

## Appendix 3

### Naming Patterns

Researching family history can be a frustrating endeavour. Anecdotal family history is not always accurate, neither are official records. People change their names, or use a derivative of their given names; simple transcription or bureaucratic errors cause blockages through wrong dates, ages or places being entered on forms. The family historian has access to search engines such as *ancestry.com*, and online sources such as census data and births/deaths/marriages records but a simple transcription error or mistaken entry (such as what looks like Maria's uncle being recorded as her brother in the 1881 census) can frustrate a search.

British census taking began in 1841. Searches for relationships prior to that are possible through parish records but these, where they exist, can have limited information. For example, mothers are not necessarily recorded on baptism records which can leave decision making in limbo as to whether this father and child is the relevant father and child. On the other hand, some records had a column for who the child was named for, which can be invaluable.

Naming patterns were a tradition that perpetuated the memory of family members through the generations. One source suggests their function was as a living history to honour a family's ancestry, much like a family shield or a heritage item passed down through the generations. Knowledge of naming patterns helps to make an educated guess about which option to follow when there are two or more possibilities on offer. Conversely, given the preponderance of a handful of names such as Janet, Elizabeth and Martha or Alexander, William and Robert, there could be several people in the same parish with the same given and surnames, which is no help at all. In our case, there were two Finlay Finlaysons born in April 1814 in Contin with no clue as to which was ours before Finlayson descendant, Sue Whitwell, came along bringing clarification.

To add to the confusion, if a child died, the same names were not uncommonly given to a subsequent child. This was not in memory of the dead sibling but to maintain the convention of keeping ancestral linkages alive. I discovered this the hard way after the blog about Janet Anderson's will was posted on the *Victorian professions* web site. James and Janet were parents to two Janets: one born in 1804 but who died before 1812, the other was born in 1819. Unknowingly, I had commented on the seemingly mature age Janet had been when she married in 1840 (to explain why I have found no children for her) before realising she had been a youthful 21, not 36, on her wedding day.

Further, the use of middle names was a relatively late innovation beginning in the 1800s. These were commonly a maternal surname but could be a gesture to the parish minister or other person whose name was thought important to incorporate into a family's history. Where they were a family surname, they were usually part of the actual name of an ancestor; for example, Martha Brown Anderson was named for her grandmother, Martha Brown (wife of John Bain).

Various sources tell me that, in Scotland, the following naming conventions were used. Those in italics were less commonly followed. I have compared the earliest generations of Andersons that I know of to these patterns, to see how closely they correspond and whether they suggest any relationship I haven't found in the records.

### Alexander and Isobel's children

Birth order	Convention	Andersons	Ancestor
<b>Daughters</b>			
<b>First</b>	mother's mother (maternal grandmother)/ <i>paternal grandmother</i>	Margaret	maternal grandmother and Margaret Myles
<b>Sons</b>			
<b>First</b>	father's father (paternal grandfather)/ <i>maternal grandfather</i>	John (perhaps)	
<b>Second</b>	mother's father (maternal grandfather)/ <i>paternal grandfather</i>	Robert (perhaps)	
<b>Third</b>	father/father's father's father (paternal great-grandfather)	James	James Cable, no ancestor
<b>Fourth</b>	mother's mother's father (maternal great-grandfather)/ <i>uncle (father's eldest brother)/paternal great-grandfather (father's paternal grandfather)</i>	Alexander (doubtful)	

I must report here that I have found records naming both parents, and who they were named after, for only James and Margaret. Margaret was named for her maternal grandmother, Margaret Webster, and for Margaret Myles. According to a register in the Nine Trades of Dundee's Mariners & Seamen (1600-1825), Margaret was the wife of James Cable, for whom James was named. James Cable was master of the *Athole of Perth*. Alexander's occupation was sailor at Margaret's 1775 birth and shipmaster when James was born two years later. At much the same time as Alexander, a James Cable Snr was admitted as a Free Master to the Fraternity of Masters and Seamen. Perhaps Alexander and James Cable were close friends, or Alexander was obliged to James Cable for some reason, or... who knows.

The record for son Alexander's birth gives Margaret Kid as his mother so I'm inclined now to think he was not one of us. I am also having serious doubts about John and Robert. The parish record of their births name only their father - Alexander Anderson on Balmossie milne - (Balmossie is halfway along the Broughty Ferry/Monifieth road) with no provision for noting who the infants were named for. If they were born to Alexander and Isobel, Robert could have been named for his maternal grandfather but his was a very common name and the records for the births we can be certain of and these others are dissimilar enough to maybe indicate they are not our Andersons. When I first brought them into our fold, it was because they were born in the years immediately following Alexander and Isobel's marriage - I hadn't grasped then how many Alexanders, Johns and Roberts there were in the Anderson families of Dundee and Broughty Ferry of the time.

**James and Janet's (Jessie) children**

Birth order	Convention	Andersons	Ancestor
<b>Daughters</b>			
<b>First</b>	mother's mother (maternal grandmother)/ <i>paternal grandmother</i>	Janet	mother
<b>Second</b>	father's mother (paternal grandmother)/ <i>maternal grandmother</i>	Isabella	maternal grandmother
<b>Third</b>	mother/ <i>mother's father's mother (mother's paternal grandmother)</i>	Janet	mother
<b>Sons</b>			
<b>First</b>	father's father (paternal grandfather)/ <i>maternal grandfather</i>	David	maternal grandfather
<b>Second</b>	mother's father (maternal grandfather)/ <i>paternal grandfather</i>	Alexander	paternal grandfather
<b>Third</b>	father/father's father's father (paternal great-grandfather)	James	father
<b>Fourth</b>	mother's mother's father (maternal great-grandfather)/ <i>uncle (father's eldest brother)/paternal great-grandfather (father's paternal grandfather)</i>	James	father
<b>Fifth</b>	father's mother's father (paternal great-grandfather)/ <i>father's or mother's eldest brother</i>	Alexander	paternal grandfather

The old parish records, in order of birth, show that David was named for “David Lounie GrFather”; Alexander (1802) for “Alex Anderson GrFather”; Janet (1804) for “J Anderson”; James (1808) for “father”; Isabella for “I Coutt Gr.Mr.”; I haven't found a record for the second James but I think we can assume he was named for his father; Alexander for “AA GrFtr”; and Janet (1819) for “mother”. While there seems to be a clear pattern here, seen in giving the same name to siblings born after the death of an earlier child, it does not correspond with the conventional model.

**David and Martha's children**

<b>Birth order</b>	<b>Convention</b>	<b>Andersons</b>	<b>Ancestor</b>
<b>Daughters</b>			
<b>First</b>	mother's mother (maternal grandmother)/ <i>paternal grandmother</i>	Maria Menzies	
<b>Second</b>	father's mother (paternal grandmother)/ <i>maternal grandmother</i>	Martha Brown	maternal grandmother
<b>Third</b>	mother/ <i>mother's father's mother (mother's paternal grandmother)</i>	Elizabeth Brown	
<b>Fourth</b>	father's father's mother (paternal great-grandmother)// <i>aunt (mother's eldest sister)/maternal great grandmother (mother's maternal grandmother)</i>	Louisa	
<b>Fifth</b>	mother's mother's mother (maternal great-grandmother)/ <i>aunt (mother's second eldest sister)/aunt (father's eldest sister)/paternal great-grandmother (father's maternal grandmother)</i>	Ellen Martha	
<b>Sixth</b>	paternal great-grandmother (father's maternal grandmother)	Jessie	paternal grandmother?
<b>Sons</b>			
<b>First</b>	father's father (paternal grandfather)/ <i>maternal grandfather</i>	James	paternal grandfather
<b>Second</b>	mother's father (maternal grandfather)/ <i>paternal grandfather</i>	William Bain	
<b>Third</b>	father/father's father's father (paternal great-grandfather)	David Charles	father/?
<b>Fourth</b>	mother's mother's father (maternal great-grandfather)/ <i>uncle (father's eldest brother)/paternal great-grandfather (father's paternal grandfather)</i>	John Bain	maternal grandfather?

The naming of David and Martha's children is tantalising. Two daughters were given their mother's maternal family names and two sons their mother's paternal family name but I cannot identify two of the ancestors. Martha Brown A was named for her maternal grandmother but who was Elizabeth Brown? I have not found a record of Elizabeth B's birth to know whether she might have been named after an aunt? Her maternal great-grandmother? Similarly, John Bain A is likely to have been named after his maternal grandfather but William Bain? A great-grandfather? I have not found birth records for the other children other than for Louisa who has no namesake recorded on her baptism entry. Of interest, one of Maria's grandchildren was named Louis Bain which may indicate Louis/Louisa was a family name. If the link was a Louis Bain, his family name would not have been added to "Louisa", the feminine version of Louis. It occurs to me that no births (other than Louisa's) seem to have been registered after the death of infant Martha Brown Anderson although, given David's strong Episcopalian attachment, I am sure they were baptised, if not officially registered.

Maria Menzies was named after "M.M.". I have found neither a Maria nor a Menzies prior to her birth. I have found several women of that name in birth and census records but without knowing whether Menzies was a birth or a married name, not even an educated guess is possible. That hasn't stopped me weaving a fantasy about her mother, Martha Bain, being the illegitimate daughter of a Maria Menzies - possibly the Miss Maria Menzies, aged 53, of independent means, living in a large establishment in John St, Portobello, Edinburgh, in the 1841 census - who was adopted by the kind-hearted John Bain and Martha Brown in 1800. Unhappily, that would have made Miss Menzies 12 years old when she gave birth, so that can't be right. Another Maria Menzies was born in 1785 and married master gardener William Todd in 1806. Her mother's name was Ellen. Spookily, the names of David and Martha's fifth daughter combine, in my fantasy, the names of her natural maternal great-grandmother, Ellen Menzies, and adoptive maternal grandmother, Martha Brown. Maria's fifth daughter was also named Ellen (her maternal natural great-grandmother?). While none of this is likely to be true, and I have traduced the names of two respectable Maria Menzieses, I would be deeply chuffed to think that our Andersons honoured natural as well as social ancestors when naming their children.

Jessie A may have been named for her paternal grandmother, Janet, who I think was known as 'Jessie'. As for our ancestor, David Charles A, I assume his first name honoured his father or his maternal grandfather but I have found no 'Charles' in the ancestral records. (However, he does have a coincidental namesake five generations on.) I have also not found a written record of his birth to see if he was named for an ancestor.

I think we can say that our Andersons did not rigidly stick to conventional naming traditions. They seem to have dipped in and out, following their own systems of recording family connection that began to fade during the nineteenth century. But I am pleased to see that honouring the maternal line was important. Thank you, ancestors.