

MacGregor - de Wilton Family – New Information as of May 2014

In his letter to Dorise and Elise John de Wilton said his Grandfather Malcolm MacGregor, born 1841, was appointed British Governor of Jamaica, West Indies, his mother Elise Annie was born at Government House Jamaica and his Grandmother Eliza Beatrice MacGregor (nee Applin) had died in Jamaica during their posting.

This caused many hours of research trying to verify the information to no avail as this information differed from the facts.

The family did spend time in the West Indies when his grandfather Malcolm was appointed Private Secretary to the Governor of Honduras in 1864.

John's mother Elise Annie MacGregor was born in Jamaica in 1864, her sister Helen in Honduras in 1866. All the family arrived back in England intact in 1868.

With the aid of research specialists we are hoping a complete line of the early MacGregor's directly related will soon be available.

This task is very difficult as an act of law in 1617 banning the use of the name MacGregor was not repealed until 1774, a gap of 157 years.

Frustratingly this period is crucial for our research as the family throughout the ban used a variety of first names and surnames to avoid persecution.

There is a theory Drummond may have been one of the surnames adopted hence the use of Fanny Drummond, born in St Kitts W.I. on the 7th of May 1806 (the name of the first born to Malcolm and Francis MacGregor (nee Glead) family details follow) This is currently being checked by the research specialists.

We are hopeful of a resolution in the meantime however to place as much as we know in context I have commenced this correction of known facts from 1777 onward after the name MacGregor was reinstated by law.

1. Malcolm MacGregor b. (c) 1777 d. Panama 22 November 1832.

Married Francis Glead of Carisbrooke 8th November 1803, Isle of Wight.

Children of the marriage Fanny Drummond b. 7 May 1806 St Kitts West Indies.

Mondego Mary b. 24 Nov 1810 Carisbrooke I.O.W.

Malcolm b. 23 July 1814 Carisbrooke I.O.W.

Caroline baptised 1 Aug 1814 Carisbrooke I.O.W.

Emily b. 9 Jan 1817 Northwood I.O.W.

Notes for Malcolm MacGregor b 1777. (John de Wilton's Great Great Grandfather)

Ensign (and also Paymaster) Clan Alpine Fencibles 24 February 1799.

Commission Regular Army as Ensign (by purchase) 54th Foot 27 August 1802.

Reduction of Regiment 1802.

Appointed paymaster 1st Battalion Foot 6th April 1803.

Lieutenant 31st August 1814.

5th Garrison Battalion 23rd November 1815.

Died whilst Her Majesties Consul at Panama 22nd November 1832.

Notes for Francis MacGregor (nee Glead)

Born on the Isle of Wight Francis married Malcolm MacGregor in 1803.

She must have been home for a short time possibly staying with her sister before returning to Panama in 1833.

This is verified by the following information in the 1833 London publication 'The English Gentleman's Magazine' detailing the following.

'Bills of Mortality'

'Malcolm MacGregor Esq Consulate of Panama - his lady, who is the sister to Mrs Roberts of Standen House in the Isle of Wight, was on her passage out with the intention of rejoining him'

2. Malcolm MacGregor b. 23rd July 1814 d 3rd January 1888 Carisbrooke I.O.W.
Married 15th November 1838 Hobart Tasmania to Anny Connolly b 1819.
Children of the marriage Malcolm b. 17th June 1841 Old Sarum Wiltshire Kent.
Christened August 9th St Edmunds Church Salisbury
Francis b. 23 Sept 1843 Kamptee East Indies.
Caroline b. 8th Aug 1845 Kamptee East Indies.
Stafford b. 12 Feb 1847 Cawnpore India.
Annie b. 10 June 1850 Chatham Kent.

Notes for Malcolm MacGregor b 1814 Carisbrooke I.O.W. (John de Wilton's great Grandfather)
2nd Lieutenant 21st Fusiliers Foot 6th Sept 1831.
Arrived Hobart Tasmania 14th August 1832 with regiment.
Port Arthur Penal settlement Port Arthur 1833.
Promoted to 1st Lieutenant 12 Dec 1834.
Adjutant, 21st Foot Fusiliers 30th October 1838.
Married Anny Connolly Hobart Tasmania November 1838.
Regiment transferred to Calcutta India 1838.
Captain 29 November 1841.
East Indies from 1842 to 1847.
Exchanged to 10th Foot 31st March 1847.
Served in the Punjab campaign 1848.
Present at the siege of Multan including night attack at Mathetel 17th August 1848.
Severely wounded, left hand shattered by musket 12th September 1848.
East Indies 1849 to 25th May 1853.
Residing Hobart Town Tasmania 30th August 1854.
Brevet Major 1854.
Royal Newfoundland Companies 14 November 1856.
Brevet Lieutenant Colonel 10th May 1859.
Appointed Vice Consul St Malo, Brittany, N.W. France 29th September 1868.
Died 3rd January 1888.

Notes for Anny Connolly (John de Wilton's Great Grandmother)

Daughter of Charles Connolly and Margaret Watts (nee Eddington) was born in Hobart Tasmania on the 18th of December 1819.

Anny was educated at Ellenthorp Private School for girls, Ross Tasmania.

She was living in Hobart possibly with her grandmother in 1838 when she married Lt. Malcolm Macgregor of the 21st Fusilier Regiment.

She accompanied her husband when the regiment was transferred to Calcutta India in 1839. Their first son Malcolm was born and Christened at New Sarum Wiltshire in 1841 possibly at the army Headquarters based at Salisbury before the family returned to India.

Their last child Annie was born in 1850 at Chatham, Kent also possibly at the Chatham army base when they returned from India for leave.

Notes for Charles Connolly, father of Anny Connolly.

Charles Connolly, born in U.K was convicted at Middlesex 28th July 1804 for an unknown crime. He obviously was jailed prior to being transported to Port Jackson Sydney on the convict ship 'Fortune' arriving in Sydney Cove on the 19th January 1806. He was then sent on to Hobart Tasmania.

His history after arriving in Tasmania is unknown however we know he married Margaret Watts (Nee Eddington), daughter of Thomas Eddington and Elizabeth Eddington (nee Thompson) in Hobart on the 17th January 1819.

Charles must have received a pardon in Hobart as he eventually obtained a license to operate a Hotel/Pub called 'The Bricklayers Arms' in October 1819.

A child Ann (Anny) was born in December 1819.

Nothing is known of their life for the next 7 years however Charles is next reported as a passenger on board the ship 'Cumberland' arriving in London on 17th March 1826. After two days illness he died in London on the 28th March 1826.

Notes for Thomas Headington. (aka Eddington)

Thomas was born in 1758 in U.K.

An unskilled laborer when he was arrested and tried in London mid 1786 sentenced to 7 years for stealing cash and other items. He was sent to the 'Ceres' hulk.

He embarked as a convict on the first fleet vessel 'Alexander' transport arriving Port Jackson 1788.

In March 1790 he was sent on to Norfolk Island where he met fellow convict Elizabeth Thompson who became pregnant with their first child.

They were married in 1791 by a visiting Sydney Padre.

July 1791 listed as supporting three people on an acre lot Sydney Town, Norfolk Island sharing land with one other female convict and his wife.

July 1792 settled on lot 59 with a lease of 12 acres.

Daughter Elizabeth Margaret Eddington was born on the 16th November 1792.

July 1794 Thomas was listed as living with Elizabeth Thompson and one child.

Shown on the Norfolk Island victualing list 1796.

Thomas died at Norfolk Island on the 13th of January 1798. His gravestone is one of few remaining of the period at the Island's cemetery.

Notes for Mary Elizabeth Thompson - wife of Thomas Headington (aka Eddington)

Elizabeth Thompson, aided by Elanor Scott, was sentenced to 7 years transportation at the Northumberland assizes for theft of 20 yards of Calamanco cloth and 12 yards of linen cloth from two linen drapers shops at Alnwick.

They robbed at least one other shop in the town before they were arrested near the head of Cannongate Street after shopkeepers realised that the women were shoplifters. They were caught by the local Constabulary.

Both women were held in the county goal until 16th April 1789 when they were sent to London for embarkation on the 'Lady Juliana' transport bound for Australia.

Thompson's age was given as 41.

The ship arrived at Port Jackson on the 3rd of June 1790.

Eight weeks after arriving at Sydney Cove, Thompson was among 194 mostly female convicts sent to Norfolk Island per the HMS 'Surprise' arriving 7th August 1790. She was issued with a pig under the plan of Commandant, Major Ross of 1791 originally arranged to encourage as many convicts as possible to become self sufficient.

Soon afterwards she was living with the first fleet convict Thomas Headington (aka Eddington) At this time they were cultivating a small piece of land near the main Norfolk settlement, Sydney Town.

Thompson and Headington were among a large number married by the Rev Richard Johnson when he briefly visited the Island in November 1791. Their daughter Elizabeth Margaret was born in November 1792.

They were recorded as being married with one child in June 1794.

On the death of her husband in January 1798 Elizabeth arranged that for a large headstone to be erected, one of the few surviving early monuments from the Islands first cemetery.

Around 1807 using the surname Eddington she sailed for Hobart with two children, her daughter Margaret and grandson John.

She appeared in the 1818, 1819 and 1822 Hobart musters.

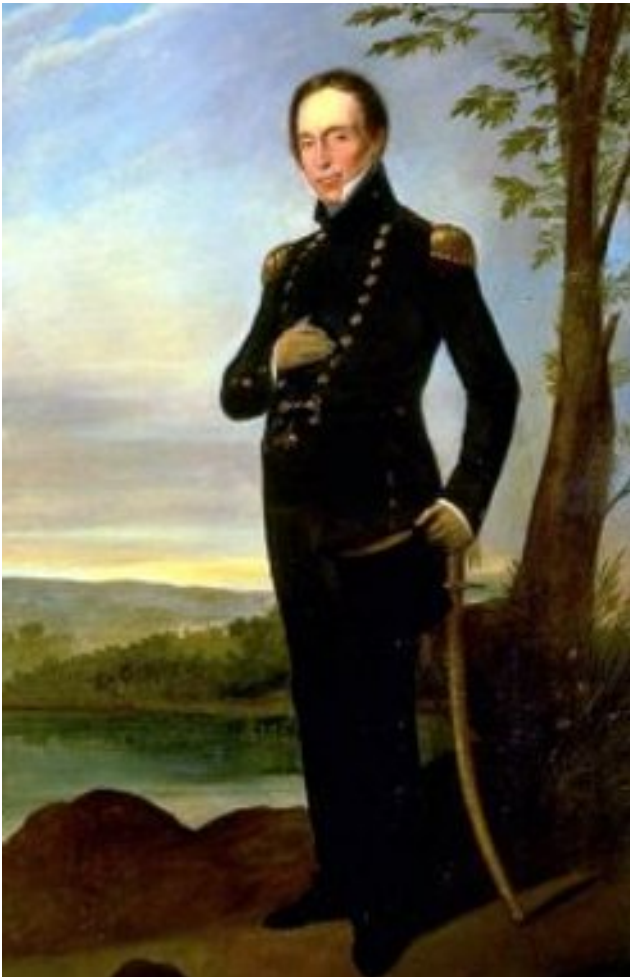
Elizabeth died in Hobart on the 10th April 1839 aged 92.



Notes for Elizabeth Margaret Eddington b 1792.

Margaret, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Eddington, was born at Norfolk Island on the 16th of November 1792.

In November 1806 she became the mistress of the Acting Commandant John Piper.



Acting Norfolk Island Commandant Captain John Piper

A son was born on the 16th of August 1806, named John Eddington (Piper)
Margaret would have been 3 months short of her 14th birthday.

John Piper already involved with several ladies on the Island would not have been too distressed to see Margaret leave when she sailed with her mother and baby John to Hobart about 1807.

In 1808 Margaret became the mistress of Lieutenant David Collins, the first Governor of Tasmania moving into the Governors official Hobart 'residence' which at the time comprised of several tents erected on muddy ground in the Township.

Prior to his appointment Collins was formally assistant to Governor Phillip in Sydney, instrumental in setting up the first settlement at Port Jackson. Collins wife did not accompany him remaining in London throughout his service in the Colony.

During his time in N.S.W. he became involved with a woman by the name of Ann Yates or Yeates and fathered two children. They all remained in N.S.W after he left for his Hobart appointment.

Following his arrival in Hobart he became involved with a married convict woman as his companion however she was quickly replaced when Margaret arrived from Norfolk Island in 1808.

When N.S.W. Governor Captain William Bligh sailed HMS 'Porpoise' to Hobart after being kicked out of Port Jackson N.S.W, as a result of the 1808 Rum Corps rebellion, he observed a



Lt David Collins

very pregnant Margaret on the arm of Collins parading on the harbor boardwalk and was reported as saying he was not impressed.

A daughter, Eliza Collins was born about 1808.

Her son John Eddington (Piper) and Eliza Collins were both baptized at Hobart in January 1810.

Governor Lt David Collins died suddenly on the 24th March 1810 so Margaret was then obliged to move from the Governors residence to her mother's house located at Elizabeth St Hobart.

There she continued a former romantic liaison with convict George Watts commenced while living with Governor Collins.

George was 20 when he arrived at Hobart on the 19th of February 1804 after being convicted in Gloucester England and sentenced to 7 years transportation.

Margaret and George married on the 9th of May 1811 and a daughter Maria was born in 1812. Watts was then banished from Hobart in 1812 when he was placed in jail on trumped up charges.

He was mysteriously provisioned with all things needed for bush survival and allowed to disappear into the wilds of Tasmania. He reportedly died in 1817.

Margaret then married Charles Connolly in 1819 and their daughter Ann (Anny) was born in 1821.

Margaret died at Hobart Tasmania on the 19th January 1822 aged 29 years. We are unsure where she and Charles set up home but it may have been Evandale as that is where she died and was buried in the Church of England Cemetery on the 24th January 1822.

Additional Facts of interest.

Elizabeth Eddington was 59 years old when she arrived in Tasmania with her daughter Margaret and grand child John Piper.

She was next reported to be living in a house located at Elizabeth Street Hobart.

Daughter Margaret had become the mistress of Lt Gov David Collins in 1807/8 moving to live with him in the row of tents that formed the first very primitive Government House.

A daughter Eliza Collins was born sometime in 1808 and no doubt would have been living there with them.

I doubt Collins would have wanted anything to do with her Norfolk Island son so it is likely John Eddington Piper would most likely have been placed in the care of her mother Elizabeth. There are some interesting references on the net to Margaret having married Collins but I can find no evidence of this and besides he was still married to his wife Mary who remained living in England not accompanying him on his service to Sydney or Hobart.

Prior to being transferred to Tasmania Collins worked as Secretary and Deputy Judge Advocate to Governor Phillip assisting to establish the first settlement at Port Jackson.

During his time there he became involved with a Sydney woman by the name of Ann Yates (or Yeates) in 1794 and they had two children.

I could not find any information as to what happened to Ann or the two children when Collins left to go to Tasmania.

Collins wife Mary died in Plymouth in April of 1830 well supported in later life by a Government pension.

Margaret's son John Eddington (Piper) and daughter Eliza Eddington (Collins) were baptized together on the 14th of January 1810.

Collins died at Hobart on the 24th March 1810.

Following his death Margaret had to leave Government House and we know she moved to her mother's house at Elizabeth Street Hobart with daughter Eliza and son John.

While living with Collins Margaret had also commenced an amorous liaison with George Watts, a convict when he arrived in Hobart in August of 1804 on the 'Lady Barlow' aged 20. Margaret was also reported at the same time to have encouraged a romantic interest by the Rev Robert Knopwood who was reported to be much older and not very attractive. He had arrived in Hobart with Collins and was socially connected to the Governor dining with him regularly at Government House where he took the opportunity to flatter Margaret. Knopwood was responsible for pastoral services to the community as well as his appointment as a magistrate.

He compiled many diaries of the early settlement of Hobart now a source of reference held at the Mitchell Library Sydney.

Margaret continued the affair with Watts from her mother's house after the death of Collins with Watts insisting they marry and they did just that in 1811 with a daughter Maria Watts born in 1812.

In the meantime Knopwood whose continued infatuation with Margaret understandably upset Watts even more so when he had returned home unexpectedly to find Knopwood in his lounge room begging Margaret to throw her lot in with him.

Knopwood then decided to use his influence as a Magistrate to have Watts, still a convict, arrested on trumped up charges and thrown in the lock up with a flogging scheduled for the following day.

That night Watts was mysteriously provisioned with all things needed for bush survival and allowed to escape into the wilds of Tasmania.

In 1817 while still on the run Watts was seriously wounded in a clash with Michael Howe, the notorious leader of a gang of bush rangers. Watts and his fellow escapee, William Drew, had trapped Howe and tied him up with a view to returning him to Hobart and in the process receiving lenient recognition by the authorities. Howe managed to free his hands and stabbed Watts with a secreted knife. He then used Watts rifle to kill Drew and disappeared into the bush.

Howe was later killed in another incident.

At some point Watts was sent to Sydney from Tasmania to face unknown court charges and we have no idea what happened to him. He is reported to have died in Sydney in January of 1817 but another account has him returning to Tasmania.

Margaret eventually managed to avoid Knopwood and now with Watts permanently out of the picture it seems she returned home with her mother, son John and daughters Eliza and Maria. We next catch up with Margaret when she met ex convict Charles Connolly and married him in January 1819.

A daughter Anny was born on the 18th December 1819.

Margaret died of unknown causes on the 24th January 1822 at Evandale Tasmania aged 29 years so it seems this was where they were living as she was also buried on the same day at St Andrews Church of England Cemetery Evandale.

Her husband Charles was next reported to have arrived in London as a passenger on board the HMS 'Cumberland' on the 26th March 1826. Becoming ill he died two days later on the 28th of March 1826. Why he left for England we have no idea – he may have decided to abandon his life in Hobart and his 7 year old daughter Anny after the death of Margaret.

However before he sailed he surely must have left daughter Anny with her grandmother Elizabeth Eddington.

If this was so Elizabeth would then have had the responsibility of raising the four grandchildren of her deceased daughter Margaret namely John Eddington Piper, Eliza Collins, Maria Watts and Anny Connolly.

All three of Margaret's girls were educated at the exclusive girls college Ellinthorp Hall located close to Ross in the midlands of Tasmania.

A report I found on the net detailing some of the early history of Tasmania and influential families also highlights the school.

There is mention of Eliza Collins, aged 10 owning 900 sheep and again in 1824 under the name of Eliza Eddington, aged 16, being granted 500 acres of land not far from Clarendon Tasmania.

She had obviously become quite wealthy as the same report goes on to say 'She had been educated at Ellinthorp Hall so did not come empty handed to her marriage to James Cox in May of 1829 at St James Church Launceston'

Where and how Eliza obtained her wealth is a mystery.

Cox had moved from N.S.W. in 1814. He was to become a magistrate, member of the Legislative Assembly and a major pastoralist

His first wife from a N.S.W. marriage bore him eight children and she died in childbirth at Clarendon in July 1828.

Some of the children by his first marriage were boarders at Ellinthorp and it is thought it was there in 1826 he met Eliza Collins when she was aged 18.

He must have also met Maria Watts and Anny Connolly as well as Eliza Collins at the school and through them must also have known their grandmother and guardian Elizabeth Eddington.

He wrote to the Head mistress of Ellinthorp about a false newspaper article reporting he had removed his daughters from the school. His letter in part says, quote;

"Dear Madam I can scarcely find words to express my surprise at the report stating I had removed my daughters from your establishment, also misses, Watts and Connolly how such a report could have originated I am at a loss to account. I could never entertain the slightest intention of removing the ladies in question and trust you will publicly contradict so false a report."

So there it is - proof all three of Margaret's daughters were together at Ellinthorp elite school for girls.

He then built Clarendon a four level mansion on a large estate now completely restored by the National Trust as a popular tourist destination.



Clarendon House

Eliza and Cox went on to have eleven children however only seven girls and one son survived infancy.

The question remains as to how all three of Margaret's girls were educated at Ellinthorp Hall exclusive school for girls and who paid the expensive fees.

Piper in Norfolk was only too happy to see the back of Margaret as he already had two children there by different women so no money there.

Governor Collins died virtually penniless from extraneous family expenses.

Watts had no money when he was banished from Hobart.

Charles Connolly owned the pub license and there may have been some money there.

High fees enabled the management of Ellinthorp to take about 40 pupils and to support some gratuitously at reduced rates so that is a possibility but surely not three girls together with the background of Margaret's children.

How Eliza Collins aged 10 owned 900 sheep and aged 16 was granted 500 acres of land remains a mystery.

It is possible grandmother Elizabeth Eddington became wealthy in some way and then arranged the education but we may never know if that was the case.

Margaret's first child son John Eddington Piper died in Hobart on the 22nd January 1826 aged 20 years. Nothing is known of his life.

James Cox died on the 16th March 1866 and is buried at the Evandale Cemetery.

Second child Eliza Cox (nee Collins/Eddington) died on the 25th August 1869 aged 48 years and is also buried at Evandale Cemetery.

Third child Maria Watts married James Lord son of David Lord and Hannah Lord (nee Morley) son John Carr Lord was born at Evandale in 1844. The well off Lord family had many business interests.

Fourth child Anny Connolly would have been the last of the three girls to finish her schooling at Ellinthorp and would have been back in Hobart with her grandmother when she met and Married Lieutenant Malcolm MacGregor of the 21st Fusiliers in November of 1838 and with that marriage the descendant line from the MacGregor's to the de Wilton's and all other associated families began.



Eliza Cox (nee Eddington/Collins)

3. Malcolm Macgregor born 17th June 1841 Old Sarum Wiltshire.
Married Eliza Beatrice Applin (b. Devon 1844) April 25th 1863 St James Plymouth.
Children of Marriage - Elise Annie b. Jamaica 1864.
Helen b. 1866 British Honduras 1866.
Malcolm b. 1868 Wiltshire England.

Notes for Malcolm Macgregor born 1841 (John de Wilton's Grandfather)
Commissioned as Lieutenant Royal Sark Militia October 1859.
Commissioned regulars Ensign 2nd West India Regiment 9th October 1861.
Served on the West Coast of Africa at Sierra Leone and Lagos 1862.
Private Secretary to Governor of British Honduras 1864 to 1866.
Adjutant of Belize Volunteer Rifle and Artillery Corps and sat for two sessions of the legislative House of Assembly Honduras.
Lieutenant 3rd July 1866.
Retired by sale of his Commission 6th November 1867.
Returned to London with the family from the West Indies 1868.
Officer commanding 7th Division of Pioneers (provisional)
After retiring from the Army joined the Colonial Service.
Entered Public Works Department Ceylon 5th August 1869.
Transferred to Ceylon 14th April 1870.
Superintending Officer 1st June 1875 Ceylon.
Acting Provisional assistant North Central Province, Ceylon 21st Sept 1878.
Temporarily returned to England 1880.
Divorced from Eliza Applin in 1881.
Returned to Ceylon.
Second Financial assistant 1884 confirmed 1885 Ceylon.
Financial and Office assistant, February 1888 Ceylon.
District Engineer Gampola Ceylon.
Married Blanche Ada Kathleen Hubbard, London 27th July 1899.
Retired 1902.
Died 2nd October 1910 aged 79 years.
Probate address shown as 61 Howard Street Southampton.

Notes for Eliza Beatrice Applin b. 1844 Durham, wife of Malcolm McGregor. (John De Wilton's Grandmother)
Eliza was residing at 9 Pennywern Road South Kensington when she filed for divorce from Malcolm Macgregor on the 29th April 1881, citing Adultery and Cruelty.
The Divorce papers indicate Eliza was with her husband in Jersey, St Malo, Plymouth, Barbados, Jamaica, Honduras and 9 Pennywern Road South Kensington during the marriage.
There is no mention of accompanying him to Ceylon. (He first went there in 1870)
It looks as though Malcolm returned to London for a period from 1880.

We know he was a witness when Elise Annie married John Cavan - Irving on the 5th of May 1880.

Maybe it was to attend Elise Annie's Wedding that he came back from Ceylon.

We assume he stayed on in London to also take the opportunity to set about ending the marriage to Eliza. Commencing from January until the end of April 1881 he apparently went on a spree committing adultery with several women in Nice France and London culminating in divorce proceedings.

The following is a summary of the transcript of the divorce proceedings commenced by Eliza; *In the High Court of Justice and Divorce*

29th day of April 1881.

In the matter of the petition of Eliza Backwell MacGregor of Scotengire House Pennywern Road South Kensington make oath and say the follows.

- 1. That I then Eliza Backwell Applin spinster was on the 25th of April 1863 lawfully married to Malcolm MacGregor at St James Church Plymouth in the County of Devon.*
- 2. That after the marriage I lived and cohabitated with my said husband at Jersey, St Malo, Plymouth, Barbados Jamaica, Honduras and Scotengire House Pennywern Road South Kensington and there is issue of the said marriage three children namely Elise Annie, Helen and Malcolm.*
- 3. That after the said marriage the said Malcolm MacGregor deserted me for two years and upwards.*
- 4. That I am informed and believe in the month of January 1881 at Nice in the Republic of France the said Malcolm MacGregor committed adultery with some woman whose name is unknown to the petitioner.*
- 5. That on the 25th April 1881 and on divers other occasions the said Malcolm MacGregor at 17 Wellington Street Strand committed adultery with a woman whose name is unknown to your petitioner.*
- 6. That on the 26th of April and on divers other Occasions at 20 Broad Street Bloomsbury in the County of Middlesex the said Malcolm MacGregor committed adultery with a woman whose name is unknown to your petitioner.*
- 7. That no collusion or connivance exists between me and the said Malcolm MacGregor in the matter of the petition.*

Your petitioner therefore humbly prays your lordship will be pleased to decree dissolution of the said marriage by reason of desertion, Adultery and cruelty of the respondent and that your petitioner may have further and other relief as your Lordship may seem fit.

The petition was filed on the 29th April 1881

Decree Nisi granted on the 11th January 1882.

Final Decree granted 18th July 1882.

Malcolm returned to Ceylon possibly before or immediately following the divorce proceedings.

It would seem Eliza became financially established as a result of the divorce settlement and she remained with the children at their home in Pennywern Road South Kensington.

This was the address shown on the marriage certificates when children Elise Annie married Colin Campbell Rae - Brown and Helen married Charles Kilner in 1884.

Elisa assuming her maiden surname of Applin died in 1890 in London.

Elise Annie Macgregor b 1864 Jamaica d 1940 Wandsworth England. (John de Wilton's mother)

- Married
1. John Cavan - Irving 5th May 1880 St Mary's Abbot Kensington. Cavan- Irving died 11th January 1883 Cannes France.
 2. Colin Campbell Rae-Brown 29th April 1884 St Judes Kensington.
Child of Marriage - Bertie Rae - Brown b. 18th Feb 1885 d. 8th July 1885.
 3. Charles Sydney de Wilton 18th December 1886 Parish Church Marylebone.
Child Elise Mildred b. 12th April 1886.
Charles Cecil b. 28th April 1887.
- Children of the marriage John Percy b. 28th July 1888.
 Malcolm b. 22nd September 1891 d. December 1891.

'Notes for Elise Annie MacGregor (John de Wilton's Mother)

Elise Annie MacGregor was born in Kingston Jamaica in 1864.

As her father had retired in 1867 from his posting to the West Indies it seems the family returned to England initially going on to Wiltshire for the birth of her brother Malcolm in 1868, before returning to London setting up house at 9 Pennywern Road South Kensington. Elise Annie would then have been 4 years old.

John de Wilton told us his mother Elise was presented to the court of Queen Victoria by her Aunt Lady MacGregor. We have no idea who this Aunt is however he did mention she descended in a straight line back to the old King's of Scotland.

The presentation of Elise at Court may well have taken place as Elise Saville (nee de Wilton) recollects seeing a photograph of Elise Annie in a Wamboral de Wilton family album wearing a formal dress with long train and the prerequisite 'Prince of Wales plume' of three ostrich feathers in her hair veil. Unfortunately this photo has been mislaid somewhere along the track and it's whereabouts still remains elusive.

The ages of the girls presented at court ranged from 15 to 18, single and well placed in society. Elise Annie would have been 15 years old in 1879. As she married the following year, 1879 seems to be the only time providing the opportunity.

This description from the history of Court presentation 'Extraordinary preparation for the event was required and once achieved provided the young ladies with full membership into fashionable society and the marriage market. They were now permitted to attend court functions and parties previously not open to them. They could also negotiate an acceptable marriage in high society.

The debutants gathered in an ante room before being escorted by their sponsor to be presented to the Queen and following the ceremony had to withdraw reversing out of the room with the long dress train looped over their arm so they did not trip up as they did so' Elise Annie was 16 years of age when she married John Cavan – Irving in London on the 7th of May 1880. Her father Malcolm is shown as a witness on the wedding certificate.

The family next appear in the 1881 census with Malcolm aged 39, his wife Elise aged 32 Daughter Helen aged 15 and son Malcolm aged 13 residing at 9 Pennywern Road South Kensington Middlesex. Elise Annie was not listed as she by then was living with her husband most likely at his address 6 Hanover Road Tunbridge Wells Kent.

Her father Malcolm now employed by the Civil Service had been posted to Ceylon. He had returned to London possibly for the reason to attend her wedding and also initiate the divorce proceedings commenced by Elise in 1881 with the decree absolute in 1882.

It seems Malcolm returned to Ceylon not long after.

Nothing is known of the background of John Cavan-Irving. He died from consumption in Cannes France leaving Elise a widow on the 11th January 1883.

Aged 20 she then married Colin Campbell Rae – Brown on the 29th of April 1884 at St Judes Church Kensington Middlesex.

The certificate of marriage shows her father Malcolm to be deceased however we now know this was not the case.

By August 1884 Elise had met Charles Sydney de Wilton and proceeded to engage in a torrid love affair in the Devon area. During this time Elise was pregnant with Rae-Browns child.

The affair continued after Bertie was born and she moved in with Charles.

Bertie unfortunately died on the 8th of July 1885 in the residence of Charles who was shown as an informant.

Elise Mildred the first child of Charles and Elise was born on the 12th April 1886.

On the 12th of February 1886 Rae –Brown filed for divorce with a decree granted on the 19th of December 1886.

Elise and Charles married on the 18th of December 1886 in Middlesex.

Charles Cecil de Wilton was born in 1887.

John Percy de Wilton in 1888.

Fourth child Malcolm in 1891.

Charles had been transferred to West Africa in August of 1891 and died in Sierra Leone of black water fever.

Malcolm died three months after he was born so his father would not have known of his birth or death.

Elise had to exist on a miniscule army pension and supplemented her income by working as a midwife as a means of earning extra money.

We know from the census she was living in Middlesex in 1901 with three children Emily Mildred aged 15 Charles aged 14 and John aged 13.

Elise Annie did not remarry and died in 1940.

Helen MacGregor b Honduras 1866 (John de Wilton's Aunty)

Married Charles Harold Kilner 23rd March 1884.

Children of Marriage Kathleen Kilner b 1886 (1891 Census)

Hew Ross Kilner b 9th Sept 1892.

Nell Kilner details unknown

Residing the Isle of Wight.

Malcolm MacGregor b 1868 Wiltshire (John de Wilton's Uncle)

Married Isabella Stuart Watson (Ella) b 1871 Calcutta India.

Children of Marriage. Doris b. 9TH August 1898 d. June 1983.

Notes for Malcolm MacGregor b 1868. (John de Wilton's Uncle)

Malcolm MacGregor, son of Malcolm and Eliza MacGregor (nee Applin) was born in 1868 at old Sarum Wiltshire.

His family had returned to England from the West Indies in 1868 with his mother heavily pregnant proceeding to Wiltshire for his birth.

There is an army Barracks based at Salisbury and as his father had only just resigned his Commission it is possible that is why they headed for Wiltshire.

The family then appeared in London setting up home at 9 Pennywern Road South Kensington. We next catch up with Malcolm at the time of the 1881 census aged 13 at south Kensington living with his parents.

He is again mentioned in the 1891 census aged 23 visiting his sister Elise Annie at 7 Madeley Rd Ealing Middlesex. His address at the time was Lewisham London.

His niece, older sister Helen's daughter, Kathleen Kilner was also there aged 5 together with Elise Annie's children Elise Mildred aged 4 Charles Cecil aged 3 and John Percy aged 2.

Malcolm married Isabella Stuart Watson in London in 1897.

Daughter Doris was born on the 9th of August 1898. We have no idea as to whether she married but know she died in England in 1983.

John de Wilton spoke of his Uncle Malcolm who apparently had a wonderful singing voice as a member of the Gay Gordon's musical all the rage in London in the early 1900. This is yet to be verified.

Nothing more is known of the life of John's uncle Malcolm and we are not sure when he died.

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