

William Beck (1843-1912) and Janet Sutherland (1843- 1928)

1. Small town boy -- Musselburgh, Midlothian. June 1851

William sat on the parapet of the old bridge over the River Esk, and pondered on life's many unfairnesses. He was too young to accompany his brother David around Musselburgh links, where the game of golf had always been played. He was yet deemed old enough to keep an eye on his younger brother, Andrew who was down on the grass by the side of the river, and dangerously observing some small fish below the river's bank. He wasn't sure what to do when his older sisters and particularly Margaret teased him. Life was unfair, and there was even talk that he might go to Musselburgh Grammar School, one of the oldest in the country and study strange subjects which no-one had heard of.

The bridge was old and narrow, and used only by foot passengers. If William had looked closely at its base, he would have seen that the foundations contained Roman stonework, although it had been re-built before 1300, and again in 1597 (with a third arch added for good measure). To the north, the New Bridge built in 1806 to a design by Sir John Rennie, and consisting of five elegant arches spanned the Esk. Beyond that, where William lived, the broad High Street of Musselburgh ran towards the sea on the east bank of the river. On the west bank the ancient village and suburb of Fisherrow huddled safely round its fishing harbour.

He had heard talk of Chartism, whatever that was, last night when his father had been gossiping to an acquaintance in his shoemaker's shop. Apparently, his father could not vote, in spite of being a member of one of Musselburgh's seven incorporated trade companies or guilds. Anyway, David Back was unhappy, and that his son knew, even if the detail of who got to vote for what was lost on him.

That reminded him. Why could no one pronounce or even spell "Back" properly. It was hardly a complex name. He wished that he were called "Smith".

At this point, he looked down from the bridge, and saw his older brother coming back from the links with a look of thunder about him. He called Andrew to order before he took too close a look at the fish in the river, and set off to intercept David. He raced down to the High Street, and offered to carry his brother's few battered clubs, but the offer was curtly refused.

"Whatever is the matter Davie?"

"It's just trying to share the links with other folk. There are some horses trying to carry out practice gallops on one side, and grand gentlemen playing at archers on the other side. It is a miracle that any golf gets played at all. And it's our home and always was. I call it unfair." His younger brother knew the concept of unfairness and decided that it might be better to say nothing in response.

"David, could you teach me to play golf?"

“When you’re a bit bigger. I’m not risking a golf ball on you. Why don’t I get you a walking stick cut down, and you can practice with a ball of rags.”

William regarded his older brother with a jaundiced eye. “Well, in that case, I won’t give you the ball I found this morning.”

And with that, he set off at a run for the tenement in the High Street, before his brother could remonstrate with him.

Notes

1. The Romans had built a small fort at Inveresk, where the parish church now stands, and the old bridge is indeed built on Roman foundations. It was just to the east of the town and its strategic bridge that the Battle of Pinke was fought in 1547, as part of the “Rough Wooing”, when England sought to force the marriage of Princess Mary to the boy King Edward VI.
2. The High Street of Musselburgh was directly on the old Edinburgh to London road, later numbered as the A1 in the 20th century.
3. William’s father David Beck or Back (1803-1872) was a journeyman Shoemaker, and thus a member of one of the seven incorporated companies of Musselburgh. These were the shoemakers, the hammermen, the gardeners, the weavers, the butchers, the tailors and the bakers. As such, he could become a burgess of the town, but he was unlikely to have had the vote. In 1841, there were only 238 voters in the town, out of a population of over 6,000. The town was part of a parliamentary seat, which also included Leith and Portobello. It is likely that David only got the vote in 1867, and it is to be hoped that he exercised the vote at least once before he died (Gladstone was elected to power in 1868).
4. The surname was originally Back, but it began to be written as Beck around 1850. I was told that there were problems with how people spelt and pronounced Back and so they changed it. David Back was called Bank on his marriage certificate, and his father, William (1784-1868), was returned in 1841 under the spelling of Buch! William was a handloom weaver, born in Kirkcaldy and living in Arbroath where he was a foreman in a flax mill. By 1870 it had changed for all time from Back to Beck.
5. The Musselburgh links are one of the oldest golf courses in the world. The game was old when a club was formed there in 1774.
6. By 1840, a grandstand had been built at the west end of the links, to watch horseracing. The Edinburgh meetings had moved there from Leith links. To this day, the Musselburgh racecourse shares its land with the ancient golf course. The Royal Company of Archers, an elite club for the gentry, also hold an annual meeting on the Musselburgh links.
7. Up until 1848, golf balls were made of stitched leather, and stuffed with wet feathers, “a feathery”. In that year, a new ball was developed called a “guttie”. This was made of solid gutta percha rubber, made from the sap of the percha tree. They were a tenth of the cost of the older balls. It was not until 1898 that balls, which resemble those used today, were introduced.
8. Andrew Beck (B 1846) became a baker, and married Isabella Gall in Musselburgh in 1869. David (B 1833) ended as a miner and moved to Fife.

2. A Scottish Hogmanay -- Tron Kirk, Edinburgh. 31 December 1864

The Tron Kirk lies on the High Street of Edinburgh, where it intersects with South Bridge. It is a fine example of a Palladian church, and was “dedicated to Christ” by the citizens of Edinburgh in 1641. It was then truncated in the late eighteenth century to allow for the construction of South Bridge, which runs high above the Cowgate, and the consequent creation of Hunter Square and Blair Street, which replaced the ancient Marlines Wynd. Blair Street runs steeply from the church on the square, down to the Cowgate. In 1864, those couple of hundred yards divided two worlds. At the top lay the established Church of Scotland and its Presbyterian worshippers; solidly respectable in the main, if not all prosperous. At the bottom of Blair Street, the dark chasm of the Cowgate was all but Irish. St Patrick’s Roman Catholic Church ministered to the needs of the inhabitants of the dank tenements, which crowded the valley floor of the ancient roadway into the Grassmarket. From the railings of South Bridge, it was possible for the townsfolk of Edinburgh to look down into the slum, which had immeasurably changed since the Irish immigrations of the 1840s.

It was a typically cold Edinburgh winter’s day. The sky had a pink hue, and it was crisp and fearfully cold. From the window of 3 Blair Street, Janet Beck could see her husband sitting on a short three-legged stool. He was sketching the Tron Kirk in pencil. Strangely for a man who spent all his working hours with a paintbrush in hand, his hobby was drawing and painting. “You would have thought that he would have had enough of it,” she mused, “but apparently not.....”

At this moment, as if by some form of telepathy he looked up and waved towards the window. It was getting dark as it moved towards four o’clock, despite the winter sunshine, and his fingers were beginning to lose all sensation. He stooped and picked up the stool, and moved towards the entrance of the close. Although he had worked on Christmas Day itself, his employer had given him and the other journeymen painters the afternoon off, and he had been determined to make the most of it.

Whilst the flat was not large, with its two good-sized rooms, and a large box-room, it was neat and respectable. In fact, it made a good home for a young couple with only one child as yet. This was the baby, also called Janet, who even then was sleeping fitfully in a brightly painted wooden crib. She was less than a month old. The street door to the close was only a dozen yards from the Royal Mile. Carriages came and went, and the City Chambers were within a couple of hundred yards. On the other hand, Janet knew equally well that poverty was not far away. That very morning she has seen an Irish woman collapse in the street, on her way down to the Cowgate, and now she would have to explain to William why they were a steak pie short for their Hogmanay supper. She would have to make the remaining pie stretch out with a good selection of vegetables and broth and some home baking. Her brother Tom Sutherland was coming for their supper also, and she knew that his wife would bring enough additional supplies to see them safely through the New Year.

William entered the flat and dropped the sketch-pad on the table.

“How is the baby?”

“Sleeping at last. No crying for the past half an hour. I’m hoping that tonight won’t be too raucous outside, or she’ll be off again.”

“I wouldn’t be sure of a quiet night here, but we should be alright if we put the crib in the box-room. The noise shouldn’t be too bad there.”

“Tom and his family should be here about six. I saw him this morning at the City Chambers job. He was hoping to get off early, and fetch the family into town by the five o’clock train from Haddington.”

“Would you like a cup of tea to warm you up

Notes

1. William Beck had served an apprenticeship as a painter in Musselburgh. In February 1864, he and Janet were living in Musselburgh when they got married. By December, they were living at 3 Blair Street, Edinburgh which is close to the Tron Kirk. Janet was raised in Haddington, and her older half brother Thomas was married there in 1855. Their father was James Sutherland from Caithness, and when married in 1832 in Edinburgh was a plasterer. He appears as a weaver in the 1841 census whilst living in Edinburgh, and by 1851 the family were living in Haddington and James was still a weaver. Thomas appears to have followed his father into his original plastering trade, and remained one until his death in 1903 at the age of 67. It appears likely that James Sutherland was first married to an Alexia Darian by whom he had at least Samuel in 1832 or 1833 and Thomas in 1835, before she died. His second wife was Janet Clephane who was Janet’s mother. James married on 13 May 1832 whilst residing in Broughton Street, Edinburgh. Unfortunately the name of his wife is not given. In total, James Sutherland had six surviving children by two wives, and died between 1851 and 1855.
2. We do not know for certain if William Beck was an amateur artist but it seems likely. His son and grand-son, both named William, made a living like him from commercial painting and decorating, but also painted and drew for pleasure. We have works of art by both.
3. The Tron Kirk was the centre of Hogmanay festivities from early times until the late 1990s. The celebrations could be raucous, even in my recollection. This had a long tradition, and in 1812, there was a riot after some thirty drunken citizens were robbed around the Kirk on Hogmanay, and a member of the city police watch was beaten to death by when attempting to intervene.
4. The Becks were not a drinking family and it likely that William would have been a supporter of the powerful Temperance movement.
5. The Irish slums of the Cowgate were a by-word for poverty and disease. James Connolly, who was later to lead the Dublin Easter uprising of 1916, was born at 107 Cowgate on June 5 1868. His parents were immigrants from County

Monaghan. His father was a manure carter, whilst his mother contracted bronchitis in the slums and died at an early age. My grandfather recalled being stood on South Bridge, around 1905, and being told that if he didn't apply himself at school that was where he would end up. Even in the 1970's, I remember being mesmerised by an old painted advertisement on a building in the Cowgate, which advertised payment for human hair (and second hand clothing).

6. St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church ran a school in the Cowgate, which Connolly attended. It also founded Hibernian FC in August 1875, which later moved to Leith, to promote sport and exercise among the youths of Irish immigrant families.

Fig 1: The Birth Certificate for Janet Beck – December 1864. This shows the residence of the Becks as 3 Blair Street, which is just behind the Tron Kirk.

1864. BIRTHS in the District of *Saint Giles* in the City of *Edinburgh*

No.	Name and Surname.	When and Where Born.	Sex.	Name, Residence, & Rank or Profession of Father, Name and Maiden Surname of Mother, Date and Place of Marriage.	Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if not of the House in which the Birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
1868	<i>Alexander Haggles</i>	<i>1868 December 7th St. St. Edinburgh</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>Alexander Haggles Alexander James Haggles M. Haggles 1852 July 25th Edinburgh</i>	<i>Alexander Haggles Father</i>	<i>1868 December 19th At Edinburgh Wm. Littlejohn 1868</i>
	<i>Christina Hutton</i>	<i>1868 November 11th St. St. 1536 Pringle's Street Edinburgh</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Alexander Hutton James Hutton James Hutton W. S. Hutton 1852 June 25th Glasgow</i>	<i>James Hutton Wm. Hutton Mother Wm. Littlejohn Reg. Witness</i>	<i>1868 December 19th At Edinburgh Wm. Littlejohn 1868</i>
	<i>James Mack</i>	<i>1868 December 8th St. St. St. St. 1536 Pringle's Street Edinburgh</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>William Mack House Painter James Mack M. Littlejohn 1852 May 25th Glasgow</i>	<i>William Mack Father</i>	<i>1868 December 19th At Edinburgh Wm. Littlejohn 1868</i>

Wm. Littlejohn Registrar

3. Clyde built and painted – Dumbarton. 22 November 1869

The town of Dumbarton stands at the confluence of the River Leven and the Clyde, 15 miles downstream from Glasgow. The town is dominated by a twin sugar loaf rock on which sits an ancient royal fortress, which was the capital of the Strathclyde Britons. However, in 1869, it was the growth of shipbuilding and marine engineering, which drew large numbers of workers to the ancient burgh. There was a series of small yards but already dominating shipbuilding in the town was William Denny and Brothers.

A small crowd was gathered at the launch of a new clipper. She was 280 feet long and with a 35-foot beam. At less than a 1000 tons she was not as large as many ships then being built on the Clyde, and nor did she have steam engines. This ship had been designed for speed and relied on three great masts and a sleek hull. She was a tea clipper.

It was with mixed emotions that her designer, Hercules Linton, watched her get ready for launch. Although not a large ship, his firm of Scott and Linton had never built a vessel of this scale before. The firm had gone bankrupt. Luckily, he had negotiated a guarantee from the yard landlord, William Denny and Brothers, and they had stepped in to complete the work, and ensure that the contract was fulfilled. Thus liquidated damages were avoided, for he was sure that Captain Jock Willis would undoubtedly have sued him personally otherwise. He could see Willis' distinctive white top hat enter the yard in the company of Peter Denny, and his son William Denny III.

In the crowd of tradesmen and their families, a small girl sat on her father's shoulders. This was Janet Beck who was not yet five years old. Her father was a self-employed journeyman painter, William Beck. He was talking to two acquaintances, Jim Campbell and Tony Conroy.

"She is a beauty," said William. "I'm not sure that I have seen such a sleek line on any ship before."

"Well the first man home with the tea gets the best prices, and that fancy operator over there with the white lum hat means it to be him. Not that you would know much about ships any way Willie – you being a miserable house-painter!"

"I know enough to have painted a good share of this one, anyways," said Beck with a laugh. "What do you think of her Tony?"

"I think she's got the best timber that I've seen in her. Everything about the build is quality. No wonder poor old Linton went bust. I can see him up there with a face like aa....." struggled Tony Conroy in his soft Irish brogue.

"Soor Ploom," suggested Jim Campbell helpfully.

"Well something like that. There he goes – over to shake hands with Denny. I'm not sure that they will want the likes of me working for them next year. I hear Peter Denny is very bound up with the Free Church."

"I'm not sure that that's fair Tony. I hear he's a very Christian gentleman. What do you say, Jim?"

“I say that if Denny needs men to make a profit, then Tony and all his Irish kith and kin will be hired. If he doesn’t, then we might all be out of a job. And let’s not be talking about this so openly. You’ve got to realise that the west of Scotland is quite different to your comfortable Edinburgh ways. If you want to make money over here Willie boy, then you need to box clever. That’s why I told you to join the Freemasons. At some point, you’ll be standing in a queue waiting to be hired on for a contract, and they might just want people like themselves. It is just the way things are on the Clyde. You lads need to read a bit more. The only way forward is for us to organise...”

“Oh here he goes again,” said Tony. “Luckily Captain Willis is about to say a few words.”

Heads turned back to the launching platform. There, various dignitaries stood behind a table. Willis was speaking but no one down with the tradesmen and their families could catch his words, which were lost on a cold breeze. After a few minutes and just before William felt the need to unburden himself of young Janet on his shoulders, Captain Willis picked up a magnum of Champagne, and swung it at the side of the vessel. William couldn’t help wince as he saw it crash against his new paintwork. He thought he could hear the words, “and I am proud to name this ship the Cutty Sark.”

Notes.

1. Hercules Linton is said to have based the design of the “Cutty Sark” on Firth of Forth fishing vessels in order to get the right proportions. The ship was launched on Monday 22 November 1869 at the Scott & Linton yard on the River Leven. The ship was completed by William Denny & Brothers, following the bankruptcy of the Scott & Linton business. The ship was towed across the Clyde to Greenock for final work on her masts and rigging. The “Cutty Sark” then sailed to London and loaded with cargo for an outward maiden voyage to Shanghai. She loaded 1,450 tons of tea and set sail for London on 25 June 1870, arriving in the Thames on 13 October. After seven years on the tea trade, the ship transferred to shipping Australian wool, and remained on this run until 1895.
2. The men who manned the shipyards of the Clyde had a multiplicity of trades, and as such served apprenticeships. They were known as journeymen when qualified. This served to distinguish them from the unskilled labourers who were coming in increasing numbers from Ireland.
3. Peter Denny (1821-1895) was the driving force behind the business. He originally was in partnership with three other brothers including William the oldest. By 1862, he was the sole partner, and introduced his son William Denny III as a partner in 1868. His father had been making steamships from as early as 1814, but the business really started in 1844 with 14 men and a capital of £800. The company prospered, and in 1867 transferred to a purpose built yard on the River Leven at Dumbarton. Peter Denny was a prominent member of the Free Church of Scotland, and through these connections he came into contact with Henderson & Co. With this business, he set up a number of foreign ventures including a shipping line to New Zealand in 1864 and the Irrawaddy Flotilla and Burmese Steam Navigation Company in 1865. They

also built Confederate blockade-runners in the American Civil War. The company continued until going into voluntary liquidation in 1962.

4. The ship owner was Captain John “Jock” Willis who controlled a family ship-owning business, based in London. He was famous for his white top hat, and was better known as “White Hat Willis”. He owned the “Cutty Sark” until 1895 when she was sold to the Portuguese. He had at least one other ship named after a work by Robert Burns. The name “Cutty Sark” is the Scots for a short shirt or shift, and was worn by one of the more attractive witches chasing Tam O’Shanter in the poem of the same name. Willis’ famous top hat was a tall stovepipe design, and these were known as “lum” (i.e. chimney) hats in Scotland.
5. On January 18 1869, William and Janet Beck had a son, also William. They were then residing at 71 High Street, Dumbarton, having moved from Edinburgh. William is a ship and house painter (journeyman). By the census of 1871, they had moved to 4 Clyde Street, but still in Dumbarton. In 1869, the adjacent entries in the birth register of Dumbarton, concerned two other families resident in the High Street. There was James and Mary Campbell, married at Cardross in 1863. He was a boilermaker (journeyman), and if connected to the “Cutty Sark” would have been working on the iron frame of the ship. There was also Anthony and Ann Conroy, married at Renton in 1861. He was a shipyard labourer.
6. The shipyard workers were already organised at this period, and not least at Dumbarton. In 1856, the apprentices went on strike and rescued their leaders who had been arrested by the police. In 1875, the Dumbarton shipyards went on strike for 28 weeks as a response to wage cuts. In 1868, the Clyde workers had a 58-hour working week, and skilled men were earning between £1 and thirty shillings per week. Labourers, like Tony Conroy were earning fourteen shillings per week.

Fig 1: The Birth certificate of William Beck in Dumbarton in 1869. Shows the Becks living in the High Street. The other two entries also refer to shipyard workers who lived in the High Street.

01/01/1869 BECK, WILLIAM (Statutory Births 496/00 0036)

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1869 BIRTHS in the Borough of Dumbarton in the County of Dumbarton

No.	Name and Surname.	When and Where Born.	Sex.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maternal Surname of Mother. Date and Place of Marriage.	Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if not of the House in which the Birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
34	Agnes Campbell	1869 January Fairlie H. Com. P. St. Dumbarton	F.	James Campbell Boiler-maker (James Campbell) Mary Campbell Mr. J. Campbell 1863 July 17 th G. Dundee	Mary Campbell Mother J ^{ms} Jardine Registrar Glasgow	1869 January 28 th At Dumbarton J ^{ms} Jardine Registrar
	Bridget Conroy	1869 January Glasgow St. John's St. Dumbarton	F.	Anthony Conroy Shipyard. La- borer. Ann Conroy Mrs. J. Conroy 1861 Jan 11 th Glasgow	Anthony Conroy Father (Parents) J ^{ms} Jardine Registrar	1869 January 30 th At Dumbarton J ^{ms} Jardine Registrar
	William Beck	1869 January Glasgow St. John's St. Dumbarton	M.	William Beck House-Shipyard (James Beck) James Beck Mrs. J. Beck 1864 July 26 th Glasgow	William Beck Father J ^{ms} Jardine Registrar	1869 January 30 th At Dumbarton J ^{ms} Jardine Registrar

J^{ms} Jardine, Registrar.

4. Sudden death in Govan – August 19, 1908.

It had been a hot summer, and the windows of the Govan tenements stood ajar. Not too far though, for the weather was sultry and thunder could be heard somewhere over the Campsie Fells to the north. In Govan, the huge Fairfield yard with its thousands of workers had a reasonable order book, and the five shipbuilding slips were full. The yard had just completed the 20,000 ton battle cruiser, HMS Indomitable, for the contract price of £1.75 million.

At 1 Greenfield Street, the Becks were at tea. William Beck, aged sixty five, had just returned from the yard, having started at 6am that day. He still wore his paint-spattered overalls. Opposite him his son, James Beck was finishing his “high tea”, with an extra sweet cake, and was shortly to be walking from where his father had come. He was a night watchman. Janet Beck, also aged sixty five, was keeping a weather eye on a pan of broth, gently simmering. Their discussion was all of family, prompted by a letter received from New York from Bill Beck, the oldest surviving son.

Janet was saying, “and so I don’t understand why he can’t come home now and run his business from Glasgow. There is enough folk around this town to lash out on new buildings and furnishings to keep five people like Bill going for ever. Just look at that Mr Mackintosh and his fancy tea-rooms. It’s not just buildings you know. They are doing all sorts with furniture and soft furnishings. Margaret was just saying that the business she used to work for in Bath Street, have got a huge order for drapes from Mr Stephen’s house out at Balfron.”

“Now Mother, don’t fret,” said her husband. “He’ll come home when he is good and ready. In the meantime, just be thankful that the Americans like his designs and interior furnishings. Goodness knows, it is better than painting battleships, like Andrew and me.”

“Bill thinks that I could go over and join him,” said James. He looked rapidly away as his father frowned back at him.

“Better not. It’s just safer if you bide here with Mother and me.”

James was a chronic epileptic, and for that reason had been denied the apprenticeships, which the other sons had taken up. Bill and Andrew had both started as painters, whilst John was an engine fitter. The two younger daughters had married skilled men too, and lived close by in Govan. Janet, the oldest daughter was married to John Ryle, a prosperous shopkeeper and councillor in the Isle of Wight. Only poor James, the brightest of the lot, was denied a future because of his fits. He couldn’t work in the yards where his safety and those of others would be imperilled, they said, and he had no trade. He was thirty-seven and still living at home.

Not that James felt especially vulnerable. He had lived all his life as part of a loved member of a caring family. The Becks were staunch members of the kirk, and founder members of the new Linthouse parish church in Govan. Four of his brothers and sisters all lived within a few hundred yards of Greenfield Street, and as they were all married there was no end of nephews and nieces to play with. In particular, he was fond of young Jo Beck, only eight years old, and the daughter of his brother John. She

was shy and gentle and this appealed to James; also she was not frightened of his epileptic fits like so many others.

“I was thinking of going to Ibrox this season father. John said that he’s come along with me and maybe one or two of the others.....”

As he was standing to leave the table, he was suddenly struck by a fit. The table twitched backwards as a boot caught a leg. This was no ordinary fit however. He would not wake from this seizure.

Notes

1. William and Janet Beck were living at 1 Greenfield Street from at least 1899 to 1908. William signed the death certificate for his sons James on August 20th 1908. The cause of death was given as “Chronic epilepsy for many years. Apoplexy of short duration.”
2. This remains a largely not understood phenomenon. There is a UK charity called SUDEP, which stands for Sudden Unexplained Death in Epilepsy, and they have an excellent web-site. They explain that the risk of sudden death rises with the severity of the epilepsy. James had it very badly, and they estimate that this gave him a 1:100 chance of sudden death per annum. It is not understood why these sudden deaths occur, but the most likely explanations at present are thought to be either cardiac arrest caused by the electrical storm in the brain or a respiratory problem caused by the brain shutting down breathing.
3. Bill Beck never did return from America. He retired to Florida in the 1920s, and became wealthy on the proceeds of an interior design business. He certainly stayed with his sister, Janet on the Isle of Wight, and I have one of his paintings of the island.
4. The family were associated with Linthouse St Kenneth parish church. On 6th June 2007, it was announced that this was to close, as part of a plan to merge the three parish churches in Govan. Jo Beck’s full name was Joan Stuart Hastie Beck, and was named after the first Minister of Linthouse, the Rev Stuart Hastie.
5. Apart from their married sons John and Andrew who also lived in Govan, there was also Margaret and her husband Bill Steele, and Jane and her husband Bill Peebles living nearby to William and Janet.
6. There were also two boys who had died young. David died in 1876 at the age of ten, and Thomas died in 1880 as a baby.
7. William died in Greenfield Street, Govan in 1912. His widow, Janet moved to the Isle of Wight and lived with her eldest daughter. She died there in 1928.

Fig 1: The death certificate of James Beck, caused by a sudden “apoplexy” as a result of an epileptic fit. Govan 1869.

1908. DEATHS in the DISTRICT of GOVAN in the COUNTY of LARNAK.

17th
19th
20th

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 Illness, and Medical Attendants by whom certified.	Signature & Qualification of Informant, and in absence, if correct the Name in which the Death occurred.	When and where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
1021	James Sutherland Brewer	1908, August Dunbarton 46, 30th. P.M.	M.	37 years	William Beck House & Ship Painter	Chronic Epilepsia; Many years; as cert. by James Barran	William Beck Father.	1908, August 20 th At Govan
	Wight Widdowson (Single)	1 Greenfield Street Govan			Janet Beck d. S. Sutherland	as cert. by James Barran		F. D. Mumford Registrar.
1022	Emma Elliot Sewer	1908, August Dunbarton 12th. Noon	F.	46 years	John Barran M. Barclay Johnston	Chronic 14 days	John Barran Father.	1908, August 20 th At Govan
	(Single)	157, Linn Road Govan			Elizabeth Barran M. S. Barran	as cert. by A. Whyte Cassy M. B. G. B.		F. D. Mumford Registrar.
1023	James Thomson Seaman Merchant Service (Single)	1908, July twenty fifth 5th. 20th. P.M. 187, Renfrew Road, Govan Parish. (Former residence 34 Buchanan Street Glasgow.)	M.	38 years	David Thomson Wrecker (deceased)	Chronic Bright's	Wm Boyd Deft. Attorney.	1908, August 20 th At Govan
					Helen Thomson M. S. Coultie (deceased)	as cert. by J. A. Robertson M. B. G. B.		F. D. Mumford Registrar.

F. D. Mumford Registrar.

Fig 2: The family of William Beck and Janet Sutherland.

Descendants of William Back

