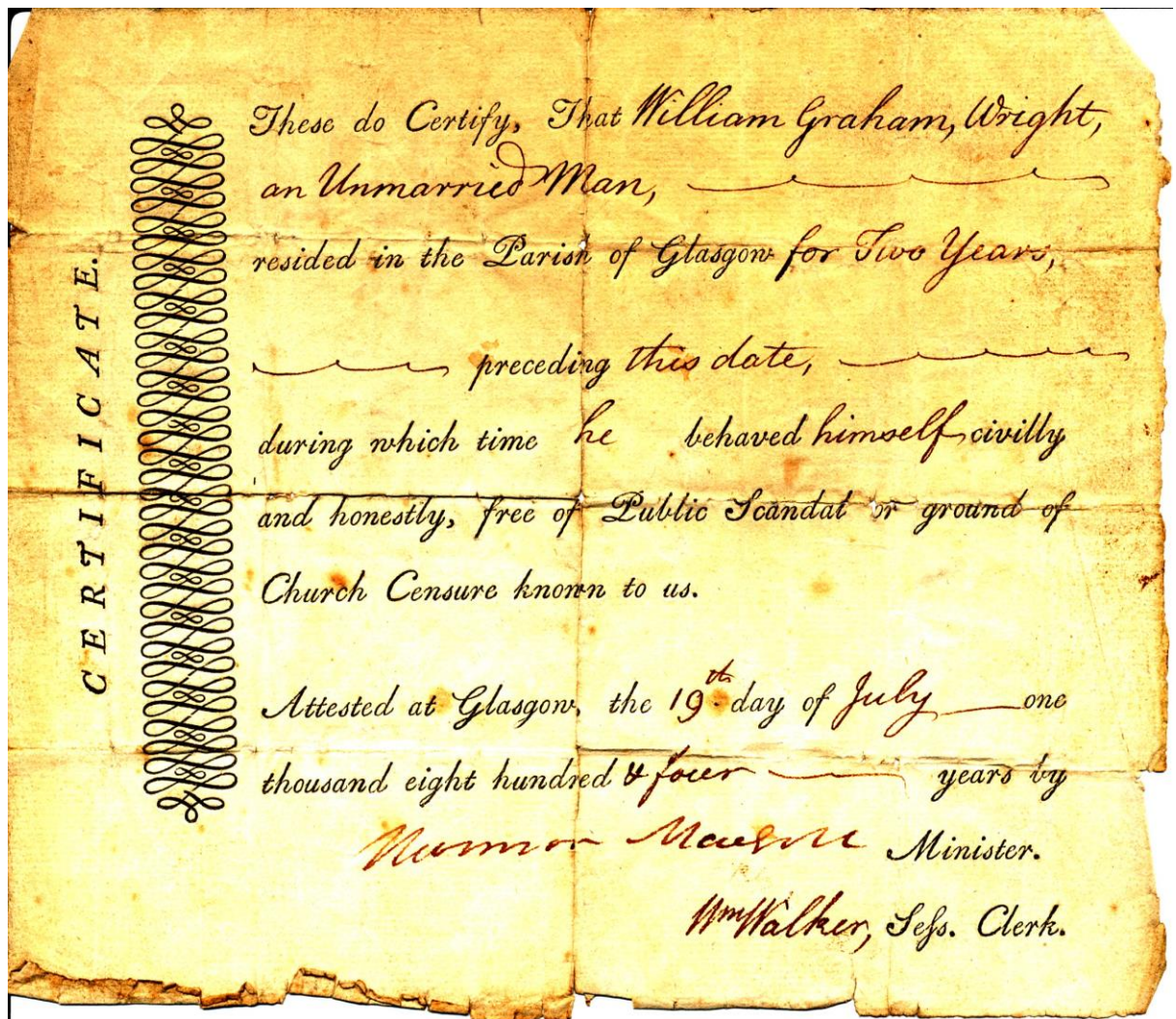


WILLIAM AND JANET GRAHAM

1779 – 1849



Certificate of Good Behaviour for William Graham, dated Glasgow 19th July 1804. William needed such a certificate for his marriage to Janet Johnstone, which took place six weeks later.

Chapter 2.23 William and Janet Graham

The name John Graham is a recurring theme in the Goffey family. The first John Graham was Harry Goffey's father-in-law, the second was John Graham Goffey I (1897 – 1916) Harry and Elinor's firstborn son and the third was John Graham Goffey II (me) their grandson. All three were known as Jock, although only John Graham, born in Glasgow in 1807 could claim to be a real Scotsman.

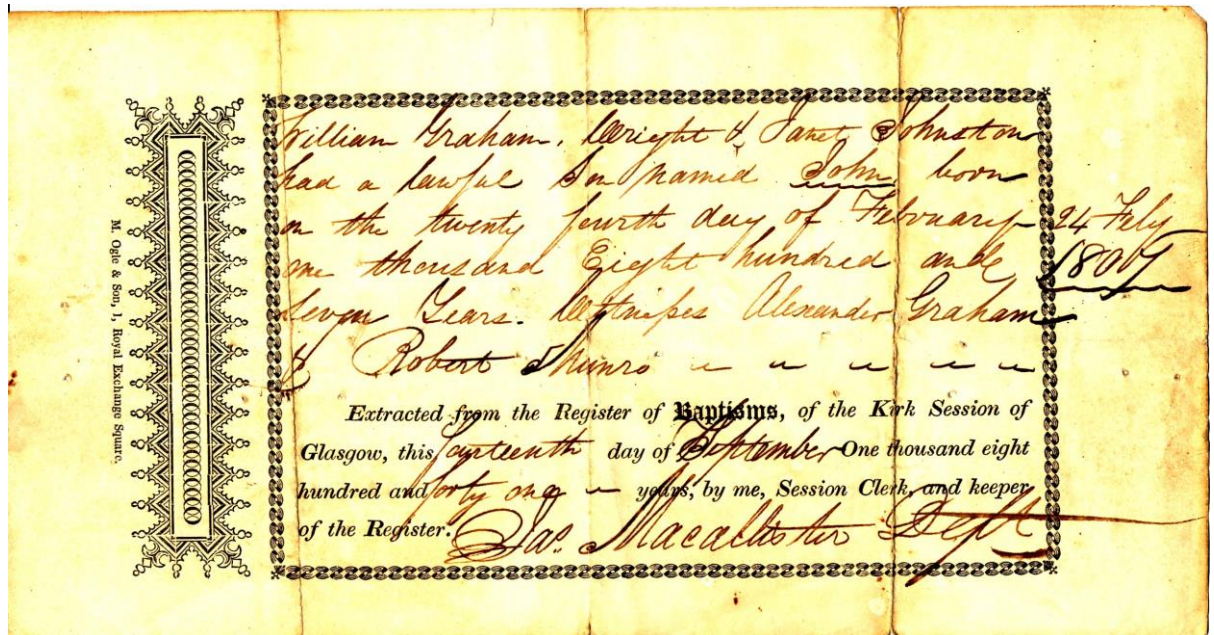
Although the Registrar General for Scotland's records are very comprehensive, completely computerised and accessible on line, Graham is a common surname in Scotland. Searches thus result in large numbers of people with the same name and the very sketchy data contained in church records is insufficient to identify individuals with certainty. Most of the little that we know about William Graham has come from a collection of old papers given to me as a small boy when Granny Goffey (Elinor Semple) died in 1950. Not only did these papers include the extract from Robert Semple's diary and Adriana Semple's 1830 letter to her mother-in-law (see Chapter 3.13), 2nd Lieut. John Graham Goffey's war medals and Harry Goffey's Royal Humane Society medal but it included several papers that had obviously originated from Elinor's mother-in-law Mary Goffey, William Graham's granddaughter.

William Graham was born in 1779 and was a "wright" from Johnstone, Ayrshire; whether this means a millwright, a wheelwright, a shipwright, or what sort of wright we do not know. A wright is defined in the Oxford English Dictionary as a "maker"; in modern terminology William Graham would probably be described as a skilled manual worker such as a fitter, carpenter, joiner etc. He appears to have taken up residence in nearby Glasgow as evidenced by the certificate of good behaviour from the Parish of Glasgow dated 1804. This document is assumed to be part of Scottish marriage procedure by proclamation as William's marriage to Janet Johnstone took place in 1804 in Glasgow. By this time the Industrial Revolution was well under way and Glasgow had become one of the key centres of the shipbuilding industry. Since William and Janet Graham's eldest son, John, became a ship's officer and sailmaker, I like to think that William was a shipwright with a son who followed in his father's footsteps into the booming local shipping industry.

On 7th September 1804, soon after he received his certificate of good behaviour from the parish, the 25-year old William married 24-year old Janet Johnstone in Glasgow and their first child, Elizabeth, was born eleven months later on 5th August 1805. In all they had nine children :-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Born</u>
Elizabeth	5.8.1805
John	24.2.1807
Jeanie	26.9.1808
Peter	4.4.1811
Mary	26.3.1813
Janet	24.3.1815
Agnes	2.2.1818
Margaret	28.4.1821
(Female)	18.3.1824

The eldest son, John, became a mariner and eventually made his home in Liverpool (see Chapter 2.24) which in the 1820s and 1830s had already surpassed Bristol as Britain's principal seaport. Of the other Graham children we have no knowledge.



Birth certificate of John Graham, William and Janet Graham's eldest son. This one was issued by Glasgow Kirk Sessions on 14th September 1841 suggesting that John, then aged 34 and a ship's officer, had been asked by a potential employer to establish his bona fides before employing him on board ship.