

*JANE JANET MACKAY (1854-
1922)*
BY RENA MITCHELL

Jane Janet Mackay was born into small town life in Bathgate West Lothian in 1854, where her father John Mackay ran a draper's shop or business. He was from a northern county, Sutherland, but his wife Vair was from Jedburgh in Roxburghshire, where they met and where the oldest three children were born. The family were educated, her mother being from the Rutherfords family, who were prominent in Jedburgh life. I think John Mackay moved to Jedburgh because there was a thriving woollen trade there, possibly with more opportunity for a man from near Bettyhill in the far north. There were always connections between the Borders families and the far north of Scotland, in both the wool trade, farming and the fishing trade.

By the 1851 census the Mackays had moved to 15 Jarvey Street, Bathgate West Lothian, where John Mackay is recorded as being a merchant draper and they lived there until after his death in 1871. The rest of Jane Janet's six siblings were born there.

At the time of Jane's father's death, her mother Vair remained in the family home in Bathgate, with five of her seven children including William Mackay (grocer), James R H Mackay (draper), Isabella Mackay (millner) and Jane Janet and Vair E C, both still at school. By 1861 the oldest son Alexander, age sixteen, commercial clerk, was living with his mother's sister, Janet Crosby, a widow at 107 Dundas Street Glasgow. He returned to Bathgate by 1867 and died there in 1867 age twenty-four. By 1871 the oldest sister Mary had also left home, possibly to Lanarkshire and by 1880 she had married Duncan Cameron, boat builder and they lived in Govan, Lanarkshire. In 1874 Jane's sister Catherine married Andrew Wemyss Ritchie, chemist, in Glasgow Central district. Sometime before 1881 Isabella had moved out, marrying Daniel Paterson, a draper, and they were living in Dumbarton Road Glasgow. Jane Janet Mackay never married and had no children.

After her husband's death, Mrs V Mackay seems to have shared the six room house with a family of lodgers, but at some point before 1879 the bulk of the family moved to Glasgow, where Mrs Mackay's sister had lived. They lived for a time in 52 Holmhead Street, St Rollox parish, a four roomed house or flat which was central to the city, an easy bus ride to the Post Offices in the centre. In 1881 her son James was still with her at thirty-three, a draper's commercial traveller, as were two daughters Jane Janet (Post Office clerk) and Vair E C (unemployed shop woman). William Mackay may have stayed behind in Bathgate as I found no further record of him.

From 1879 Jane Janet worked for the Post Office in Glasgow. Details of her work in her estate investigation after her death in 1922 state that she worked first in Hope Street Post Office then in the St Enoch Post Office as a clerk and telegraphist. In 1891 after their mother's death. the oldest sister Mary, who was married to a boat builder, seems to have come to the flat to keep house for her brother James and for the youngest sibling Vair, who had health issues. By the 1891 census, Jane Janet had moved out of Holmhead Street and was living with her sister Isabella and her husband and son in Kelvinside, Glasgow.

There is information post death that Jane Janet had lived at 34 Rupert Street, St Rollox Glasgow for a time and she did continue to work for the Post Office in the city centre till early 1901. Rupert street was in a quiet area a few bus stops closer to town than Holmhead Street. I don't know if she lived alone or as a boarder at this point.

After her retirement at the age of forty-six through ill health in 1901, she appears to have moved to Langholm in Dumfriesshire to stay with her widowed sister, Catherine Ritchie, and two of her sons. That is where she was living in the 1901 census. She must have moved back to Glasgow city at some point after this, perhaps to Rupert Street, as she was committed to the Glasgow Royal Asylum, Gartnavel by 1911. Sadly, she remained there until her death in 1922.

Her sister Vair seems to have been boarded out for a time to an Aberdeenshire private home after a brief stay in Gartnavel hospital in 1892 but perhaps there was no one left to pay for such care by the time Jane was committed. I'm afraid I could find no reference online to her stay in Gartnavel. Perhaps this can be found when someone can travel to Glasgow Mitchell Library after the pandemic. The term lunatic is often used generically to describe inmates of asylums which included many suffering from chronic health problems such as dementia. It is very sad that she spent so many years in the institution.

Her heirs were her nephews which, in ScotsLaw, indicates that all her siblings predeceased her and, although a brother-in-Law, Daniel S Paterson, husband of Isabella Mackay, registered her death, he would be unable to inherit as he was not a blood relative. The names of the heirs suggests that most of her siblings either had no children or that they also had predeceased her.

The heirs were all children of her sister Catherine's family. By 1911 Catherine's family were scattered in England and Montrose in Angus. There is no mention of Isabella's son Albert who would also have had a share in an intestate settlement if he were still alive in 1922. (I found that in 1911 an Albert R Paterson age twenty-five was a physician in a Glasgow hospital. As a doctor, the odds are that he died in WWI or in the flu pandemic which followed it).

Neither of Catherine's other children, Florence Margaret Ritchie and Veronica Rutherford Ritchie, are listed as inheritors but perhaps the law was a little different in 1922 for female siblings. Veronica was living with her brother Frederick in Eastbourne in 1911. She may, of course, have died before 1922.

Jane Janet's surviving nephews were all professional people which reflects again how Jane Janet was from an educated and high achieving family. Andrew Ritchie Jnr. was a chemist and Frederick Ritchie became a dental surgeon in Eastbourne, Sussex.

As an unmarried lady Jane Janet Mackay made a life for herself and held down a responsible job with the Post Office for twenty-two years and I admire her for it. It was an era when women were only starting the journey to independent employment.

Fact Sheet: Jane Janet Mackay

Pensioner Details
<i>Pensioner name:</i> Jane Janet Mackay
<i>Person ID:</i> SC1018
<i>Your name:</i> Rena Mitchell
<i>U3A group:</i> Scotland
Part One: Birth and Family
1: When and where was your pensioner born?
Jane Janet Mackay was born or baptised on 2 nd October 1854 in Bathgate, West Lothian.
2: Who were your pensioner's parents? Record any details you can find out about them here (e.g. occupation, religious affiliation, whether they could read or write)
<p>Father; John Mackay, born 11 April 1787 in Lairg Parish Sutherland. Parents William Barr Mackay, farmer, and Mary Munro. Only one likely birth record found for John but names borne out in children's names and in death certificate. Mother's name not on this record only Wm Mackay, father</p> <p>Mother; Veronica (Vair) Rutherford, born 1808 in Jedburgh Roxburghshire. Parents Alexander Rutherford, writer, and Catherine Blyth. No actual birth record found but names taken from death certificate of Vair and borne out by some of their children's names.</p> <p><i>NB: *There is a death notice for a John Mackay, Bathgate, in the Quaker's Digest, 1871. It may be that the other early family records, including a marriage record, are also in the Quaker's Digest which is held at NROS but we have no access there at present.</i></p> <p>Marriage. 1841; John Mackay, Merchant residing Jedburgh and Vair Rutherford also residing Jedburgh married on 8th September 1871 by Revd Robert Wilson Congregational Minister at Denholm, Roxburghshire</p> <p>John Mackay (father) 1841 census John Mackay was living in Burnwynd, Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, age 45 born Other county, draper, with John MacLeod age 15 b other county, draper's assistant. 1851 census: at 15 Jarvey Street, Bathgate, West Lothian John McKay age 64 in Merchant Drapery, born Feus, Sutherland: with wife Vair Mackay age 43, born Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, no occupation; daughter Mary Munro McKay age 8, scholar; son Alex Rutherford McKay age 6, scholar; son William B McKay age 5, scholar; son James Rutherford age 3 and daughter Catherine Blythe Jusilo Jane McKay age 1 . 1861 census: at Jarvey Street Bathgate age 74 Woolen & Linen Draper;with wife Vair Mackay age 53, no occupation; Mary M Mackay daughter age 18, no occupation;son William B Mackay age 15, Grocer's apprentice; son James R H Mackay age 14 scholar; daughter Catherine B J J Mackay age 11 scholar; daughter Isabella J E Mackay age 9 born Bathgate, West Lothian, scholar; daughter Jane Janet Mackay age 6 born Bathgate, West Lothian, scholar; daughter Viar E C Mackay age 3 born Bathgate</p>

1871 death; Her father died aged 84 in 1871 on March 5th in Jarvey Street Bathgate, West Lothian of general decay, death registered by his son James R Mackay who was present. Not in 1871 census.

Vair Rutherford (mother)

1841 census Vair was living in Castlegate, Jedburgh, Roxburghshire age 28, Born Roxburghshire, with her family: Alexander Rutherford age 80 Writer Born Roxburgh. Catherine Rutherford age 70 Born Roxburghshire: siblings Joan Rutherford age 30 b Unknown: Elsbeth Rutherford age 25 b Roxburghshire.

1851 census and 1861 census: see husband's records above.

1871 census Vair Mackay was a widow age 63, head, no occupation on Jarvey Street, Bathgate with son William Mackay age 25 Grocer; son James RH Mackay age 23, draper; daughter Isabella G Mackay age 19, Millner; **daughter Jane T Mackay age 16 scholar;** daughter Vair E C Mackay age 13 scholar.. She was her husband's executrix in 1871. One census transcription has them sharing the house with a Newland family but though claims are made about relationships I think they are errors in transcription as none of the ages and relationships compute. I think the Newlands family were simply boarders in part of what was a sizeable house.

1881 census Vair Mackay headed the household at 52 Holmhead Street, St Rollox, Glasgow aged 73 widow, no occupation, with son James R Mackay, age 33, unmarried, Draper's commercial traveller; **daughter Jane J Mackay age 26, post office clerk;** Vair E C Mackay daughter age 23, shopwoman, out of employ

Death 1891: Vair Mackay mother died on 25th January 1891 at 52 Holmhead Street, St Rollox, Glasgow age 83 of haemoplaga?, 12 days. Death registered by Jane Janet Mackay. She is not in the 1891 census.

3: Did your pensioner have any siblings? What were their names, and how old were they in relation to your pensioner? Use this space to record anything else you have found out about them (e.g. occupation, later life)1900

Sister Mary Monro Mackay (later Cameron) b: 30 July 1842 Jedburgh, Roxburghshire.

1851 and 1861 see census records for father above.

1871 not found. She married Duncan Cameron in 1880 In Kinning Park, Lanarkshire.

1881 listed as wife age 35 of Duncan Cameron, age 31 Boatbuilder, at 20 Whitefield Rd, Govan, Lanarkshire.

1891 As Mary Cameron at 52 Holmhead Street, St Rollox, Glasgow, Head age 44, Boatbuilder's wife with brother James Mackay, age 42, commission agent and sister Veronica Mackay age 31 Stationer's shop woman, in family house.

brother Alexander Rutherford Mackay b; 16 April 1844 in Jedburgh, Roxburghshire.

1851 see census for father above.

1861 listed at 107 Dundas Street Glasgow, age 16, Commercial clerk, with family of maternal aunt Janet Crosby widow age 62, born Jedburgh. He died in Bathgate, West Lothian in 1867 aged 24.

brother William Ban Mackay b: 29 August 1845 Jedburgh, Roxburghshire.

1851, 1861 & 1871 see parent's census records above. Not found after 1871.

brother James Rutherford Hugh Mackay b: 5 April 1847 Bathgate, West Lothian.

1851 to 1891 censuses see parent's and sister Mary's entries above. **1901 & later not found**

sister Catherine Blythe Mackay b: 30 August 1849 Bathgate West Lothian. 1851 and 1861 censuses see parent's records above. 1871 not found. Catherine Blyth Mackay married Andrew Wemyss Ritchie in 1874 in Glasgow central district and they had 4/5 children.

1881 Catherine Ritchie sister age 30 was living in Langholm Dumfriesshire with her husband Andrew W Ritchie, Chemist age 33, and Andrew W Ritchie age 5 born Kilmarnock, John M C Ritchie age 4 born Kilmarnock and Veronica R Ritchie age 2 born Langholm. Her husband died in February 1885 in Langholm, says dentist on burial records.

1901 Catherine Ritchie was a widow in High Street Langholm age 45, with son Andrew Ritchie age 25 chemist, son Frederick Ritchie age 14, scholar and **sister Jane Janet Mackay age 46, visitor, living on own means**. I think Catherine may have moved to England in later life to be closer to her sons.

Sister Isabella Joan Elsbeth Mackay b: 26/11/1851 Bathgate, West Lothian. 1861 and 1871 see family census records above. Marriage records not found
1881 census age 28 living in 228 Dumbarton Road, Barony Lanarkshire with husband Daniel S Paterson age 27, Draper, born Johnstone Renfrewshire.

1891 census at 5 Grosvenor Place, Kelvinside, Glasgow, age 39; with husband Daniel S Paterson age 36. Draper's assistant; their son Albert R Paterson age 5; and **sister Jane J Mackay age 36, Postal Clerk**

Sister Vair Eliza Christina Mackay b: 2/4/1857 Bathgate, West Lothian. For 1861 to 1891 censuses see above family records. 1892 Gartnavel Royal Asylum, Lanarkshire: Vair E C Mackay was admitted on 16th March 1892. (NRS Ref MC2/396).

1901 Vair Mackay (sister) in 50 Schoolhill, Fyvie, Aberdeenshire, age 43 boarder, listed as imbecile; with George Mackie W age 77, shoemaker, born Fyvie and Marget Clark age 38 domestic servant born Gamrie Banffshire

1905 Veronica Elizabeth Catherine Mackay, sister died 19th March in Royal Asylum Edinburgh of Brain Atrophy & Phthisis Pneumonialis, death registered by a messenger.

Part Two: Marriage and children/ boarders

1: Did your pensioner marry? What was their spouse's name, and when and where did they marry them? Use this space to record any extra details you can find out about their spouse (e.g. when/where they were born, their occupation). **Note:** *You can also use this space to record any details about people your pensioner boarded with.*

Jane Janet Mackay did not marry.

2: Did your pensioner have any children? What were their names, and when they were born? Use this space to record any extra details you can find out about them (e.g. occupation, where they lived later in life)

Jane Janet Mackay did not have any children.

Part Three: Work

1: What occupation was your pensioner recorded as doing in census years? Please make sure to state clearly which year you are referring to

In several census transcriptions there are errors with Jane Janet Mackay's name eg wrong middle initial.

1861: scholar age 6.

1871: scholar age 16

1879: started work for the post office

1881: Listed as Post Office Clerk.

1891: Listed as Postal Clerk, living with sister Isabella Paterson, nee Mackay.

1901: retired from postal service on poor health grounds

1901: Listed as living on own means, visiting sister Catherine Ritchie, nee Mackay.

1911: Listed as inmate in Glasgow Royal Asylum, Gartnavel age 55, single, .Post Office Official, Telegraph clerk, Lunatic, Born Midlothian, Edinburgh (incorrect, she was born in Bathgate West Lothian))

1921: possibly still listed at Glasgow Royal Asylum, Gartnavel.

2: What occupations were people living with your pensioner (e.g. spouse, children, boarders) doing in the census years? Please make sure to state clearly which year you are referring to

- 1861 Father age 74 Woolen and Linen draper
- 1861 Brother William B Mackay listed as Grocer's apprentice age 15.
- 1871 Brother William B Mackay listed as Grocer age 25
- 1871 Brother James R H Mackay listed as draper age 23.
- 1871 Sister Isabella G Mackay listed as Millner age 19
- 1871 James Newland b 1821 Bathgate, West Lothian. Agricultural Labourer NB All Newlands listed in one transcription as relatives of Vair Mackay but **ages and relationships do not compute**. The original images are messy and I think wrong assumptions have been made. I believe they simply were sharing a large house as tenants.
- 1871 Jane Newland Boarder's wife. b 1827 Bathgate, West Lothian. Nee Meikle m. 31 July 1846
- 1871 Heny Newland Boarder's son b 1849 Bathgate, West Lothian Tipsmith.
- 1871 Samuel Newland Boarder's son b 1858 Bathgate West Lothian. Scholar.
- 1871 Elizabeth Newland Boarder's daughter b 1859 Bathgate West Lothian, scholar
- 1871 Mary Ka b 1846 Bathgate West Lothian. General servant age 25.}
- 1881 Brother James R Mackay listed as Draper's Commercial Traveller age 33
- 1881 Sister Vair E.C Mackay listed as shop woman, age 23 (out of employ)
- 1891 brother in law (m to Isabella J E Mackay), Daniel S Paterson b 1851 Johnston, Renfrewshire, Draper's assistant (Head of household at 5 Grosvenor Place Kelvinside, Lanarkshire)
- 1901 sister Catherine Ritchie b 1852 Bathgate, West Lothian (widow) Head of household at High Street, Langholm, Dumfriesshire
- 1901 nephew Andrew Wemyss Ritchie b 1876 Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, Chemist
- 1901 nephew Frederick Charles Ritchie b 1887 Langholm, Dumfriesshire, Scholar (he became a dental surgeon)

Part Four: Anything Else/Later Life

Please use this space to record anything else you have found out about your pensioner. For example: what do we know about their life after retirement?

1922. Will and Probate:

Jane Janet Mackay's death took place on 31st July 1922 in Glasgow Royal Asylum, Gartnavel Glasgow. On 15th September 1922 in civil proceedings at Glasgow Sheriff Court her estate was declared intestate and three heirs notified.

Extract:

MACKAY, Jane Janet, Post Mistress, sometime of the Hope Street Branch Post Office, Glasgow, afterwards of the St Enoch Branch Post Office there, who resided sometime at 34 Rupert Street, there, latterly an inmate of the Royal Asylum, Gartnavel, Great Western Road there, died 31st July 1922 at Glasgow, intestate. Confirmation Glasgow, 15 September, to Andrew Wemyss Ritchie, 200 High Street, Montrose, and John Crosbie Ritchie and Frederick Charles Ritchie, both residing at 16 Heath Drive, Gidea Park, Essex, next of kin. Value of Estate, £1302:15:6.

Her heirs were all nephews, indicating that all of her siblings and any other nephews or nieces died before 1922 because of Scots law for inheritance in instestacy deaths

Her father's estate fifty years earlier was worth £775/11/6 and a halfpenny, most of which was stock in his business.

Records about Jane Janet McKay's stay in Gartnavel can be found below. It shows she was admitted to Gartnavel on 6th July, 1906. She was admitted by her sister Catherine. It also states that her sister Veronica had been an inmate at Morningside Asylum, Edinburgh, "for some years". Jane is certified by Dr John Carswell, RCPE. He remarks on her entry that "*she is restless, excitable & foolish in conduct. While alone in the room sang loudly & incoherently. She is incoherent in conversation and she has delusions, such as that electricity works upon her & causes other peoples' thoughts to influence her [...] She has been [...] unsettled for several years [...] she has no fixed residence, and disappears for several months from time to time; also that she is quite unreasonable in ideas and conduct and gives foolish and irrational instructions regarding her affairs*". While at Gartnavel she has persistent problems with her ears and hearing that doctors suspect contribute to her consistent auditory hallucinations. She also has frequent attacks of oedema of her feet and ankles, and problems with her kidneys.

- <https://wellcomecollection.org/works/bv39x2cg>
- <https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ue6cune9>
- <https://wellcomecollection.org/works/s43pa958>

Part Five: Your Sources

Please use this space to record the sources you have used

Jane Janet Mackay

- 1854 Birth record for Jane Janet Mackay Scotlandspeople_OPR792_000_0070_0402Z
- 1861 census for Jane Janet Mackay Parish: Bathgate; ED: 6; Page: 29; Line: 3; Roll: CSSCT1861_120
- 1871 census for Jane Janet Mackay Parish: Bathgate; ED: 6; Page: 2; Line: 24; Roll: CSSCT1871_152
- 1881 census for Jane Janet Mackay Parish: Glasgow St David; ED: 5; Page: 3; Line: 11; Roll: cssct1881_228
- 1891 census for Jane Janet Mackay Parish: Govan; ED: 44; Page: 40; Line: 24; Roll: CSSCT1891_308
- 1901 census for Jane Janet Mackay Parish: Langholm; ED: 5; Page: 4; Line: 9; Roll: CSSCT1901_433
- 1911 census for Jane Janet Mackay ScotlandsPeople_C1911_644_12_043_000_2_007Z.pdf
- 1921 census for Jane Janet Mackay not looked for
- 1921 death Jane Janet Mackay NROS deaths 1922 644/12 731
- 1922 Will/Probate for Jane Janet Mackay NRS Wills & Testaments, Ref SC36/48/334, Glasgow Sheriff Court Inventories, Image 367 Last Image 371

Family of Jane Janet Mackay

- 1780 birth or baptism for John Mackay father: OPR Scotland;22/09/1780; Lairg Sutherland; 052/10 12
- 1841 census for John Mackay (father) 1841 Census, Parish of Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, Enumeration Book 6, Page 1; Index, Scottish Indexes (<https://www.scottishindexes.com/41transcript.aspx?houseid=79206003>;
- 1871 death for John Mackay father: NROS Statutory registers; deaths; 1871; parish Bathgate; 662/1 27
- 1871 Quaker Digest notice John Mackay father death NRS Ref CH10/1/64 p.126
- 1871 will probate for father John Mackay NROS Wills and testaments 1871 Mackay John SC41/53/9 image 916 to 918 Linlithgow Sheriff court
- 1841 marriage of Parents of Jane Janet Mackay; NROS; OPR Scotland Marriages 792/70/402 Jedburgh page 402 of 597
- 1841 census for Vair Rutherford (mother) 1841 Census, Parish of Jedburgh, Roxburghshire, Enumeration Book 1, Page 15; Index, Scottish Indexes (<https://www.scottishindexes.com/41transcript.aspx?houseid=79201091>;
- 1891 death of mother Vair Mackay nee Rutherford. NROS 1891 deaths 644/6 142
- 1891 census Glasgow siblings of Jane Janet Mackay NROS census 1891 644/6 5/3
- 1892 mental health record of sister Vair Mackay Jnr Patient 56918NRS ref MC&?& p398 and MC2/396 copied from general Indexes.
- 1901 census of sister Veronica Mackay. NROS census 1901 197/7/8 scotlandspeople_C1901_197_00_007_000_2_008Z
- 1905 death of sister Veronica E C Mackay NROS deaths 1905 Edinburgh 685/6 221
- 1874 Marriage sister Catherine B Mackay to Andrew Wemyss Ritchie. NROS Statutory Registers Marriages 1874 Glasgow central district 644/1 495
- 1881 census sister Catherine Ritchie, nee Mackay :FHL Film 0224050 GRO Ref Volume 839 EnumDist 5 Page 17 808121
- 1855 birth of brother in law Duncan Campbell NROS 1855 births scotlandspeople_B1855_564_02_0031Z

- 1880 Marriage sister Mary M Mackay to Duncan Cameron; NROS Statutory marriages 1880 ; 644/14 58 Kinning Park Lanarkshire
- 1881 census sister Mary Cameron nee Mackay :FHL Film 0203685 GRO Ref Volume 646-1 EnumDist 14 Page 15 622985
- 1911 census brother in law Albert R Paterson ScotlandsPeople people_C1911_644_07_023_000_2_001Z

