

Michael Henderson (1820-1893) and Margaret Galloway (1818-1877)

Prepared by Dr. Michael M. Black (mblack1 [at] outlook.com)

March 31, 2023

<https://blog.valdosta.edu/mblack/family-history-and-genealogy/>

OPENING

Today is March 31, 2023. In this episode, I will examine the life of Michael Henderson and his wife Margaret Galloway. Researched, written, and narrated by Michael M. Black and dedicated to my son Matthew M. Black. Matthew, this couple is your 4th great-grandparents. They lived all their lives Falkirk, Stirling, Scotland. They are my grandmother Evelyn Yelland's great-grandparents. You can find your line of descent in my Family Tree Maker program.

EARLY LIFE

The Henderson family goes back many generations in Falkirk and is one of our full Scottish lines. Michael Henderson was born February 25, 1820 in Falkirk to James Henderson (1795-1859) and his wife Isabel Walker (1792-bef. 1841). He was baptized two days later, February 27, with witnesses/sponsors Alexander Walker and James Manuel.

Margaret Galloway was born in 1818 in Airth, Stirlingshire, Scotland to Robert Galloway and his wife Helen McLaughlin (or spelled McLauchlan or McLaughlan). I have never been able to find a baptism record for Margaret Galloway, but her ages are consistent in each census to confirm her birth year. Airth is six miles from Falkirk.

MARRIAGE

Michael Henderson and Margaret Galloway married at Falkirk, November 6, 1840. The entry in the register of proclamation of banns and marriages reads "Michael Henderson and Margaret Galloway both of this parish. Married 6, November." Falkirk was the center of the iron and steel industry, and Michael Henderson worked as an iron moulder. He probably worked for the Carron Company which was the largest employer there. The first parish church in Falkirk goes back to the 7th century so this is an old community.

FAMILY

They raised their family in Falkirk and had the following children:

1. Michael Henderson, born 1840
2. Robert Henderson, born 1841
3. Helen Henderson, born 1843
4. Mary Henderson, born 1848
5. James Henderson, born 1850
6. Agnes Henderson, born 1852
7. Alexander Henderson, born 1855
8. John Henderson, born 1857
9. Isabella Henderson, born 1860

The youngest daughter Isabella Henderson would marry John Maxwell, and that is our line. I have not traced the other children except for Michael (b. 1840) and Helen (b. 1843).

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1840s

In the 1841 Falkirk census, Michael, Margaret, and their two children Michael (age 1) and Robert (age 1 month) were living in the household of her father Robert Galloway on Dalderse Avenue. Margaret's mother (Helen McLaughlin) had died prior to the census leaving Robert Galloway with four unmarried children at home, so I suspect Margaret Henderson was helping to raise her younger siblings in addition to her own children.

1850s

By the 1851 Falkirk census, Michael, the iron moulder, and family were living on Mungalend Road. Five children were born by this time. Mungalend Road is in the same area as Dalderse Avenue so they appear not to have moved very far.

1860s

By the 1861 Falkirk census, they were back on Dalderse Avenue in what was now known as Grahamston. They lived in Grahamston the remainder of their lives but not in this same home. Father in law Robert Galloway was living with them, and his occupation was listed as "formally weaver." Robert Galloway died in 1864, so it appears that Michael and Margaret Henderson inherited his home, or either they may had purchased it from him at an earlier date. The Grahamston Iron Foundry was founded in 1868, so Michael may have gone to work there.

1870s

By the 1871 census, Michael and Margaret had four children at home plus a boarder. The two sons, who were ages 14 and 16, were working as moulders with their father. Margaret has no occupation while daughter Isabella (age 10) was listed as "scholar."

Other than the census records, I have found very little information about the life of Michael Henderson. There may be more records in Falkirk which are not yet available online, so I hope to return to him as some point in the future for more research. I did locate one news article from March 1877 which reads:

Meeting of Ratepayers.—A meeting of ratepayers was held in the Parish Church on Tuesday at noon, for the purpose of electing 13 of their number to represent them in the Parochial Board. There was a very small attendance. The following gentlemen were nominated and elected:--Revs. Dr. Ogilvie, James Aitchison, George Bell, and Alexander O'Donnell, Falkirk, and James Hunter, Laurieston; Messrs James S. Hay, bank agent; William Alexander, insurance agent; William Cringle, hairdresser; Michael Henderson, moulder, Graham's Road;

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Thomas Hamilton, shoemaker, Falkirk; Peter Hastie, clothier, Grangemouth; John Anderson, draper, Bainsford; and Robert Balloch, compositor, Grahamston.

Fortunately, civil registration of births, marriages, and deaths started in Scotland in 1855, so I have death certificates for both Michael and Margaret. Margaret Henderson died at their Graham's Road home in Grahamston, Falkirk on August 7, 1877, 7:30 PM. The cause of death was listed as "anemia and general debility."

1880s

After Margaret's death, Michael Henderson remarried Barbara Masterton in 1879 and had a daughter, Jeanie Henderson, born 1880 in Grahamston, Falkirk. In the 1881 Falkirk census, they were living on Graham's Road. Jeanie Henderson was 10 months old, Barbara was 35, and Michael was 55. The next year, they had a second child, David (born 1882).

1890s

By the 1891 census, they had moved to Boyd Street. Second wife Barbara Henderson died June 5, 1892 leaving Michael with two young children.

Michael Henderson's death occurred December 11, 1893 at 11:00 PM at his home on Boyd Street in Grahamston. The cause of death was listed as "cardiac disease," and his occupation was listed as "labourer."

In 2017, I emailed the Camelon Cemetery, and they replied: "Both Michael and Margaret Henderson are buried in Camelon cemetery in Section C Lair 116." I did pursue options to install a marker on their grave, but I was unable to complete this task. A large tree with an enormous root system invades the area to the point that the tree would need to be removed in order for a monument to be installed. The town council would have to agree to the removal of the tree, so I dropped the quest completely.

CLOSING

I hope you have enjoyed this episode about the lives of Michael and Margaret Henderson, my 3rd great-grandparents. I will continue my research on this couple, and if I find additional and substantive information, I will append it to this recording.

REFERENCES

1841 Falkirk census (hh Robert Galloway)

1851 Falkirk census (hh Michael Henderson)

1861 Grahamston, Falkirk census (hh Michael Henderson)

1871 Grahamston, Falkirk census (hh Michael Henderson)

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1881 Grahamston, Falkirk census (hh Michael Henderson)

1891 Grahamston, Falkirk census (hh Michael Henderson)

Death certificate, Margaret Henderson (1877)

Death certificate, Michael Henderson (1893)

Death certificate, Robert Galloway (1864)

Parochial Register, Baptisms 1820-1837, County of Stirling, Falkirk (Michael Henderson, 1820)

Personal communication (email): Bereavement Services to Michael Black, 10/10/2017

Personal communication (email): Heather Sniegon to Michael Black, 11/07/2017

Register of Proclamation of Banns & Marriages, County of Stirling, Falkirk (Henderson & Galloway)

Statutory registers, deaths, ScotlandsPeople (Barbara Henderson, 1892)

The Falkirk Herald and Linlithgow Journal, Thursday, March 1, 1877, page 4