

Carswell Connection

The sinking of the Duchess of Buccleuch, 1842

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The following is an article about the sinking of the ship the Duchess of Buccleuch in 1842. On board was our great great grandfather Robert Carswell who was the son of Thomas Carswell and Janet Sloan from Kirkgunzeon. He was the Ship's Carpenter.

The Duchess of Buccleuch was a two-masted brig of 260 tons, built in 1835 at one of the little shipyards on the River Nith at Glencaple, south of Dumfries. The shipyard was owned by William Thomson, who was not only the builder of the The Duchess of Buccleuch, but the Master for her last voyage. The records indicate that she sailed from Bristol, bound for Havana, Cuba. However, she called first at Jamaica and sailed from there to Havana. The suggestion is that she was carrying coal from Bristol, though that is not entirely logical. Whether she emptied her cargo in Jamaica and took another cargo on to Havana is not known. We have no details, but maritime historian Chris Ware suggests that the ship went aground on a shoal or rocks on the Jordanillos, part of the hundreds of island that surround

Cuba. It was possibly because of a navigation error, perhaps in the dark. The ship was lost, but everyone aboard was saved. Somehow they managed to make their way to the Cayman Islands, probably after being picked up by another vessel. However, the survivors of the shipwreck suffered further misfortunes. Many caught a fever - possibly Yellow Fever - from which most of them died, including William Thomson, the Master and ship owner and Robert Carswell, the ship's carpenter and mate. His grave is at Caerlaverock, south of Dumfries. There is a strong Dumfries connection with everyone on board and William Thomson's widow eventually made her way to a plantation in Jamaica owned by Wellwood Hyslop who had also come from Dumfries. The Dumfries Standard nine months later reported that Mrs Thomson recovered at Hyslop's home and then a passage home was found for her. There remain many mysteries about The Duchess of Buccleuch, not the least why the ship owner went with the vessel, taking with him a 66 year old ship's carpenter or mate. More detail on this story is expected to emerge.

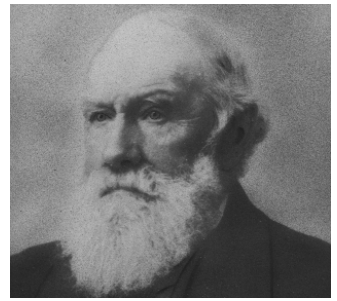
Carswells in the Civil War

To see a list of 85 Carswells who served in the USA Civil War, go to the Carswell web site:

www.carswell.com.au

James Carswell's diary, July 1847

Following is the seventh of monthly entries from the diary of James Carswell, Miller, at Dalbeattie, Kircudbrightshire.



July, 1847

- 1 Thursday. Fine warm day. I went down to the Fens [farm of Colvend to have a days shooting. My brother and me shot 3 rabbits. I have one partridge, one pigeon, one goat and had likewise a good bathe in the tide.
- 2 Friday. Still very warm. Still working at the bones. Very few going away. None except small lots to finish. George Kirk got married tonight. I do not know the woman. I had a letter and newspaper from Mr Caven on Tuesday. Indian meal is now retailing 1/9 per stone.
- 3 Saturday. Very warm and dry. Still grinding bones but few going away. Different farmers hoeing turnips.
- 4 Sunday. Very warm. This is the Sacrement day at Urr and at the free kirk, Dalbeattie. There is no sermon in our kirk today. Mr Arthur is going to Urr.
- 5 Monday. Fine warm day. Still grinding a few bones. The people are throug(h) loading there peats.
- 6 Tuesday. Fine and warm. Wheat, Indian corn and flour is falling rapidly in Liverpool. My bees threw of(f) a swarm today, being the tenth day since they cast before.
- 7 Wednesday. Still warm. We had a (re)freshing shower this morning. It will make the turnips grow rapidly. My Father was at Meikle Richorn yesterday valueing some (unknown crop) that did not grow.
- 8 Thursday. Still warm and dry. Through grinding Indian corn. Little or nothing else to do. Baker Thomson has brought in a cargo of Indian corn which he is selling at 42S per Quarter. It is much cheaper than any we have got this long time.
- 9 Friday. Rather dull with some slight showers. Thomas is loading some Indian corn from Palnackie. Thomas bought a gun from Geddes Cuthyslack which cost 50S – (including) powder flask and shot belt.
- 10 Saturday. Still rather dull with some showers. We finished this day with grinding bones for this season and must begin to grind Indian corn. We are retailing at 1/6d per stone.
- 11 Sunday. Dull and rather soft. I was up at Kirkgunzeon Sacrement. Mr William's son Loughton and Mr Arthur was there. Little Ellen is three years old this day.
- 12 Monday. Mild morning and rather foggy. Grinding Indian corn.
- 13 Tuesday. Clear and warm. Leading Indian corn from Mr Thomson's sloop, likewise Mr Laurin then bought 59 quarters brought 59 Qrtrs at 40 shillings.
- 14 Wednesday. Very warm. Oat meal retailing at 2/10, Indian meal at 1/6 per stone – cheaper than any other market. Fine weather for all kinds of crops.
- 15 Thursday. Still very warm. Mrs Elliot had a swarm? of bees that flew away. I followed a while and then gave up. I followed till the field above Edingham moss .
- 16 Friday. Still very warm. Through grinding Indian corn. I worked all night. The water very light about Dalbeattie mills.
- 17 Saturday. Fine warm weather. Turnips growing very quick. Turnip hoers was 20 pence each one day but about 1s is more common and 14 pence... I ground 36 Qrs of Indian corn this week, and wrought barley nearly down.
- 18 Sunday. Fine morning. Mr Arthur was (away) from home, they say he was away preaching a trial sermon somewhere. Mr Frazer came and preached at 5 o'clock.
- 19 Monday. Still very warm. Farmers through loading peats. They have mostly got their ryeslap cut.
- 20 Tuesday. Still warm. Through grinding Indian corn with great demand at 1/5 per stone.
- 21 Wednesday. Rather dull this morning but dry. Grinding barley and flour .
- 22 Thursday. There was some heavy showers of rain last night, but dry this morning. I got two

cart loads of my peat home, but not very dry.

23 Friday. Fine day again, the wind blowing from the west. I put 4 capes on my bee hives – the two old ones and two hoares. Thomas was away with a ton of Indian meal to C. Bridge.

24 Saturday. Warm and dry again. Getting a few more peats home. I have got 9 cart loads home – not very dry.

25 Sunday. Still warm day. There was a heavy shower in the afternoon. I was at sermon. Mr Arthur was going to help at Colvend Sacrement.

26 Monday. Still very warm – and the burn has very little water. Very few of the mills can work more than half-time. The two sawmills almost working none (at all).

27 Tuesday. Still fine weather. This is the day of Miss Thomson's wedding. I hear she has got married to Mr Caven (of) Snade. They go (their) dinner at Edingham's, and were to be at Snade (farm) at 7 o'clock for (their) tea. None of her brothers went away with her.

28 Wednesday. Rather dull, and appearance of some rain. Wind flowing from the west. Mr Thomson, baker (at) Castle Douglas, has come in with another cargo of Indian corn. He is asking 46S per Quater.

29 Thursday. Still fine weather and has been little rain. We are commenced to lead_up some Indian corn.

30 Friday. This is our Fast day. Still rather fresh looking. Still loading corn. I was at church. Mr Frazer was preaching and none else.

31 Saturday. Fine day still. Got all the Indian corn up. We had 125 Qrs in all. There was 111 Quarters came here to grind.

Glasgow Voters List - 1858 – 1859

Ward 5	Occupation	Business Address
William Carswell 103 Trongate	Minister	
Ward 6		
James Carswell 92 Great Hamilton Road	Merchant	116 Candleriggs Street
William Carswell 15 Candleriggs Street	Proprietor of Houses	
Ward 7		
Allan Carswell Sr. 6 Provanside Stirling Rd	Builder	108 – 92 Queen
William Carswell 90 Regent Terrace	Wright	52 – 72 Queen
Ward 8		
Robert Carswell 206 North Street	Writer	51 Vincent
William J. Carswell 257 West George Street	Accountant	5 Royal Bank Place

Ward 10

Allan Carswell Builder 118 – 104 Cathedral
6 Provanside Proprietor of Shops

David Carswell Bookbinder 35 – 37 Rottenrow
35 Storrie Street, Paisley

William J. Carswell Accountant 1 – 19 Little Hamilton St.
257 West George Street

William Carswell 24 – 8 Canning Place
90 Stirling Road

William Carswell Jr. Wright 12 Killermont Street
90 Stirling Road

Ward 11

Alexander G. Carswell Clerk
82 Hill Street
Garnethill

Ward 12

William J. Carswell House Factor
257 West George Street

Ward 13

James S. Carswell House & Land Agent 31 Union
Langbank

Ward 14

John Carswell Carter Tenant, House & Stable
2 Jamieson Lane

Robert Carswell Writer
206 North Street

Thomas Carswell
133 North Street

*Wishing one and all,
Season's Greetings
and Best Wishes for 2009*