

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 under	nentioned Hou	ses are situ	ate within	the Boundari	es of the			Page 29
0	vil Parish of	Quoad Sy	cra Parish	B. of Sweenes		y Burgh of	0	Burgh of	Police Burgh o	Town of	, "	of Hamlet of
Se of Scholale.	ROAD, STREET, No. or NAME of	&c., and HOUSE.	HOUSES, Unin- habited (U.) or building (B.)	NAME and Surname of each Person.	RELATION to Head of Family.	condition as to Marriage.	AGE [last Birthday] Males. Females.	Rank, Professi	ion, or OCCUPATION.	WHERE BORN.	Wheth Deaf and D Rind Inbedie of Lunatio	Rooms with One or more windows.
105	- 18		./-	William Dunbar	Head Nife Daux	Than	34	Mumber Con	mploning 1 men 92 Hoy	Swern p thing by	to to	4
				Augustus W. J.	son bo		2:			De 1	90	
				augusta 7. Mackay	Boarden		14	Schola	~	000	30	

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.

2. Hour and Date of Application.	S. Name of Applicant.	Residence.	7. Condition.	8. Age.	9. Occupation.	Average Value of Weekly Earnings, if any.	11. Wholly or Partially Disabled.	
12. Noon. 28th May 1884.		18 Argyle Street.	Midower.	49.	Flumber.	None 1	Forkally Hand	

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.

Names and Ages of Dependants.		13.	No of Pre-		15. Result of Application.	
Names.	Ages.	Other Information to enable Parochial Board to decide Case—Names of Children not Dependants, Earnings, etc., etc.	vious Appli- cations, if any.	Date.	How disposed of by Inspector.	How d
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Augustas	62	houths ago. In the Board to allow the		100 F	house and referred	affe
Indrew	5-	children to the Poorhouse for a week or her days and promise to pay of a a week for each of them while				-m
Donald	24.	or hen days and promise to pay of				1. 6
Alich	years 8 m	a a week for each of them while				Cua
All form in is	words:	there				fat
	1	Resides in Inverness parish and children				then
		since birth		10	01	
			2	298 Ja	ne Lunba	*
		Me agree to the above (signed) John		0	10	
		Robertson	1	2299 Uu	gustus De	in

Inverness Poorhouse admission register

The children entered the Poorhouse on 28 May 1884



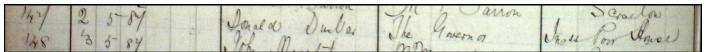
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Whilst in the Poorhouse, the children attended Culcabook School.



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.

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17 2 90	Alexander Dunbar	John M Donald	Balentone

Abriachan School admission register

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	Thomas Do	Son	-	19	-				90 00	346	
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	Donald Dunbar	20		12		2			20 20	916	
	Alexander Do	90		19-					90 20	Sept.	
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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.







