

People in Logie Rowanbank

The earliest record held by Logie Archive of the piece of ground and buildings that were later to become **Rowanbank** dates from 5th August 1772, when **Robert Reid**, a shoemaker at **Blairlogie**, purchased under feu form, a piece of land and half the houses then existing on it, from **Captain James Spittal** at that time the owner of **Blair Castle** (and considerably more besides) The houses not included in the sale were to be removed by **John Cowie** – the southern neighbour to the site and also a shoemaker in Blairlogie. It is interesting to note that **John Cowie** was also registered as the owner of several acres of farmland adjacent to **Longkerse** at that time.

The piece of land was 13 falls and six ells in size, and was bounded to the North by the feu of **Robert Dawson** (the site todJames Vaiuay of **Croft House**); to the

East by what was then known as **Kirk Green Road**; to the West by **Stoney Croft Dyke**; and to the South by the feu of **John Cowie** (where **Ivydene** now stands). The annual feu duty payable was Four Shillings and Five Pence, and **King George the Third** was on the throne.

In 1783, **Robert Reid** assigned liferent, after his death, and with the proviso that she survived him, to his wife **Janet Bryce**, and the records show that **Robert and Janet** had at least two children who survived into adulthood – daughter **Janet** who married **James Bain**, a labourer of **Blairlogie**, and another daughter **Catherine**, who married **William Lucas**, a flesher of **Bridge of Allan**. This latter couple had a son **John Lucas** (grandson of **Robert Reid**) who also lived in **Bridge of Allan**, although the records are silent on whether he also worked as a butcher for a time like his father.

In 1789, **Janet Bryce or Reid** invoked the assignation of liferent to the properties after the death of her husband **Robert**, and , in 1829, ownership passed on again at **Janet's** death. By this time, the Feu Superiority was held by **Mrs. Elizabeth Spittal or Dundas** of **Blair Castle**, who, together with her husband **Robert Bruce Dundas**, recognised the rights of the



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Rowanbank No 1

joint heirs **Janet Reid or Bain** (**Robert's** daughter) and **John Lucas** (**Robert's** grandson) who had inherited due to the earlier death of his mother **Catherine**.

Janet lived at “**Rowanbank**” in **Blairlogie** with her husband **James** until 1851 with their family, and they are all listed in the 1841 Census Records as **James Bain**, a 50 year old agricultural labourer, with his wife **Janet**, then 48, their son **William** (11) and their daughters **Janet** (13) and **Catherine** (9) - of which two daughters more later. **Janet Bain** died in early 1851, and, in the 1851 Census Records, **James Bain** (60) is listed as a widower, living at **Rowanbank** with his daughter **Janet Bain** – now 23 years old.

Shortly after this Census, ownership passed to **Janet's** son **William Bain** as her only male heir (her other son **Peter** having died early in infancy) **William** is registered as being an apprentice to **Peter** and **Robert Paterson**, tanners in **Stirling**. Whether **William** took over the occupancy of the house at this time, or later in his ownership, is uncertain, because, in the 1861 Census Records a **James Bain** given as 57 years old, with his wife **Mary Bain** (45) are listed in an un-named property that is placed in the Records at a position close to where **Rowanbank** should be. By the time of the 1871 Census, it appears as though this **Mary Bain** (now 53) had taken over as the head of the household and is listed as a “lodging house keeper”, living at the house with her 75 year old Sister (?) **Agnes Hay**.

During this period, the Feu Superiority had passed to **Robert Bruce of Kennet and Blairlogie**, the then owner of **Blairlogie Castle**, who acknowledged the change in ownership by means of a Precept of Clare Constat. It is interesting to note that **Robert Bruce** would appear to be the first owner of **Blair Castle** not to be a member or direct in-law of the **Spittal** family who built the Castle in the 15th Century.

In parallel with this change of ownership within the **Bain** family, **John Lucas** (joint and equal legatee with **Janet Reid or Bain**) had become a farmer in **Cornton** and he established a Trust in 1876 to hold, among other assets, his heritable part of the “**Rowanbank**” legacy. The Trustees were **James McLaren**, who was a farmer at **Sauchie**; **Robert Jenkins** of the **Union Bank, Bridge of Allan**, and **Mrs. Janet Donaldson or Lucas**, **John's** wife. When **John Lucas** died in 1880, his wife **Janet** had already resigned from her position as a Trustee, and **James McLaren** and **Robert Jenkins**, as agent of **The Union Bank**, registered the Trust's ownership of one half of the grounds and buildings with the Registrar of Sasines.

By this time, the “Lucas Trust” encompassed more than the property in **Blairlogie**, and, in August 1881, **James McLaren** and **Robert Jenkins** disposed the whole of the assets to a new and larger group of local citizens, who took over the role of Trustees. These were **Laurence Pullar**, at that time the Chief Magistrate of the **Burgh of Bridge of Allan**; **Sir James Edward Alexander**, of **Westerton**, the then Chairman of the School Board of the Parish of **Logie**; the **Reverend Peter William Young**, Minister and Chairman of the School Board of the Parish of **Lecropt**; with the **Union Bank of Scotland** retaining its interest with the re-appointment of **Robert Jenkins** as its agent. It is interesting to note that **Robert Menzies Fergusson**, in his “**Logie – A Parish History**”, recalls of **General Sir James Edward Alexander** that he was “ and intrepid traveller and brave soldier, whose services in bringing that ancient monolith Cleopatra's Needle from the sandy plains of Egypt to the Thames Embankment, have never been adequately recognised”.

The "Lucas Trust" retained its 50% interest in the property in what appears to be a "sleeping partner" relationship during the occupation by **Janet Reid or Bain**, and thereafter by her son **William Bain**, until 1886, when **William** died. Whether rent was payable to the Trust is not specifically recorded.

William Bain had remained unmarried and therefore without an heir, and, at his death, his two sisters moved to restore the "**Rowanbank**" property to a single, family ownership. In January 1887, **Janet Bain or Dawson** (daughter of **Janet and James**, and wife of **John Dawson of Wellpark, Bridge of Allan**) purchased outright, for the sum of £30, the 50% share of the property owned by the "Lucas Trust". In February 1887, **Janet Bain or Dawson**, and her sister **Catherine Bain or Hogg** (wife of **William Hogg of Luss**) obtained Chancery recognition that they were the rightful and lawful heiresses to 25% each of the **Blairlogie** property. Following this, in March 1887, **Janet Bain or Dawson** purchased the remaining 25% from her sister **Catherine** for the sum of £21. The whole of "**Rowanbank**" was back in single ownership. **Mrs. Janet Bain or Dawson** would seem to have been an impressive and determined lady. Born the daughter of a labourer in **Blairlogie**, she became the wife of **John Dawson**, a successful drysalter and merchant in Glasgow, who built an impressive home called **Wellpark in Bridge of Allan** and who also owned **Manor Farm and Lands** from 1877 to his death in 1900 – at which time **Mrs. John Dawson** took over possession of **Manor** under a liferent Precept.

However, now being settled in **Manor**, **Janet** sold the property in January 1898 to **George Ashwood**, a Glaswegian engineer, for the sum of £105, and he owned and occupied the property for the next twenty years. It is believed that he added the second floor to the buildings at an early stage of his ownership. The 1911 Census Records list the full **Ashwood Family** living at **Rowanbank** as: **George Ashwood** , a 54 year old engineer, with his wife **Ann Ashwood** (50), with their daughter **Kate Ashwood** (25) and their 13 year old twins **Robert** and **Annie**.

In 1920, having moved into **Ivydene**, he sold the property to the **Manor Powis Coal Company**, later to be absorbed into the **National Coal Board** for a sum of £745. It was at this time of Coal Board usage that Rowanbank effectively split into two separate homes, with different families occupying each half, and the legends Rowanbank No 1 and Rowanbank No 2 appeared in the Stirling Council Valuation Roll.

Before the sale to the **Manor Powis Coal Company**, **George Ashwood** had already let part of **Rowanbank** to a miner called **John Docherty**, and he was to become the Coal Company's first employee/tenant in **Rowanbank**. Early in 1920, **John Docherty** was joined at what was then to become **No.2 Rowanbank** by **Charles Docherty** – his son and also a miner. **Charles Docherty** lived on in **No. 2 Rowanbank** with his **Wife**, his sons **John, Charlie and Hamish** and his daughter **Elizabeth** until 1927, when they left to join the **Philps** in **Blair house**, after **Charlie** left the Coal Company to work for the **Philps** coal delivery company. The tenancy was transferred to **James Muir**, a clerk/storeman at the Colliery. His tenancy lasted until 1931, when **No.2 Rowanbank** was rented by the **Coal Company** to **James Heggie** – a miner. **James Heggie** was the tenant at **No.2** until 1937.

Meanwhile, in **No.1 Rowanbank**, **John Docherty** the original tenant since before the **Coal Company** acquired ownership in 1920, stayed on until 1935 with his wife, son **John** (who also worked at **Manor Powis**), daughter **Liz** and granddaughter **Margaret**, after which, the

tenancy changed hands more frequently, Firstly **Alex Stevenson**, the Colliery Manager, who had already been a tenant in **Ivydean** in 1921, moved in for a year, to be followed for the year of 1937 by **James Gibbon**, a contractor. At the end of 1937, however, **James McMillan** and his wife **Mary Robb Thomson or McMillan**, who had previously lived at **Manor Powis Cottages**, took up residence. **Jim McMillan** was a pumpman at the Colliery, but was also described in Stirling County records as an "On Cost Worker".

Tenancy at **Rowanbank** remained constant during the 1939/1945 war, because the **McMillans** in **No.1** had been joined at **No.2 Rowanbank** by **Robert Irvine**, who was a driver for the **Manor Powis Coal Company**. **Robert's** wife **Elizabeth** and he lived on in **No.2** until 1959. During their time there they had two children, **Helen**, and **Elizabeth** (now better known to **Blairlogie** as **Bett Hughes**, who still lives at **No.2** with her husband **Owen**). **Robert** and **Elizabeth** celebrated their silver wedding in the **Reading Room** at **Blairlogie** in 1954. **Helen Irvine** was bridesmaid to her sister **Elizabeth** at her wedding to **Owen** in 1959 in the **Blairlogie United Free Church**



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Rowanbank No 2

After the **Irvines** left **No. 2 Rowanbank** in 1959, it stood empty for a year before its last **Coal Board** tenant, **Douglas Sinclair**, moved in to live there from 1960 to 1963.

In March 1963, **James McMillan**, bought **Rowanbank** as a whole from what was by then the **National Coal Board** for the sum of £500, and he and his wife **Mary** took over **No. 2 Rowanbank** as their home. At the same time, **James McMillan** sold **No.1 Rowanbank** for the sum of £250 to **James Glover** and his wife

Catherine Hunter McMillan or Glover of Telford House, Blairlogie.

In 1967, **No.2 Rowanbank** was sold by the **McMillans**.

In **No.1 Rowanbank**, the **Glovers** sold the house to **George** and **Anne Marquetty** of the **Heritage Hotel Stirling** in 1975 for £6500. They added the front lounge incorporating the new entrance hall and bathroom in 1981 before selling in 1982 to **John Francis Holt** and his wife **Marie Margaret Smith Holt (nee Whitson)** . **Marie Holt** died in late 2002, and **John Holt** moved away from Blairlogie within eighteen months and sold **No.1 Rowanbank**.