

LETTERS FROM SCOTLAND AND OTHER DATA ON SCOTLAND

The major event that aroused my curiosity to start research on the Clark family history was six letters from relatives in Scotland between 1881 and 1889 as follows:

1. September 12, 1881 from John Clark, 94 Florence St. Glasgow (son of John Clark) to his uncle and aunt -Alexander and Agnes Clark.
2. January 4, 1882 from Maggie Clark, Park Terrace, Catrine (daughter of John Clark) to her uncle and aunt -Alexander and Agnes Clark.
3. December 30, 1884 from John Clark, Cowanbog, Kirkintilloch, Dumbartonshire, to his uncle and aunt advising of address change from Glasgow.
4. March 8, 1888 from Willie Clark, 95 Finlay Drive, Glasgow (son of George Clark) to his cousin George Clark.
5. March 15, 1889 from James Templeton, 141 Main St. Garbals, Glasgow (husband of Agnes Clark) to his brother-in-law Alexander Clark.
6. May 11, 1889 from Willie Clark to his cousin George Clark.

These letters proved invaluable in researching Scottish records on microfilm. I found Alexander's brother John (cotton weaver) and his family listed in the 1861, 1871 and 1881 census at Catrine; his nephew John (letter above) in the 1881 census at Glasgow; his nephew Willie Clark (secretary of the Steel Co. of Scotland) in the 1891 census at Glasgow; his brother-in-law James and Agnes Templeton (cotton weaver) in the 1851 census at Auchinleck; the death records for Alexander's brother William 1876 and his wife Janet McMaster 1881 and their burial in Catrine as well as their marriage in Sorn in 1837; his brother George Clark (snuff box maker) and his wife Jean Caldow from the Mauchline parish and their children George, Margaret and William (writer of above letters).

Unfortunately, the 1841 census for Auchinleck was lost at sea in a return trip from the printers in London, and I have not been able to trace Alexander's parents as I expect they were alive then. I haven't found them in the official country death records which began in 1855. More research would probably turn up some descendants of Willie Clark due to his prominent position as secretary of the Steel Co. of Scotland - however there are 14 columns of Clark's listed in the current issue of the Glasgow phone directory. Incidentally, Catrine and Sorn are villages less than 5 miles from Auchinleck. Catrine became built up after 1787 when a five storied cloth mill was erected. It was probably due to this event that Alexander's father moved to the Auchinleck area as he was a weaver.