

FINDLAY WHO'S WHO

COSBY. Anne Charlotte. Wife of Charles Farquahson Findlay. She deserted their two children who were brought up by an aunt, Jessie Smith. The Cosbys settled in Ireland in the 16th Century, when they were granted the lands of the suppressed Stradbally Abbey in Queens County; the present family seat, Stradbally, is an imposing Italianate pile by the Victorian architect Sir Charles Lanyon. (Extract from review by Hugh Montgomery-Massingberd of *"The eccentric Lives of the Anglo-Irish"* by Ann Morrow. 6th April 1987)

FINDLAY. Benjamin Hall. Born 4 Dec 1806 at Arbroath. Made his living as a painter, presumably of portraits. He married Sarah Fraser.

FINDLAY. Charles. Born 24 April 1804 at Arbroath 4th child of Peter Findlay and Hannah Dalgety. Trained and practiced as a Surgeon and stood as Godfather to the children of his younger brother Benjamin. He married first Elizabeth Scott and secondly Elizabeth Laird. He died at Arbroath 13 Nov 1891.

FINDLAY. Charles Farquahson. Born 14th August 1853, 8th child of William Remy Findlay and Jessie Smith, died 15th September 1883 at Manchester Street, London. An undated contemporary obituary reads:-

DEATH OF A GLASGOW JOURNALIST IN LONDON

"Writing last night our London correspondent says:- "This afternoon the remains of Charles Findlay were accompanied to Highgate Cemetery by a few relatives and some old friends of the London press. Though only about 30 years of age at his death, Mr. Findlay's career was a chequered one. He won his journalistic spurs on the *Glasgow News*, afterwards distinguishing himself in London as Parliamentary leader writer for that paper. When the *Greenock Advertiser* passed into the hands of a company he was induced to go to Greenock as its Editor, and remained there until he received an appointment as editor of an English journal in Japan. This appointment was unfortunate, for some change in the proprietorship prevented him from going to his new charge. He then returned to England as editor of the *Hull Packet*, but having printed a libel on a local gentleman he was committed to Holloway Jail for three months and ordered to pay a fine of £50. This imprisonment, which was somewhat harsh, put an end to his health, and when his friends went to the jail to pay his fine at the termination of his confinement they found him weak and ill. The seeds of his consumption that was to carry him off had been sown. He afterwards edited the *Dover Chronicle*, but about the end of last year was forced to abandon his post and seek to restore his health at Torquay. A month ago he returned to London, and his friends saw that the end was not far off, though only ten days ago, when he paid his last visit to Fleet-street, he was confident of recovery. His lively disposition and pleasant manners endeared him to all who met him in his vocation. He leaves a widow and two children". He married Anne Charlotte Cosby, their daughters being Eleanor Dixon Valentine and Jessie Frances Hannah.

FINDLAY. Eleanor Dixon Valentine. Born elder daughter of Charles Farquahson Findlay and Anne Charlotte Cosby. In early years was brought up at Dounmohr, Callender in the care of her Aunt Jessie Smith Findlay.

- further detail to be supplied by E.F.G. - with family scattered she left 1 Lansdown Parade, and retired to She died 12th April 1960.

FINDLAY. Jessie Frances Hannah. Born 3rd June 1882 at 2 King Street, Dover, younger daughter of Charles Farquahson Findlay and Anne Charlotte Cosby. On the death of her father and desertion by her mother she and her sister Valentine were cared for and brought up by her Aunt Jessie Smith Findlay, at Dounmohr, Callender, Perthshire. Dounmohr was owned by uncle John Smith Findlay and his wife Ellen (née Benet), they cared for his mother Jessie Findlay (née Smith) until her death 11th October 1883, so there was room to assume the additional responsibility. The girl's nursery overlooked the railway and from the window they would watch and wave to the 'engineers' of the fiery single wheelers and they pounded uphill to the Highlands. Financial provision for the girls was made by a grand uncle John Ritchie Findlay, proprietor of the *"Scotsman"* and Sir John Traill Cargill, Bart. who made over equal shares in the Burmah Oil Company of which he was Chairman. Of education little is recorded other than that the sisters attended a finishing school in Brondesbury, London. Photographs existed of them in blouses, long skirts and tight waisted belts for hockey or tennis. Hannah married Robert Waddell 20th April 1912 in Seattle, USA at Trinity Parish Church. Witnesses to the ceremony were Robert's cousins Miriam and Hilda Little.

There were 5 children of the marriage, (for further details of which reference should be made to the Waddell lineage.)

Returning to England in early in 1917, to enable Robert to offer service during World War 1, they lived first in Hampstead and on his demobilisation near Chesterfield, Derbyshire. As the second War approached they were for three years in Kilburn, London, then Walton on Thames and Weybridge, Surrey. Thereafter Hamble, and Birdham and Fishbourne nr. Chichester. Latterly as a widow, she resided first in a nursing home near Midhurst and lastly in Bath where she died 14th January 1971. *(A photograph is held by the compiler showing the girls and their Aunt Jessie in front of the Dounmohr, which later came into the possession of the Christie family, shortbread suppliers to Balmoral. Miss Beatrice Christie had kind memories of the Findlays in 1968 as if 50 years had vanished.)*

FINDLAY. Jessie Smith. Born 22nd January 1847 at Glasgow 5th child of William Remy Findlay and Jessie (Née Smith). She never married, refused proposal by Gustav Lundholm, with whom photographed, a young man numbered amongst those her father gathered around him and prominent in the Nobel Explosives Factory at Ardeer, she having undergone a mastectomy. She devoted her life to the upbringing of her nieces Eleanor Dixon Valentine and Jessie Frances Hannah. Their father, a journalist, had a varied career and held his last position as Editor of the "Dover Chronicle" when terminally ill of consumption. He died 15th September 1883. Their mother Anne Charlotte (née Cosby) had separated. Jessie took the children to Dounmohr, Leny Road, Callender, Perthshire, and shared with her brother John Smith Findlay and his wife Ellen (née Benet). Deafness overtook her in her thirties, which was a considerable handicap. In later life Jessie Smith lived with Eleanor Dixon Valentine and her family at 1 Lansdown Parade, Cheltenham, where she died 11th December 1941.

FINDLAY. John Ritchie. Born 1824 second child of Peter Findlay and Elizabeth Johnstone at Arbroath. Became proprietor of *The Scotsman* Newspaper, made over to him by John Ritchie in 1868 and remained so until his death in 1898. The Portrait Gallery was his donation to the City of Edinburgh.

FINDLAY. Sir John Ritchie. 1st Bart. Born 13 Jan 1866 was proprietor of *The Scotsman* newspaper from 1895 until his death in 1930. He married in 1901 Susan Backhouse.

FINDLAY. Sir John Edmund Ritchie 2nd Bart. Born 14 Jun 1902 succeeded as proprietor of *The Scotsman* newspaper from 1930 until 1953. He died in 1962.

FINDLAY. Peter. Born 5th April 1777, youngest of six surviving children of the marriage of Robert Findlay and Mary Ritchie. He must have been a prosperous merchant of Arbroath with twelve children of whom three died young. He married Hannah Dalgety also of Arbroath, she was born 16th March 1777 and died 27th October 1852. Her family was much involved with the Far East trades in jute and rice, and a trading company continues to this day in the commodities markets. The compiler has a portrait of Peter, but no date of his death.

FINDLAY. William Remy. Born 21st August 1810 7th child of Peter Findlay, merchant of Arbroath, and Hannah Dalgety. He became a prominent merchant in Glasgow, with wide trading interests including wool from Australia. A failure of Glasgow banks led to a stroke, from which he did not recover, leaving his widow Jessie Smith in straitened circumstance. Such was Remy's standing amongst his commercial contemporaries that a substantial collection was made for Jessie. There were thirteen children of the marriage and she was known to them as 'The Mother'. Remy was the doyen of several bright young men, who gathered in the household. They included Gustav Lundholm managing the establishment of Nobels Explosive factory at Ardeer, those of the Teacher family, the founder of the Berguis Engine Company etc..

GUERITZ. Elton Lawrence. Born in 1884 at Templeton Vicarage, Devon, son of he Rev.J. Fortescue Lawrence Gueritz and Lucy (née Elton). Educated at Glenalmond and Glasgow University. Appointed to Colonial Civil Service in 1909. Served in Nigeria and Gambia, retiring in 1928 to Cheltenham. He died prematurely aged 46. He was not in good health at the time of retirement and it was believed that his death was the result of an ailment contracted during his service in the tropics. He married Eleanor Dixon Valentine (née Findlay) 17th July 1910. Their four children were:- John Elton Fortescue, Lucy Valentine, Eleanor Elton and Edward Findlay.

RITCHIE. John. Born in 1817 and twin of William. Elder brothers of Mary Ritchie wife of Robert Findlay. Were founders of *The Scotsman* newspaper. He made over the proprietorship to his protégé John Ritchie Findlay in 1868. He died in 1870.

RITCHIE. William. Born in 1817 and twin of John. Shared interest in *The Scotsman* newspaper. He died in 1831.

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