Ancestors of David Andrew COCKBURN

This Cockburn branch have been farmers for many generations and come originally from the border lands of Berwickshire. Available records show that they farmed at the following places:

- Doctor’s Wynd, Eyemouth (140 acres)
- West Edge, Berwick-Upon-Tweed (302 acres; employed 6 labourers & 2 boys)
- Greenfield, Foulden (251 acres; employed 4 men, 4 women & 1 boy)
- Shaw Braes, Reston

David and Lizzie Cockburn (4th generation below) emigrated with their only child, David Bonar Cockburn, to Southern Rhodesia in the early 1900s, and took up farming there. David Andrew Cockburn (7th generation below) has continued the tradition of both farming and migration, and has produced wine in western Australia and tobacco in Lombok, Indonesia.

So far, Andrew’s family tree has been traced back to the late 1700s, the missing link in the 1800s, along with much of the documentation being kindly provided by my genealogical correspondent, Meg Stenhouse. In determining Generation 1, Meg has assumed that Scottish naming conventions have been followed, whereby the eldest son is named after the father's father, the eldest daughter after the mother's mother, the second son after the mother's father, the second daughter after the father's mother, the third son after the father, and the third daughter after the mother. Apparently, this was quite strictly followed in Scotland for hundreds of years, with very few exceptions. However, it should be noted that this doesn’t necessarily apply in all of the following generations.

Cockburn Family Tree

Generation No: 1

1. Thomas ¹ COCKBURN, born sometime in the late 1700s. He is still to be positively identified, but his name is based on the naming conventions mentioned above. However, there are some possibilities, which I will go into later in this paper.

The child of Thomas COCKBURN is:

2. (i) David ² COCKBURN, b. circa 1812 in Chirnside, Berwickshire, Scotland; d. 30 May 1878 at West Edge Farm, First or North Road, Berwick on Tweed, Northumberland, England.

Generation No: 2

2. David ² COCKBURN (Thomas ¹) (Source: Mentioned in his son's, James, Marriage Certificate - see below) was born circa 1812 in Chirnside, Berwickshire, Scotland, and died 30 May 1878 in West Edge Farm, First or North Road, Berwick on Tweed, Northumberland, England (Source: Index of Wills and Administrations, 1878). He married Margaret BONAR (Source: mentioned in
his son's, James, Marriage Certificate - see below) on 9 December 1836 in Abbey St. Bathans, Berwickshire, Scotland, daughter of James BONAR and Christian LUKE. Margaret was born 14 January 1812 in Coldingham, Berwickshire, Scotland (see birth and baptism details at [https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XTY5-ZR9](https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XTY5-ZR9)).

Notes on David 2 COCKBURN and Margaret BONAR:

(a) Marriage (1836): this is recorded in Family Search at: [https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XTL3-75W](https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XTL3-75W)

(b) 1841 Census:

(c) 1851 Census:
(d) 1861 Census:

(d) 1861 Census:

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<th>Surname</th>
<th>First name(s)</th>
<th>Rel</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Where Born</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<td>David</td>
<td>Head</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>Farmer Of 302ac, 6lab &amp; 2boys</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
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<tr>
<td>COCKBURN</td>
<td>Margaret</td>
<td>Wife</td>
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<td>F</td>
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<td>U</td>
<td>M</td>
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<td>M</td>
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<tr>
<td>COCKBURN</td>
<td>William</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Scholar</td>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>-</td>
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</table>

(e) 1871 Census:

(e) 1871 Census:

(f) Index of Wills and Administrations, 1878:

(f) Index of Wills and Administrations, 1878:

COCKBURN David.

15 August. The Will of David Cockburn late of West Edge in the Borough of Berwick-on-Tweed Farmer who died 30 May 1878 at West Edge domiciled in England was proved at Newcastle-upon-Tyne by Margaret Cockburn of West Edge Widow the Relict the sole Executrix.
The children of David COCKBURN and Margaret BONAR are:

3. (i) Thomas COCKBURN, b. circa 1838 at Coldingham, Berwickshire, Scotland. He can be seen on the 1851 census sheet.

3. (ii) James COCKBURN, b. 6 October 1839 at Ayton, Berwickshire, Scotland; d. 9 May 1879, at Greenfield, Foulden, Berwick, Scotland. See birth record at:
https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XTYL-22H

3 (iii) John COCKBURN, b. 24 April 1842 at Eyemouth, Berwickshire, Scotland. See birth record at:
https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XTBM-18S

3. (iv) Christian COCKBURN, b. 18 August 1844 at Eyemouth, Berwickshire, Scotland; married (as second wife) Robert George SWAN (Source: Daughter's Marriage Certificate.) after 1882; Robert G. Swan was b. 7 August 1830 at Cranshaws, Berwickshire, Scotland, and d. after 1907. See birth record at:
https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XTBM-LR7

3 (v) David COCKBURN, b. 28 Feb 1847 at Eyemouth, Berwickshire, Scotland. See birth record at:

3 (vi) William COCKBURN, b. 7 Dec 1849 at Eyemouth, Berwickshire, Scotland. See birth record at:
https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XYWQ-T7W

**Generation No: 3**

3 (ii) James COCKBURN (David 2, Thomas 1) was born 6 October 1839 in Ayton, Berwickshire, Scotland, and died 9 May 1879 in Greenfield, Foulden, Berwick, Scotland (Source: Death
Certificate). He married Jane DARLING (Source: Marriage Certificate) on 26 June 1866 in Mordington Free Church Manse, Mordington, Berwick, Scotland (Source: Marriage Certificate), daughter of George DARLING and Isabella ORD. She was born circa 1832 in Berwick on Tweed, Northumberland, England, and died 24 March 1888 in Greenfield, Foulden, Berwick, Scotland (Source: Death Certificate).

Notes on James 3 COCKBURN and Jane DARLING:

(a) Marriage Certificate (1866) of James Cockburn and Jane Darling:
(b) Death Certificate (1879) of James ³ COCKBURN:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Cause of Death</th>
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(c) Death Certificate (1888) of Jane COCKBURN (née DARLING):

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<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Date of Birth</th>
<th>Date of Death</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Cause of Death</th>
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</tbody>
</table>
The children of James COCKBURN and Jane DARLING are:

4. (i) Isabella Darling COCKBURN, b. 29 July 1867 at Greenfield Farm House, Foulden, Berwickshire, Scotland.
4. (ii) David 4 COCKBURN, b. 14 February 1869, Greenfield, Foulden, Berwick, Scotland.
4 (iii) George Darling COCKBURN (Source: Death Certificate.), b. 15 Dec. 1870, Greenfield, Foulden, Berwick, Scotland; d. 9 September 1882, Greenfield, Foulden, Berwickshire, Scotland (Source: Death Certificate.).
4 (iv) JAMES COCKBURN, b. 31 Dec. 1872, Greenfield Farm House, Foulden, Berwickshire, Scotland.

Generation No: 4

4. (ii) David 4 COCKBURN (James 3, David 2, Thomas 1) was born 14 February 1869 in Greenfield, Foulden, Berwick, Scotland (Source: Birth Certificate.). He married Elizabeth (aka. Lizzie) Neilson SWAN (Source: Marriage Certificate) on 12 November 1895 in Veitch's Hotel, George Street, Edinburgh, Midlothian, Scotland (Source: Marriage Certificate.), daughter of Robert George SWAN and Margaret BLACK. Lizzie was born on 29 October 1863 in Duns, Berwickshire, Scotland (see https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XYRS-RLG).

Notes on David 4 COCKBURN and Lizzie Neilson SWAN:

(a) Birth Certificate (1869) of David 4 COCKBURN:
Note: This census shows a number of interesting facts:
(i) Christian Cockburn, David Cockburn’s aunt, is now married, as his second wife, to Robert George Swan;
(ii) David Cockburn is now working as a Farmer’s Assistant, at Shawbraes, and his relationship to the Head of the Family, Robert George Swan, is shown as nephew.
(iii) This period of his working life brought him into close proximity to Lizzie Neilson Swan, daughter of Robert George Swan from his first marriage to Margaret Black, and presumably set the stage for their later marriage in 1895.

(c) Marriage Certificate (1895) for David Cockburn and Lizzie Nielson Swan:

Note: The marriage certificate for David COCKBURN and Lizzie Neilson Swan shows David's father correctly named as James, but his mother is named as Isabella, instead of Jane - Isabella was his Grandmother's name.
Note: Six years into married life, David and Lizzie Cockburn are now farming at Castleton (see Google map), where their son, David Bonar Cockburn, was born two years later.
(e) 1911 Census:

Note: Family history indicates that David 4 COCKBURN left the Shaw Braes farm in Reston, with his wife and child, in 1907, which may well be correct, but would mean that they had left Castleton, and returned to Shaw Braes between 1901 and 1907. However, this 1911 census shows that they were still in Foulden, Berwickshire, in 1911, and that David was no longer self-employed as a farmer, but was employed as a shepherd.

The book *Coldingham Parish and Priory* by A. Thomson, published in 1908, states on page 275 (which can be found at http://archive.org/stream/coldinghamparis00thomgoog#page/n360/mode/2up), that “the owner (of Shaw Braes) immediately preceding the present proprietrix was Mrs Margaret Cockburn”. My genealogical correspondent, Meg Stenhouse, has indicated that in the 1901 census, Margaret Cockburn, aged 86, is recorded as boarding in Edinburgh with Ann Miller, aged 65, and her son William Miller, aged 27.

One further fact, which can be found on the Cockburn family tree website, shows that Robert George Swan retired on 1 January 1907. The 1891 census tells us that he was farming Shaw Braes at that time.

Thus two possibilities appear to exist:

1. Margaret was perhaps the absentee owner of Shaw Braes, and allowed her grandson to farm it, but that the farm had to be sold upon her death, which presumably was about 1907, and that David then worked as a shepherd for a few years before taking the decision to emigrate to Southern Rhodesia.
2. Margaret had already given Shaw Braes to her daughter, Christian (married to Robert George Swan), i.e. she was the “present proprietrix” mentioned in *Coldingham Parish and Priory*, and they decided to sell the farm in 1907 upon the retirement of Robert George Swan.

The (only) child of David COCKBURN and Lizzie SWAN is:

5. (i) David Bonar 5 COCKBURN, b. 22 February 1903 in Castleton, North Berwick, East Lothian, Scotland; d. 19 Aug. 1946 in Salisbury, Rhodesia.

**Generation No: 5**

5. (i) David Bonar 5 COCKBURN (David 4, James 3, David 2, Thomas 1) was born 22 February 1903 in Castleton, North Berwick, East Lothian, Scotland (Source: Birth Certificate) and died on 19
August 1946 in Salisbury, Rhodesia. He married Dorothy Violet ULYETT on 20 January 1926 in Salisbury, Rhodesia (Source: Marriage Certificate), daughter of Reginald Heber ULYETT and Henrietta Barbery SPARGO. Dorothy was born 1 April 1902 in Johannesburg, South Africa and died on 2 June 1971 in Salisbury, Rhodesia.

Notes on David Bonar COCKBURN and Dorothy Violet ULYETT:

(a) Birth Certificate (1903) of David Bonar COCKBURN:

(b) Marriage Certificate (1926) for David Bonar Cockburn and Dorothy Violet Ulyett:
The children of David Bonar COCKBURN and Dorothy Violet ULYETT are:


**Generation No: 6**

6. (ii) David COCKBURN (David 5, David 4, James 3, David 2, Thomas 1) was born 15 May 1927 in Salisbury, Rhodesia, and died on 9 March 1980. He married Elizabeth McNALLY, who was born in 1929 in Northern Ireland, and who died on 27 June 1999 in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The children of David COCKBURN and Elizabeth McNALLY are:

7. (i) Siobain COCKBURN, b. 24 May 1961 in Salisbury, Rhodesia; living.
7. (ii) David Andrew COCKBURN, b. 9 January 1963 in Salisbury, Rhodesia; living.
7. (iii) Mairead COCKBURN, b. 9 February 1964 in Salisbury, Rhodesia; living.
7. (iv) Brian COCKBURN, b. 29 May 1965 in Salisbury, Rhodesia; d. 9 March 2002 in New Mexico, USA.

**Generation No: 7**

7. (ii) David Andrew COCKBURN (David 6, David 5, David 4, James 3, David 2, Thomas 1) was born on 9 January 1963 in Salisbury, Rhodesia. He married Felicity Claire JOHNSTONE on 28 August 1993. Felicity was born on 9 January 1967 (Note: same birthday as Andrew).

Children of David Andrew COCKBURN and Felicity Claire JOHNSTONE are:

8. (i) David Jack COCKBURN, b. 28 February 1996.

**Generation No: 8**

8. (i) David Jack COCKBURN (David Andrew 7, David 6, David Bonar 5, David 4, James 3, David 2, Thomas 1) was born on 28 February 1996.

**Earlier Generations**

So, who comes before Generation No: 1? While nothing is yet certain, new records become available every day. Here are a few important links, as well as suggestions for follow-up (perhaps by Generations 7 and 8!).
Bonar link: The book, *The Records of the Cockburn Family*, published in 1913, and which can be found online at:

http://archive.org/stream/recordsofcockbur00cock#page/203/mode/1up

shows, on page 203, that there was some sort of relationship between the Cockburns of Cockpen and the Bonars in the mid-1700s:

Knowing more about that relationship might suggest a link with the Cockburn branch in Cockpen.

(2) Selburnrigg link: The book *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Colonial Gentry (Vol. I)*, by Sir Bernard Burke, published in 1891, and which can be found online at:

http://www.archive.org/stream/genealogicalhera01burk#page/109/mode/1up/search/Cockburn

provides a list of first names for the Cockburns that are repeated in the above known generations, such as: James, John, David, and Thomas. While the book focuses on the first-born heirs, it’s possible that you descend from a second or third child. For example, David Cockburn, of Selburnrigg, who died in 1763, had a second son, named David, for whom the book gives no further details. However, subsequent research may reveal more details.
(3) **Thomas Cockburn (Generation No: 1):** We know that David Cockburn (Generation No: 2) was born in Chirnside, Berwickshire, circa 1812. Assuming that his father was called Thomas, searches on Family Search reveal:

(a) several children born to Thomas Cockburn and Ann Jeffrey in Chirnside:

(i) Janet Cockburn, born 28 October 1795. See:

https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XTYG-8JB
(ii) Isabella Cockburn, born 18 December 1797. See:
https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XTYG-CRM

(iii) Thomas Cockburn, born 4 January 1800. See:
https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XTYG-VYZ

(iv) Alison Cockburn, born 4 March 1802. See:
https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XTYG-KHQ

(b) two people named Thomas Cockburn, both born to John Cockburn and Mary Darling in Chirnside. See:
https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XTYG-PD6
https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XTYP-89P

The first one was born 8 April 1773, and the second was born 4 September 1777. It’s likely that the first Thomas died young, and John and Mary named their next son Thomas. This Thomas would have been 18 years old when the above Janet was born in 1795, and 35 years old when David Cockburn (Generation No: 2) was born circa 1812.

(c) John Cockburn and Mary Darling were married on 1 October 1770 in Chirnside. See:
https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XTLQ-C5S

In addition to the two Thomases mentioned above, they had two other recorded children:

(i) John Cockburn, born 28 July 1771. See:

(ii) George Cockburn, born 29 August 1780. See:
https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.1.1/XTYP-8SM
Map Locations

I have plotted the various locations on a Google Map, which can be found at:

https://mapsengine.google.com/map/edit?mid=z-KU2QTTr0f4A.kFn0kr0XTXg0

It can be seen that most of the locations are clustered together.

Robert Ashe, MBE
6 December 2013
robert@ashefamily.info

Genealogy Quotes

“History remembers only the celebrated; genealogy remembers everyone” - Laurence Overmire.

“Shake your family tree, and watch the nuts fall out” - Anon.

Murphy’s Law of Genealogy: “The public ceremony in which your distinguished ancestor participated, and at which the platform collapsed under him, turned out to be a hanging”.

“A family tree can wither if no-one tends its roots” - Anon.

Inscription on the grave of my 4th Great Granduncle, William Pickering (1705-1787):

Reader stand by and shed a tear;
Think on the dust that slumbers here;
And as thou read the fate of me,
Think of the glass that runs for thee.

Time is short. Genealogy must be done today!!