

The Conways and Fishers

Do you connect to this line? Several cousins have been discovered, but I'm sure there are more of you out there!

James CONWAY (1837-1923)¹ born Ireland, probably Co Down, arrived in Ayrshire about 1845 – a little 8 year old boy, fleeing the potato famine and certain disease and probable death, he wore only a petticoat and had no shoes. His father John CONWAY ²was in his middle 40s, his mother – Jane WAUGH³ – ten years younger. Their other four children ranged from 12-year-old Jane to toddler Agnes.

James' auntie Janet⁴ had already arrived in Ayrshire a couple of years previously with her husband James McCLENAGHAN⁵ and their 3 sons. They lived much of their life in Monkton, as did John and Jane until Jane died in 1873 at one of their elder sons' home at Beith Railway station.



James Conway & Agnes Fisher c 1921

Young James married his love Agnes McKenzie FISHER (1842-1938)⁶ in 1861 at Troon, where James had been living with his elder brother Hugh⁷ and his wife, Marion RALSTON(E)⁸. Shortly before she married, Agnes was working as a kitchen maid for the collector of taxes, George Oswald⁹, in Prestwick at Orangefield House (which, in 1943, became the control tower for the fledgling Prestwick airport)^{10 11}.

James and Agnes lived long lives, producing 5 sons, 3 of whom became churchmen, and six daughters. Seven of their children married and they produced 24 known grandchildren for the couple. James and Agnes moved to Dundee about 1870 and celebrated their Golden Wedding (50 years) and Diamond Wedding (60) anniversaries there before retiring to Blebo Craigs near Cupar in Fife.

¹ <http://www.genesontheweb.co.uk/p522.htm>

² <http://www.genesontheweb.co.uk/p534.htm>

³ <http://www.genesontheweb.co.uk/p814.htm>

⁴ <http://www.genesontheweb.co.uk/p2770.htm>

⁵ <http://www.genesontheweb.co.uk/p2771.htm>

⁶ <http://www.genesontheweb.co.uk/p523.htm>

⁷ <http://www.genesontheweb.co.uk/p535.htm>

⁸ <http://www.genesontheweb.co.uk/p538.htm>

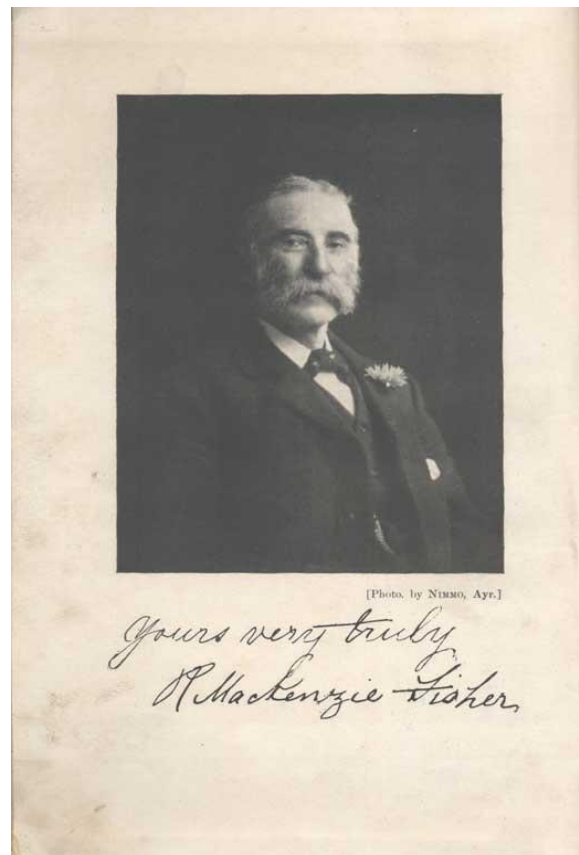
⁹ <http://www.genesontheweb.co.uk/p7557.htm>

¹⁰ <http://canmore.org.uk/site/212481/prestwick-orangefield-house>

¹¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orangefield_House,_South_Ayrshire

James died in 1923 at the age of 86; Agnes lived until she was nearly 97. Today, their family (many of whom are equally long-lived) is spread across the world and embraces many different vocations and professions.

Agnes was of Irish stock too, but her folks had returned to Scotland some 40 or so years earlier than James'. Agnes' brother, although he worked as a shipwright or joiner, was a published poet in the latter part of the 19th century. Anyone with an interest can probably find (Robert) MacKenzie FISHER (1840-1910)¹² and his work 'Poetical Sparks' via one of the many search engines¹³.



*Right – Robert Mackenzie Fisher c1905
Below – Agnes Mackenzie Fisher and her 5 sons,
Hamilton Baptist Church, |June 1937*



¹² <http://www.genesontheweb.co.uk/p871.htm>

¹³ http://scotstext.org/roughs/r_mackenzie_fisher/r_mackenzie_fisher.asp