

This story started for me when I found a 33 year old Martha McKay boarding in 1871 at number 4 School Street in Fraserburgh with my 4<sup>th</sup> great grandmother Isabel Goodall (nee Lovie) then aged 73. This was the first time I had come across anyone named McKay with connections to the family and initially I thought Martha might be a relative of Isabel Goodall. In fact Martha McKay turned out to be the daughter of Ann Leslie Cooper and Robert McKay.

In 1847 James Fraser and Christina Goodall married in Fraserburgh. James was the son of Andrew Fraser and Martha Cooper and it turned out that Ann Leslie Cooper was Martha Cooper's sister.

By 1881 Martha McKay was living with her cousin James Fraser and his wife Christina Goodall and she looks to have stayed with them until her death in 1889. As you can see from her death certificate James Fraser my 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandfather was the informant. Martha's death certificate led me back in time through the census as I now knew her parents.

Martha McKay	1889	F	52	Robert McKay	Paralysis	James Fraser
Martha McKay	May			Stonemason	Phlebotomy	
Formally Christina Goodall	6th 40 m P.M.			Ann McKay	14 days	James
(Single)	22 Commerce Street Fraserburgh			Mr. Cooper (deceased)	As Cert. by Mr. R. C. Long M.D.	(Present)

From the death certificate you can see her parents are named as Ann Cooper and Robert McKay. I already had Martha on the 1881 and 1871 census so the next thing was to find her from 1841 through to 1861. In 1861 Ann Leslie Cooper and her daughter Martha McKay are living on Fishcross Street in Fraserburgh where Ann is described as married. In 1851 Ann, Martha and another daughter called Leslie are living in Old Machar, Aberdeen at 46 Gordon Street this time Ann describes herself as a widow.

The census of 1841 is the only time I found the whole family together they had left Scotland and were living on Cleveland Street in Hartlepool. I surmised that Robert had either died, although I could not find a death certificate, or left Ann and the two girls who subsequently returned to Aberdeen and Gordon Street.

1	Robert McKay	30	Mason	
	Ann do	25		
	Martha do	8		
	Leslie do	6		

At this point the only other documentation I had for Ann was her death certificate from 1869 where her daughter Leslie living on Broad Street in Fraserburgh acted as the informant.

1869 DEATHS in the Parish of Fraserburgh in the County of Aberdeen

No.	Name and Surname, Rank or Profession, and whether Single, Married, or Widowed.	When and Where Died.	Sex.	Age.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father, Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Cause of Death, Duration of Disease, and Medical Attendant by whom certified.	Signature & Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Death occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
49	Ann Leslie (deceased)	1869 August 2nd	F	57	William Cooper (deceased)	Apoplexy of the Brain	Leslie McKay (Present)	1869 August 2nd at Fraserburgh
	Martha Cooper	5th 30m A.M.			Mr. S. Cooper (deceased)	As Cert. by Mr. R. C. Long	Broad Street Fraserburgh	W. G. G. G. Registrar

I thought this was the end of this story. Neither of the girls appeared to have married, Robert was no where to be seen, Ann's death certificate had confirmed she was the sister of Martha Cooper my 4<sup>th</sup> great grandmother

I had more than enough information on the intriguing boarder of 1871. I incorporated the above story into my family history and forgot about the McKay's.

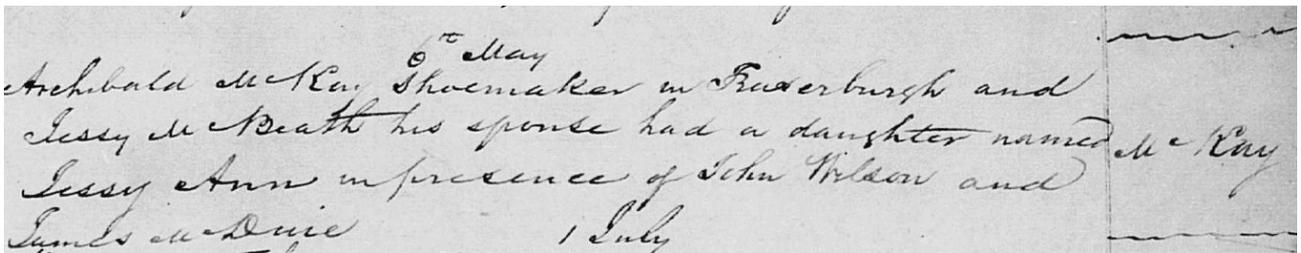
Then, in February 2016 I came across a post on Rootschat from a man who had been trying to solve the mystery of his great grandfather, Robert S. McKay for the better part of 60 years, this Robert appeared to have connections to Fraserburgh and was a mason. It looked as if Robert had moved to Ohio before 1851 where he was later joined by an Archibald McKay, shoe maker from Fraserburgh. It seemed a bit of a coincidence a Robert McKay, right age, mason, links to Fraserburgh who vanishes after 1841.

Archibald McKay was easy to find in 1851 living Fraserburgh with his wife and children.

Piece: SCT1851/196 Place: Fraserburgh -Aberdeenshire Enumeration District: 11871... 1891... 1871... 1891...  
 Civil Parish: Fraserburgh Ecclesiastical Parish, Village or Island: -  
 Folio: 181 Page: 45 Schedule: 179  
 Address: Broad Street

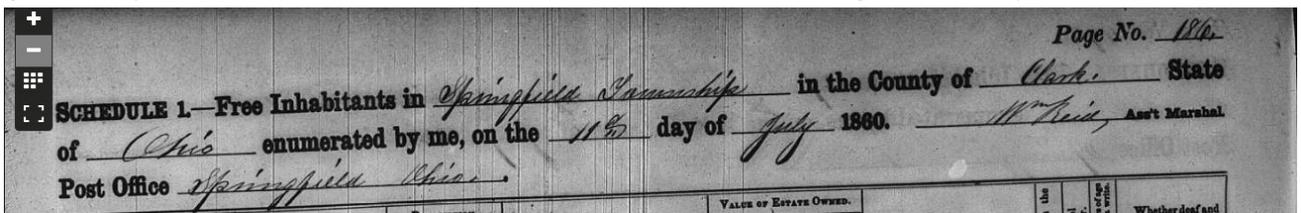
1851...	1851...	1851...	1851...	1851...	1851...	1851...	1851...
Surname	First name(s)	Rel	Status	Sex	Age	Occupation	Where Born
MCKAY	Archibald	Head	M	M	43	Shoemaker Master Emp1m2b	Aberdeenshire - Fraserburgh
MCKAY	Jessie	Wife	M	F	43		Aberdeenshire - Fraserburgh
MCKAY	Alexander S	Son	-	M	2		Aberdeenshire - Fraserburgh
MCKAY	Jessie A	Dau	-	F	10m		Aberdeenshire - Fraserburgh
MCBEATH	Mary A.	Niece	U	F	22	Shoe Binder	Aberdeenshire - Fraserburgh

Archibald had married Jessie McBeath in Fraserburgh in 1846 and they were to have only the two children Jessie Ann born in 1850 and Alexander Stephen born in 1848. Unfortunately, neither of the children's baptism records provided clues to Archibald's background.



To date I have been unable to find Archibald in 1841, he may be the Archibald McKay, shoemaker, age 30 living Port Glasgow...or he may not be.

Regardless, by 1860 Archibald, Jessie and the two children were now living in the county of Clark, Ohio, USA.



1833	1843	Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Value	Whether deaf and dumb
		Archibald to Mrs. Kay	52	Mr	Shoe Maker	300	Scottish
		Jessie	52	f			"
		Alex	11	Mr			"
		Jessie A	10	f			"

Archibald will outlive both Jessie Mc Beath and his second wife Isabella Rust whom he married in 1864. He died, still resident of Clark County in 1892 showing age 85. Sadly, Archibald's death record provides no clues to who his parents were.

Back to the very mysterious Robert S McKay who by 1860 is living in Knox County, Ohio about a 100 miles from Archibald over in Clark County. The census shows Robert with wife Emma and son William both born in England while the four youngest children look to be born in Ohio. McKay is a very common name and no evidence so far to indicate Archibald and R.S. McKay are related in any way.

383	383	R.S. McKay	41	"			1400	600	Scotland
		Emma	37	f					England
		Wm	14	m					"
		Erick	10	"					0
		Emma	7	f					"
		Ann	4	"					"
		Clara	2	"					"

The 1870 US census is a bit more interesting as R.S is now back to Robert, and his occupation is given as stonecutter (the same as listed on Martha McKay's death certificate).

124	Robert	57	m	37	Stone Cutter	1400	700	Scotland
	Emma	41	f	37	Keeping House			England
	William	14	m	37	Stone Cutter			Ohio
	Erick	19	m	37	Brick Layer			"
	Ann	12	f	37				"
	Clara	11	f	37				"

Is this Robert McKay the man who married Ann Leslie Cooper and is listed on the 1841 census as a mason. If he is then Archibald McKay may have acted as a witness at Martha or Leslie McKay's baptism. Alas, no such luck. After obtaining the baptisms for both girls no sign of an Archibald but a John McKay (mason) is witness at both events. Martha's record of 1833 also includes a William Cooper (porter) this man is Ann Leslie Cooper's father who can be found living in 1841 at 46 Gordon Street along with his wife Martha Fraser.

Aberdeen, December, 1833. 75.

Provice See app p 37  
 18<sup>th</sup>  
 McKay Robert, M<sup>c</sup>Kay Stone Cutter, and his Spouse, Ann Leslie Cooper, had a daughter born, and baptised by the Rev<sup>d</sup> James Bisset, by the name of Martha, in presence of William Cooper, Porter, & John M<sup>c</sup>Kay, Mason.

In 1836 when Leslie is born Ann's brother Charles Cooper is witness and in 1851 he can be found with his mother who is still living at 46 Gordon Street by this time age 74. I thought Charles was a 'tailor' but he listed on the 1851 census as a 'sailor' so is that an 'S' or a 'T' I see below?

Robert, M<sup>c</sup>Kay Stone Cutter, & his Spouse, Ann, L. Cooper had a Daughter born & baptised by the Rev<sup>d</sup> Alex<sup>r</sup> D. Davidson, by the name of Leslie, in presence of John M<sup>c</sup>Kay, Mason, & Charles Cooper, Tailor.

Gordon Street in Aberdeen is where Ann and the girls returned to after they left England and it is the same street where Ann Leslie Cooper lived when she got married to Robert McKay in 1832.

*Robert McKay, Stone-cutter, Bon Accord Lane and Ann Leslie Cooper, Gordon Street, both in this McKay parish, signified their purpose of marriage, by Mr Alexr Hunter, Elder, & being thrice proclaimed, they were married on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of Decr 1832 years, by the Rev. Dr Glennie Minr.*

Finally a breakthrough, MonicaL at Rootschat finds this nugget of information. Seeing Ann Cooper and deserted wife in the same sentence was a serious step forward even if it did say 'William' McKay and not Robert or better yet R. S. McKay.

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CH2/492/1; minutes of Greyfriars Kirk Session, vol. I). In 1857 the Fraserburgh parochial board assumed liability for Ann Cooper, the deserted wife of William Mackay, a mason, who was 'supposed to be in America, or elsewhere forth of Scotland'. (GRA, MS 6/27/4; meeting of 5 Jan. 1857.

- 76) Aberdeen School of Industry, admission minute book, 1867-74, entry no. 2775. Bisset's father was a drunkard who neglected his family.
- 77) *Ibid.* entry no. 2687.

The poor records for Fraserburgh are kept at the Aberdeen Archives and they very kindly sent three pages that pertain to Ann Leslie Cooper. Column 3 said it all - husband, R.S McKay, stonecutter, deserted pauper about 18 years ago said to be in America!

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REGISTER OF POOR PERSONS ADMITTED ON THE ROLL OF THE

No.	1. Name of Pauper.	2. Present Residence.	3. Married or single, widow, or widower. If child, orphan, deserted, or bastard.	4. Name of each dependant living with Pauper.	5. Age. Years.	6. Place of birth.	7. Trade or occupation.
40	Ann Cooper	29 Croft Street	Husband		18	Fraserburgh	Washing
57	or McKay		R. S. McKay Stonecutter deserted pauper about 18 years ago. said to be in America	Martha McKay	25	Aberdeen	Sewing

Even Martha is named, then I scrolled across the page and found this! Brother of R. S. McKay - Archibald in Springfield - Clark County! So it definitely looks like Robert 'S' McKay left Ann and the girls and started a new life in the USA and we now know that Archibald and Robert were in fact brothers!

17.  
REMARKS.

*Brother of R. S. McKay's Archibald in Springfield - Clark County.  
James Cumming Carpenter with Hall Aberdeen can give information*

I wish this had a happier ending but alas it's all a bit sad. Leslie McKay never married but she does have a child in 1863 a wee boy called Alexander McKay. Sadly, he only lived for 11 days and died in the Old Machar poorhouse where he was born. Leslie is out of the poorhouse by 1871 and lives on till 1884 when at the age of 48 she dies of a lung disease.

180	Alexander McKay	1863 March Eighteenth 3h. 25m. P.M.	No. 11 days	Leslie McKay Spinster Foot Mill	Diphtheria complicated 11 days ascertained by Wm Paterson Surgeon	Leslie McKay Mother present
	(Single) Illegitimate	Old Machar Poorhouse Aberdeen				

Robert's oldest daughter Martha McKay, who started the story, appears to have been somewhat disabled by rheumatism as she is described in the Fraserburgh poor records as being unable to do any work. Perhaps that is why in 1871 Isabella Goodall is described as being a nurse, an occupation she had not been attributed with before. Martha McKay, like her sister never married, it appears she was looked after by her mother until she died in 1869 then boarded with Isabella who took care of her until she died than moved in with her cousin James Fraser and his wife until her own death in 1889 age 52.

Martha McKay  
has seroproliferous  
Rheumatism

Daughter unable to do  
any work - Paralytic,  
Chronic rheumatism  
etc.