

The Life of James Moodie

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Birth of James Moodie in 1817 at Lilliesleaf, Roxburghshire.....	3
1841 Scottish Census – Lilliesleaf, Roxburghshire.....	5
1851 Scottish Census – Edinburgh St. Cuthberts, Midlothian.....	7
Marriage on 8/29/1851 at South Leith, Midlothian.....	8
Margaret Falconer b. 1823-4.....	9
1861 Scottish Census at Edinburgh St. Cuthberts, Midlothian.....	11
Summary of Children of Margaret Falconer and James Moodie.....	12
Janet b. 1846.....	12
Thomas b. 1852.....	12
James b. 1855.....	14
William b. 1862.....	15
Marriage on 12/7/1866 at Wilton, Roxburghshire to Jemima Nicol.....	17
1871 Scottish Census – Wilton, Roxburghshire.....	18
Jemima Nicol b. 1836.....	19
Summary of Children of Jemima Nicol and James Moodie.....	20
1881 Census at Southdean, Roxburghshire.....	20
Elizabeth b. 1868.....	21
Agnes b. 1871.....	22
Family Group Sheet for the Family of James and Jemima.....	23
Death of James in 1878 at Ancrum, Roxburghshire.....	24
Immigration of Moodie Family Members to the USA in 1882.....	26
Immigration of Another Descendant of James Moodie to the USA.....	29
Summary of Significant Locations in the Life of James Moodie and His Families.....	30
Down the Rabbit Hole.....	32
Thomas Moodie b. 1790 in Lilliesleaf.....	32
Updated Pedigree for Agnes Moodie b. 1871 in Roxburghshire.....	34
Updated Pedigree for William Moodie b. 1862 in Roxburghshire.....	35
Melsetter Estate and Another Thomas Moodie.....	36

The Life of James Moodie

Introduction

I am a great grandson of Agnes Moodie, about whom I have done some genealogical research. The purpose of the research has been to identify her Scottish ancestors. Recently I discovered a marriage record for her father, James Moodie. From this record I am attempting to build a coherent story of his life and thus the family into which Agnes was born. Here is the record.

20	1866	(Signed)	48	Denholm	Thomas Moodie	(Signed)	1866
	on the Seventh day of December at Hope Park Parish of Wilton.	James Moodie Millwright (Journeyman) (Widower)		Parish of Cavers	(deceased) and Elizabeth Moodie, M.S. Litster (deceased)	James McEwen Minister, East Bank, Hawick	December 7 th at Wilton
	After Banns, according to the Forms of the United Presbyterian Church	(Signed)	30	Little Cote	James Nichol previously Factor and Elizabeth Nichol M.S. Cavers	(Signed) William Little Witness Barbara Pott Nichol Witness	James Shiel Registrar
		Jemima Nichol Domestic Servant (Spinster)		Parish of Cavers			

Here is a transcription of the record from the Registrar General of Scotland form. It describes the marriage of James to Jemima Nicol.

1866 Marriages of the Parish of Wilton in the County of Roxburgh
item 20, for 12/7/1866,
at Hope Point Parish of Wilton after Banns according to the Forms of the United Presbyterian Church

(Signed) James Moodie, Millwright (Journeyman) (Widower) age 48
resident of Denholm Parish of Cavers
father Thomas Moodie Millwright (Master) (deceased)
mother Elizabeth Moodie, M.S. Litster (deceased)
(Signed) Thomas McEwen Minister, East Bank, Hawick

(Signed) Jemima Nichol, Domestic Servant (Spinster) age 30
resident of Little Cote Parish of Cavers
father James Nichol, previously Factor (meaning that he was a sort of property manager for someone)
mother Elizabeth Nichol, M.S. Cavers
(Signed) William Little and Barbara Pott Nichol, witnesses

James Shiel, Registrar

It reveals that James was a journeyman millwright, similar to his father, Thomas, who was a master millwright. Both were employed in jobs associated with the industrial revolution in Scotland. His mother was Elizabeth Litster.

Following is a mostly sequential rendering of James' life and what events I have found that led up to the birth of Agnes, his last child. At the end of this story, there is a short dive into possible deeper Moodie origins. **I don't claim that this work is definitive, more research may change how people are linked in the early 19th century.**

The Life of James Moodie

Birth of James Moodie in 1817 at Lilliesleaf, Roxburghshire

James was born to Thomas Moodie (b.1790-10-26) and Elizabeth Litster/Lister (b.1793-10-03). The birth took place in Lilliesleaf, Roxburghshire. Thomas and Elizabeth had been married in the previous year near Edinburgh.

Name: James Moodie
Gender: Male
Christening Date:
Christening Place: , LILLIESLEAF, ROXBURGH, SCOTLAND
Birth Date: 21 Jun 1817
Birthplace: , Lilliesleaf, Roxburgh, Scotland
Death Date:
Name Note:
Race:
Father's Name: Thomas Moodie
Father's Birthplace:
Father's Age:
Mother's Name: Elizabeth Lister
Mother's Birthplace:
Mother's Age:
Indexing Project (Batch) Number: C11795-2
System Origin: Scotland-VR
GS Film number: 1067947
Reference ID: 2:18D4Z81

Citing this Record:

"Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XT1Z-ZVQ> : 10 February 2018), Thomas Moodie in entry for James Moodie, 21 Jun 1817; citing , Lilliesleaf, Roxburgh, Scotland, reference 2:18D4Z81, index based upon data collected by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City; FHL microfilm 1,067,947.

Some sources claim that Thomas died in 1824 in India. This is not crazy when you investigate his ancestors a little more. I have not gone far in this direction, but you can see some hints in the very last chapter (page 32) of this document.

The Life of James Moodie

He was likely the first child. Here is a family group report for his birth family, to the extent that I understand it.

<i>Family Group Report</i>			
Husband: Moodie, Thomas			
Birth	1790-10-26	Lilliesleaf, Roxburgh, Scotland	
Death			
Father	Moodie, James		
Mother			
Wife: Litster, Elizabeth			
Birth	1794-10-03	Roxburgh, Scotland	
Death			
Father	Litster, George		
Mother	Sibbald, Agnes		
Children			
1M	Moodie, James		
	Birth	1817-06-21	Roxburghshire, Scotland
	Death	1878-03-15	Roxburgh, Scotland
	Spouse	Nicol, Jemima	
	Marriage	1866-12-07	Wilton, Roxburgh, Scotland
	Spouse	Falconer, Margaret	
	Marriage	1851-08-29	South Leith, Midlothian, Scotland
2F	Moodie, Agnes		
	Birth	1820-02-02	Lilliesleaf, Roxburgh, Scotland
	Death		
3M	Moodie, George		
	Birth	1822-12-04	Lilliesleaf, Roxburgh, Scotland
	Death		

I will also mention here that there may be another child that should be considered for this family. His name is William Moodie, born in 1828 (?). I am not, however, certain and so will leave this to be researched further. He appears in the 1841 census, which indicates that he was born in Roxburghshire. See the next and last sections.


The Life of James Moodie

1841 Scottish Census – Lilliesleaf, Roxburghshire

James' birth family may be shown in the image here from the 1841 census.

If this is indeed James' birth family, then his mother (Elizabeth) may have died and Thomas may have remarried. (I have never found a death record for Elizabeth (Litster) Moodie, his mother.)

If this is a new family for Thomas, probably the very young children are its product, and the older child is a vestige of the original birth family of James. Perhaps, then, William is James' younger brother. (This may become important later.)



[Add alternate information](#)

[Report issue](#)

Name:	Thomas Moodie
Age:	49
Estimated birth year:	abt 1792
Gender:	Male
Where born:	Roxburghshire, Scotland
Civil Parish:	Lilliesleaf
County:	Roxburghshire
Address:	Lilliesleaf Village
Occupation:	Millwright
Parish Number:	795
Household Members:	
Name	Age
Thomas Moodie	49
Agnes Moodie	30
William Moodie	13
George Moodie	3
Thomas Moodie	1
Jossie Moodie	9
Jane Moodie	7
Agnes Moodie	5
Jessie Burn	25
Helen Burn	20

Source Citation
Parish: *Lilliesleaf*; ED: 1; Page: 9; Line: 440; Year: 1841

Source Information
Ancestry.com. *1841 Scotland Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.

Original data: *1841 Scotland Census*. Edinburgh, Scotland: General Register Office for Scotland. Reels 1-151. General Register Office for Scotland. Edinburgh, Scotland

The Life of James Moodie

Here is a record of Thomas Moodie marrying Agnes Burn(s) 8/5/1831. This lends credence to the theory that William may be from an earlier marriage of Thomas to Elizabeth Litster. It would also explain the other two Burn(s) people residing with the family. Here's the marriage record for Thomas and Agnes. Note the location (Lilliesleaf, Roxburghshire).

Name: Thomas Moodie
Birth Date:
Birthplace:
Age:
Spouse's Name: Agnes Burn
Spouse's Birth Date:
Spouse's Birthplace:
Spouse's Age:
Event Date: 05 Aug 1831
Event Place: Lilliesleaf,Roxburgh,Scotland
Father's Name:
Mother's Name:
Spouse's Father's Name:
Spouse's Mother's Name:
Race:
Marital Status:
Previous Wife's Name:
Spouse's Race:
Spouse's Marital Status:
Spouse's Previous Husband's Name:
Indexing Project (Batch) Number: M11795-2
System Origin: Scotland-ODM
GS Film number: 1067947, 0102297
Reference ID:

Citing this Record:

"Scotland Marriages, 1561-1910," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XYQT-KTG> : 10 February 2018), Thomas Moodie and Agnes Burn, 05 Aug 1831; citing Lilliesleaf,Roxburgh,Scotland, index based upon data collected by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City; FHL microfilm 1,067,947, 102,297.

Whatever the case, James is not present with this family in 1841. He would be about 24 at this time, so that is not surprising. I have not been able to find him unequivocally at this time in the 1841 census elsewhere. The correct "take away" from the 1841 census is that there is a lack of clarity. I present the information here just to indicate the lack of clarity and the need for more research.

The Life of James Moodie

1851 Scottish Census – Edinburgh St. Cuthberts, Midlothian

Here is a record that shows a person that I believe is the correct James.

He is a boarder, working as an engineer in Edinburgh.

And, note that one of his fellow boarders is shown as George Falconar, a name that is quite similar to Falconer, the surname for his wife to be (Margaret). (See next section.)

Perhaps James met his wife to be through association with George Falconer, who presumably was somehow related to Margaret.

By the way, at this time there is a Margaret Falconer of approximately the right age, living in the same parish, to the NW of the address shown here.

James Moodie in the 1851 Scotland Census																			
Name:	James Moodie																		
Age:	33																		
Estimated birth year:	abt 1818																		
Relationship:	Lodger																		
Gender:	Male																		
Where born:	Lullian, Roxburghshire																		
Parish Number:	685/2																		
Civil Parish:	Edinburgh St Cuthberts																		
County:	Midlothian																		
Address:	3 West Register Street																		
Occupation:	Engineer																		
ED:	1A																		
Page:	11																		
Household schedule number:	35																		
LINE:	13																		
Roll:	CSSCT1851_184																		
Household Members:																			
	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Name</th><th>Age</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Mary Thomson</td><td>77</td></tr><tr><td>Ann Mclean</td><td>18</td></tr><tr><td>William Mckay</td><td>22</td></tr><tr><td>Alexander Bain</td><td>28</td></tr><tr><td>James Fyfe</td><td>33</td></tr><tr><td>George B Falconar</td><td>20</td></tr><tr><td>James Moodie</td><td>33</td></tr><tr><td>A Mcpherson</td><td>20</td></tr></tbody></table>	Name	Age	Mary Thomson	77	Ann Mclean	18	William Mckay	22	Alexander Bain	28	James Fyfe	33	George B Falconar	20	James Moodie	33	A Mcpherson	20
Name	Age																		
Mary Thomson	77																		
Ann Mclean	18																		
William Mckay	22																		
Alexander Bain	28																		
James Fyfe	33																		
George B Falconar	20																		
James Moodie	33																		
A Mcpherson	20																		

The Life of James Moodie

Marriage on 8/29/1851 at South Leith, Midlothian

I believe that this record shows the marriage of James to Margaret Falconer. This record is the best clue that I have found about Margaret's father. The location of South Leith is just to the north of the oldest part of Edinburgh.

Name: James Moodie
Birth Date:
Birthplace:
Age:
Spouse's Name: Margaret Falconer
Spouse's Birth Date:
Spouse's Birthplace:
Spouse's Age:
Event Date: 29 Aug 1851
Event Place: South Leith, Midlothian, Scotland
Father's Name:
Mother's Name:
Spouse's Father's Name: James Falconer
Spouse's Mother's Name:
Race:
Marital Status:
Previous Wife's Name:
Spouse's Race:
Spouse's Marital Status:
Spouse's Previous Husband's Name:
Indexing Project (Batch) Number: M19504-8
System Origin: Scotland-ODM
GS Film number: 1067777
Reference ID:

Citing this Record:

"Scotland Marriages, 1561-1910," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XY5Q-J8M> : 10 February 2018), James Moodie and Margaret Falconer, 29 Aug 1851; citing South Leith, Midlothian, Scotland, index based upon data collected by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City; FHL microfilm 1,067,777.

The Life of James Moodie

Margaret Falconer b. 1823-4

Margaret was possibly born about 1823-4 in a place named East Calder, Midlothian. (Location based on 1861 census. Date based on this same census and the death record that follows.) There is such a place just to the west of Edinburgh. Her father's name was James. His mother's name was Janet. She may have had a relative named George B. Falconer.

By the way, the Falconer name is very common in Midlothian at this time, so sorting out who is who would be quite a job based on the on-line records that I have found.

A record of her death in 1862 follows. Denholm happens to be the location of the household of Thomas Moodie that we saw earlier in the 1841 Scottish Census.

862. DEATHS in the <u>parish</u> of <u>Caithness</u> in the <u>County</u> of <u>Roxburgh</u>								
No.	Name and Surname. Rank or Profession, and whether Single, Married, or Widowed.	When and Where Died.	Sex.	Age.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father, Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Cause of Death, Duration of Disease, and Medical Attendant by whom certified.	Signature & Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if not of the House in which the death occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
31	Margaret	1862	F	38	James Falconer	Consumption of Lungs	James Moodie	1862
		December,		years	Janet	7 years	Widow	December 26 th
	Moodie	Twenty Four th			(divorced)		Denholm	at Denholm
		2 to 30 m. p. m.				As Cert. by		
	(Married to	Denholm			James Falconer	James Moodie		George Moodie
	James Moodie	parish of			M. A.	M. G.		Registrar
	Millwright.)	Caithness			(divorced)			

This record indicates that she was born about 1823-4 to James Falconer (a shoemaker) and Janet, his wife, whose surname was not recorded. She died of consumption in Denholm, Roxburghshire. The registrar was George Moodie (a relative of James?). The record also confirms that James Moodie was a millwright.

One final note – in looking for a birth record, I found the following intriguing one. The date is believable, and the names are reasonable. The location is quite far north, however.

Name: Margaret Falconer
 Gender: Female
 Christening Date: 15 Apr 1818
 Christening Place: WICK, CAITHNESS, SCOTLAND
 Birth Date: 01 Apr 1818
 Birthplace:
 Death Date:
 Name Note:
 Race:
 Father's Name: James Falconer
 Father's Birthplace:
 Father's Age:
 Mother's Name: Janet Coghill

The Life of James Moodie

Mother's Birthplace:

Mother's Age:

Indexing Project (Batch) Number: C11043-2

System Origin: Scotland-ODM

GS Film number: 0990558-9, 0990574

Reference ID:

Citing this Record:

"Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950," database, FamilySearch

(<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XYDD-QVS> : 10 February 2018), Margaret Falconer, 01 Apr 1818; citing , reference , index based upon data collected by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City; FHL microfilm 0990558-9, 0990574.

If it is correct, then she had siblings named George (!) b.12/3/1815 and William b.2/24/1821.

More research is needed

The Life of James Moodie

1861 Scottish Census at Edinburgh St. Cuthberts, Midlothian

I believe that this record shows the family in 1861. The location is just south of the oldest part of Edinburgh.

Name: James Moodie
Age: 49
Estimated birth year: abt 1812
Relationship: Head
Spouse's name : Margaret Moodie
Gender: Male
Where born: Lilliesleaf, Roxburghshire
Registration Number: 685/5
Registration district: Newington
Civil Parish: Edinburgh St Cuthberts
County: Midlothian
Address: 69 St Leonards St
Occupation: Millwright & Engines Macker
ED: 44
Household schedule number: 29
Line: 12
Roll: CSSCT1861_129
Household Members:
Name Age
James Moodie 49
Margaret Moodie 38
Janet Moodie 15
James F Moodie 5
Source Citation

Parish: Edinburgh St Cuthberts; ED: 44; Page: 5; Line: 12; Roll: CSSCT1861_129

Source Information

Ancestry.com. 1861 Scotland Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2006.
Original data: Scotland. 1861 Scotland Census. Reels 1-150. General Register Office for Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Every thing makes sense about this except that Janet Moodie appears as a child of age 15. The key thing is that her birth precedes the marriage of Margaret and James in 1851. She could have been born “illegitimately” in 1846. However, another possibility is that she is the adopted daughter of a relative.

I have found a possible birth to William Moodie and Jane Lidell/Liddle that might fit. Perhaps this William Moodie is the William that appears in Thomas’ house in 1841. It is also possible that Janet was actually born into a Falconer family.

All this is speculation, however, and warrants more research.

The Life of James Moodie

Summary of Children of Margaret Falconer and James Moodie

Janet b. 1846

I have found no clear record of her birth, which is expected to be about 1846. She just appears in census listings. She may in fact not be a biological daughter of James and Margaret.

Thomas b. 1852

Here is a record of Thomas' birth.

Name: Thomas Litster Moodie
Gender: Male
Christening Date: 05 Sep 1852
Christening Place: , SOUTH LEITH, MIDLOTHIAN, SCOTLAND
Birth Date:
Birthplace:
Death Date:
Name Note:
Race:
Father's Name: James Moodie
Father's Birthplace:
Father's Age:
Mother's Name: Margaret Falconer
Mother's Birthplace:
Mother's Age:
Indexing Project (Batch) Number: C19504-6
System Origin: Scotland-ODM
GS Film number: 1067776, 1067780, 1067781
Reference ID:

Citing this Record:

"Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VQC5-D8H> : 10 February 2018), James Moodie in entry for Thomas Litster Moodie, 05 Sep 1852; citing , SOUTH LEITH, MIDLOTHIAN, SCOTLAND, reference , index based upon data collected by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City; FHL microfilm 1,067,776, 1,067,780, 1,067,781.

The Life of James Moodie

Thomas did not survive long. There is a record of his death in 1855 as shown below.

1855. DEATHS in the *District* of *South Leith*

No.	DESCRIPTION OF THE DECEASED.					
	Name, Rank, Profession, or Occupation.	Sex.	Age.	Where born, and how long in this District.	Parents' Names, and Rank, Profession, or Occupation.	To whom.
442	<i>Moodie, Thomas, Elder, Male</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>3 1/2 Years</i>	<i>Edinburgh 1 1/2 Years in Leith</i>	<i>James Moodie Millwright, and Margaret Moodie, maiden name Fulmer.</i>	

148. *County of Edinburgh* Registered by *Robert Turnbull* Registrar.

PARTICULARS OF DEATH.				Signature of Informant.	When and where registered, and Signature of Registrar.
When died. Year, Day of Month, Hour.	Where died.	Cause of Death, and how long Disease continued. Medical Attendant by whom certified, and when he last saw deceased.	Burial Place. Undertaker by whom certified.		
<i>1855 November 30th 11.30 P.M.</i>	<i>Orchardfield Leith Walk</i>	<i>Dropsy after Paralytic 4 Weeks as certified by James P. Harper M.D. who saw deceased on the 30th November 1855</i>	<i>Rosebank Cemetery</i>	<i>James Moodie Father</i>	<i>30th November 1855 at South Leith Robert Turnbull Registrar</i>
				<i>John Barker</i>	<i>30th November 1855 at South Leith</i>

The cause of death was dropsy (edema) for a reason that I could not decipher. He must have been buried in Rosebank Cemetery. The family had apparently been in the South Leith area for about 1.5 years.

Here is a link to the Rosebank Cemetery on findagrave.com.

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2372875/edinburgh-rosebank-cemetery>

The Life of James Moodie

James b. 1855

Here is a record of James' birth.

Name: James Falconer Moodie
Gender: Male
Christening Date:
Christening Place:
Birth Date: 23 Nov 1855
Birthplace: LEITH,MIDLOTHIAN,SCOTLAND
Death Date:
Name Note:
Race:
Father's Name: James Moodie
Father's Birthplace:
Father's Age:
Mother's Name: Margaret Falconer
Mother's Birthplace:
Mother's Age:
Indexing Project (Batch) Number: C11692-1
System Origin: Scotland-ODM
GS Film number: 6035516
Reference ID:

Citing this Record:

"Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F7C5-L2P> : 10 February 2018), James Moodie in entry for James Falconer Moodie, 23 Nov 1855; citing LEITH,MIDLOTHIAN,SCOTLAND, reference , index based upon data collected by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City; FHL microfilm 6,035,516.

Did James eventually marry Wilhelmina Campbelton? -

"Scotland Marriages, 1561-1910," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XY98-HNG> : 10 February 2018), James Moodie and Wilhlemina Campblton, 06 Jun 1873; citing Leith,Midlothian,Scotland, index based upon data collected by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City; FHL microfilm 6,035,516.

The Life of James Moodie

William b. 1862

There is indirect evidence that William was born in Roxburghshire. Here is a record of a marriage of a daughter (Marie Etta) that indicates William's birth location. I have never found the place named Hanrick. Perhaps it was meant to be Hawick, and there was a transcription error.

Name: Marie Etta Moodie
Gender: Female
Christening Date:
Christening Place:
Birth Date: 10 Jan 1896
Birthplace: Beloit, Rock, Wisconsin
Death Date:
Name Note:
Race: White
Father's Name: William Moodie
Father's Birthplace: Hanrick, Roxbough, Scotland
Father's Age:
Mother's Name: Tina Louise Wisk
Mother's Birthplace: Germany
Mother's Age:
Indexing Project (Batch) Number: C00324-6
System Origin: Wisconsin-EASy
GS Film number: 1305582
Reference ID: p121 cn 02400

Citing this Record:

"Wisconsin Births and Christenings, 1826-1926," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XRKQ-C4B> : 11 February 2018), William Moodie in entry for Marie Etta Moodie, 10 Jan 1896; citing Beloit, Rock, Wisconsin, reference p121 cn 02400; FHL microfilm 1,305,582.

More follows.

The Life of James Moodie

The 1871 Scottish Census (at right) shows William's birth place at Teviothead.

Teviothead is a real place, so I am inclined to accept this location, which is very close to Hawick in Roxburghshire. In fact the address given here for his residence is on the SW side of Hawick, north of the Teviot River.

I believe that William was actually Margaret's son. There are two reasons why I believe this. First, his birth date is a few months prior to the death of Margaret. Secondly, the amount of matching DNA shown for his descendants and my mother at ancestry.com is consistent with him being a half sibling to Agnes and Elizabeth, who are clearly daughters of Jemima.

It seems certain that the only mother figure that William could have remembered was Jemima. It should not be surprising that later in life he reported here are his mother rather than Margaret.

One unanswered question then centers on why the Moodie/Falconer family moved from the Edinburgh area to the Hawick area. It appears that sometime after the 1861 census the family must have moved.

The death of Margaret in the latter part of 1862 in Denholm does fit with this move.

It is not clear what drew the family back towards the Moodie relatives in Roxburghshire, and we may never know the reason.

Name:	William Moodie												
Age:	9												
Estimated birth year:	abt 1862												
Relationship:	Son												
Father's name:	James Moodie												
Mother's name:	Jemima Moodie												
Gender:	Male												
Where born:	Teviothead, Roxburghshire												
Registration Number:	810												
Registration district:	Wilton												
Civil Parish:	Wilton												
County:	Roxburghshire												
Address:	5 Wellington Street												
Occupation:	Scholar												
ED:	4												
Household schedule number:	111												
Line:	8												
Roll:	CSSCT1871_181												
Household Members:	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Name</th><th>Age</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>James Moodie</td><td>52</td></tr><tr><td>Jemima Moodie</td><td>34</td></tr><tr><td>William Moodie</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>Elizabeth Cavers Moodie</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Thomas Hall</td><td>22</td></tr></tbody></table>	Name	Age	James Moodie	52	Jemima Moodie	34	William Moodie	9	Elizabeth Cavers Moodie	2	Thomas Hall	22
Name	Age												
James Moodie	52												
Jemima Moodie	34												
William Moodie	9												
Elizabeth Cavers Moodie	2												
Thomas Hall	22												

The Life of James Moodie

Marriage on 12/7/1866 at Wilton, Roxburghshire to Jemima Nicol

In the winter of 1861-62 the James Moodie family is with out a mother and living in the Hawick area of Roxburghshire. Ages of the household members would be roughly as follows.

- James: 45
- Janet: 16
- James: 7
- William: infant < 1

So that probably leaves James with three children to support alone. Probably he would have sought help in the form of a female “servant” so that he could earn a living. Jemima Nicol could have been that person. And that bring us back to the marriage record of James to Jemima Nicol that was mentioned at the beginning of this document. -

20	1866	(Signed)	48	Denholm	Thomas Moodie	(Signed)	1866
	on the Seventh day of December at Hope Park Parish of Wilton.	James Moodie Millwright (Journeyman) (Widower)		Parish of Cavers	Millwright (Master) (deceased) and Elizabeth Moodie, M. S. Litster (deceased)	James McEwen Minister, East Bank, Hawick (Signed)	December 7 th at Wilton
	After Banns, according to the Forms of the United Presbyterian Church	(Signed) Jemima Nichol Domestic Servant (Spinster)	30	Little Cote	James Nichol previously Factor and Elizabeth Nichol M. S. Cavers	William Little Witness Barbara Pott Nichol Witness	James Shiel Registrar

Here is a transcription of the record from the Registrar General of Scotland form.

1866 Marriages of the Parish of Wilton in the County of Roxburgh
item 20, for 12/7/1866,
at Hope Point Parish of Wilton after Banns according to the Forms of the United Presbyterian Church

(Signed) James Moodie, Millwright (Journeyman) (Widower) age 48
resident of Denholm Parish of Cavers
father Thomas Moodie Millwright (Master) (deceased)
mother Elizabeth Moodie, M.S. Litster (deceased)
(Signed) Thomas McEwen Minister, East Bank, Hawick

(Signed) Jemima Nichol, Domestic Servant (Spinster) age 30
resident of Little Cote Parish of Cavers
father James Nichol, previously Factor (meaning that he was a sort of property manager for someone)
mother Elizabeth Nichol, M.S. Cavers
(Signed) William Little and Barbara Pott Nichol, witnesses

James Shiel, Registrar

The Life of James Moodie

1871 Scottish Census – Wilton, Roxburghshire

Now the James Moodie household is shown in the census entry at right.

Jemima is present, but Janet and James are not. Presumably they are housed elsewhere. This is another bit of research that could be done to confirm this speculation.

We do see that William is still present, and that there is a new child – Elizabeth.

James Moodie in the 1871 Scotland Census

Name:	James Moodie												
Age:	52												
Estimated birth year:	abt 1819												
Relationship:	Head												
Spouse's name:	Jemima Moodie												
Gender:	Male												
Where born:	Lilliesleaf, Roxburghshire												
Registration Number:	810												
Registration district:	Wilton												
Civil Parish:	Wilton												
County:	Roxburghshire												
Address:	5 Wellington Street												
Occupation:	Millwright (germanymun)												
ED:	4												
Household schedule number:	111												
Line:	6												
Roll:	CSSCT1871_181												
Household Members:	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Name</th><th>Age</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>James Moodie</td><td>52</td></tr><tr><td>Jemima Moodie</td><td>34</td></tr><tr><td>William Moodie</td><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>Elizabeth Cavers Moodie</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Thomas Hall</td><td>22</td></tr></tbody></table>	Name	Age	James Moodie	52	Jemima Moodie	34	William Moodie	9	Elizabeth Cavers Moodie	2	Thomas Hall	22
Name	Age												
James Moodie	52												
Jemima Moodie	34												
William Moodie	9												
Elizabeth Cavers Moodie	2												
Thomas Hall	22												

The Life of James Moodie

Jemima Nicol b. 1836

So, who was Jemima? Fortunately there is more information in this regard.

I believe that Jemima was born 4/7/1836 to James Nicol (b. 1790) and Elizabeth Cavers (b. 1794 d. 1881). She was the last (11th!) child in a very large family. The family appears to have been from the Robertson, Selkirk area. I believe that this is a village just to the west of Hawick. (Selkirk is to the north of Hawick.) Here is a listing showing her family.

<i>Family Group Report</i>			
Husband: Nicol, James			
Birth	1790-03-09		
Death			
Father	Nicol, William		
Mother	Melrose, Jannet		
Wife: Cavers, Elizabeth			
Birth	1794		
Death	1881-12-21		
Father			
Mother			
Children			
1F	Nicol, Elizabeth		
	Birth	1813-11-30	
	Death		
2F	Nicol, Janet		
	Birth	1815-12-24	
	Death		
3F	Nicol, Margaret		
	Birth	1817-11-20	
	Death		
4F	Nicol, Jane		
	Birth	1820-03-25	
	Death		
5F	Nicol, Christain		
	Birth	1822-05-11	
	Death		
6F	Nicol, Joan		
	Birth	1824-08-22	
	Death		
7M	Nicol, John		
	Birth	1827-03-08	
	Death		
8F	Nicol, Barbara Pott		
	Birth	1828-11-15	
	Death		
9M	Nicol, Walter		
	Birth	1831-01-05	
	Death		
10F	Nicol, Mina		
	Birth	1832-10-05	
	Death		
11F	Nicol, Jemima		
	Birth	1836-04-07	Roberton, Roxburgh, Scotland
	Death		
	Spouse	Moodie, James	
	Marriage	1866-12-07	Wilton, Roxburgh, Scotland

The Life of James Moodie

Summary of Children of Jemima Nicol and James Moodie

1881 Census at Southdean, Roxburghshire

James and Jemima had just two children (Elizabeth and Agnes) as far as I can tell. They appear in the 1881 census without James, who has by that time died.

William appears as well and has been discussed previously.

Agness Jane Moodie in the 1881 Scotland Census		
Name:	Agness Jane Moodie	
Age:	9	
Estimated birth year:	abt 1872	
Relationship:	Daughter	
Mother's name:	Jemima Moodie	
Gender:	Female	
Where born:	Wilton, Roxburghshire	
Registration Number:	806	
Registration district:	Southdean	
Civil Parish:	Southdean	
County:	Roxburghshire	
Address:	Doorpool Cot	
Occupation:	Scholar	
ED:	3	
Household schedule number:	21	
LINE:	19	
Roll:	cssct1881_320	
Household Members:	Name	Age
	Jemima Moodie	42
	William Moodie	19
	Elizabeth Moodie	12
	Agness Jane Moodie	9

The Life of James Moodie

Elizabeth b. 1868

Elizabeth was born in Cavers, a town (much closer to Denholm) and somewhat down river from Hawick. Here is the record.

Name: Elizabeth Moodie
Gender: Female
Christening Date:
Christening Place:
Birth Date: 03 Jun 1868
Birthplace: CAVERS,ROXBURGH,SCOTLAND
Death Date:
Name Note:
Race:
Father's Name: James Moodie
Father's Birthplace:
Father's Age:
Mother's Name: Jemima Nichol
Mother's Birthplace:
Mother's Age:
Indexing Project (Batch) Number: C11785-1
System Origin: Scotland-ODM
GS Film number: 6035516
Reference ID:

Citing this Record:

"Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FQCG-NVP:10> February 2018), Elizabeth Moodie, 03 Jun 1868; citing CAVERS,ROXBURGH,SCOTLAND, reference , index based upon data collected by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City; FHL microfilm 6,035,516.

So, by the time of her birth, that family has possibly relocated again. At very least, the birth is recorded as taking place in Cavers.

The Life of James Moodie

Agnes b. 1871

Agnes is born back in Wilton, which means near Hawick. So perhaps the family did not in fact move.

Name: Jane Agnes Moodie
Gender: Female
Christening Date:
Christening Place:
Birth Date: 19 Oct 1871
Birthplace: WILTON,ROXBURGH,SCOTLAND
Death Date:
Name Note:
Race:
Father's Name: James Moodie
Father's Birthplace:
Father's Age:
Mother's Name: Jemima Nichol
Mother's Birthplace:
Mother's Age:
Indexing Project (Batch) Number: C11810-1
System Origin: Scotland-ODM
GS Film number: 6035516
Reference ID:

Citing this Record:

"Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:FQ8B-7X6> : 10 February 2018), Jane Agnes Moodie, 19 Oct 1871; citing WILTON,ROXBURGH,SCOTLAND, reference , index based upon data collected by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City; FHL microfilm 6,035,516.

The Life of James Moodie

Family Group Sheet for the Family of James and Jemima

<i>Family Group Report</i>		
Husband: Moodie, James		
Birth	Original data: Scotland, Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950. Salt Lake City, Utah: FamilySearch, 2013.	
	1817-06-21	Roxburghshire, Scotland
Death	Brierley Family Tree 1947 on ancestry - Ancrum	
	1878-03-15	Roxburgh, Scotland
Father	Moodie, Thomas	
Mother	Litster, Elizabeth	
Wife: Nicol, Jemima		
Birth	according to the 1871 census, her birthdate could be 1837; place = Robertson, Selkirk, Scotland	
	1836-04-07	Roberton, Roxburgh, Scotland
Death		
Father	Nicol, James	
Mother	Cavers, Elizabeth	
Children		
1F	Moodie, Elizabeth	
	Birth	1868-06-03 Cavers, Roxburgh, Scotland
	Death	1954 El Dorado, Butler, Kansas
	Spouse	Wilson, Robert F.
	Marriage	1883-11-06 Brodhead, Rock, Wisconsin, US
2F	Moodie, Agnes Jane	
	Birth	1871-10-19 Wilton, Roxburgh, Scotland
	Death	1954-11-02 Perkins, South Dakota
	Spouse	Bates, Charles J.
	Marriage	1886-09-23
	Spouse	Randall, Alvin Charles
Marriage	1908-07-22	

The Life of James Moodie

Death of James in 1878 at Ancrum, Roxburghshire

Following is a record of James' death from "softening of the brain" on 3/15/1878 in Ancrum, Roxburghshire. This diagnosis might have meant a number of things, including stroke.

-Page 2-

1878. DEATHS in the Parish of Ancrum in the County of Roxburgh 18

No.	Name and Surname, Rank or Profession, and whether Single, Married, or Widowed.	When and Where Died.	Sex.	Age.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father, Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Cause of Death, Duration of Disease, and Medical Attendant by whom certified.	Signature & Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Death occurred.	When and where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
4	James Moodie	1878, March	Ill	60	Thomas Moodie Wiltonright (became)	Softening of Brain Wiltonright	James Moodie son	1878, March 18 th At Ancrum
	Robert Mullanright (Married to Jemima Suehd)	7th. Nov.			John Mullanright (became)	As certified by William S. S. S. M.D. Edinburgh		At Ancrum Registrar.
		John. A. 1870.			John Mullanright (became)			
		Schiston Cottages Parish of Ancrum						
	Marj	1878,	F	27	George M. M.	Asphthia	James M.	1878, "

James does not appear in the 1881 census, a fact that helps confirm that we are looking at the right people.

Name: Elizabeth Moodie
 Age: 12
 Estimated birth year: abt 1869
 Relationship: Daughter
 Mother's name: Jemima Moodie
 Gender: Female
 Where born: Cavers, Roxburghshire
 Registration Number: 806
 Registration district: Southdean
 Civil Parish: Southdean
 County: Roxburghshire
 Address: Doorpool Cot
 Occupation: Scholar
 ED: 3
 Household schedule number: 21
 Line: 18
 Roll: cssct1881_320
 Household Members:
 Name Age
 Jemima Moodie 42
 William Moodie 19
 Elizabeth Moodie 12
 Agness Jane Moodie 9
 Source Citation

Parish: Southdean; ED: 3; Page: 4; Line: 18; Roll: cssct1881_320
 Source Information

The Life of James Moodie

Ancestry.com. 1881 Scotland Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2007.

Note that the location for the family is the same as shown in the 1861 census. That is, Doorpool Cottage in Cavers. (A “Doorpool Farmhouse” appears in current maps of the Cavers area, but it is not certain that this is the same location.)

The Life of James Moodie

Immigration of Moodie Family Members to the USA in 1882

From what I can tell, the remains of the James Moodie family of Roxburghshire (his second family) left Scotland for the USA in 1882. I believe that William made the trip first and was then followed by Elizabeth, Agnes, and probably Jemima. (I can find no death record in Scotland for Jemima.)

Here is transport information for the three ladies. Note that the person most likely to be Jemima is recorded as Agnes, age 42. My guess is that this is really Jemima.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

NAME OF VESSEL: FURNESSIA

PORT OF EMBARKATION: GLASGOW & MOVILLE

DATE OF ARRIVAL: AUGUST 8, 1882

NUMBER: 1123

6	Mr Agnes Moodie	42	Wife	✓
7	Agnes	10	Child	✓
8	Elie	12		✓

The Life of James Moodie

Here is a transcription of the record for Agnes.

Name: Agnes Moody
Event Type: Immigration
Event Date: 1882
Event Place: New York City, New York, United States
Gender: Female
Age: 10
Birth Year (Estimated): 1872
Birthplace: Scotland
Ship Name: Furnessia
Affiliate Publication Number: M237
Affiliate Publication Title: Passenger Lists of vessels arriving at New York, 1820-1897
Affiliate Film Number: 455
GS Film Number: 1027025
Digital Folder Number: 004680385
Image Number: 00869

Citing this Record:

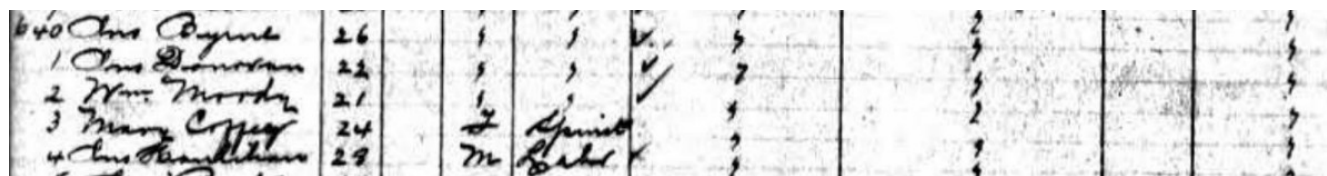
"New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1891," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:27T4-WXG> : 12 March 2018), Agnes Moody, 1882; citing NARA microfilm publication M237 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm .

Since I can find no records for Jemima in the USA, I assume that she died after arrival. Perhaps she has an unrecorded death in southern WI, where her daughters and their half brother William settled.

The Life of James Moodie

Here is immigration information for William. Note the date. It is almost exactly 4 months prior to the arrival of his sisters and stepmother.

WILLIAM MOODY			
FIRST NAME	WILLIAM	RELATIVE LEFT BEHIND	
LAST NAME	MOODY	NAME OF RELATIVE LEFT BEHIND	
OCCUPATION	LABORER	ADDRESS OF RELATIVE LEFT BEHIND	
AGE	17	TICKET	
SEX	Male	PAID BY	Self
LITERACY	Unknown	IN THE US BEFORE	Unknown
SHIP	CIRCASSIA	IN THE US WHEN	
ARRIVED	6 Apr 1882	IN THE US WHERE	
COUNTRY	SCOTLAND	GOING TO SOMEONE IN THE US	Unknown
PORT OF DEPARTURE	GLASGOW	RELATIONSHIP TO THAT SOMEONE IN THE US	
PLACE OF LAST RESIDENCE		NAME OF RELATIVE IN THE US	
PROVINCE OF LAST RESIDENCE	UNKNOWN		
CITY OR VILLAGE OF DESTINATION	UNITED STATES	ADDRESS OF RELATIVE IN THE US	
PLAN	Unknown	CITY OF RELATIVE IN THE US	
PASSAGE	Unknown	COUNTRY OF BIRTH	SCOTLAND
MONEY		PLACE OF BIRTH	



The Life of James Moodie

Immigration of Another Descendant of James Moodie to the USA

Recent DNA testing has helped reveal that there is another line of James Moodie descendants in the USA. I have had the pleasure of communicating with contemporary descendants from this line.

As mentioned above, our James Moodie (b.1817) had a son named James (b.1855) with his first wife Margaret in the vicinity of Edinburgh.

This son married a lady named Mary Pierson/Pearson (b. ~1857) according to trees on ancestry.com. They in turn had a son named Joseph (b. 1884 in Hawick). [Note the same location and and time frame as the second family of James b.1817!]

Joseph immigrated to the USA on 3/24/1904 on the ship named the Majestic with a number of other folks from the Roxburghshire area. (This is nearly 20 years after William, Agnes, and Elizabeth – his uncle and aunts made the trip.) Joseph made his way to Idaho.

21	Winnell	Richard 24	Jan	Hender	•	Scotland	Scotch	Hawick	Edin	Oregon
22	Moydie	Joseph P.	19	Nov	"	"	"	"	"	Idaho
23	S. Gordon	Chas J	18	Oct	"	Boackman	"	England	England	St Paul

I wonder if Joseph and Agnes ever knew of the presence of the other in the USA? James Moodie (b.1817) certainly never imagined that, nearly two hundred years after his death, a DNA technology would make it possible for his descendants to discover each other!

The Life of James Moodie

Summary of Significant Locations in the Life of James Moodie and His Families

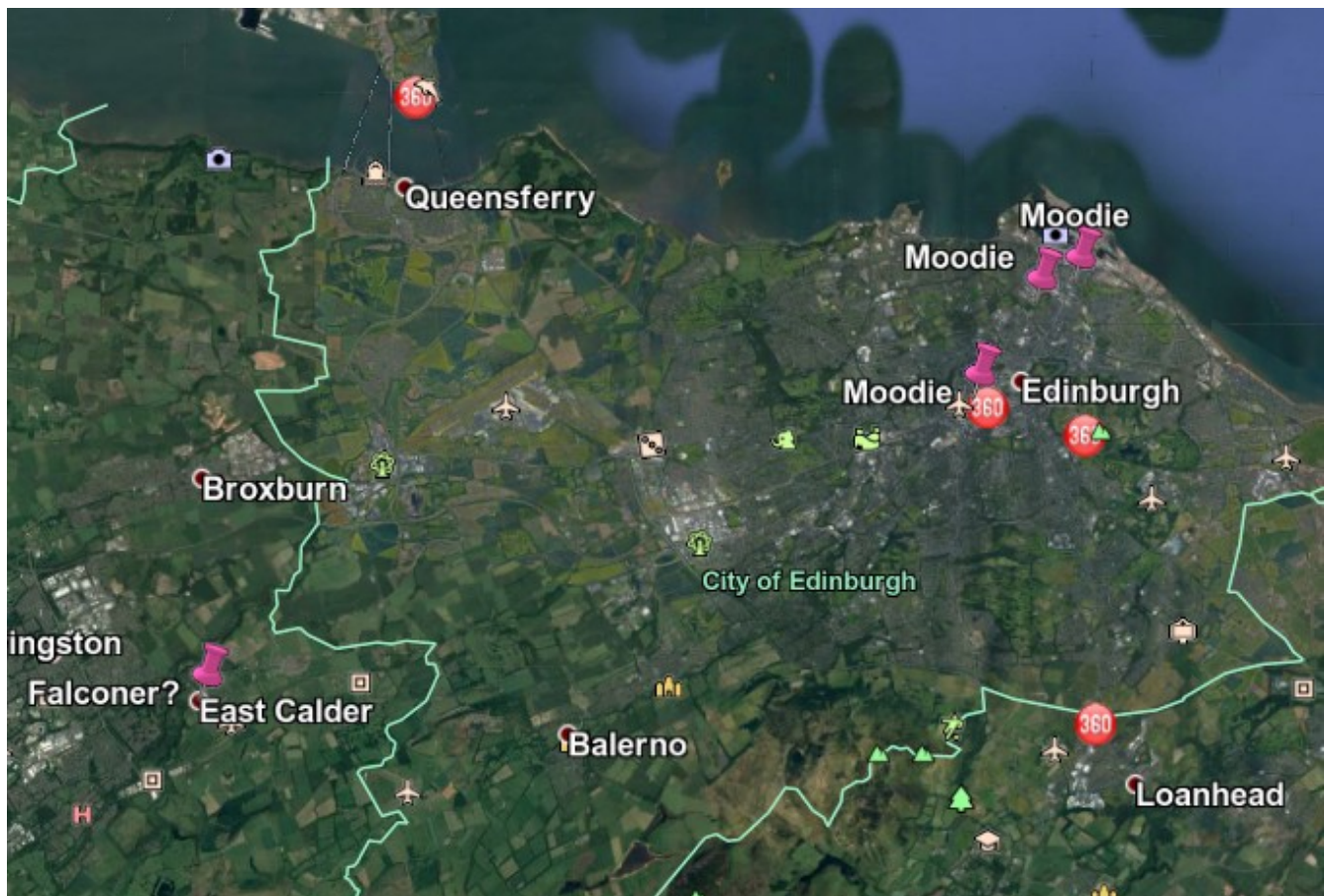
In Roxburghshire: Lilliesleaf, Wilton, Southdean, Teviothead, Ancrum, Cavers, Hawwick.

In Midlothian: St Cuthberts, South Leith, East Calder.

[Elsewhere: Wick in Caithnessshire.]

In the maps that follow, the pink pins with labels like “Moodie” show the locations named above (except Wick, which is quite far north).

Here are places of significance in the vicinity of Edinburgh.



The Life of James Moodie

These are places in Roxburghshire.



Plan your trip! Investigate with the help of <http://www.bordersfhs.org.uk/> !

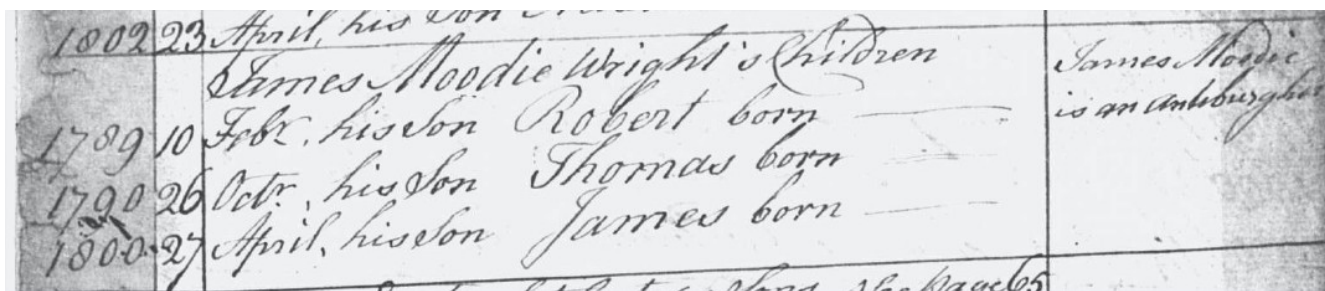
The Life of James Moodie

Down the Rabbit Hole

This could be subtitled “Will the Real Thomas Moodie Please Stand Up!”

Thomas Moodie b. 1790 in Lilliesleaf

Here is a record of the family into which Thomas was born in 1790. This is from an old Parish register in Lilliesleaf. I feel pretty sure that this is the family of “our” Thomas. The timing and location seem right.



It shows that Thomas’ father was James Moodie and that there were three siblings: Robert b.1789, Thomas b. 1790, and James b.1800. (Oh, how I wish that there was more variety in given names!)

The most likely supporting marriage record is the one that follows showing a marriage between James Moodie and Jean Richardson in Ancrum, Roxburghshire. (This is the town where James died of “brain softening.”)

Name: James Moodie
Birth Date:
Birthplace:
Age:
Spouse's Name: Jean Richardson
Spouse's Birth Date:
Spouse's Birthplace:
Spouse's Age:
Event Date: 02 Mar 1788
Event Place: Ancrum,Roxburgh,Scotland
Father's Name:
Mother's Name:
Spouse's Father's Name:
Spouse's Mother's Name:
Race:
Marital Status:
Previous Wife's Name:
Spouse's Race:
Spouse's Marital Status:
Spouse's Previous Husband's Name:
Indexing Project (Batch) Number: M11780-4
System Origin: Scotland-ODM
GS Film number: 1067930

The Life of James Moodie

Reference ID:

Citing this Record:

"Scotland Marriages, 1561-1910," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XYQL-HLS> : 10 February 2018), James Moodie and Jean Richardson, 02 Mar 1788; citing Ancrum,Roxburgh,Scotland, index based upon data collected by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City; FHL microfilm 1,067,930.

So, assuming that this is the right marriage, we know who the parents of Thomas and his brothers, Robert and James. And, in support of this, I have found a distant DNA match on ancestry.com who traces his line back to the next generation back from James and Jean. The DNA match is associated with Nelson Moodie, Jr., and we share just 10 cM of DNA, which is reasonable given the distance back to a common ancestor.

Jean may be the daughter of Thomas Richardson. -

"Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XT66-M48> : 10 February 2018), Jean Richardson, ; citing Lilliesleaf, Roxburgh, Scotland, reference , index based upon data collected by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City; FHL microfilm 102,297.

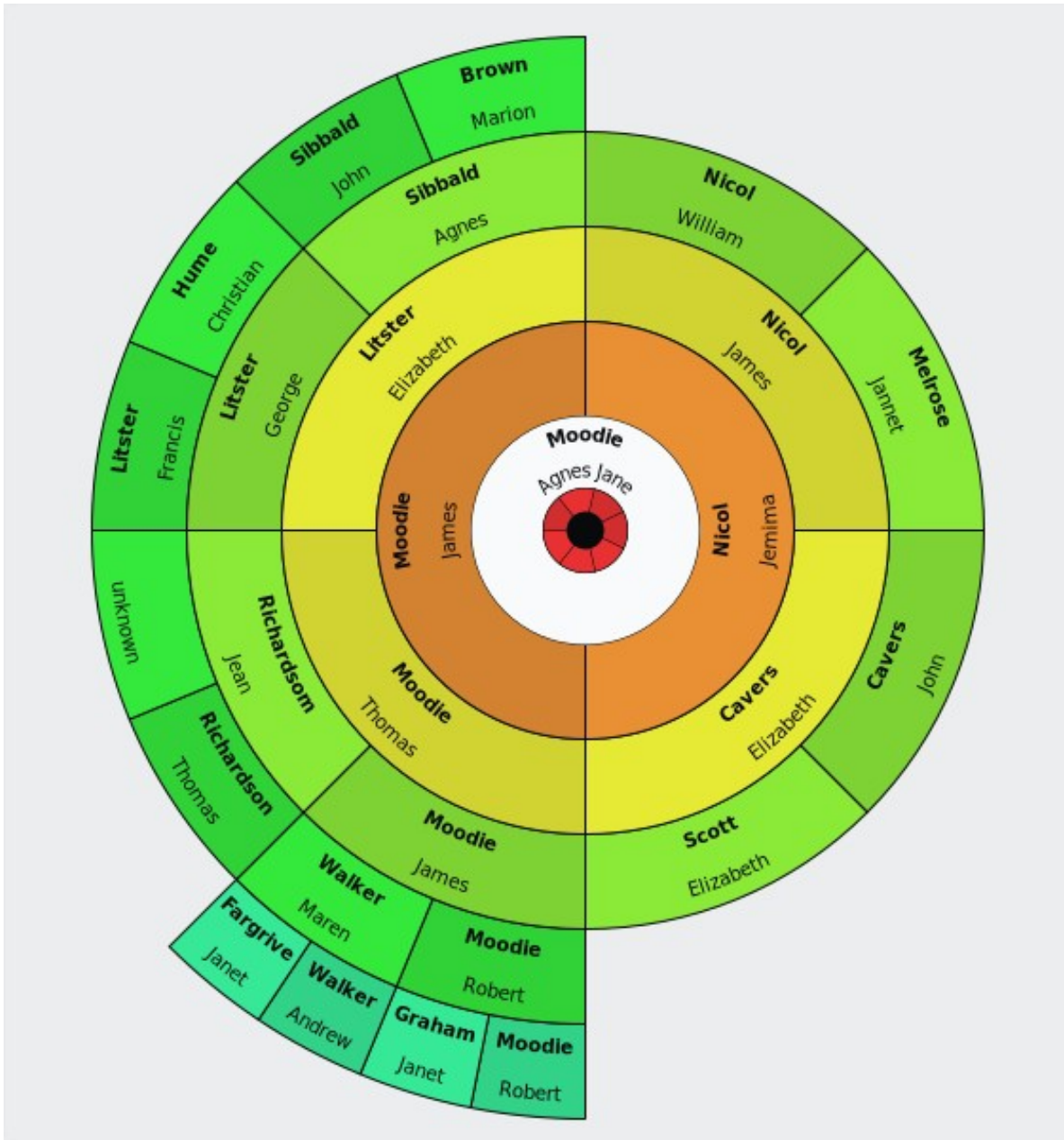
Next, a little research at familysearch.org has turned up a series of linked families that seems to be reasonable. This series is authored by one Edgar Moodie and others, but I have not contacted them for verifying source information. For now, I just reference their work with the link that follows.

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/pedigree/landscape/LL46-3B8>

Assuming that this series of families is linked properly, James' parents were Robert Moodie (b.1726) and Maren Walker (b.1732). His siblings were Andrew, John, Robert, and Margaret. And accepting all the information yields the following pedigree information.

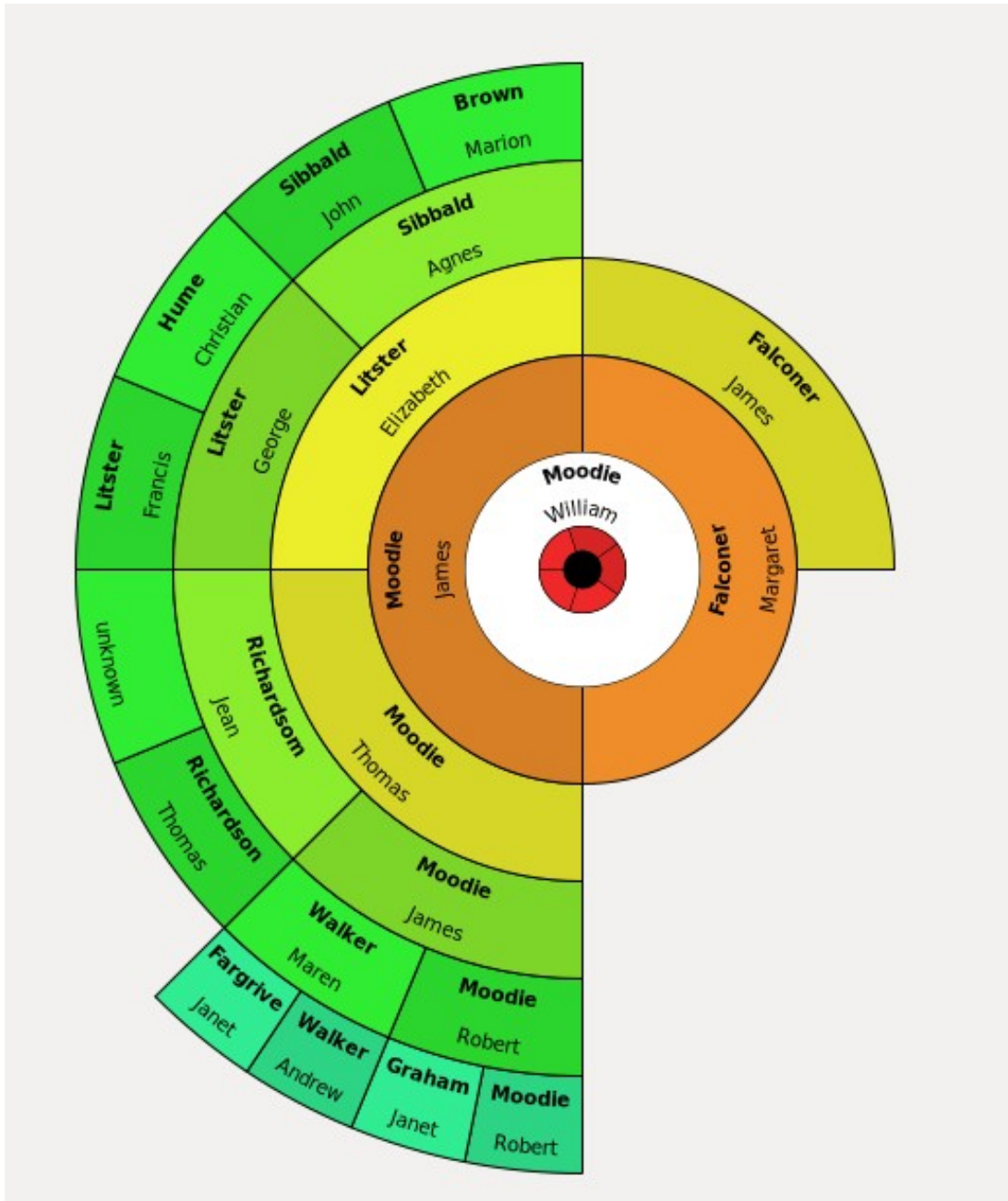
The Life of James Moodie

Updated Pedigree for Agnes Moodie b. 1871 in Roxburghshire



The Life of James Moodie

Updated Pedigree for William Moodie b. 1862 in Roxburghshire



The Life of James Moodie

Melsetter Estate and Another Thomas Moodie

As a part of my foray into understanding Thomas Moodie, James' father, I have turned up some colorful history that you might want to investigate in more detail. I will just outline it here until I (or someone else) can confirm it. I am not at all convinced that the families described below are related to my/our Moodie families. **Connections to our Moodie line are not proven!**

First, it appears that there was a Thomas Moodie of about the right age as our Thomas that may have been in the military, and may have died in India. This Thomas was perhaps a member of a large family headed by a Major James Moodie, whose likenesses are presented below. (See <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/78644683/person/410097253721/gallery> .) If so, this Thomas' mother was named Elizabeth Dunbar, and she and Major James were married in Caithness (also mentioned above in the context of Margaret Falconer). **Again, I do NOT think that this is "our" Thomas since the information does not sync with the family information of James Moodie as recorded in the Parish Register in Lilliesleaf and shown in the section immediately above. The simplest explanation is that the ancestry.com tree is wrong and that there were multiple James/Thomas Moodie people in Scotland at the same time. (Not so far fetched.)**

This "ancestry" Major James Moodie is identified as the Ninth Laird of Melsetter House, an historic place in the Orkneys. Here he is in uniform.



Here he is later in life.

The Life of James Moodie

And the same ancestry.com reference provides the following text.

“the Ninth Laird

In 1769 Major James Moodie became ninth Laird of Melsetter and inherited Breckness, Snelsetter Castle and Melsetter. He married Elizabeth Dunbar and had 6 children (Henrietta, Janet, Thomas, Benjamin, Donald and John; and there is mention of another son, James, who was possibly illegitimate, born to an Elizabeth Taylor). The Moodies were an ancient family and could claim to be able to trace their descent directly from Robert the Bruce. The first written record of the family seems to date from about 1470, when William Mudie appears in a list of Scottish bishops as Bishop of Caithness. The non-conjectural pedigree of the Moodies (or Mudie, as it was in the fifteenth century) starts with another William, the first Laird of Melsetter, who was a man of some importance, being, among other things, Chamberlain in Orkney to Mary Queen of Scots. His lands were listed and confirmed by King James VI in 1591. At that time he disposed of his properties on the mainland of Scotland to consolidate his position in Orkney.

In 1818, Major James Moodie was forced to sell the estate which had been in his family for more than 500 years, despite his strenuous efforts to save it. James Moodie died heartbroken and is buried in the Canongate Parish Churchyard in Edinburgh. The breaking up of the Melsetter estate gave rise to an acrimonious and extended legal battle involving, among others, Lord Dundas, and was never settled to the satisfaction of the Moodies. Although the connection between the Moodies and Melsetter in Orkney was irrevocably severed by the sale of the estate in 1818, another Melsetter connection was created years later in another continent. Just before the sale of the estate, the son Benjamin and others had emigrated to Africa and within a few years the Moodies had become one of those pioneering families whose story is interwoven with the history of Southern Africa in the nineteenth century. One of the family, Thomas, led a trek to Gazaland, in what was then Rhodesia, and founded the town of Melsetter at an altitude of 1586 m in the Chimanimani Mountains.”

I think that many folks have researched this line, so I’m sure that if you have an interest you can reach out and find more. For example . . . <https://themoodies.co.za/home> . BTW, the guy in the picture at right (from this web site) is not me, but we could be brothers. The shirt says “I can’t keep calm I’m a Moodie.” What can I say!



The Life of James Moodie

According to this site, the Ninth Laird came up with this coat of arms. Meaningless symbolism today, but the only such thing that I have found while doing my genealogy.

Maybe someday we will determine if we are related to the Melsetter Moodies somewhere back in time.

