
THE BARNBOUGLE INHERITANCE

in the County of Renfrew

9,540 entries. 16 memoranda. One heir.

Maxwell, Duddingston & Co.

Writers to the Signet

Chambers in Carlton Terrace, Edinburgh

Find the Heir was devised and written by Roger Jenkins.

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This is a work of fiction.

Every name in this register was assembled by machine from lists of period-common given names and surnames. Any resemblance to a real person, living or dead, is coincidence and nothing more. No entry here records a real birth, a real parish, or a real estate.

The firm of solicitors named in these pages does not exist, and neither does the estate it writes about nor the person who left it. The firm's address names a street and no building on it.

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The Brief

Maxwell, Duddingston & Co.

Writers to the Signet, Chambers in Carlton Terrace, Edinburgh

To our agent,

Mrs. Georgiana Barnbogle died at her house in the parish of Auchterlonie in the winter of 1891, without a will and without, so far as the parish knew, a living soul to mourn her. She left an estate of some consequence and nobody at all to take it.

The Crown will have it in a year and a day unless an heir is found. That is the whole of our difficulty, and it is why you are reading this.

We have done the part of the work that money can do. We traced the line back three generations and forward again into the register of births for the County of Renfrew, for the years 1836 to 1879. The heir is in that register. We are certain of it. We have printed it here, all 9,540 entries, across 53 pages, exactly as Renfrew keeps it, in order of registration, which is to say in no order at all.

What we cannot do is read 9,540 names and think carefully about each one. That is what we are asking of you.

Enclosed are 16 memoranda. Each is a thing we hold to be true of the heir. Taken singly they will tell you very little. Taken together they tell you everything, because exactly one entry in this register answers to all 16 of them, and we have satisfied ourselves of that at considerable expense.

Take a pencil. Take your time. Strike out those who cannot be our heir. Whoever is still standing when you have finished is a person about to become considerably better off.

Yours faithfully,

F. Duddingston

for Maxwell, Duddingston & Co.

How to Work the Register

The register runs from the page marked REGISTER PAGE 1 to the page marked REGISTER PAGE 53. Each page holds 180 entries in 3 columns of 60, read down each column in turn, left column first.

83467	Simon Mowbray	1866
register number	given name and surname	year of birth

Two numbers, and do not confuse them

At the TOP of every register page, in large type, is the REGISTER PAGE number. That is the number the memoranda mean whenever they speak of a page. At the FOOT of every page, in small type, is the page number of this book. The memoranda never refer to it. It is there so you can find your way back to a place.

The county, and its parishes

This book holds one register entirely: the County of Renfrew, divided into 8 parishes and printed parish by parish. The parish is named at the top of each register page beside the register page number, and runs for a whole number of pages, so every entry on a page belongs to the parish named above it.

Where a memorandum speaks of a parish it means one of those 8, never the county. Every entry here was registered in Renfrew, so a memorandum saying so would rule out nobody.

Columns, rows and halves

Columns are counted from the left: column 1, column 2, column 3. Rows are counted from the top of each column. A faint rule crosses each column at its midpoint, so where a memorandum speaks of the upper or lower half of a column you can see the boundary without counting.

Working method

Take one memorandum at a time and strike out every entry it rules out. Do not try to hold two in your head at once; that is how mistakes are made, and a mistake here costs an evening. A soft pencil is better than ink, and a ruler under the line you are reading is better than either.

The memoranda are set out in the order we recommend. The first will cut the field roughly in half. Each after that takes a smaller and harder share. You may apply them in any order you like -- the answer does not change -- but this order gives you the most ground for the least effort at the start.

Exactly one entry survives all of them. If you finish with none, you have struck out one too many somewhere; if you finish with two, you have missed a memorandum.

There is no answer page. This book does not contain the name of the heir anywhere except in the register itself, among all the others. What it has instead is the verification page at the back, which will tell you whether a candidate is our heir without telling you who our heir is.

The Memoranda

16 facts. One entry in the register answers to all of them. No entry answers to all but one.

- 1** The heir's given name contains no letter R.
- 2** The heir's register number contains no digit 8.
- 3** The heir's register number is odd.
- 4** The heir's surname is longer than their given name.
- 5** The heir's surname contains at least one letter R.
- 6** The heir's entry falls on an odd-numbered register page. Use the REGISTER PAGE number shown at the top of the page, not the page number at the foot of the book.
- 7** The heir was born in 1857 or later.
- 8** The heir's entry falls in the upper half of its column -- that is, among the first 30 entries of that column.
- 9** The heir was born in an odd-numbered year.
- 10** The heir's given name ends in a consonant, not a vowel.
- 11** The heir's surname appears exactly once on the heir's register page -- that is, on the heir's own entry and nowhere else on that page.
- 12** The heir's entry falls on register page 1 to 26, inclusive.
- 13** The heir was not registered in the parish of Auchterlonie.
- 14** At least one other entry in the heir's column shares the heir's year of birth.
- 15** The heir does not hold the lowest register number in the heir's column.
- 16** The heir's given name shares at least one letter with the given name of the very first entry on the same register page -- the entry at the top of the left-hand column. (The heir may be that first entry.)

83467	Simon Mowbray	1866	63303	Herbert Chalmers	1873	24826	Archibald Robb	1866
33256	Ambrose Robb	1877	50874	Rupert Borthwick	1845	47490	Isaac Hattie	1845
40949	Nathaniel Bell	1879	37239	Mabel Macnab	1868	54199	Zachariah Giles	1850
40225	Anna Lamb	1851	74081	Edmund Jeffrey	1879	74062	Margaret Robb	1836
13127	Finlay Bogle	1873	77094	Johanna Runciman	1862	14038	Sophia Pryde	1863
33163	Minnie Thomson	1873	58050	Edwin Baird	1871	50420	Minnie Nairn	1877
52617	Jabez Leckie	1858	99683	Adam Coutts	1879	68805	Jonathan Bertram	1876
32752	Elsie Gibson	1868	91692	Ellen Parker	1840	82286	Phoebe Sutherland	1857
27917	Eleanor Redpath	1841	19879	Abraham Menzies	1839	89318	Cornelius Rennie	1836
76868	Jessie Dewar	1837	54755	Kate Noble	1851	15999	Oswald Bisset	1854
76876	Jean Cochrane	1875	11103	Barbara Rusk	1863	44595	Louisa Walkinshaw	1852
57145	Ian Haddow	1836	35087	Peter Allan	1863	62671	Ewan Saul	1839
77366	Adolphus Salton	1839	23914	Rhoda Dobie	1849	91473	Evan Butler	1857
98405	Effie Emslie	1856	17701	Tobias Hunter	1859	30113	Silas Oliphant	1850
83385	Fergus Dempster	1841	85289	Grace Tyrie	1840	71968	Alice Eadie	1866
33834	Theresa Lamb	1853	95578	Geoffrey Palmer	1861	39560	Morag Brechin	1851
68410	Rosanna Hamilton	1865	16410	Muriel Provan	1853	22249	Beatrice Howie	1854
64351	Theresa Reekie	1863	45795	Marjory Ewing	1867	96616	Jane Eadie	1872
78860	Catherine Auchinleck	1849	87555	Christina Stirling	1879	51458	Percival Fleming	1847
57743	Isobel Thain	1856	39703	Ian Norval	1866	23375	Finlay Dunbar	1873
87789	Samuel Knox	1867	99453	Roderick Bald	1856	13172	Geoffrey Hodge	1853
56371	Paul Wilson	1872	23928	Amos Dougall	1858	68696	Richard Sim	1862
57433	Emma Shaw	1866	78467	Priscilla Struthers	1840	26716	Sybil Rintoul	1879
68427	Horace Rain	1850	27891	Ellen Imrie	1871	77932	Emma Bulloch	1848
31126	James Rodger	1874	44844	Georgina Beattie	1877	86671	Eppie Samson	1876
62410	Hilda Fell	1860	42090	Amy Forman	1852	61505	Duncan Cormack	1878
70477	Gertrude MacNeil	1864	37587	Cecily Fulton	1877	73821	Hector Leitch	1842
95840	Isobel Kellock	1860	17914	Gavin Calder	1841	77476	Martin Pattullo	1849
79514	Alan Ferguson	1839	65432	Hubert Glover	1839	52986	Finlay Dudgeon	1863
42755	Caleb Cormack	1855	14177	Abel Brooke	1874	28852	Benjamin Moran	1879
74227	Mabel Rodger	1862	17444	Reuben Robson	1869	54702	Susanna Hislop	1849
46582	Ursula Page	1855	57494	Eliza Provan	1871	43960	Ezra Cowan	1851
75282	Adam Torrance	1870	57214	Winifred Black	1875	44319	Gideon Duthie	1873
75646	Martin Legge	1867	32528	Christina Crombie	1843	89439	Eleanor Booth	1848
77553	Anna Cooper	1839	42702	Wilfred Howat	1856	65018	Nellie Aitken	1861
56389	Muriel Hill	1862	98180	Hannah Hunter	1874	95631	Eva Cant	1862
96728	Rhoda Black	1871	13072	Moses Fairlie	1875	12363	Johanna Arkley	1876
69596	Albert Hobson	1862	20866	Marcus Buchan	1854	83131	Eunice Barbour	1855
70425	Luke Rae	1877	25102	Patience Reith	1852	28424	Innes Buchanan	1853
55976	Neil Bonnar	1845	18842	Daniel Cleghorn	1844	97891	Eppie Scrymgeour	1856
84410	Cecily Craig	1867	13321	Geoffrey Mowat	1875	17442	Jessie Meek	1865
83083	Hugh Hood	1857	15357	Allan Auchinleck	1875	43156	Cecil Bradley	1838
69841	May Hardie	1837	12771	Oliver Carlyle	1877	14398	Quintin Wardlaw	1848
73780	Albert Doull	1867	58902	Clara Seggie	1874	27262	Peter Milton	1847
96361	Selina Balloch	1843	43513	Jacob Porteous	1863	31124	Oswald Comrie	1838
39073	Maggie Guthrie	1865	26749	Eleanor Hargreaves	1849	32375	Innes Mavor	1836
52554	Herbert Panton	1847	30593	Elspeth Bowie	1857	22566	Julia Fenton	1876
31767	Leonard Peebles	1858	34083	Louisa Steedman	1864	69426	Nellie Yuill	1879
90785	Johanna Hanna	1852	78562	Wallace Mason	1876	93240	Benjamin Cooper	1861
45145	Morag Kemp	1853	10253	May Macnab	1858	40363	Percy Kidd	1857
72883	Gertrude Dodds	1850	60536	Ralph Riddell	1852	76618	Isabella Kemp	1848
50575	Rebecca Salmond	1866	87261	Solomon Henderson	1840	14115	Grace Bruce	1848
49753	Eunice Park	1863	15657	Francis Haddow	1839	42343	Verity Forsyth	1850
76092	Nancy Bell	1872	42483	Mark Roy	1850	40470	Lawrence Dalrymple	1848
83687	Eppie French	1860	29846	Prudence Ogilvie	1837	68287	Fergus Hood	1841
77862	Caroline Boag	1852	14753	Nellie Rattray	1846	19640	Enoch Laird	1843
76500	Betsy Noble	1858	10549	Peter Lawson	1836	42870	Ann Houston	1852
95382	Harriet Robertson	1840	55115	Ambrose Durie	1858	20542	Daniel Love	1852
90715	Lettice Kinnaird	1855	90640	Archibald Braid	1856	87494	Christina Freer	1843
87063	Murdoch Inglis	1847	92281	Lachlan Kidd	1870	39911	Zachariah Tough	1858

Verification

There is no solution printed in this book. There is this instead: a way to find out whether the entry you have settled on is the one we are looking for, without our naming anybody.

Work the following on your candidate. It takes about a minute and it cannot be run backward, so knowing the figure below is of no help to anyone who has not done the work.

1. Write down the candidate's given name and surname.
2. Give every letter its place in the alphabet: A is 1, B is 2, and so on up to Z is 26. Add all of them together, both names, ignoring the space.
3. Multiply that total by the REGISTER PAGE number printed at the top of the page the candidate stands on.
4. Add the candidate's register number -- the figure at the left of the entry.
5. Keep only the last three digits of the result.

If the three digits you obtain are:

244

then your candidate is the heir, and Maxwell, Duddingston & Co. are in your debt.

If the digits do not match, you have the wrong entry. Go back to the memorandum you were least sure of. It is almost always that one.

And if you are truly beaten, write to us. We will not print the answer here where an idle thumb could find it.