



NELSON

This is the one Scottish connection. Nelson or Neilson is a sept of the Gunn Clan (see the box on the Gunn Clann for more information). I have not been able to trace far enough back on this line to definitively make a connection to a Clan and that's kind of where this story starts and ends.

This has been a very challenging family line to pursue. Let's start with Mary Nelson¹ who is my gran's mother. On 13 December 1905, she married Ernest Taylor at Bethesda Chapel, Manchester Rd, Hollinwood, according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Particular Baptists². The only photos of Mary Nelson (and Ernest Taylor her husband) are shortly before their deaths³ (she's shown here and they are shown as a couple on the next page).

I found a piece of correspondence written to my mother (Margaret Joyce

Fountain Acey), my father and my self dated 2nd January 1960 from Mary Nelson. The occasion was our departure from England for the United States. This letter (see box) gives you some sense of Mary. What else we know of Mary is also anecdotal

Mary (10 Nov 1880⁴ - 10 Sept. 1962⁵) was one of three children born to George Nelson and Sarah Ann Torkington. Her two siblings were John Walker (1878 - 14 August 1953)⁶ and Sarah Ann (1885-??).

In the 1881 Census⁷, the family is listed as living at 51 Lee Street in the Municipal Ward of Werneth, in the City of

¹ See Photo, Mary Nelson, June 7, 1958 (marriage of Margaret Joyce Fountain and Richard Alfred Acey) and tidbits on last page

² Certified Copy of Marriage Certificate - 13 December 1905, The Bethesda Chapel, Manchester Road, Hollinwood, Oldham, Ernest Taylor (25 years, Bachelor, Commercial Clerk, 33 Eastwood Rd, New Mosten, father = Samuel Taylor (deceased), Hatter and Mary Nelson (25 years, Spinster, Cotton Weaver, 215a Manchester Rd, Oldham, father = George Nelson, hatter (suspect this is a transcription error) and witnessed by Herbert Taylor (brother of Ernest) and Sarah Ann Nelson (sister of Mary)

³ See Photo (on next page), Mary Nelson Taylor and Ernest Taylor, pre-1950

⁴ Birth Certificate - 12 November 1880, 51 Lee St, Mary, girl, father = George Nelson, mother = Sarah Ann Nelson formerly Torkington, father's occupation = Saddler

⁵ Elsie Taylor Fountain Paine (daughter) & Monumental Inscription (see TAYLOR)

⁶ John Walker birth approximated from 1881 Oldham Census (see #7)

⁷ LDS Film #131974, 1881 Census, England, Lancashire, Oldham (see Appendix B) - also, the 1878 Electoral Role lists George at this same address

EXCERPT
Nelson Family Genealogy

Oldham in the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Thomas. The family members were:

George Nelson	Head	28	Harness Maker	Scotland, Kirkcudbright
Sarah Ann Nelson	Wife	33	Harness Maker Wife	Lancashire, Oldham
John W Nelson	Son	3		Lancashire, Oldham
Mary Nelson	Daur.	4 mos		Lancashire, Oldham
Sarah Slater	Mo in Law	59		Lancashire, Oldham



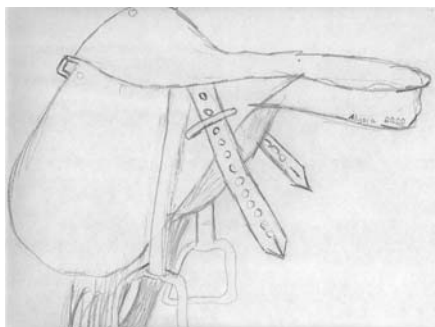
Due to time and resource constraints, my focus has always been on the main lineage. Any information I have on other lines is strictly incidental (see Appendix A) (NOT INCLUDED). Hence, the missing data above and throughout this write-up. I have learned though that a whole book could be written about John Walker Nelson as he achieved fame as a Methodist Preacher, able writer and historian whose articles appeared in local newspapers and are still quoted and used for reference today.⁸ The following excerpt from his obituary gives you more sense of the man:

“Mr. John Walker Nelson, known to Chronical readers as J.W.N., writer of the Hollinwood and Failsworth Notes, died this morning at his home, 106 Manchester Road, Werneth. He was 75 years of age...in 1892 became an active member of

the Good Templers. For some time he worked with his father as a master saddler, afterwards working at the Yew Tree Iron Works...then went to Platt Brothers...Ferranti's... A.V. Roe's... Mr. Nelson became a local preacher in 1902 on the Oldham (Union Street) Methodist Connexion plan, and after serving other circuits was awarded a long-service certificate for local preaching in 1945. Mr. Nelson became Chronicle correspondent for Hollinwood and Failsworth in 1924, and has regularly contributed items of news and historical interest. His weekly article has been a popular feature for many



years.”⁹ For a snippet from one of his articles, see the last page. The picture above (left to right) is Ernest Taylor (wife of Mary Nelson), John Walker Nelson and Arthur Lewis (wife of Sarah Ann Nelson) – the three brothers-in-law.



A story told by Edith Lewis Warburton (a niece) is as follows “I didn't much like my Uncle John either, possibly because he was very much like grandmother (Sarah Ann Torkington Nelson), rather

⁹ Oldham evening Chronicle, Friday, August 14, 1953

EXCERPT

Nelson Family Genealogy

grim and with a preoccupied intellectual air. That had very little use for or appeal to children. What I did like at the time, passionately, was black velvet. Oh how I longed for a black velvet dress and jacket, I knew that at about the age of eight my mother would never let me have one. Unless maybe it was for a funeral, she was a great one for funerals and mourning was my mother. I was sure that in such a good cause, I could persuade her to agree to my request. Then it occurred to me that in order to have a funeral, somebody had to die. I didn't want to lose any of my friends or family, and I settled on Uncle John. For months I willed him to die, but of course he didn't and I had to wait many years before I got my black velvet dress."

Well, back to George. George Nelson married Sarah Ann Torkington 28 August 1875 at Union St. Chapel, Oldham, according to the rites and ceremonies of the Independents¹⁰. It appears that George was a boarder with the Torkington family and subsequently married the landlord's daughter! The following excerpt from a letter from Edith Lewis Warburton describes George further:

Grandfather George at one time was a bit of a "wrong'un." When he first came to Oldham and lived at the Lee St. address it was as a lodger and eventually he married his landlady's daughter Sarah Ann. He was a very heavy drinker and lost all his money and their home and all their belongings were taken to pay his debts. Their next address was a very small cottage on Manchester Road, Hollinwood where my mother was born. Apparently he was so ashamed about this he became converted and a somewhat bigoted "teatotaler" he joined the Lodge of Good Templars and later my mother was the Secretary of the Junior branch of the Lodge. He obviously worked very hard to redeem himself and provide good home and living for the family and finally became a "Master" Saddler with a good business in much larger premises. When he died the business was sold and grandmother lived on the proceeds for over 6 years and when she died she left all three of her children 100 pounds each, which was pretty good in those days. (for more memories, see the last page)

The marriages of George and Sarah and his daughter Mary and Ernest explain some of the challenges of tracing these families -- they were so-called "nonconformists" and the records for these denominations are hard to come by and are fairly limited in content.

Fortunately, George's occupation of Saddler/Harness Maker¹¹ helped in the process (besides the census entries, George was also listed in the 1878 Electoral Register, Oldham at 51 Lee Street (as owning the house), in the



1880 Worrall's Directory of Oldham as a Saddler at 51 Lee Street and in the 1884 Worrall's Directory of Oldham as a Saddler at 409 Manchester Road, H (probably standing for Hollinwood). Going back to family lore (see box on page 4) we knew that George had been born in Newton-Stewart or Minigaff. You probably are wondering where these are? These are two towns on either side of the river Cree and were located in two different jurisdictions in Scotland. Newton-Stewart was Wigtownshire and Minigaff was in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright (also called Kirkcudbrightshire). Both are now part of Dumfries and Galloway. Nothing like

Free Church of Scotland
"The Free Church of Scotland was formed in 1843 as a result of a major schism within the (Established or state church) Church of Scotland. The split was variable, with some parishes having 70 percent of the members becoming Free Church, others in smaller percentages... As the Free Church registers are not covered by the IGI Scotland, the OPR Index or LDS cd-rom "Scottish Church Records," many people born between 1843 and 1854 are not normally findable, except in the 1851 census. Surviving Free Church registers are mostly held in the Scottish Record Office in Edinburgh, but are not indexed, and not microfilmed, ..."
(Gordon Johnson, KinHelp Genealogical Services, Aberdeen in a reply dated 4 February 1997 to soc.genealogy.uk+ireland.news@roun)

¹⁰Marriage Certificate – 18 August 1875, George Nelson (23 years, Bachelor, Saddler, 51 Lee St, Oldham, father = John Nelson (deceased), Woollen Weaver) and Sarah Ann Torkington (30 years, Spinster, Cotton Weaver, 51 Lee St Oldham, no father listed) and witnessed by William Gunn and Ann Nugent

¹¹Family Lore (Elsie Taylor Fountain Paine), 1880 and 1884 Directory, 1881 Census, 1910 Death Certificate

EXCERPT
Nelson Family Genealogy

Clan Gunn

(some tilbits)

"The Clan is Norse claiming descent from Gunn, Son of Olaf the Black, who ruled Orkney and the Isles in the 13th Century. The Clan lands were in Caithness and the fierce reputation of the Clansmen was proved in many battles to defend them. The Clan has no chief at present but is lead by it Commander Gunn of Banniskirk" (Lang Syne Publishers Ltd, 1991.)

"Crest, a dexter arm wielding a broadsword, proper. Motto, "Aut pax aut bellum." This means 'Either Peace or War'.

Associated names (or Septs) are names of families connected to the Gunn Clan. Nelson/Neilson is one such Sept. The name means son of "Neil."

(Clan Gunn, compiled by Alan McNie, Cascade Publishing Company, Tealburn, Scotland, 1989)

multiple jurisdictions to add some excitement.

Though the 1881 census¹² only lists Kirkcudbright, Scotland as the birth place -- from family lore we could narrow that to the Newton-Stewart/Minigaff area. Researching the 1841, 1851, 1861 and 1871 Scottish census' reveals

1841: Penningham¹³, Old Bridge End

Mary Nelson 24 not born in county

Jane 2 born in county

Jessie 1 born in county

1851: Penningham¹⁴, Gorbals

Mary 34 Sewing Agent Kirkcudbright, Minigaff

Jane 12 Sewer Wigtown, Newton-Stewart

Jessie 11 Sewer Wigtown, Newton-Stewart

Mary 8 Scholar Wigtown, Newton-Stewart

Hamilton 3 At Home Wigtown, Newton-Stewart

Margaret 3 At Home Wigtown, Newton-Stewart

John 10 mos At Home Wigtown, Newton-Stewart

1861: Penningham¹⁵ -- Main St -- Newton-Stewart

Mary Neilson 44 Midwife Minigaff, Kirkcudbrightshire

John Neilson 10 scholar Penninghame, Wigtownshire

George Neilson 8 scholar Minigaff, Kirkcudbrightshire

1861: Minigaff¹⁶ -- Bardroughmood Farm -- Alexander Kennedy is the Farmer

Margaret Neilson 13 Nurse Wigtownshire, Penningham

1861: Penninghame -- Mansion House of Merton Hall

Jessie Neilson 18 Domestic Servant Wigtownshire, Newton-Stewart

1871: Penningham¹⁷

In Loving Memory
of
George
The Beloved Husband Of
Sarah Ann Nelson
Of Manchester Rd. Hollinwood
Who Died Oct. 25th 1910
Aged 56 Years
Also Sarah Ann Nelson His Wife
Who Died Aug. 11th 1916
In Her 72nd Year
Also Elizabeth Grace, Wife of
J.W. Nelson
Daughter-in-law of the Above
Who Died July 12th 1933
Aged 57 Years
Also, George Son of
J.W. & E.C. Nelson,
Flight Lieut. R.A.F. Headquarters India
Killed at Cundian July 19th 1938
Aged 29 Years
Also the Above
John Walker Nelson
Beloved Husband of
Agnes May
Who Died August 14th 1953
Aged 75 Years

Thy Will Be Done
(transcribed by Author from Visit to
Hollinwood Cemetary)

¹² LDS Microfilm #1341974, 1881 Census, England, Oldham

¹³ LDS Microfilm #1042847, 1841 Census, Scotland, Penninghame Parish

¹⁴ LDS Microfilm #103775, 1851 Census, Scotland, Penninghame (District #1, pg. 22, entry #78). Mary is listed as "Mar" (or married)

¹⁵ LDS Microfilm #0103921, 1861 Census, Scotland, Newton-Stewart/Penninghame Parish

¹⁶ LDS Microfilm #103842, 1861 Census, Scotland, Kirkcudbright, Minigaff

¹⁷ LDS Microfilm #104113, 1871 Census, Scotland, Wigtownshire. George was listed as "unn" (or unmarried) and it was indicated that there was "1 room with one or more windows."

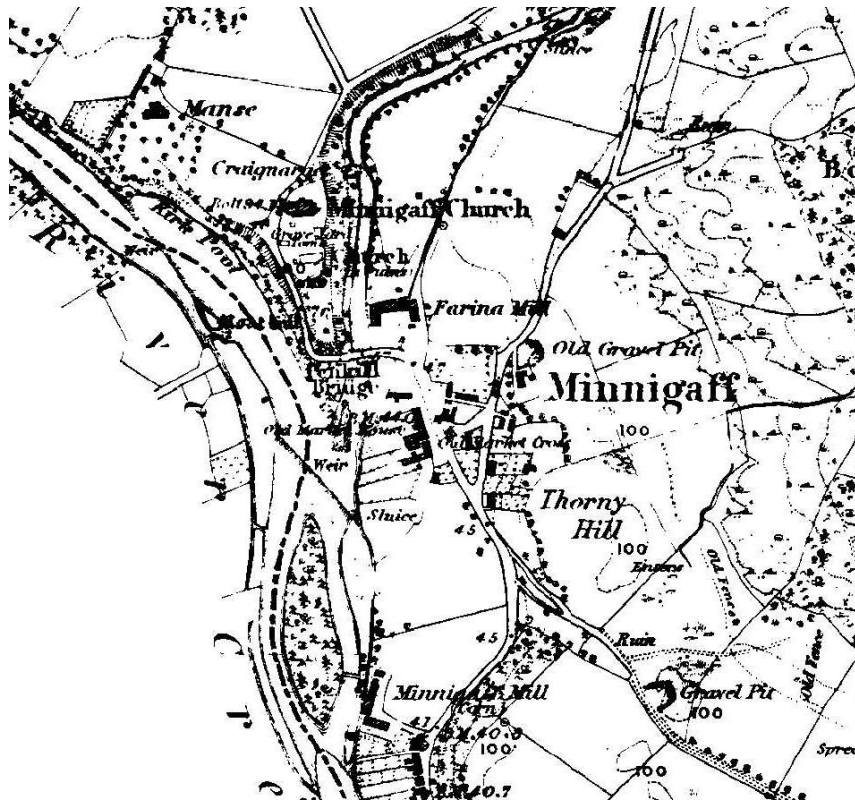
EXCERPT
Nelson Family Genealogy

George

18

Saddler

Minigaff, Kirkcudbrightshire



This family fits much of the family lore (see box for details) -- George is a saddler, his mother at one time was a midwife, he had siblings of John, Jessie and Maggie (Margaret?), Jessie and Margaret became servants at local mansions and John married an Irish girl and moved to Ireland (more on this later).

The real challenges at this point are that the father is never listed (we know from George's marriage certificate that his father was named John and was a weaver.) in the census and George was born c.

1852 which is before Scottish Civil Registration starts in 1855. So the next avenue of inquiry was church records.

A search of Church of Scotland baptisms, both for Minigaff and Penninghame, revealed nothing. These are small enough communities that it was unlikely that the family would have ventured elsewhere for Baptisms. Given the subsequent history of being "nonconformist" -- a search of nonconformist registers was performed (please see box on page 3 for separate discussion of challenges of this time period in Scotland). It ends up that the three oldest children are listed in the records for the United Presbyterian Church (a secession Church)¹⁸ -- the findings were:
Jane Cowan - born 28 Dec 1838, lawful daughter of John Neilson and Mary McCartney
Jessie Aitken - born 21 March 1840, same
Mary - born 12 September 1842, same

Family Lore

Could be part of the Clann Gunn and entitled to wear the Gunn Tartan.

George born in Newton-Stewart and Minigaff.

George entered the family trade of saddler. The family shop in Newton-Stewart only changed hands in the 1970s and there are still Nelson's Saddler's shops in other parts of Scotland.

After serving his apprenticeship in Newton-Stewart, he went as a journeyman to Dublin where he worked for a few years and then went to Hollinwood.

George had a brother John who married an Irish girl and went to live in Ireland and of whom nothing more is known.

George had two sisters, Jessie and Maggie (or Margaret) who never married and became cooks at big mansions in the area.

George's mother was a local midwife.

(source: Elsie Taylor Fountain Paine)

¹⁸Records for United Presbyterian Church, baptisms 1791-1845 available at the Scottish Record Office -- they were searched March 1997 by someone there

EXCERPT
Nelson Family Genealogy

Now we can confirm a father John, pinpoint some dates and most likely have a handle on maternal and paternal grandmothers names -- if the traditional Scottish naming patterns were adhered to (1st daughter is mother's mother,

Wigtownshire

"Wigtownshire, a maritime county in the SW extremity of Scotland, forms the W division of Galloway, and contains the most southerly land in Scotland. It is bounded on the N partly by the mouth of the Firth of Clyde, but chiefly by Ayrshire, E by Kirkcudbrightshire, S by the Irish Sea, and W by the Irish Channel ... The streams of Wigtownshire are very numerous, but for the most part of short course and unimportant size. The chief is the Cree, which for 21 1/2 miles forms the boundaries between Kirkcudbright and Wigtown shires, but before it enters Wigtown Bay at Creetown ... Wigtownshire is almost exclusively an agricultural and grazing county... the burghs of barony are Newton Stewart, Glenluce, and Portpatrick..."

Ordinance Gazetteer of Scotland, ed. Francis H. Groome, 1885

2nd daughter is father's mother, 3rd daughter is mother, 4th daughter is mother's eldest sister, 5th daughter is father's eldest sister, etc...).

Note also that I've seen write-ups where the pattern starts with father's mother and each entry is reversed! Note also that the name is listed as NEILSON and not NELSON. This is one of those confusing name issues that always complicates things!

Further research into Wigtown Free Press entries¹⁹ (this was a local paper that frequently published non-conformist items) gives us some confirmation of the birth of the twins and the subsequent marriage of John to an Irish girl. The two entries for 1843 and 1854 are interesting -- son born in 1843 not seen in 1851 census and

daughter born in 1854 not seen in 1861 census.

* At Newton-Stewart, on the 9th inst., Mrs John Neilson, of a son (Wigtown Free Press, 14/9/1843)²⁰

* At Newton-Stewart, on the 31st ultimo, the wife of Mr John Neilson, of twin daughters (Wigtown Free Press, 10/2/1848)

* At Wigtown Row, Newton-Stewart, on the 2d inst., the wife of Mr John Neilson, of a daughter (Wigtown Free Press, 6/4/1854)

* At Gloucester Street Presbyterian Church, Dublin, on the 8th inst., by the Rev. Robert Hanns, assisted by the Rev. James Stevenson, John Walker Nelson, later of Newton-Stewart,

Wigtownshire to Mary Ann, eldest daughter of Mr James Lillie, late of Glasgow (Wigtown Free Press, 17/6/1875)

Dublin

"... a HcountyH in Ireland, in Leinster, bounded N by Meath, E by the Irish sea, S by Wicklow, and W by Meath and Kildare, 30 m. long, and 19 broad; containing 228,211 acres, and 108 parishes, 21 of which are in the city of Dublin. The county is flat, except towards the S; on the coast it is broken into bays and creeks, with several places of resort for sea-bathing. Pop. 210,000."

[From *The New London Gazetteer* (1826)]



We know that John Nelson and Mary McCartney were married 18 Feb 1838 at Penninghame²¹. A State church marriage is not unusual since at this time one could not legally marry in a nonconformist church.

Now that we know some of the origin of the family line, what else do we know.

¹⁹ Articles listed in Wigtown Free Press Index, obtained from Dumfries and Galloway Family History Research Center, 1997

²⁰ GLOSSARY: 14/9/1843 is the English convention of dates meaning 14 of September 1843, inst. means instant or current month and ultimo means previous or last month

²¹ LDS Film #1068040, Penninghame Parish records

EXCERPT
Nelson Family Genealogy

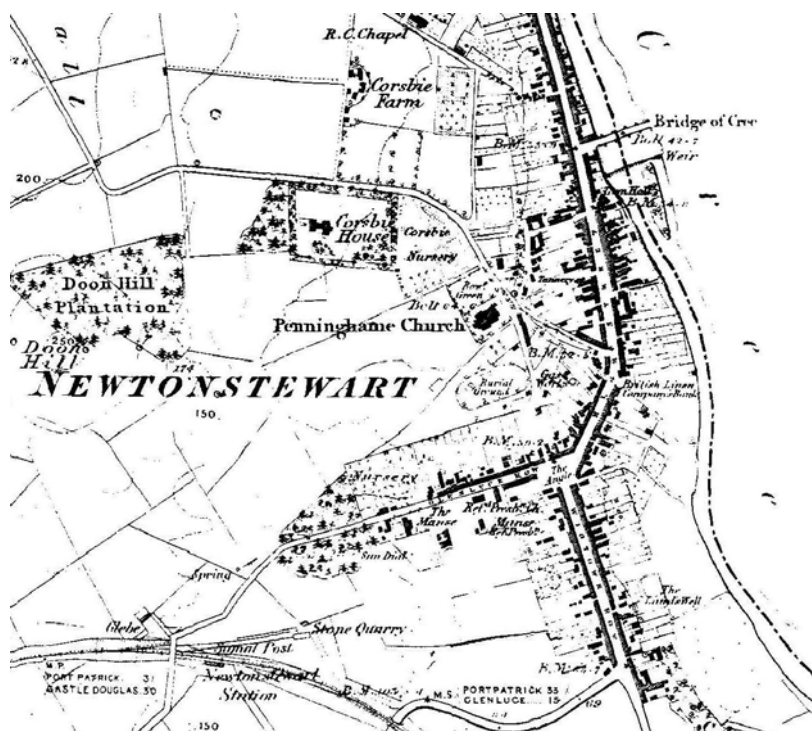
Well, George died 25 October 1910 from cancer of the liver. At the time he lived at 215A Manchester Rd in Oldham and was still a saddler.²² His will was probated on 21 December 1910 to Sarah Ann Nelson, widow, and John Walker Nelson, engineer. Effects: 410 pounds. 1s. 10d²³ He is buried in Hollinwood Cemetary and a box on page 4 contains a transcription of the tombstone inscription.²⁴ The next page is a copy of his will.

His widow, Sarah Ann died a few years later on August 11 1916 of Cardiac Weakness and Hychops – senile decay while living at 29 Eastwood Rd., New Mosten Manchester.²⁵

What you have above covers the basic information that can be woven together to fabricate a “story” that best seems to describe George Nelson’s ancestry. We will never know the whole story.

Let’s see how we did in dealing with the “family lore” mentioned earlier.

- George was born in Minigaff Kirkcudbright Scotland
- George entered the trade of Saddlery/Harness Maker (have not found a link to it being a “family” trade)
- George has not been found as having spent time in Dublin yet
- George did have a brother John that went to Ireland, married and stayed
- George did have sisters Jessie and Margaret who appeared to work at local mansions
- George’s mother was a midwife at one time



²² Death Certificate, OS 10.416

²³ Certified copy of will

²⁴ Hollinwood Cemetary, Plot J10-90

²⁵ Death Certificate, Manchester Registration District – son, John Walker Nelson was in attendance

EXCERPT
Nelson Family Genealogy

Kirkcudbrightshire

“... lies in the south of Scotland and forms the eastern and by far the most extensive portion of the ancient district of Galloway. It is bounded by Dumfries-shire on the east and north-east, on the south by the Solway Frith and the Irish Sea, by the county of Ayr on the north and north-west, and by Wigtonshire (or Western Galloway) on the west.”

Minnigaff

“The name is evidently derived from the Gaelic monna dhubh, signifying a dark mountainous region... There is no market town in the parish, and the nearest is Newton-Stewart, on the opposite bank of the Cree...”

(Rev. Michael Stewart, (baptism, Minister) New-Statford)

So, research has been able to substantiate most of the family lore regarding George.

There are some other tidbits of information that have some significance and haven't been pursued. Some of these are:

- a daughter, Margaret Neilson, was born 27 April 1867 to Hamilton Neilson in Penninghame, Wigtown, Scotland. Hamilton was a domestic servant, born in Newton-Stewart and the information was provided by Mary Neilson, grandmother. More than likely this is a child born to George's sister.
- George named his first son John Walker which was also George's

brother's name – where does this fit in? Consider that another bit of family lore had the mother's name as Hamilton Walker (instead of Mary) – maybe it's a paternal relative? Also, John Walker happened to be the name of the Minister of the Free Church at Newton-Stewart at this time? So many questions....

- Can we use the information from the baptism registry to surmise the following: Mary McCartney's parents are Jane Cowan and George McCartney and John Neilson's parents are Jessie Aitken and John Neilson? (subsequently discover that we can't ... it doesn't appear that a “traditional naming pattern was applied”)

And, as with all research – it never ends! There are tasks to still be done:

- Find family in 1891 Census
- Look for George in Dublin
- Also, there was a Nelson Saddler's shop in Newton-Stewart until around the 1970's. More than likely, the Nelson family who ran it was related to George. Maybe an uncle of his was the proprietor at one time and this could explain how he got into the trade. Another mystery to be solved!

After this wryteny was essentially completed in April 2000, the story continued....

Shortly after this, Elsie Taylor Fountain Paine, only daughter of Mary Nelson (and Ernest Taylor) died on May 30, 2000 (she was 93 years old). She was my “Gran” and the one who inspired my Nelson research. She had always had some pride in her “Scottish” Ancestry and this prompted me to do all that I could to “confirm” the Nelson link. When one mentions a 90+ year old relative, I think it did prompt my queries to get a little more attention. At least before she died, I had been able to verbally share with her the progress I had made.

EXCERPT
Nelson Family Genealogy

	Mary	1870	♀	64	James McCarty	George Nelson	1870
	Nelson	November eighth		years	Labourer	gen	November tenth
		18 13 1870				as certified by	Parish of Minnigaff
82	married to	Hamilton			Hamilton McCarty	George McCarty	Parish of Minnigaff
	John Nelson				M.S. Walker	Labourer	Assistant Registrar
	Weaver	Parish of Minnigaff					d. 11

Even after all this, the story still continued. In July 2000 I discovered a new WWW (World Wide Web) site called Origins operated by the Where one could search on one's Scottish Ancestors. So, as a "last" pass at this family, I did some extensive research on Nelson/Neilsons. A "death" record for a Mary Nelson seemed a likely match so a copy of the record was requested. To make an even longer story short – not only was it the "right" Mary Nelson – the certificate lists her husband (John Nelson, weaver) and her parents (James McCartney, labourer and Hamilton McCartney), including her mother's maiden name (M.S. Walker). This one document makes that illusive "link" of George to his parents while another piece of the puzzle is also satisfied -- It was George's maternal grandmother, not mother who was Hamilton Walker!

Prior research in the IGI had identified a Hamilton Walker, possibly Mary's mother – all christenings took place in Minnigaff, Kirkcudbright Scotland

Walker, James	John Walker and Jean Caa	26 Oct 1772
Walker, John	John Walker and Jean Caa	26 Oct 1772
Walker, George	John Walker and Jean McCaa	7 Apr. 1778
Walker, Hamilton	John Walker and Jean Caa	11 Nov 1782

Marriage John Walker and Jean Caa, 27 Aug 1770, Minnigaff, Kirkcudbright, Scotland

So, not only is there a Hamilton Walker, her father is John Walker (the same name as George's son) and twins were born (matches Mary having the twins Hamilton and Margaret; twins often run in families).

A rather interesting bit is that the 1851 census for Minnigaff has the following entry. Now the particulars of name and approx. birth year match the Hamilton Walker listed above. Yet, if she had married James McCartney, wouldn't she be Hamilton McCartney? Not much reliance can be placed on the U vs W vs M in the "Condition related to marriage" column. On several occasions, the author has seen widows listed as U, etc...

Village of Creebridge, Parish of Minnigaff, Creagians, 1 Hous Building
Hamilton Walker head U 69 General Servant Minnigaff Kirkcudbright

EXCERPT
Nelson Family Genealogy

More memories of Edith Lewis Warburton of her Grandfather, George Nelson

He was very strict, the children all went to Hudson Street Methodist Chapel and Sunday School but he was a member of the Scottish Presbyterian Church in Oldham and went regularly every Sunday morning, walking the four miles there and four back, because it was "sinful" to ride on a tram on the Sabbath, whatever the weather. No games, books (except the bible) newspapers or music were allowed in the house on Sunday.

Grandfather would not go to any of the weddings and when asked to "give the Bride away" refused, saying "he hadn't done with them yet."

Seemingly when a young apprentice completed his years of training, he was sent out into the world for a couple of years to find work with a variety of other employers, so that he had a good all around experience of the different types of work he might be asked to do. Before he went he was expected to make his own "chest" to carry all his tools, clothes and personal belongings.

More memories of Edith Lewis Warburton of her Aunt, Mary Nelson Taylor

Early in the war, Ian's birth was imminent and Margaret, your mother, was sent to stay with her gran and grandad at Derby. I had been ill and Aunt Mary invited me to go for a couple of weeks to recuperate and also help to entertain Margaret at the time. I guess Margaret was feeling a bit sore at being sent away and possibly a bit scared too.

Anyway, she was a real pain in the neck and led us a right dance. Her favourite way of getting attention was to refuse her meals and there was a row every time we sat down to the table. I told Auntie to ignore it, when she was hungry she'd eat! But no, Auntie was a great cook and proud of it, she made gorgeous meals and no way was she going to have them wasted! And so the vicious circle went on, day after day. One morning I went into the kitchen to find Auntie preparing lunch, she had just cut a huge cauliflower from the garden and I, not wanting to set a bad example to Margaret, said oh, Auntie, when you are serving, don't give me any cauliflower please. "Why not?" "Well, it's not that I don't like it, but on the last two occasions I've had it there has been a caterpillar on it." She went scarlet and bridled up like a little Bantam Cock saying icily "There are no caterpillars when I serve cauliflower." Came lunch time and on my plate was an enormous helping of cauliflower. I avoided it as long as I could but in the end I had to give it a try, I gingerly lifted a floret with my fork and there underneath was the biggest, fattest, juiciest, well boiled caterpillar you ever saw!!! I froze, my blood, as they say, went cold and my stomach turned over. I just managed to gasp "Oh, Auntie, look." She took one look, glared at me, grabbed the plate, stalked into the kitchen and emptied the lot into the waste bin and that was that, not a word and she hardly spoke to me again all day. I'm sure she thought I'd put it there for spite. And I still don't eat cauliflower!

Snippet from an Article by John Walker Nelson as J.W.N. as it appeared in the Oldham Standard, Jan 21st 1933

Banks abound on every hand. People who have money for which they have no immediate use deposit it in ease in palatial buildings under comfortable circumstances, and they are attended by well-groomed men or ladies who are the embodiment of happiness.

When they need a little of it for current purposes it is there at call without any trouble or danger.

EXCERPT
Nelson Family Genealogy

It was not always so. In the early days of town banking, branches were to be found in out-of-the-way places, and the carrying through of the business seems strange to modern minds. The following is an account of an incident or two built on a fact in old-time banking in Oldham...

... The shed was the local branch of the Saddleworth Bank, which transacted all the banking business in the district, and its representatives came on certain days to receive deposits, and on Friday afternoons to pay over the money which would later in the evening be required for the wages of the people toiling in the cotton factories and foundries.

The money was carried, in gold and silver, usually by two men on horseback, both armed, but occasionally the task was entrusted to one man only, so its arrival was somewhat uncertain. It was brought from Saddleworth, where the bank had its headquarters, by way of Lydgate, Mumps and the new Union street, and on this particular Friday afternoon its arrival was eagerly awaited.

In the company it was easy to distinguish N – from Lyon Dam, C – from Lees, W – from Primrose Bank, D – from Park Estate and a boisterous, portly man known among his pals as Jimmy Lichen... On one occasion he had brought the pot to the bank in the quarry and his share of the gold and silver that week just filled it, so his packet became known among the confederates as Jimmy Lichen's pot. The bank clerk called it that as he handed it through the little window, the flap of which had been lifted for that purpose ..."