

Jennet Hutchinson's Origins

The search for Jennet Hutchinson's origins has been inconclusive. We have supplemented the information obtained from various New Brunswick sources (websites, archives, etc.) with searches through the Scotland's People website and the familysearch.org website and private genealogy research in Scotland¹. The following is the best information found to-date and our assessment thereof:

Birth place: Ayrshire according to a report of her death in 1856 in Saint John, New Brunswick; this is the only reference we have and presumably the source is Margaret Stevens, her daughter with whom she was visiting or living at the time. This rules out Peterhead, Aberdeenshire as her birth place.

Birthdate: unknown; but the 1851 census for Fredericton states her age as 84 (i.e. birth 1766-1767) and three press reports of her death state that she was 86 at death (birth 1769-1770); these dates are frequently inaccurate, but I think we can safely say that she was born in 1766-1770; perhaps as late as 1771.

Jennet's immigration: 1776 as listed in her 1851 Census record for Fredericton; this was likely to Halifax. Is this date accurate? I think it depends on who gave the information to the enumerator: yes, if it was 84 year-old Jennet; perhaps, if it was one of her two daughters who were then living with her, Amelia McGraw or Charlotte Turner.

Date of marriage: date unknown, but the year was 1785, as confirmed in a petition by Jennet on January 27, 1845, (making Jennet age 15-19); the Winslow Papers show Holden was not married on January 1, 1785; the marriage likely took place at the Anglican Church in Mauderville, a

¹ John McGee of Scotland, Wheech Scottish Ancestry Services
<http://wheechmcgeenes.webs.com>

town located 10 miles southeast of Fredericton; marriage records for this church are not available before 20 February 1787;

Date of death: 3 March 1856 in Saint John, New Brunswick

Jennet's parents:

- Our chronicler Waters initially said the research pointed to Jennet's father as Robert; in later research she identified Robert and Ann Finlay of Peterhead; the latter is unlikely due to location (Peterhead is in Aberdeenshire on the north-east coast of Scotland).
- There was a *Robert Hutchinson* who served with the 82nd regiment; in 1785 he was married and had 2 children over age 10; no record of Robert's wife name has been found; Robert would have been in Halifax in 1784 at the same time as Holden. Members of the 82nd Regiment were granted land in Pictou County, NS. Why this Robert did not receive a grant is unknown. Perhaps the newly-established New Brunswick and the attractive Fredericton area lured him. Robert lived for a short time on the Maryland Loyalist Block, but moved to Fredericton in early 1785. Perhaps his occupation (unknown) required a village location. He died in May 1818 at age 73 (which would make his birth c1745); a Robert Hutchinson was a witness to the land purchase by Holden Turner in 1801. There is an apparent disconnect: Robert's being in the 82nd regiment with Jennet emigrating in 1776. Further research might provide more information.
- John McGee, Scottish genealogist and researcher retained by the author, suggests Jennet's parents may be *Robert Hutchinson and Jean Dick* of Mauchline and Girvan, Ayrshire who married in 1771; possible, but

with their daughter Jennet's birth in December 1771, she would be 13-14 at her marriage; however, this cannot be discounted as this Robert was born in the same year as the aforementioned Robert and few Robert Hutchinsons of this approximate age were born in Ayr. McGee suggests that possibly Holden and Jennet's first child Robert was illegitimate thus explaining Jennet's young age at marriage. This may be so, yet research indicates Robert was born in late 1786/early 1787, making illegitimacy unlikely to the author.

- Another possibility is *Alexander Hutchison*, married with 2 children over age 10, who had been a member of the New York Volunteers and was living in Keswick, north west of Fredericton on 2 August, 1785; Alexander was a cordwainer, as was Holden; The NYV was formed in Halifax in 1776 and consisted of loyalists who had left the American colonies for Halifax and immigrants to Halifax who arrived from Britain in that year. A Janet Hutchinson (possibly his wife) died in Lincoln N.B. in October 1831 at age 97. An Alexander Hutchison married Jennet Mair in Galston, Ayrshire in 1755. This family could have emigrated to Halifax in 1776. Other children in the family were Isabel, John and George, all names of three of Holden and Jennet's children.
- There are several other Hutchison families from Ayrshire who might be our Jennet's parents, but not as likely as the foregoing two.
- *Andrew Hutchinson*: most likely the son of Robert Hutchinson and Jean Dick and possible brother of Jennet:
 - Resident of Saint John
 - Married Elizabeth Stymest c1803; she died in March 1858 at age 73
 - Died 16 Mar 1831 at Saint John at

age 55; report of death stated he was a native of Mauchline, Ayr; (matches McGee's research)

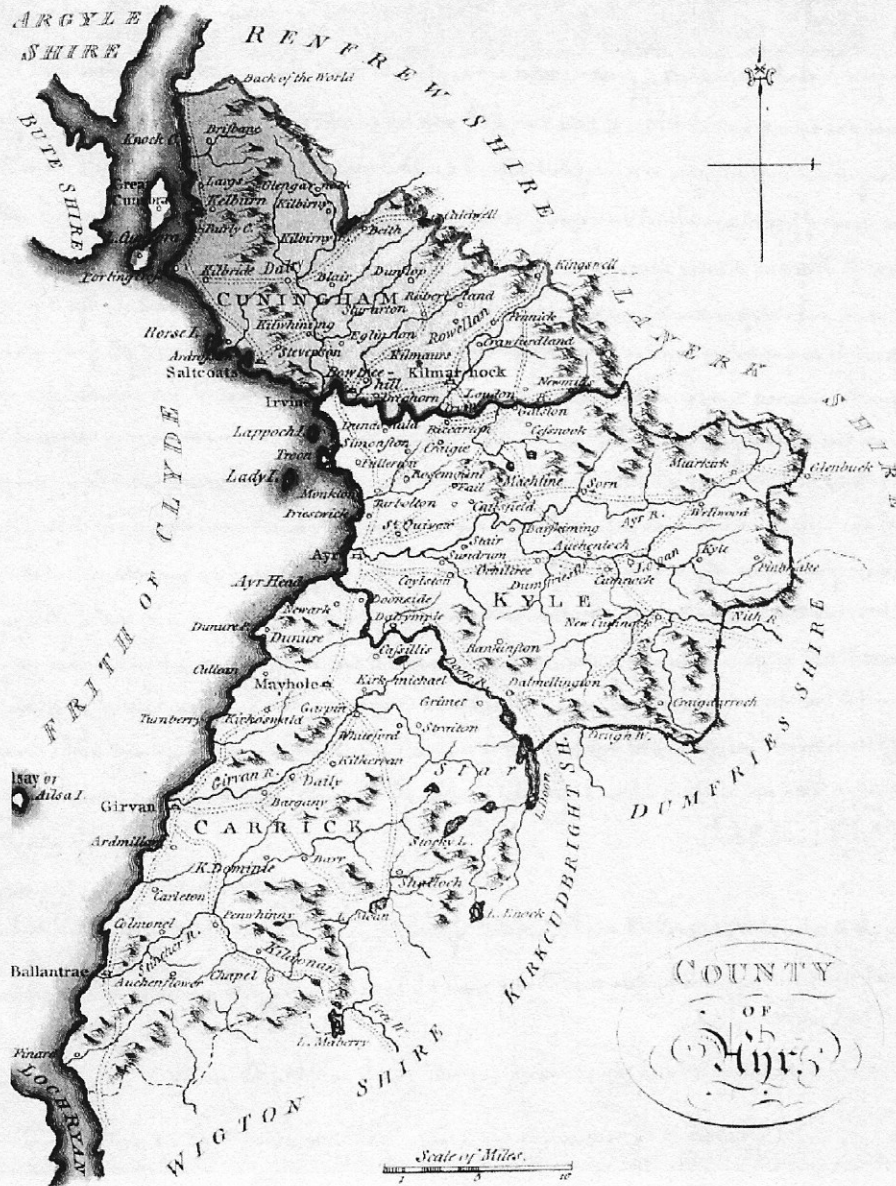
- Executors were Elizabeth Hutchinson (wife) and W.H. Travis (son-in-law) according to the N.B. Courier of 14 May, 1831; Andrew's will does not include any reference to siblings and, in particular, to Jennet.
- Andrew and Elizabeth had nine children: *Catherine Margaret* (b. 1806 - died March 1895 at age 91) married W.H. Travis; *George Collingwood* (c1807 - died 21 August, 1828); *Elizabeth Jane* (1809 - died October 1859 at age 54); *Wellington G.* (c1812 - died 30 November 1832 at age 20); *Sarah Ann* (c1812 - died June 1834); *Charlotte McKeel* (1814 - 1904) married James H. Bartlett November 1834; *Robert Stymest* (1816 - Jan 1854) married Louise A. Earle June 1847?; *Valentine Bamford* (1818 - 27 October, 1880); and *Andrew Dick* (1819 - 28 October, 1820)
- Note that the son Andrew has Dick as a second name, which is a strong indication that his grandmother's maiden name is Dick, making him the grandson of Robert H. and Jean Dick of Mauchline. Stymest and McKeel are also surnames.
- Of Andrew's children, only George is a name in Holden and Jennet's family. However, his daughter Elizabeth Jane may have been a reference to

Jennet, which is an oft-used substitute for Janet in Ayrshire of the period.

Conclusions:

There is a good chance that either the Robert or Alexander described above is Jennet's father.

A County Map of Ayr from November 1777, about the time Jennet Hutchinson immigrated to Canada with her family. The village of Mauchline is to the south of Kilmarnock, Galston is north of Mauchline and Girvan is on the south coast opposite Ailsa Craig



Illus. 1: Map of the County of Ayr, Sayer & Bennett, November 1777.