

The Armstrong Family Tree

[Return to Homepage](#)

Firstly I would like to thank the following people who have helped me enormously with my research :- Malcolm Ingram, Gerry Linton, Joan Shannon and Don Grant.

Thomas Armstrong - born circa 1770s: - The only information I have on Thomas is that he travelled over the border from Singdean in the parish of Castleton to marry Jane Renwick of Blackarm in this chapelry (Falstone St Peters, Northumberland, England). This took place on December 29th 1797 in the presence of Adam Armstrong (Adam was born at Deadwater, the second son of Francis Armstrong, Herd in Deadwater and was baptised Feb 13th 1780. Adam had an elder brother William baptised Jan 8th 1774. Francis Armstrong was married to Helen Telfer on Sept 15th 1771. Was Thomas another brother? Following the naming pattern his father would be Francis and his mother Helen, establishing the connection between Adam and Thomas will be necessary in order to go further back) and John Murray. John Murray was the third son of Adam Murray and Margaret Hutton and was born 15th July 1779 at Deadwater (I suspect that Thomas Armstrong may well have also been born in the Castleton area and that they were friends from a young age) in the Parish of Castleton (he died April 1st 1849 at Langshawburn, Dumfries and there may be a connection with Thomas Armstrong born 1825). John Murray married Janet Little and their daughter Mary was later to marry Thomas Armstrong's son Francis. Thomas was a shepherd and lived on several farms during his time in Northumberland. Thomas and Jane had eight children: -

Mary born at Blackarm 26th Sept 1797 and christened 19th Jan 1798

Helen born at Lay? 17th Oct 1800 and christened 18th Nov 1800

Francis born at Hawkes Knowe (Knough) (Simonburn Parish, Northumberland, England) this is a very isolated place some 4.5 miles north of the village of Falstone at OS grid reference NY721948, 1st May 1802 and christened 3rd June 1802

George born 25th August and christened 4th Oct 1803

John born 27th Feb 1805 christened 5th April

Jane born 26th May 1807 christened 2nd July 1807

Elizabeth born at Dort? Parish of Thorneyburn 12th August 1810 christened 17th Aug 1810

Thomas born Dort? 29th Feb 1816 christened 4th March.

Francis Armstrong (my G,G,G Grandfather) - born 1802: -

"Francis of the parish of Eskdalemoor and Mary Murray of this parish (Westerkirk) were married 12th Dec 1823". Mary was born at Ewes, Dumfries on 5th March 1802, Mary had two brothers Michael and Adam, however both died in infancy in 1806, the same year as Mary's mother Janet died (John later married Esther Cowan and they had thirteen children!). Francis and Mary lived at Henwoodie, a shepherd's cottage near Roberton, Selkirk/Roxburgh. Henwoodie Cottage is located in Craik Forest, Grid Reference NT349116. I understand it has since been demolished.

Francis and Mary had ten children and all were born at Henwoodie. According to family knowledge passed down, all the children with the exception of Thomas emigrated to Australia/New Zealand, around 1866, however it seems that Janet also stayed in Scotland. Francis died in Queenstown, Port Adelaide, South Australia, 8th May 1870, and Mary died 15th March 1876, again in Queenstown: -

Thomas (my G,G,Grandfather) born 10th April 1825

Janet born 4th Oct 1827, married Kerr Armstrong (b Cavers c 1825 d Mussel 4th Sep 1893) at Thurso 1st Sep 1854. They had a daughter Mary Armstrong b Halkirk 3rd Jun 1855. Mary married William McDonald Grant (b Reay 17th Jul 1849 d Dunbeath 23rd Feb 1937) in Mussel 28 Apr 1876 and died at Freisgill 31st Dec 1887.

[Link to Don Grants website \(descendant of Janet Armstrong and Kerr Armstrong\)](#)

Jane born 7th June 1829 died May 1859

James was born 25th Jul 1832 and christened 26th Dec 1832 at Henwoodie. He died 1st Sep 1880 at Akitio River, New Zealand and was buried at Akitio on 3rd Sep 1880. James married Elenora Weir Abt 1868 in Adelaide, South Australia, Australia.

James and Eleanor had seven children:- Francis born 23rd Dec 1869

William Laurence born 4th Dec 1871 at Fowlers Bay, South Australia

Molly born 14th Dec 1873 at Fowlers Bay, South Australia

Ella born 16th Oct 1874 at Glen Osmond, South Australia

James was born in Jan 1878 and died 5th Jan 1878

James (2) was born 31st Dec 1878 at Akitio, New Zealand. He married Irene Speedy and they had a son Richard

Archibald was born 29th Jan 1881 at Akitio, New Zealand and died 28th Apr 1894 at Christchurch, New Zealand.

[Akitio website history](#)

[Link to Akitio website](#)

[Article on Akitio](#)

[James's death certificate](#)

[James's will](#)

Barbara Little Armstrong was born 23rd Mar 1835 at Henwoodie and was christened 22nd May 1835. She died 13th Sep 1905 at Feilding, New Zealand and was buried at Sanson, New Zealand. Barbara married Robert Linton 4th June 1861 at Henwoodie - "marriage (after banns) was solemnized between us according to the forms of the Evangelical Union Church".

[Barbara and Robert Marriage entry](#)

[Photograph of Barbara and Robert](#)

Esther was born 12th Apr 1837 and christened 11th Jun 1837. She died in Mar 1906. Esther married Captain William Tulloch.

Margaret was born 3rd Jul 1839 and christened 6th Oct 1839. She died in June 1861.

Eleanor was born 28th Feb 1841 at Henwoodie and christened 12th Oct 1841. She died in Dec 1929. Eleanor married Thomas Clode

John was born 16th Aug 1845 at Henwoodie and died 3rd Dec 1862.

Elizabeth was born 3rd May 1847 and died 20th Dec 1923. Elizabeth married a Samuel Mills. Elizabeth & Samuel had at least one child :- Mary Mills married Joseph Verco (later Knighted for his services to medicine in Australia)

[1841 census, Henwoodie](#)

[1851 census, Henwoodie](#)

[1861 census, Henwoodie](#)

Thomas my G, G, Grandfather was born at Henwoodie but by the time of the 1841 census he had left home. Presumably he had left to become a shepherd elsewhere. Thomas married Mary Alston on 28th Dec 1848. According to a later census, Mary was born in Lochmaben, Dumfries, although I can find no mention of their place of marriage. My Grandfather Francis John, seems to recollect that Thomas worked at Langshawburn NE of Eskdalemuir prior to moving to Caplefoot and Craighousesteads. I also have a copy of a book written in 1900 "A Scots Wanderjahre" which has a whole chapter dedicated to the Golden Wedding of Thomas and Mary, it also states that Thomas was the most senior surviving descendant of Johnnie Armstrong of Gilnochie.

[Photograph of Thomas and Mary](#)

[Photograph of Caplefoot](#)

[1881 Census, Caplefoot](#)

Thomas and Mary had six children: -

Archibald born 20th Feb 1856. Archie traveled to New Zealand to work with his Uncle James but they both drowned in Akitio River whilst horse riding. I have a book given to him by Walter Common dated 9th September 1877, which presumably was just prior to his departure.

[Archibald's death certificate](#)

Esther born August 17th 1857

Francis my G, Grandfather born 1859.

Jane born 9th Nov 1861. Jane had two children at a very young age out of wedlock, they were, Esther born 1876 and Mary born 1880 and they all lived at Caplefoot as mentioned on the 1881 census. She later married James McRobert on the 12th Feb 1887 at Caplefoot and they had four children.

John born 22nd Dec 1863

Margaret born 30th Jan 1866. Margaret married a William P Bell from Priestbutts, Tundergarth. They had fourteen children.

Francis (my Great Grandfather) married Isabella Buck (born 17th Feb. 1868) At Greyrigg, Johnston by Lockerbie on the 15th Nov 1889. They had six children: -

Thomas born 1892 married Margaret and they had two children Francis and David

Alexander born 1894 married Janet Clark Reid and they had two children, Helen and Isabella Reid Armstrong

Archibald born 1895, Died August 15th 1915 sinking of Royal Edward, Aegean Sea

Francis John born 1896 at Craighousesteads, Tundergarth, Dumfries

[Photograph of Craighousesteads](#)

Dora Hope born 1899, Craighousesteads, married Ian Ingram June 30th 1928 and lived at Scroggs Cottage by Lockerbie. They had one son, Ian Malcolm Ingram born May 28th 1929.

[Photograph of Scroggs Cottage](#)

Ella born c1900.

Francis John Armstrong married my Grandmother Ellen Cameron Cook Stoker (born October 12th 1904 at Prudhoe, Northumberland) in Whitley Bay, Northumberland September 16th 1926. Ellen's father was James Braithwaite Stoker who was born in Egremont, Cumberland. He served as a Policeman in the Northumbrian force rising to the rank of Sergeant. I only know the name of his eldest brother Foster who emigrated to South Africa after the First World War.

Photograph of James Braithwaite Stoker and brothers

Francis joined the Army around 1914. He rose to the rank of Sergeant, Royal Artillery and was mentioned in Dispatches. He joined the Northumberland Constabulary around 1922/23 and was promoted to Sergeant around 1928. He was promoted to Inspector around 1935, when he was transferred to Bedlington as Sub divisional Inspector. Mid 1937 he was transferred to Morpeth to help establish Northumberland C.I.D. , promotion to Superintendent in charge of C.I.D. followed. He then volunteered for Army service in the Military Government and served in Italy at Benvento as Senior Civil Affairs Officer, then as Commissioner, he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

Francis was appointed Allied Military Government Provincial Commissioner for Trieste City and Province when the 5th Army reached Trieste. He was awarded the M.B.E just before the war ended.

Grandfather returned home after the war and was soon appointed Assistant Chief Constable by the then Chief Constable Joseph Simpson (later Sir Joseph, Commissioner of Metropolitan Police). When Joseph Simpson left he was appointed Chief Constable.

Francis was appointed Her Majesty's Inspector in 1952 and was awarded the C.B.E. on the 13th June 1959 and retired age 65 in 1961.

They lived at 48 Grosvenor Drive, Whitley Bay on retirement and died in 1968. My Grandmother Ella died at Whitley Bay in 1986.

Photograph of Francis John and Ellen