

The Ancestors of Agnes Currie Morrison

This is a working document. There are still a number of questions I have about the results I present here. I could find no information regarding the death of Rose Jane Brodie, and I found no probate documents for David Brodie. I was surprised that the only census report in which David Brodie appears was the 1925 NY Census. Here he is living with my grandmother and her family in Rockville Centre. Four of the Brodie children who emigrated with their parents (John, Daniel, Peter, and Rosina) have documented evidence living on Long Island, New York. However, for James, the eldest of the children to emigrate, I have yet to find any relevant data.

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Hamilton, Morrison, and Brodie

Agnes Currie Morrison was my maternal grandmother. Her birth record is found on familysearch.org. The family appears in the 1881 Scotland Census living at 1 Bruce Street Greenock West, Renfrewshire. Father William James Morrison age 31 was born about 1850 and worked as a laborer in the Sugarhouse. Mother Rose Jane was age 22 (born about 1859). In this census Agnes is seven days old. Renfrewshire is located on the West Coast of Scotland abutting the Firth of Clyde and following the south bank of the River Clyde.

Agnes Currie Morrison		Tools
Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950		
Name:	Agnes Currie Morrison	
Gender:	Female	
Birth Date:	01 Apr 1881	
Birthplace:	Greenock West, Renfrew, Scotland	
Father's Name:	William James Morrison	
Mother's Name:	Rose Jane Hamilton	

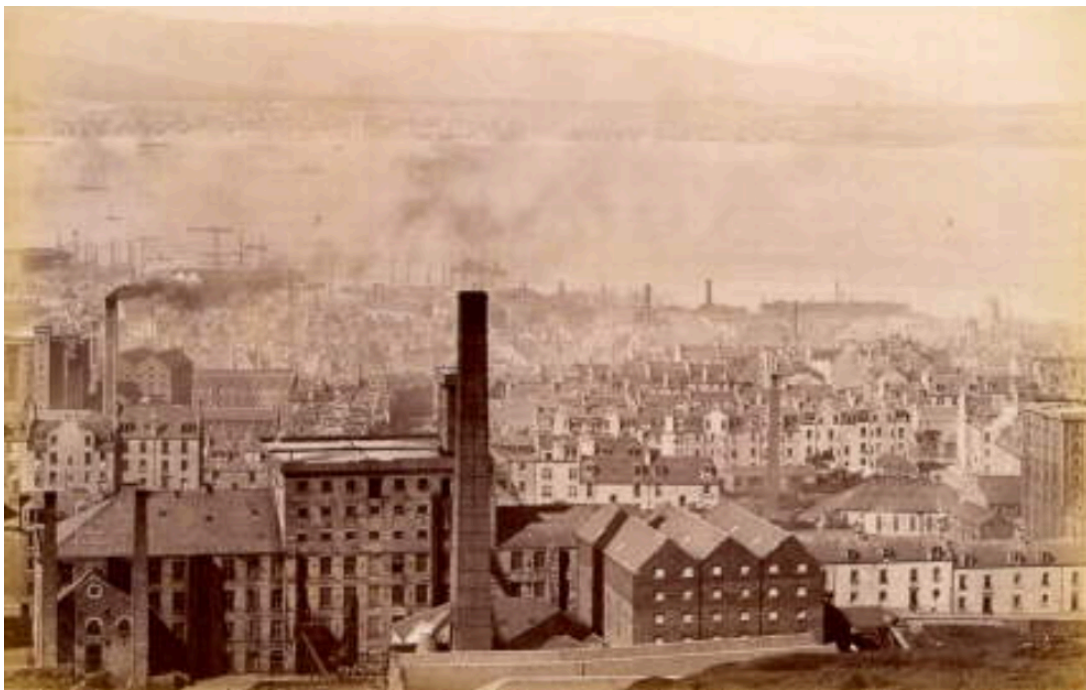


Greenock is about 14 miles toward the sea from the Port of Glasgow. The Morrison residence at 1 Bruce Street is about 0.5 miles from the waterfront, west of the center of town. The picture below the map was published in 1891. It shows the



Greenock as viewed from a hill looking toward the Firth of Clyde. This is likely very much what the city looked like when Agnes Currie Morrison was born.

William James birthplace is confirmed by two documents. The first is the 1871 Scotland Census. Here 22 year-old William is living in a boarding house. His birthplace is identified as Ireland. The 1881 Scotland Census does not record where William James was born. I found a [Database of Sugar Refiners and Sugarbakers](#) which identifies our William James Morrison as Irish. While there are 33 Morrisons working in the industry, this individual is identified as 31 year-old William James living at 1 Bruce Street.



Greenock sugar refineries—late 19th century
Berryyards Refinery in the foreground, and others far left and far right of

Greenock was a center for sugar refining, receiving shipments from the West Indies as early as 1732.

“In 1852 the refineries of Greenock were employing 700 men and turning out 50,000 tons annually, and it was then the largest depot for raw material in the kingdom. Twenty years later there were fourteen or fifteen large refineries in operation producing about a quarter of a million tons annually, giving employment to thousands of hands, filling the harbours with ships of all nations...”¹

¹ Smith, R.M. [The History of Greenock](#)

Morrison is such a common Irish name that it is difficult to find the roots William James family. There were many Irish who migrated to Scotland during the Great Potato Famine seeking expanded economic opportunities. In fact, the database of workers in the sugarhouses counts 33 Morrisons, most born in Ireland.

From the 1881 Scotland Census we can establish that Rose Jane Hamilton, wife of William James Morrison, was born about 1859 in Ireland. Her nativity is restated in both the 1891 and 1901 census records. Most unfortunately, the 1861 census for Ireland was destroyed. This is where it is most likely that we could find the records for two year-old Rose Jane.

The marriage record of Rose Jane and William James is found on scotlandspeople.gov.uk. Rose Jane is listed as spinster and her employment is given as a domestic servant. The record provides the names of the parents of the bride and groom:

William James: Alexander Morrison (farm laborer) and Mary Dickson.

Rose Jane: James Hammlton (railway clerk) & Agnes Currie²

No.	When, Where, and How Married.	Signature of Declarant Rank or Profession, whether Single or Widowed, and Relationship (if any).	Age.	Usual Residence.	of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Signature of Declarant and Witnesses, If Irregular, Date of Conviction, Detour of Declarator, or Sheriff's Warrant.	Year or Years Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
15	1877 on the first day of January at Greenside, Dumfries Steel Greenock after being ascertained to the forms of the Church of Scotland	(Signed) / William James Morrison Sugarhouse labourer Bachelor		11 Mill Steel Greenock	Alexander Morrison Farm labourer Mary Morrison Mrs Dickson	(Signed) / H A Charlton	1877 January 3d As Greenock
		(Signed) / Rose Jane Hamilton Domestic Servant Spinster	19	Mill Steel Greenock	James Hamilton Railway Clerk Agnes Hamilton Mrs Currie	Peter Nagail Humes Margaret Hume Hume	As Peter David Registrar.

Marriage record: Rose Jane Hamilton and William James Morrison

The couple's first child Agnes Currie Morrison carries her grandmothers maiden name, Currie.

William James Morrison died before 1891; the Scotland Census of that year lists Rose Jane as the wife of David Brodie. Agnes (daughter of Rose Jane and William Morrison) is listed as 10 years of age. The website scotlandspeople.gov.uk provides

² There are a few family trees on ancestry.com which list the parents of Rose Jane as James Dambreck Hamilton and Agnes Dalrymple. I doubted these entries because there are multiple citations of Rose Jane being born in Ireland. There appears to be no Irish connection with these entries in the family tree. The paternity of Rose Jane is clearly given in the marriage record to William James Morrison.

the documentation of William James' death from gastroenteritis on 15 MAR 1882.

161	William James Morrison	1882,	17	22	Alexander Morrison	Scotts	Rose Jane	1882,
		March		years	Farm Labourer	Dunblair	Morrison	March 16 th
		Fifteenth				2 day		at Greenock
	Laundry Labourer	Ch. P. M.			Henry Morrison		Widow	
	1			W. J. Dickson	relaxed by	Present	J. R. Boyd	
	married to	Deuce Street			J. Robert Black		Resident Registrar	
	Rose Jane Morrison	Greenock				1772		R.A.P.

Certificate of Death for William James Morrison: 15 MAR 1882

Young Agnes was only one year year old at the time.

On 4 APR 1884 Rose Jane remarried. Her new husband was David Brodie. This was David's first marriage. Here we find the parents of David Brodie: father David Brodie and mother Rebecca Dykes. Both David's and Rose Jane's parents are listed as deceased.

1884. MARRIAGES in the West District Greenock in the County of Renfrew

No.	When, Where, and How Married.	Signature of Parties. Name or Profession, whether Single or Widowed, and Relationship (if any).	Age.	Usual Residence.	Name, Burname, and Rank, or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Name of Mother.	If a regular Marriage, Signature of officiating Minister and Witnesses. If Irregular, Date of Contract, Name of Declarant, or Special Witnesses.	When & Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
70	1884 on the 4 th day of April at 24 Forsyth Street Greenock	(signed) / David Brodie Bachelor	24	Greenock	David Brodie Joiner (deceased) / Mary Dykes (deceased)	(signed) / John Thompson Minister of the South Parish of Greenock	1884 April 7 th Greenock
	after Publication according to the forms of the Church of Scotland.	(signed) / Rose Morrison Widow	25	Greenock	Rose Morrison (deceased) / Agnes Morrison (deceased)	(signed) / John Thomson Minister Agnes Morrison Witness	Greenock R.A.P.

Marriage Certificate: Rose Jane Morrison and David Brodie

If one looks at the family trees on ancestry.com there are a number of children attributed to either William James Morrison or David Brodie. In Research Note 1 at the end of this paper, I analyze the list of children and explain how I selected the those I have listed in my family tree. Research Note 1 also documents that Margaret Morrison, Agnes' half sister, was born 16 APR 1883. That is one year and one month after William James Morrison died. Margaret's birth certificate indicates she was born illegitimate. While we have no proof, I have a strong suspicion that David Brodie who married Rose Jane about a year later is likely the father.

William James Morrison
1850-1882

Agnes Curry Morrison
1881-1948

Spouse & Children

unknown

Margaret Morrison
1883-

Spouse & Children

David Brodie
1860-1938

David Brodie
1885-

James Brodie
1887-

George Brodie
1889-

Rebecca Brodie
1890-

John Hameton Brodie
1892-1977

Daniel Hamilton Brodie
1894-1956

Sarah Brodie
1895-

Peter Brodie
1897-1957

Rosina Brodie
1901-1966



Rose Jane and her second husband David Brodie

David Brodie Tools
Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950

Name:	David Brodie
Gender:	Male
Birth Date:	20 Jun 1860
Birthplace:	GOVAN,LANARK,SCOTLAND
Father's Name:	David Brodie
Mother's Name:	Rebecca Dykes

Birth record for David Brodie

The 1891 Scotland Census of the Brodie family places the family in Kinning Park in the civil parish of Glasgow Govan (address: 20 Smith Street). In 1901 the family has located to Plantation Landward, Govan in the county of Lanarkshire (Address 15 W. Scotland St.). In both of these census David's occupation is listed as a *carter*—one who operates a cart to move and distribute goods.

The home of the Brodie family for both the 1891 and 1901 census is in the region of the Port of Glasgow. Here the occupation of 20 year old Agnes is *Fish & Tackle Maker*. The [map below published in 1897](#) identifies the two locations of the family, as well as the home of daughter Agnes, who is identified as living at 30 Housten Street, Glasgow after her 1907 marriage to Archibald Knight Gregson.



1887 Map showing the Port of Glasgow. Brodie residences: Smith Street (yellow) and Scotland Street (green). Residence of Agnes and Archibald Knight Gregson: Housten Street (blue).

Immigration to the United States

The Brodie family must have contemplated immigrating to the United States in the early part of the twentieth century. A key person in this immigration story of the Brodie family is Robert Carmichael Brodie. Robert was the son of David's sister Sarah. Details can be found in Research Note 2. Robert had immigrated to the United States in 1897.

On 5 AUG 1911 David Brodie left Glasgow on the Caledonia with a destination New York. Arrival was 13 AUG 1911. Rose Jane, youngest daughter Rosina (9 years) as well as four sons: James (25, a baker), John (20, a laborer), Daniel (17, a carter), and Peter (11) departed Glasgow and arrived at New York two and a half months later aboard the ship Caledonia which arrived on 30 OCT 1911. The records show that they are to visit their father David. On Rose Jane's entry the address is given as 44 Port Street, Brooklyn, New York. A different address is given with the boys record³. This address is the home of Robert C. Brodie.

What about the rest of the family? Three of the Brodie children married before 1911. Agnes married Archibald Knight Gregson in 1907; Margaret married Samuel Hobson in 1908, and son David married Ann Jane Mulholland in 1895. Son George enlisted in the British Army. I have not been able to find any information about Sarah and Rebecca⁴ who would have been 16 and 21 respectively when the family departed Scotland.

I found another immigration record for David, Rose Jane, and Rosina; they arrived in New York on the ship Lapland on 12 APR 1919. The ship's manifest lists the family as traveling to home at 9 Nassau Parkway⁵, Oceanside, Rockville Centre, Long Island. David lists that he has been in the United States from 1910 to 1914. A handwritten note was added: "Daughter to nephew Robert C. Brodie 32 Lenox Rd. Rockville Centre, Long Island. This address is the home of Robert C. Brodie and wife Wilhelmina. The 2015 New York State Census reports that three of David and Rose's children—John, Daniel, and Rosina—are living at this address with Robert and his wife Wilhelmina. So sometime between 1915 and 1919, David, Rose Jane and Rosina returned to Scotland.

World War I was fought from July 28, 1914 to November 11, 1918. Great Britain entered the war on 4 AUG 1914 after Germany attacked France through Belgium. We have a record of a trip that David made back to Scotland, arriving at Glasgow 15 MAR 1915. I have not been able to find documentation of Rose Jane and Rosina returning to Scotland, but they must have since we have a record of the David, Rose Jane and Rosina entering the United States in 1919. On that trip, David lists 9 Nassau Parkway as home.

³5th Ave., corner of Compton Lane & Springfield, Brooklyn, New York

⁴ Rebecca does not appear with the family in the 1901 census. At that time she would have been 11 years of age. It is likely that Rebecca has died before the 1901 census. There is a record of a death of a Rebecca D. Brodie in 1891—Kinning Park.

⁵ In the 1930 US Census this home on Nassau Parkway was the home of Robert C. Brodie and wife Wilhelmina.

The 1915 New York Census lists John, Daniel, and Rosina living with their cousin Robert C. Brodie living on Lenox Road⁶.

I have not been able to find any documentation about the death of Rose Jane. We do know that she traveled to New York in 1919 and we have the 1925 New York Census records David and Rosina are living (79 North Park Ave., Rockville Centre) with Agnes⁷ and William Peate with their children Charles, Rose, and Jessie. From this, it is my assumption that Rose Jane died sometime between 1919 and 1925. There is no record of David Brodie or Rose Jane Brodie in the 1920 US Census⁸.

The 1930 US Census shows Peter Brodie (now married) with wife Elizabeth and four children living at 9 Nassau Parkway⁹; Robert C. Brodie and Wilhelmina are living at 9A which I assume is in the same dwelling.

There is another interesting connection between our Brodie family and Robert Carmichael Brodie. The 1920 US Census documents William Elliott living with Robert Carmichael Brodie and his wife. William is listed as a nephew. Rosina, daughter of David and Rose Jane, is counted with the Robert C. Brodie family in the 1915 New York Census. William Elliott and Rosina Brodie married on 29 JUN 1929. Clearly, the introduction was through Rosina's cousin Robert Carmichael Brodie.

The New York, New York, Extracted Death Index, 1862-1948 has a citation of the death of David Brodie, age 77 on 22 MAR 1938 in Queens, New York. I have not been able to find additional records (probate, cemetery records, etc.). It is most likely that David was living with Peter Brodie and his wife at the time of his death.

⁶ The residence at 32 Lenox Rd. is listed as Hempstead. This is not the Village of Hempstead, but the Township of Hempstead. Lenox Road is in unincorporated Oceanside.

⁷ Agnes (nee Morison) is the step daughter of David Brodie and step sister of Rosina. After the death of her first husband, Archibald Knight Gregson, Agnes married William Charles Peate. Rose, Charles, and Jessie (my mother) retained their birth names Knight Gregson.

⁸ They may not have been counted or the transcription of the last name in census databases may be in error.

⁹ In the census 9 Nassau Parkway is listed as Hempstead district 0123. This is not the Village of Hempstead, but the Township of Hempstead. It is sometimes listed as Rockville Centre, but it is in the incorporated community of Oceanside.

The family of Agnes Knight Gregson (nee Morrison)¹⁰

My maternal grandfather, Archibald Knight Gregson, was born in Liverpool, England in 1881 to Charles Edward Knight Gregson and Mary Jane (Law) Gregson. The Scotland census of 1901 records a young 20 year-old living in the Govan district of Glasgow. This is located in the area of Glasgow harbor on the River Clyde. Archie Gregson is listed as a brass finisher. On 13 DEC 1907, Archibald Gregson married Agnes Morrison/Brodie, both age twenty-six. According to the marriage record, the couple was married according to the forms of the church of Scotland.

1907. MARRIAGES in the DISTRICT of GORBALS in the BURGH of GLASGOW							
No.	When, Where, and How Solemnized	Signatures of Parties Bride or Bridegroom, Witnesses Single or Married, or Ministry (if any)	Age	Civil Station	Name, Residence, and Date of Publication of Notice Name, and Station or Profession of Minister	Signature of Minister or Registrar, Date of Celebration, Name of Church, or of Hall or Place	Place Where Solemnized, and Signature of Registrar
118	1907 on the Thirtieth day of December at 11 Albert Street Place Glasgow	(Signed) Archibald Knight Gregson Margaret Morrison (Maiden)	26	25 Student Glasgow	Charles Edward Gregson Seaman, and Mary Gregson Wife	(Signed) John M. Morrison Minister of Glasgow Church	1907 December 16 GLASGOW
	After Publication according to the Form of the Church of Scotland	(Signed) Agnes C. Morrison Fishing Backle Street (Spinners)	26	24 Pratt Wife Glasgow	William Morrison Company Manager (Maiden) and Glasgow Mr. J. Hamilton	(Signed) James Selton Glasgow Elizabeth Brodie Witness	1907 December 16 GLASGOW

Record of the Marriage of Archibald Gregson and Agnes Morrison in the district of Gorbals, Glasgow, Scotland.

The first two children of Agnes and Archibald Gregson were born in Glasgow, Scotland; Rose Knight Gregson (born 1908) was named for her grandmother Rose Jane Hamilton and Charles Edward Knight Gregson (born 1910) was named after his grandfather. The family moved from Glasgow to Liverpool, England. My mother Jessie Knight Gregson was born in 1914 in the West Derby district of Lancashire, England. My grandfather Archibald died 5 OCT 1917 at the age of 36 years-old; my mother was only three years of age. Records indicate the cause of death was pulmonary tuberculosis. Rose, the eldest daughter, told the story that her mom dyed sheets red, soaked them in Lysol, and hung them around the house. In the early 1900s, Lysol was used to prevent the spread of disease during the Spanish Flu epidemic. The red dye was likely a folk remedy that was hoped to improve the effectiveness of the treatment. The Encyclopedia of folk medicine states that "Certain colors are associated in folk medicine with healing. Red is one such color, perhaps because it is associated with heat... Patients suffering from smallpox were

¹⁰ This section is excerpted from: Donald R. Falkenburg. "The Falkenburgs." Donald R. Falkenburg, 2016. Apple Books. <https://books.apple.com/us/book/the-falkenburgs/id1140567365>

given red bed coverings. Red flannel, wrapped around the neck, was used to ward off whooping cough in the west of Scotland.” My mother kept a brass letter opener which was made by her father, a journeyman brass finisher—perhaps this was the only object she had to connect to a lost memory. As a widow with three children, Agnes Gregson had a difficult time providing for her family. She moved the family from Liverpool, back to Glasgow, her childhood home. The Brodies, including several of Agnes’ siblings had emigrated to the United States. Agnes decided that she, too, would move to America. Agnes and her three children were listed on the passenger manifest of a 15 MAY 1920 voyage of the ship Columbia sailing from Glasgow to New York City. The occupation of Agnes is listed as “NIL”. The duration of the stay in the United States was listed as PERMANENT. The ship’s manifest listed Agnes’ destination as her parents living at 9 Nassau Parkway, Rockville Centre. The names on the manifest on that date were crossed out. It is likely that the family was denied permission by US customs and immigration for status as permanent residents¹¹. The family rebooked passage on the next voyage of the Columbia which was 15 MAY 1920. The young Gregson family appears on the passenger manifest, but again, their names were crossed out. According to my mother, Agnes Gregson went to work as a stewardess on the Cunard line to allow her family to come to the United States. This would give her the employment status she would need to enter the United States as a permanent resident. It is likely that my mother did not even know of the 1920 attempt to emigrate from Scotland, as she was three years-old at the time. My mother told me that she, her brother, and sister lived with an aunt and uncle in Liverpool while her mother worked as a stewardess. The immigration records show nine trips made by Agnes Gregson as a stewardess on the ship Carmania sailing between Liverpool and New York City between MAY 1922 and MAR 1923. Her last trip was 19 MAR 1923 when she was not only listed as stewardess but listed a final destination as the address of David Brodie in Rockville Centre, New York.

For a period of some 11 months Agnes prepared to bring her children to the United States. Finally, on 26 OCT 1923 the three children Rose (age 15) Charles (age 13) and Jessie (age 9) set sail from Southampton on the Majestic for New York. The children made the voyage alone while their mother waited to greet them in New York. My mother told the story of a couple who were very concerned about the children and told my mother that they would adopt them. My mother responded that they could not do that as their mum was waiting for them in New York. That ship’s manifest also identified a contact person in England who is likely the aunt who had cared for the children: Mrs. Sarah Gregson living at 45 Smeaton St., Liverpool. Sarah was the wife of William Clarence Knight Gregson, Archibald Gregson’s brother.

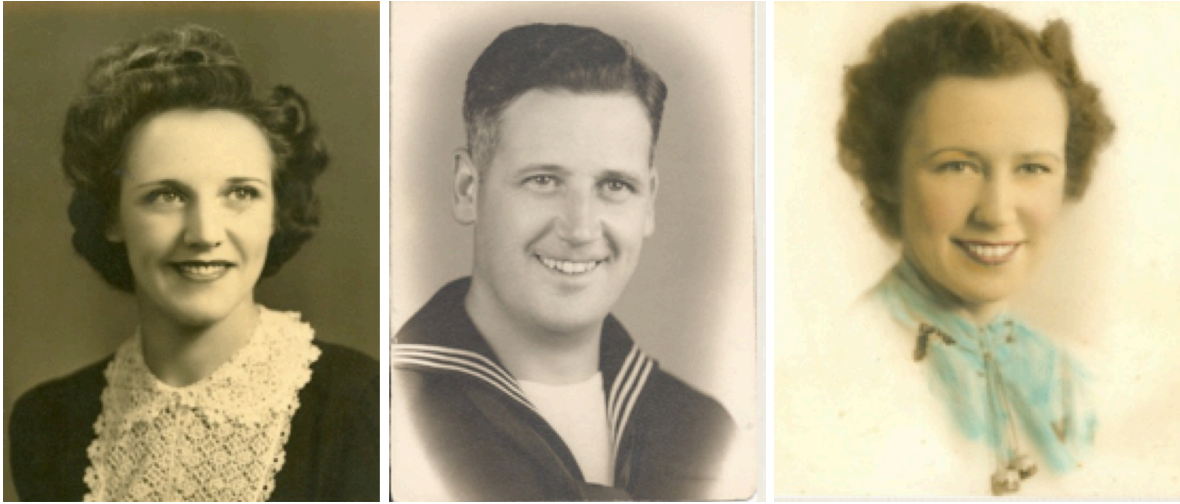
¹¹ likely because Agnes’ occupation is listed as NIL.

The family was reunited! One day after their arrival in the United States, the children were sent to school in Rockville Centre, New York. My mother tells the story of that first day. We stood to sing America (My Country Tis of Thee). I looked at the other students and could not tell what was wrong with them. They were not singing the correct words, so I sang the more loudly, “...*Happy and glorious, Long to reign o’er us, God save the King*”. The class was amused and the teacher used this as a teaching opportunity. Mom’s nick name became Scottie.

Agnes Gregson remarried William C. Peate who also worked aboard the Carmania during the time that Agnes worked as a stewardess. It is most likely that they met during the year in which Agnes sailed back and forth between New York and Liverpool. The census record shows that they were married before 1930. My grandparents lived with two of their children Charles and Jessie in Rockville Centre, New York. William worked as a janitor at Southside High School in Rockville Centre and as sexton at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Rockville Centre. They married before the children arrived in the United States.



(Top Row Left to Right) Charles Gregson and wife Gerry, Rose (Gregson) Cole, Jessie (Gregson) Falkenburg and husband Ed, Agnes (Gregson) Peate; (Bottom Row Left to Right) Lois Gregson (daughter of Charles and Gerry) June Cole (daughter of Rose) and William Peate.



The Children of Agnes and Archibald Knight Gregson
(Left to Right) Rose, Charles Edward, and Jessie

Research Note 1

The 1891 and 1901 Scotland Census shows the family of David and Rose Jane Brodie.

Agnes	1881
Maggie	1883
David	1885
James	1887
George	1889
Rebecca	1891 (not in 1901 census)
John	1892
Daniel	1894
Sarah	1895
Peter	1897
Rosina	1901

Two other family trees on ancestry.com list another son: Robert Bernard Brodie: **BIRTH** 23 FEB 1884 • Greenock, Renfrewshire, Scotland; **DEATH** 27 DEC 1959 • New York, New York, USA. In addition, these family trees indicate that Rose Jane also was the mother of the following children, in addition to Agnes and Margaret.

- William John Morrison (b. 1882)
- Robert E. Morrison (b. 1885)
- Ann L. Morrison (b. 1888)
- Ellen E. Morrison (b. 1890)

Let me begin with the last four names. None of these names appear in the Brodie family after Rose Jane remarried. This was the first clue that there might be an error in the listing. Secondly, the last three were born well after the death of William James Morrison, Rose Jane's first husband. A little detective work led me to uncover the family of [William JOHN Morrison](#) (wife Ann Morrison) living in Paisley, Renfrewshire. The 1901 Scotland census identifies children William J., Agnes, Robert, Margaret, Ann and Ellen. In the 1891 census William John is listed as William J. Morrison. The birthdates listed above agree with the birthdates from this census record. My conclusion is that the four children I have questioned were added to the family tree via this incorrect census reference.

What about Maggie (b. 1883). We know that David was a bachelor before marrying Rose Jane. I searched scotlandspeople.gov.uk and astonishingly found 34 persons named Margaret Morrison born in 1883! Only one was born in Greenock 16 APR 1883. This is just

411	Margaret Hamilton	1883, April	F	Rose Jane (Morrison) Brodie	1883, April 30 th
	M Morrison	Sixteenth St. Greenock		Mother	as Greenock
	(Illegitimate)	28		Rose Jane Hamilton	A.R. Brodie
		Salisbury Street		waiter of William James	Greenock Registrar
		Greenock		Margaret J. Morrison	R.A.B.
				(who died 15 March 1882)	

over one year from William James' death date. The birth record is marked Margaret Hamilton or Morrison and it notes the child is illegitimate. We do know that Rose Jane is the mother, but no father is indicated. Might it be David Brodie??? We will never know. But we do know that almost exactly one year later Rose Jane married David Brodie.

Research Note 2: Who is Robert Carmichael Brodie?

In the ship's manifest documenting the 1911 arrival of David, Rose Jane, and Rosina, indicated that Rosina's destination is David's nephew Robert C. Brodie, nephew, 52 Lenox Rd. Rockville Centre, Long Island. In the 1915 New York State Census, John Daniel, and Rosina are listed as residents in the home of Robert Carmichael Brodie and his wife Wilhelmina. The relationship of the Brodie children is listed as cousins of the head, Robert C. Brodie. Robert C. Brodie applied for a United States passport giving his birthdate as 21 DEC 1879 in Greenock, Scotland. One year old Robert next appears in the 1881 Scotland Census in the family of William and Margaret Irving, living at 21 Antigua St, East Greenock, Renfrew, Scotland.

The birth document for Robert Carmichael Brodie is found on scotlandspeople.gov.uk. Robert is the son of Sarah Brodie, sister of David Brodie.

Robert	21, 1879	177	Janet Brodie	1880.
Carmichael	Accerick		Aunt	January 22 nd
Brodie	Twenty first			at Greenock
	6h 15 m. E. 177		Sarah Brodie	at A. Neil
(Illegitimate)	21		Domestic Servant	at 12 Antigua St, Renfrew.
	Topaga Street		Crosshill	
	Greenock		Greenock	

Robert A. Baird Registrar.

The record is marked *Illegitimate*. No father is listed. The birth registry is signed by Janet ??, aunt. Janet is most likely Sarah and David's sister who has married. Sarah appears with her parents in the 1861 Scotland Census, but in both the 1871 and 1881 census she is listed as a domestic servant (1871 in the Neil home) and a cook (1881 in the Langlands home).

One year old Robert Carmichael Brodie appears in the 1881 Scotland Census living with William and Margaret Irving in Greenock. William is listed as a ship carpenter. Robert is listed as a boarder. My guess is that Robert C. Brodie's father was likely someone living in the Neil home, Sarah's employer. Having resources to hire several domestic servants, it is likely that the family placed the new born child

with the Irving family, and likely paid them a stipend—hence the relationship mentioned for the one year old as a lodger.

The 1881 Scotland Census records a ten year-old Robert Brodie in the home of Janet and George H. Stones. The relationship to the head of household is given as nephew. It is likely that this is Robert Carmichael Brodie, and Janet is Sarah's sister who is married to George H. Stones.

Robert C. Brodie came to the United States in 1897. He appears in the following U.S. Census reports:

1900	Philadelphia	Boarder	no occupation	single
1910	Queens, NY	Head	auditor	married
1915	Nassau Cnty, NY	Head	manager	married
1920	Nassau Cnty, NY	Head	manager	married
1930	Nassau Cnty, NY	Head	bookkeeper	married

Robert C. Brodie and his wife Wilhelmina did not have any children. Robert Carmichael Brodie died between 1930 and 1938. Wife Wilhelmina appears in the 1938 Rockville Centre directory without her husband Robert.

It is most likely that David, Rose Jane and their family had a continuing relationship with Robert Carmichael Brodie. When Robert emigrated from Scotland to the United States in 1897, he probably maintained correspondence with his family. It may be that Robert's experiences in his new country stimulated David and Rose Jane to contemplate moving to America.

The Story Behind the Story

Doing genealogical research is a task akin to being a detective uncovering evidence to understand the timeframe, motives, and the players in a crime scene. I have often made an analogy to an old television show Columbo. *“For those not old enough to remember this police-genre television show which debuted in the 1970s, Columbo (Peter Falk) wore a rumpled raincoat, and had an unkempt look about him.*



Columbo interviewed many witnesses of a crime; each person had a different story of the events, leaving the television viewer totally stumped as to what had really happened. At the end of the show Columbo took each of these seemingly unrelated threads and wove a story of whole cloth. 'Wow, how did he figure that out?' The crime unraveled, Columbo shuffled off in an almost bumbling manner to tackle his next assignment.”¹²

One lesson I have learned is that family trees on genealogical sites like [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) and [familytree.org](https://www.familytree.org) should not be treated as gospel, even if the lineage is repeated on a number of trees. The sad fact is that many people simply find a tree and copy individuals without giving scrutiny to the details that are hidden in the various data records.

There is much information in the data records that many people ignore. For example, ships' manifests usually contain information regarding a close relative in the country of origin and addresses where the traveler is expecting to go. This information may appear on a page hidden from the initial view of the manifest document. US Census reports in the early 20th century often contain the date of immigration and/or the date of naturalization.

A very important resource for doing any research on Scottish heritage is

scotlandspeople.gov.uk

After registering access to their database of records is free. Using this, one can find basic information regarding births, deaths, marriages, etc. A small fee is required to access to actual documents with details. It is using this resources that I was able

¹² Excerpt From: Donald R. Falkenburg. “The Falkenburgs.” Donald R. Falkenburg, 2016. Apple Books. <https://books.apple.com/us/book/the-falkenburgs/id1140567365>

to find a number of key facts presented in this paper, including the names of parents of Rose Jane Hamilton and William James Morrison.