

## THE DESCENDANTS OF THE REVEREND WILLIAM TAYLOR

1. The Reverend WILLIAM<sup>1</sup> TAYLOR was born in the parish of Falkirk, Co. Stirling, Scotland, on 31 January 1768. He was the second son of John and Elizabeth Gardner. His father was a farmer in Falkirk (Falkirk, Co. Stirling, Old Parochial Register No. 479/4-B 1744-1788).

He died in Waddington, New York, 30 March 1840; age 72 on his tombstone.

He married first, in Scotland, probably about 1794, MARY MCKEOWN, who was born in the parish of Falkirk, Co. Stirling, 3 August 1778, daughter of Alexander and Isabell Strathern McEwan (Old Parochial Register Parish of Falkirk, Co. Stirling, births 1744-88).

She died in Waddington, New York 22 February 1821; age 44 on her tombstone.

They are both buried in the Old Scotch Cemetery about two miles from Waddington, New York. On Mary McKeown Taylor's tombstone the inscription is:

"Swifter than I, she ran her race and now has reached the throne. She sees her Savior face to face while I but follow on."

He married secondly, MARY ARMSTRONG, who was born in Ireland in 1782 and died in Waddington, New York 11 May 1869.

His parents, John Taylor and Elizabeth Gardner were married in Polmont, Co. Stirling, 8 August 1762 (Old

Parochial Register No. 487/2-M 1731-1819).

Mary McKeown's parents, Alexander McEwan and Isabelle Strathern, were married in Falkirk, Co. Stirling, 3 August 1778, witnesses, John Sinclair and David Rule.

Alexander Taylor, a witness in 1765, was probably a close relative, but it could not be established whether he was the grandfather or not.

His elder brother, John Taylor, was born in Polmont, Co. Stirling, Scotland 21 November 1765 and baptized there 24 November. Witnesses Alexander Taylor and John Callender (Old Parochial Register, No. 487/1 B 1729-1819).

William's parents lived for a while in the parish of Polmont, where they were married and where their first son John was born. Then they moved to Falkirk, where William was born and presumably they lived there until William was in college at Glasgow.

At the time William attended the University of Glasgow, it was situated near Glasgow Cathedral. It has since moved to its present location.

In the University Archives there is a record of William's signature when he matriculated, 14 December 1790 (No. 5030 in printed album). At that time, a student only matriculated when he wanted to join the library, or when he wanted to elect a rector.

Since William was entering the Logic Class, under the teacher George Jardine A.M.L.P. and his name had not previously

been entered in the Album, it would seem that he was in his third year.

Coutts: History of the University of Glasgow 1451-1809, pages 108-111, gives a detailed description of the courses and titles of books for each class. The Glasgow University Calendar, pages xix and xx, gives a description of the early college. The author is greatly indebted to Mrs. Elspeth Simpson for researching this part of William's life.

There has been no record found of his graduation, but he almost certainly graduated from there, probably about 1792.

There is no indication of where he was from 1792 to 1798 when he is in Stonehouse.

He was the first Secession Minister of Paterson Church at Stonehouse, Lanarkshire, Scotland, 1798-1817. There is evidence that he preached there on a part time basis (The Clerk's Book of the Associated Congregation of Burgher Seceeders, Stonehouse 1797). He was thirty years old when he was ordained to that Charge in 1798.

The original manse is a small stone house on Hill Road, which is still standing, formerly run down, but now redone in cement. There is a part of the original church still standing. It is a half circle part of the church.

He lived in Stonehouse for nineteen years and seven of his nine children were born in Scotland. The fact that there is no record of their births seems to be because they were

seceders, and as such were not recorded in the old parochial registers.

He was sent to Canada by the Edinburgh Presbytery of the Associate Synod, having obtained a grant of one hundred pounds yearly from the English government.

He and his family sailed from Leith, Scotland, 5 April 1817 with Rev. William Bell and his family. They sailed on the ship "Rothiemurchus" commanded by Captain Watson and arrived in Quebec, Canada, 1 June 1817 (see "Hints to Emigrants" by Rev. William Bell).

He was sent to Argenteuil, Quebec, but when at Montreal, he decided to go to the upper province at Osnabruck, a Loyalist settlement thirteen miles above Cornwall. In doing so he forfeited the annual allowance of one hundred pounds by not going to Argenteuil.

Here he lived with his large family of seven children in a log hut of one room, sixteen feet square.

He preached to the Osnabruck and Williamsburg communities alternately.

He stayed two years and in 1819 he crossed the St. Lawrence River and settled in Waddington in the town of Madrid, St. Lawrence County, New York.

He was a minister there from 1819 to 1837. He died in 1840 at the age of 72.

There is a memorial window in the church in his name.

His great granddaughter Grace Forbes Allen Beaumont had his secretary, which had very wide, high shelves to hold the Bibles.

The following is an excerpt from an Anniversary Program of the Paterson Church, Stonehouse, Scotland: