymouth and Invercargill.
Appendix 4: Henry Foord Rawson's case

After two years at Nelson College (1896-97), Harry had joined the staff of the Bank of New South Wales in 1899 and worked for about 10 years in branches in Masterton and Wellington. About this time the Bank took a number of young men to Australia, Harry included. He did well in the Bank, and by 1920 had risen to the position of accountant in the Pitt Street branch in Sydney. Along the way however, Harry became interested in the Union movement, and was centrally involved in the formation of the Bank Officers' Association in 1919, acting as its first secretary.

Harry had been warned by the Bank's inspector that his connection with the formation of the Association could cause him difficulty, so was probably not surprised to learn of his transfer from Sydney to Dubbo, where he would be less able to cause trouble. Harry refused the transfer and was dismissed. It has also been suggested to me that Harry had married in 1908 without first obtaining the Bank's approval, as was usual at that time.

Then followed a series of court cases which attracted wide interest, breaking new ground in the Industrial Court. The judge found that the reason for Harry's dismissal was his refusal to go to Dubbo, but he also found that the reason for his transfer to Dubbo was a report by the Pitt St manager.

"I find" said the judge "that the statements in that report were false. I find that Hilder, the metropolitan inspector, did, in April 1919, warn and, in fact, threaten Rawson that his connection with the formation of an association of bank clerks might get him into trouble. I find that Hilder's ready acceptance of the June report and the very perfunctory inquiry as to Rawson's conduct made by Hilder from Moxham, coupled with the terms of the letter of July 4,* show an intention by Hilder to carry out that threat. I find that the general manager was deceived by the June report and that he acted indirectly on that report. I find that Rawson's connection with the association was known to the general manager, and was known to him and present to his mind at the time he directed the removal to Dubbo. I find that the general manager and Alford, the chief inspector, concealed from Rawson the charges made against him by Moxham, the Pitt street manager. I find that the conduct of all the officers of the bank concerned in the removal of Rawson was of such a character as might have then and may now raise a strong suspicion in the minds of his fellow-employees that Rawson was being punished for his conduct in promoting the association and that the conduct of those officers does establish a precedent which the employees of the bank feel, and reasonably feel, is prejudicial to them. I find that Rawson's connection with the formation of the association was in fact the real, though indirect, cause of his ultimate dismissal."72

* The letter referred to stated that it had been decided to appoint Rawson accountant at Dubbo at the same salary as he then received. The manager was asked to direct Rawson to report to Dubbo as soon as possible. The letter concluded: "In regard to Mr. Rawson," the chief inspector says "please verbally intimate to him that we are giving him this chance in a new position to enable him to prove his worth, and if his new manager's reports are unfavourable, we shall have to consider the question of his retention in the service.” Up to that time Harry had had no intimation that his conduct in his position had been unsatisfactory to his employers, except in one respect - his calling a meeting to form an industrial association in April, 1919.

The judge ordered Harry's reinstatement, a decision which the Bank appealed on questions of jurisdiction and the law. The appeal was heard by the Chief Justice assisted by 2 other judges, and dismissed. Harry was reinstated as required by the judgments, but spent most of the rest of his career relieving managers around NSW.
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

Appendix 5: Sinclairs in Reay, Caithness

The following entries in Reay Parish Register may relate indirectly to our family, but to date no proven links have been found. However the possibility is open that the first William in "our" Sinclair chart (page 2) was the son of William Sinclair and Elspet Miller in the chart below. I am indebted to Alison Menzies for extracting these details in 1982, they have been confirmed by Nina Sinclair Cawthorne in 2011.

6 Jan 1752 Will: Sinclair in Stempster had a child baptised named [BLANK]
29 Mar 1752 James Sinclair in Stempster and Anna Swanson, Isauld were married
13 Mar 1754 James Sinclair, son to Wm. Sinclair in Stempster had his son John baptised
21 Mar 1755 John Sinclair in Stempster had his son William baptised
2 Mar 1756 Will: Sinclair in Stempster had his son John baptised [alt date 2 Apr 1762]
29 Aug 1756 James Sinclair in Stempster had his son William baptised
18 Jul 1801 James Sinclair, tenant [this word is written in Greek] in Stempster married Margaret Milne there

July 20 1754 Will: Sinclair in Dounry married Euphem McKay (alias McHattie) in Reay
June 19 1755 Will: Sinclair in Dounry had his son William baptised
Dec 28 1761 Wm Sinclair in the parish of Thurso married Hazel McDonald in Lybster
June 16 1762 Wm Sinclair in Brawlbinn had his daughter Catherine baptised
24 Oct 1768 Wm Sinclair merchant in Brawlbinn and Barbara Campbell had a son William bapt
19 Oct 1783 Andrew, lawful son to John Sinclair and Catherine Manson in Shebster
No Donald Sinclair baptism found in 1802

Alison suggested that William, James and John may have been sons of William Sinclair in Stempster and suggested seeking a will, but nothing likely is listed at Scotland's People.

Additional from Nina
8 Nov 1729 William Sinclair in Stemster married Elspet Miller in Forse
witnesses William Sutherland, Donald Miller
21 May 1767 James Sinclair in Isauld had his son Alexander baptised
6 Jan 1759 William Sinclair in Isauld had his daughter Elspat baptised
18 Sep 1763 James Sinclair in Isauld had his daughter Jean baptised
20 May 1765 James Sinclair in Isauld had his daughter Jean baptised
24 Apr 1787 George Sinclair in Stemster was married to Janet Elder there.
15 Sep 1786 Robert Elder in Stemster was married to Christian Sinclair there
1797 Donald Sinclair in Stemster paid 2 shillings horse tax for one of his four horses
10 Jan 1801 Donald Sinclair in Isauld married Catherine Mackay in North Reay.
(ex film 990554) 11 Dec 1802 Donald Sinclair son of Donald S and Catherine Mackay baptised
## BIRTH TRANSCRIPTION from
### NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages

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This is a transcription and NOT a certified copy from the Registers of Births, Deaths and Marriages and cannot be used in any legal proceedings whatsoever.

**JOY MURRIN** - Transcription Agent
**NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages**

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Compiled by Mary Skipworth mskip@xtra.co.nz 25 June 2016
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

Source Citations

1. FamilySearch.org, Film 1469108.
2. NZSG Cemetery Transcripts, Linwood Q10.07.
4. NZ Registration Births Index, 1849/7738 certificate sighted.
5. NZ Registration Marriages Index, 1856/1904 NS.
6. NZSG Cemetery Transcripts, Motueka N04.12.
7. NZSG Cemetery Transcripts, Bromley Q10.05.
8. NZ Registration Marriages Index, 1881/397 NS.
9. NZ Registration Births Index, 1864/7078 NS.
10. NZ Registration Births Index, 1859/211.
11. NZ Registration Marriages Index, 1879/436 NS.
12. NSW Deaths Registration, 10224/1954.
13. NZSG Cemetery Transcripts, Waikumete B02.04.
14. NZ Registration Marriages Index, 1875/714 NS.
15. NZ Registration Births Index, 1851/424 NS unnamed female.
17. NZ Registration Births Index, 1875/1880.
18. NZ Registration Births Index, 1877/1365.
19. NZ Registration Marriages Index, 1904/5406 NS.
20. NZ Registration Births Index, 1878/2430. certificate sighted.
21. NZ Registration Marriages Index, 1904/4418. certificate sighted.
22. NZ Registration Births Index, 1887/1900 NS.
23. NZ Registration Births Index, 1857/2087 NS.
24. Memorandum of John Sinclair 1838 dictated to his son Donald.
25. NZ Registration Deaths Index, 1871/2233 NS certificate sighted.
26. NZ Registration Deaths Index, 1911/6616 NS.
27. NZ Registration Deaths Index, 1940/26099 NS.
28. NZ Registration Deaths Index, 1923/1653 NS.
29. NZ Registration Deaths Index, 1955/28574 NS.
30. NZ Registration Deaths Index, 1953/44339 NS.
31. NZ Registration Births Index, 1884/2346 NS.
32. NZ Registration Marriages Index, 1909/5752.
33. NZ Registration Births Index, 1890/2745.
34. NZ Registration Births Index, 1893/18048 NS.
35. NZ Registration Deaths Index, 1976/38116 NS.
36. NZ Registration Marriages Index, 1930/8119 NS.
37. NZ Registration Marriages Index, 1886/1498 NS.
38. NZ Registration Marriages Index, 1920/4782 NS.
39. NZSG Pre 1856 marriages collection; Nelson Examiner 26 Apr 1845.
40. NZ Registration Births Index, 1908/11215 NS.
41. NZ Registration Deaths Index, 1883/2774 NS certificate sighted.
47. NZ Registration Deaths Index, 1886/5135 NS.
49. NZ Registration Marriages Index, 1922/8095 NS.
50. Examiner 19 Jul 1871.
51. Examiner 22 Jul 1871.
52. NZ Registration Deaths Index, 1937/22908 NS.
53. NZ Registration Births Index, 1882/6931 NS.
54. NZ Registration Deaths Index, 1992/38455 NS.
55. NZSG Cemetery Transcripts, Karori.
56. NZ Registration Deaths Index, 1979/42330 NS.
57. NZ Registration Births Index, 1880/2427 NS.
58. NZ Registration Marriages Index, 1907/5209 NS.
59. NZ Registration Births Index, 1882/3083 NS.
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60. *NZ Registration Births Index*, 1884/2346 NS
61. *NZ Registration Births Index*, 1905/7240 NS
62. *NZ Registration Births Index*, 1908/9844 NS
63. *NZ Registration Births Index*, 1888/2710 NS
64. *NZ Registration Births Index*, 1886/19251 NS
65. *NZ Registration Births Index*, 1892/3777 NS
66. *NZ Registration Births Index*, 1889/13324 NS
67. *NZ Registration Births Index*, 1886/11223 NS
68. *NZ Registration Marriages Index*, 1908/1551 NS
69. *NZ Registration Deaths Index*, 1932/5470 NS
70. *NZ Registration Deaths Index*, 1933/10634 NS
71. *NZ Registration Deaths Index*, 1993/42986 NS
72. *The Mercury*, Hobart 26 Apr 1921
73. *NZ Registration Marriages Index*, 1917/6345
74. *Intention to Marry*, National Archives NZ, BDM 20/16 page 347 No 19: RG 1197 (Nelson District)

**Further Reading**

*Sinclairs of Roslin, Caithness and Goshen* by Sinclair, Alexander Maclean Sinclair, 1901, Publisher: Charlottetown, P.E. Island : Examiner, available for reading online at [http://www.ourroots.ca/page.aspx?id=4089503&amp;grvID=f35f186c-4e95-48ab-b757-fe1fbae481aa](http://www.ourroots.ca/page.aspx?id=4089503&amp;grvID=f35f186c-4e95-48ab-b757-fe1fbae481aa) or at [http://www.archive.org/stream/sinclairsofrosli00sinc/sinclairsofrosli00sinc_djvu.txt](http://www.archive.org/stream/sinclairsofrosli00sinc/sinclairsofrosli00sinc_djvu.txt)

I am endebted to Rob Sinclair for drawing my attention to this book which traces the relationships of several families of Sinclairs in Reay. As in the case of the records on page 37, evidence linking the families in this book to our Sinclairs is still elusive.

**Acknowledgments**

I am endebted to Christabel Jackson for providing transcripts of Natalie Little’s notebooks in 2011 and for providing the images of Bessie Wilson with her 2 grandfathers.

My grateful thanks to Ken Mullan for access to Sinclair documents.
Family of Donald Sinclair (1802-1871)

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