

1) While keeping an open mind regarding the character of our ancestor, my great-grandfather and your gt-gt-ditto Urquhart, I think it is only just to him to consider that the contemporary uncomplimentary references to him as a "shifty-eyed packman", etc., do ignore the fact that in those days a squint was something you couldn't do anything about. It is in the family! Take a look at, for instance, Auntie Margaret, Uncle Jack, and others, when young, in old group photos. I learnt from people testing my eyes, in my teens, that I had (?have?) a squint! - my brother David also.

2) My Mother used to take all her brothers and sisters to Scotland by sea, Humber to Leith, to stay with their Aunt Annie Tait. I don't know how long the trip took, but Mother used to tell us how she was always sick, throughout.

3) Louise (Tait) Brown has recalled more than once in letters to me, "Uncle David" - as my/your Mother's grandpa Urquhart was, to her - sitting in his chair in the corner, at Welholme Road, playing his concertina for them all to dance to. They got up to other capers, too! Louise tells of herself being pushed, like a plank, in fun, of course, from one to the other, by Jim and Jack (my uncles, your gt-uncles). The boys wd be respectively 10 and 9 yrs older than she was.

I was touched by her recollection of Grandpa's playing, as this is a memory that I am old enough to share and corroborate. He had a big old shabby armchair, in the corner by the fire (kitchen range) in the big kitchen at 240 Welholme Road, where he only sat. Others, of any age, avoided that seat, not from awe but from sheer affection. It was just "HIS", and unthinkable for anyone else to occupy it.

I can hear his concertina now, doing just as Louise said, playing Scots tunes for us all to dance to. Always they seemed to be round dances, in my memory, with everybody joining in, old and young, including Grandma herself. Or, of course, he wd play for a solo dance by some one or other of the children present.

Your Mother may well be able to recall, as I can, our elders supplying "mouth-music" when required. "Soldier's Joy" in particular, I remember, though I only knew it by name much later in life. "The Keel Row" was another universal tune, to fit any dance to.

So even without Grandpa's concertina, we were never at a loss. Louise was taken to Grimsby by Nora.

{ With Copy No 4 "Page 7" of my typescript,  
notes on "Harramothland"  
To Catriona Forward 4/10/83 }

I had supplied the Francis Lawrence letter typescript (Carbon copy) to Catriona Forward, in 1983, together with other material, to aid her own family researches, & these reminiscences followed. "Your Mother", 6 lines from bottom, refers, therefore, of course, to Catriona's Mother - "Pixie" Hepburn.

4) My mother told me of one of her own very, very early memories: of being somewhere in Scotland, in one of the family homes of her period (have feeling it was Inverness but this may well be unreliable), and seeing her Uncle ?Jimmy (surname unknown - ?Marshall? - why on earth didn't we think to ASK, before we lost the chance for ever???) \*when just about to go back to sea on a whaling expedition; which in itself indicates how long ago this was, as arctic whaling had ceased long before my time. He was sitting on the edge of a bed, clad in his whaling suit, of white fur; and Mother, being a very little child at the time, half thought he was a polar bear.

5) Helen Field's ("Minnie", USA) kindness should be recorded, and it must have been life-long: for after Mother's death I found a little diary note of hers, I think referring to Auntie Nell's wedding day (1898, 7 yrs before my Mother herself married). The note mentions "Minnie's" helpfulness throughout, and - using that time-honoured and expressive phrase of all the Mothers/Aunts - saying she "had done all sorts". Minnie of course not having emigrated at that time or become "Helen".

I have heard from Margaret Guyer, her niece in USA, what a wonderful aunt she was, how she wd turn to and make things - curtains, cushions, etc. (and no doubt "all sorts"!) for Margaret herself.

I shall never forget that the first nylon stockings I ever saw - as in wartime Britain they didn't exist - came to us from Helen Field. She used to send to me or any of the family females, by turns, a single stocking at a time, and its fellow by a later post. They were then so precious, you see, that a pair sent together would have been too tempting to postal thieves en route. She also sent me a lovely quilted silk jacket; and when she re-visited England after the war she dished out to each of us (the females) a lovely crocheted bag, made by herself, in white, black or navy. I still have mine, a navy one, and still used on countless occasions.

6) Auntie Margaret broke her arm as a child, and its recovery was a slow and difficult business. Mother told me how she took Margaret, for a holiday to convalesce, to stay with one of their aunts then living in Gravesend, I feel sure it was; and I think the aunt was Auntie Jean, Mrs Georgie Martin, G'pa U's sister, who of course returned to Scotland in later years. *No doubt Georgie Martin was working in the Gravesend*

*area at the time.*

I wonder if it <sup>Ad. have</sup> been MUNRO - "Auntie Isie," Grandmother's sister Isobel, was Mrs. MUNRO, & (in)

COPY No. 1

KESWICK : January 1983

LETTER to DAVID URQUHART (Born 11.4.1810), husband of  
CHARLOTTE LAWRENCE (Born 12.1.1817)  
from their eldest son, James, announcing the birth of DAVID URQUHART,  
our Grandfather.

Original in my possession from the papers of my Mother.

Christine Urquhart Smellie.

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The letter was folded, without envelope, for posting, and therefore  
bears a postmark: ABERDEEN E      JA 8      1850 (in usual circular  
rubber-stamp form.)

Handwritten as follows:

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N Kinmundy January 6th 1850

Dear Father

I write to inform you that Mother was safely delivered  
of a son yesterday afternoon he is a big stout boy but Mother is very  
weakly and has been for some time and is quite unhappy that you are  
not here as she expected you would have been or this time and is much  
surprised you have sent no answer to her last letter and desires you  
will write her immediately on receipt of this that is if you dont  
intend to be with us in a few days yourself but we have been expecting  
you for a week past and Mother begs you will not now delay in coming  
I shall not in the meantime say what is our circumstances as you will have  
some idea what our needs are at this time and as Mother is very poorly  
I hope you will try to come as soon as possible and so expecting to see  
you soon I am

Dear Father yours  
Affectionately

James Urquhart

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JAMES URQUHART

Born 7th December 1836 : Died 7th October 1854

He was 13 years and one month when he wrote this letter. Writing and  
spelling are without a fault.

He was drowned, off Lowestoft, not five years later, two months before  
his eighteenth birthday.

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[See over]  
C.S. 5.3.91

Whitman, N.Y. 1850

Dear Father

I write to inform you that Mother was safely delivered of a son yesterday afternoon. He is a big stout boy but Mother is very weakly and has been for some time, and is quite unhappy that you are not here as she expected you would have been on this time, and is much surprised you have sent no answer to her last letter and desires you will write her immediately on receipt of this that is if you don't <sup>intend</sup> to be with us in a few days yourself but we have been expecting you for a week past and Mother begs you will not now delay in coming I shall not in the meantime say what is our circumstance as you will have some idea what our needs are at this time and as Mother is so very poorly I hope you will try to come as soon as possible and so expecting to see you soon I am

Dear Father yours

Affectionately

James Hiquhart

Memorial inscriptions on the family grave, Grimsby

Sacred to the memory of  
DAVID URQUHART  
beloved husband of Helen Marshall  
Died March 12th 1928 Aged 78 years

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Lieut. JAMES LAWRENCE URQUHART B.A. Cantab.  
7th Northants. Regt.  
who fell at Loos, Sept. 26th 1915 aged 26 years

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Capt. JOHN CRAMOND URQUHART M.C. BSc. A.I.C.  
Adjutant 2/5th Lincs. Regt.  
Beloved husband of Agnes Rankin  
Died Feb. 23rd 1931 Aged 40 years

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HELEN PATTILLO MARSHALL  
Beloved wife of David Urquhart  
Died August 12th 1933 Aged 80 years

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On Left Kerb

JOHN W.E., Beloved husband of Helen C. Warburton, died Ap. 25th 1934  
Aged 64 years  
ROGER, Son of the above, died March 2nd 1935 Aged 25 years

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On Right Kerb

HELEN, infant daughter of Charles K. and Sarah Warburton, died  
Sept. 23rd 1914 [Born 1.8.1914]  
CHARLES KEELING Warburton, died Nov. 23rd 1952 aged 78 years

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On Foot Kerb

SARAH JANE MARSHALL URQUHART, wife of Charles Keeling Warburton,  
died July 24th 1965, aged 90 years

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Great Grimsby Borough Council  
Scartho Road Cemetery

GRAVE No. 2K 25 and 26

Grimsby Crematorium and Cemetery - Director of Works, Mr R. Greenwood  
Weelsby Avenue  
GRIMSBY : South Humberside DN32 0BA

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Records of Christine Wynefred Urquhart Smellie : Keswick, Cumbria

COPY No. 1