

THE STORY OF THE DUNBAR CHILDREN, INVERNESS

The 1881 census shows William and Grace Dunbar living with their children Jane, Augustus and Andrew and boarder Augusta at 18 Argyle Street, Inverness in a house with 4 windows.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the											Page 29
Civil Parish of	Quoad Sacra Parish of	School Board District of	Parliamentary Burgh of	Royal Burgh of	Police Burgh of	Town of	Village or Hamlet of				
Inverness		B. of Inverness		Inverness		Inverness					
No. of Houses	ROAD, STREET, &c., and No. or NAME of HOUSE.	HOUSES Un-occupied (1) or inhabited (2)	NAME and Surname of each Person.	RELATION to Head of Family.	CONDITION as to Marriage.	AGE (last Birthday) Males Females	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION.	WHERE BORN.		Whether 1. Deaf and dumb. 2. Blind. 3. Insane or idiot. 4. Lame.	Houses with Gas or other Windows.
1	18	1	William Dunbar	Head	Mar	49	Plumber employing 2 men & 12 boys	Inverness	Inverness		4
			Grace D ^o	Wife	D ^o	34		D ^o	D ^o		
			Jane D. D ^o	Daughter		4		D ^o	D ^o		
			Augustus W. D ^o	Son		2		D ^o	D ^o		
			Andrew M. D ^o	Son		1		D ^o	D ^o		
			Augusta F. Mackay	Boarder		14	scholar	D ^o	D ^o		

Two years later on 24 September 1883, William Dunbar registered both the birth of his son Alexander, and the death of his wife Grace.

A search of the 1891 census found William Dunbar and his daughter Jane living in Greig Street, Inverness – but where were the other children?

Checking the Inverness Parochial Board records, we found William applying for poor relief for his children on 28 May 1884.

3. Hour and Date of Application.	5. Name of Applicant.	4. Residence.	7. Condition.	8. Age.	9. Occupation.	10. Average Value of Weekly Earnings, if any.			11. Wholly or Partially Disabled.
12 Noon 28 th May 1884	William Dunbar for his 5 children.	18 Argyle Street. Inverness.	Widower.	49.	Plumber.	£	s.	d.	Partially Disabled. less.

He is also found asking that children be admitted to the Poorhouse for a week or ten days, with William agreeing to pay 5/- a week for each of them while they were there.

12. Names and Ages of Dependents.		13. Other Information to enable Parochial Board to decide Case—Names of Children not Dependents, Earnings, etc., etc.	14. No. of Previous Applications, if any.	15. Result of Application.		
Names.	Ages.			Date.	How disposed of by Inspector.	How disposed of by Parochial Board.
Children:- Jane Augustus Andrew Donald Alick All born in Inverness	8 6 1/2 5 2 1/2 8 1/2 8 1/2	Wife - Grace Mackay or Dunbar, died 8 months ago. The Board to allow the children to the Poorhouse for a week or ten days and promise to pay 5/- a week for each of them while there Resides in Inverness parish and children since birth We agree to the above (signed) William Dunbar (signed) John Robertson.		1884 May 28	Admitted to Poorhouse and referred to Committee.	Admission to Poorhouse in the circumstances afforded, and recommended to Law Agent to take care proceedings against the father as they think right.

Inverness Poorhouse admission register

The children entered the Poorhouse on 28 May 1884

2298	Jane Dunbar	F.	8
2299	Augustus Dunbar	M.	6 1/2
2300	Andrew Dunbar	M.	5
2301	Donald Dunbar	M.	2 1/2
2302	Alick Dunbar	M.	10/12



Whilst in the Poorhouse, the children attended Culcabock School.

147	2	5-87	Donald Dunbar	The Governor	Scraclaw
148	3	5-87	John M. H.		John P. H.

Culcabock School admission register

The records show that most of the children, apart from Jane, remained in the Poorhouse until May 1887 when it was decided that they should be boarded out (fostered). Donald and Alexander (Alick) were boarded out with the Macdonald family at Balintore, Abriachan and Andrew and Augustus lived with a family, also called Macdonald, at Burnside, Abriachan. All the boys went to Abriachan School.

30	5	87	Augustus Dunbar	John Macdonald	Burnside
30	5	87	Andrew Dunbar	John Macdonald	Burnside
30	5	87	Donald Dunbar	John Macdonald	Balintore

17	2	90	Alexander Dunbar	John M Donald	Balintore
			Donald T.		

Abriachan School admission register

John Macdonald	Head	Male	44	Brother	X		20	20	20	20	20	20		
Margret Do	Wife	Do	44	Brother's Wife			Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do		
Mary Ann Do	Daughter			Scholar			Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do		
John Do	Son		13	Do			Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do		
Catharine Do	Daughter		13	Do			Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do		
James MacKie	Teacher	Male	44	Retired Scholar			Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do		
James Simpson	Do		14	Scholar			Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do		
Donald Dunbar	Do		7	Do			Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do		
Alexander Do	Do		7	Do			Do	Do	Do	Do	Do	Do		

1891 census, Abriachan

In June 2014 Eric Delawder of Orange, California visited the Highland Archive Centre to trace his family history. As staff began to help him, they soon realised that he was descended from the Dunbar family detailed above. His great, great, grandmother was William Dunbar's sister. It was thrilling for the staff to be able to share with him the story of the Dunbar children.

