

THE ROBERTSONS
OF
CRAY

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CRAY,—from the Slopes of Mount Blair.

THE ROBERTSONS OF CRAY

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES
WITH
SOME PERSONAL RECOLLECTIONS

By
H. M. W.

“Home was home then, my dear, full of kindly faces,
Home was home then, my dear, happy for the child.”
R. L. Stevenson.



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IN these Notes no personal reminiscences are attempted of anyone of more recent date than that of the writer's maternal grandmother, Mrs James Robert Robertson. Of his parents and of such near relatives as his late brother and sister (*fratres dilectissimi*), it is not for him to speak here. Of them, therefore, as well as of the younger members of the family connection, he records merely such dates and other facts as seemed necessary to carry down the story of Cray until its final sale in 1922.

The view of Cray in the frontispiece is from a photograph by the late Dr. J. Crawford Renton of Glasgow, taken probably about the year 1900.

Edinburgh, June 1935.

THE ROBERTSONS OF CRAY

THE Cray family is descended through the Barons Reid-Robertson of Straloch both from the Robertsons of Struan (chiefs of the Clan Donnachaidh) and the Robertsons of Lude. Straloch is situated in Strathardle.

There is a little volume, *The Barons Reid-Robertson of Straloch*, written in 1728 by the Rev. James Robertson, minister of Glenmuick, of which I have seen the MS. In 1886-7 it was published in the columns of the *Blairgowrie Advertiser*, and was afterwards reprinted, and it may still be occasionally picked up in the second-hand bookshops. "Baron," of course, is not the modern Baron in the Peerage, but was merely a Scottish landed proprietor, with certain rights.

The first charter to this family—Roy or Reid—(*alias* Robertson), is dated 1451, and in the volume referred to, the writer traces the descent to his own day, 1728. An appendix carries it to a much later date and shows how the direct male line terminated in 1807 on the death of General John Reid. The General is remembered in Edinburgh as the founder of the Chair of

Music in the University, for which he left some £50,000, inherited largely from his cousin, Major-General Small. As mentioned later, one of this General Small's sisters, Susan Small, was married in 1745 to John Robertson of Cray. Another became the wife of "Colin McKenzie of Finnagand."

Reverting to the Reid-Robertsons, the earliest mention of Cray is in 1595, when it was sold by David Maxwell of Tellon and his son to "John Robertson or Reid of Straloch and Margaret Ruthven, his spouse," a daughter of Alex. Ruthven of Freeland. This John was known as "Baron Cutach." One of his grandsons, James Robertson (son of his third son, James), purchased Cray, apparently from his cousin, who was in the direct line, but the date is not clear. The writer of the volume (the minister), remembers, as a boy, seeing Leonard Reid or Robertson, an uncle of the James who purchased Cray; and he also reports that, when he wrote, Cray was in possession of the grandson of the James Robertson just mentioned. It had therefore descended through several generations after the Straloch branch of the family disposed of it.

The first Robertson of Cray of whom I have any special knowledge is John Robertson, born 1711, who (as stated already), became the husband of Susan Small. Above the old stable

door at Cray was a stone, marked J.R. ♥ S.S., 1745. and no doubt this building—then the dwelling-house—was erected about that date. The stone still exists, but when the offices were re-built it was stupidly inserted over the door of another outhouse; but I remember it perfectly well. Susan Small was, as we have seen, a sister of General Small, and, I believe, a cousin of Small of Dirnanean. She and her husband had a large family—eleven in all. This is their record:—

John Robertson	Born Jany.	29, 1711.
Susie Small	Born Augt.	10, 1724.
Married March 23, 1745.		

Alexander	Born Jany.	29, 1746.
Patrick	Born July	26, 1747.
Peggie	Born Feby.	26, 1749.
Charles	Born Sept.	19, 1750.
Janet	Born Jany.	28, 1753.
Magdalen	Born July	6, 1754.
Ketran	Born July	15, 1756.
James	Born Sept.	11, 1758.
Robert	Born Sept.	30, 1760.
Susie	Born Feby.	9, 1762.
Femie	Born April	19, 1764.

Susan Small died June 22, 1770, Aged 46.
John Robertson, died at Cray, March 6, 1789,
Aged 78.

At the time of John Robertson's marriage, Cray and Dalnaglar formed a united property and had been inherited by him. Some time thereafter, however, he sold Dalnaglar to William Shaw, who (as mentioned later), became in 1779 his son-in-law. After his own death, which took place in 1789, his affairs were found to be in disorder, and Cray was then sold for behoof of his creditors. In explanation of this sale of his properties, it is said that John Robertson's difficulties were caused by a robbery from which he suffered. As factor for the Duke of Atholl he had been collecting rents, and with the money in his pocket had repaired to an inn for the night, when it was stolen from him by an old, but treacherous acquaintance, with whom he was enjoying a friendly glass. So, at all events, the legend runs; and as the deficiency—a considerable sum—had afterwards to be made good to the Duke, the finances of the unfortunate owner of Cray were seriously crippled.

Cray was eventually purchased by James Shaw of Broughdearg, cousin of William Shaw of Dalnaglar. Of Dalnaglar it may be mentioned here that it was later on disposed of by William Shaw and passed through several hands till purchased about 1865 by a Mr Daniel Robertson (no relation of the Cray family), understood to be a Perthshire man, who had been a banker in

London. He built the Castle, but died just when it was completed, when it was bought in November, 1867, by Mr D. A. Paterson of Leith.

The eldest son of John Robertson, Alexander, married Margaret, heiress of James Farquharson of Alrick, in Glenisla, a cadet of the family of Broughdearg; but the Farquharsons afterwards parted with Alrick. Peggie, or Margaret, the eldest daughter, was married at Cray, August 6, 1779, to William Shaw, Dalnaglar. The second son of this William Shaw—Peter Shaw, born at Dalnaglar, April 1, 1782—lived afterwards at Finegand, and was the father of William Shaw, also tenant of Finegand. Both were outstanding figures in Glenshee and Blacklunans. William Shaw was Laird of the Mount Blair property, etc. I remember him and Mrs Shaw exceedingly well, and knew also his brother Charles and his sister Stewart, who was married to the Rev. Ralph Colley Smith, all our very good friends. William Shaw's eldest son, Dr. Peter W. Shaw, has died (much regretted) almost at the time these lines are being written, but the remainder of his family—four sons (James, Charles, Mackenzie and William), and two daughters (Mrs Lunan and Mrs Black), survive. James was in the Mercantile Marine service and

is now retired; Charles is a doctor, a mental specialist; Mackenzie, an Edinburgh W.S.; and William at present M.P. for the County of Angus. To Mackenzie Shaw, who is an expert family genealogist, I am much indebted for some of the information utilised in compiling these notes. Their aunt, Mrs R. C. Smith, I knew in Glasgow, where her husband was a minister; and with her family I have long been intimate. The elder son, Sheriff Patrick Smith of Selkirk, who married Alice, daughter of the late Mr D. A. Paterson of Dalnaglar, died in 1930; but his sister Margaret (Mrs George E. Philip), and his brother, Ralph Colley Smith, are still alive.

James (John Robertson's fourth son—my maternal great-grandfather), was born in 1758, entered the Army, and rose to be Major in the 76th Regiment of Foot. He was mostly in India, and fought at Seringapatam, and in the Mahratta wars. His Major's Commission is dated 1804.

He appears to have been a man of vigorous personality, and several characteristic anecdotes about him (more or less founded on fact, I suppose), were afterwards current in Glenshee. He was a brave soldier and a first-rate swordsman, his dexterity in this respect owing much, it was said, to his having such abnormally long arms that he could touch his own knees without

stooping. A similar peculiarity, it may be remembered, is told of the famous Rob Roy. In the fighting which occurred in India towards the close of the eighteenth and early in the nineteenth centuries, my great-grandfather took an active part. The story goes that in a certain engagement where a tower or fortress was very powerfully defended, he headed a desperate attack on the enemy. To gain access to this building, a small cannon was carried by his troops to its door, which was then blown in. Through the breach thus made, Captain Robertson (as he then was) and his men fought their way up the stair against great odds, and after a hand to hand struggle, captured the place. The legend proceeds to relate that in the stronghold thus taken was discovered a golden idol, and that the Captain's share of this "loot" enabled him, on his return to Scotland, to re-purchase the property of Cray. If not true, the anecdote is at least *ben trovato*.

For Lord Lake, under whom he served, the Major had great admiration and personal regard, and named one of his sons after that distinguished General. Very different were his feelings towards Arthur Wellesley (afterwards Duke of Wellington), also then in India. If all stories be true, Wellesley and Robertson quarrelled so seriously on one occasion that a

duel between them was imminent, and only the interference of common friends prevented its occurrence.

My great grandfather was married on 29th December, 1800, to Catherine Guild, daughter of John Guild, sometime Merchant and Provost of Dundee. The following is a copy of the register in their family Bible—now the property of Noel Y. Robertson, Johannesburg—a great-grandson of the couple. There is an inscription in the Bible stating that it was—

“Given to Alexander Nowell Robertson by his mother on his marriage, 2nd Augt., 1851, as an old family relic.”

James Robertson and Catherine Guild,
married 29th December, 1800.

Thomas Musgrave	Born April 16, 1802.
	Died Oct. 11, 1803, in India.
James Robert	Born May 8, 1803.
	Died Sept. 18, 1861, at Cray.
Catherine Arabella	Born Sept. 28, 1805
	Died Sept. 28, 1821, at Cray.
Gerard Lake	Born Oct. 5, 1806.
	Died Oct. 4, 1824, at Belize.

Georgina	Born Jany 9, 1808.
	Died Jan. 23, 1863, at Ayr.
Susan Jane	Born Feby. 26, 1809.
	Died June 1, 1887, at Richmond, Surrey.
Eliza Louisa Ann	Born April 5, 1810.
	Died Mar. 30, 1841, at Lisburn.
Charles Alexander	Born Jany. 6, 1812.
	Died 1864, at Sydney, N.S.W.
William Guild	Born Jany. 5, 1813.
	Died May 20, 1861, at Port Natal.
Alexander Nowell	Born Augt. 1, 1815.
	Died Dec. 9, 1897, at Harlesden, Middlesex.
Jasper Lyon	Born Augt. 21, 1817.
	Died June 21, 1877, at Ealing, London.
Jane	Born July 23, 1819.
	Died Feb. 24, 1853, at Belize.
Catherine May Ann	Born Novr. 7, 1821.
	Died May 14, 1861, at Hampden, S. Australia.
Helen Margaret	Born May 14, 1824.
	Died Feb. 24, 1861, at Liverpool.

James Robertson, died at Dollar, August 1826.
Catherine Robertson, died at Edinburgh, May 17, 1852.

They are both buried in Kirkmichael Churchyard, Strathardle.

On his return from India my great grandfather (known in the Glen as "the Old Major"), re-purchased in 1810 the present Cray property from James Shaw. I have a copy of the letter of offer and acceptance. Thereafter he built the existing house at Cray, residing at Rinavey while Cray was being put up.

A portrait of the Major shows him to have had strong features and a prominent nose. He is wearing a dark wig.

After his return to Cray my great-grandfather took a prominent part in Glenshee affairs. I have an interesting Minute of a Meeting, held on 14th September, 1822, of the "contributors and subscribers" to the new Chapel at the Spital. Major Robertson was in the chair. After agreeing to take over the structure from the contractor as "well finished and complete," the meeting proceeded to allocate the sittings, when seats were allotted to Cray, Dalmunzie, Corridon, Dalhenzian, Finegand, Dalnaglar, Dunmay, etc.

I may add that, when a boy, I heard one story of my great-grandfather from an aged man who remembered him well, Peter Grant, who lived with his daughter, Mrs Morrison, in one of the cottages on the Dalnaglar property, not far from Cray Church. Peter, quite a young man at the time, was working in the field, or

haugh, between Cray and the river Shee, when (as he told me), he heard the old Major, who was fishing, shouting for help. He hurried to the stream, and assisted the Major to land a salmon. This was in the stretch at the bend, still known as "The Salmon Pool," and probably took place some years before 1826, when Major Robertson died. At that period salmon were occasionally captured in the Shee, but for many years past, obstructions at Blairgowrie prevent them from running up the river.

As already recorded, the Major died in Dollar, where he had sent several of his sons to the Academy. In a volume of "Reminiscences of Dollar," by William Gibson (1882), there is a list of boarders given, some of whom were this Mr Gibson's class-mates about 1830 or earlier, and it contains the names of—

Charles Robertson,
William Robertson,
Alexander Robertson, and
Jasper Robertson.

I believe their older brothers were also educated at this school, which enjoyed a great reputation among the families of Anglo-Indians.

Of my great-grandmother, Catherine Guild (Mrs James Robertson), I have little to relate. Short in stature, she was nicknamed, as I have

been told, "the pocket Venus." A daguerreotype, in which she is seen wearing a huge widow's cap, depicts her with a pleasing face, indicating plenty of character. I believe she was a clever woman, quite capable of managing her large family; and the Major, I can imagine, did not always (strong-willed though he was), have things exactly in his own way.

It may be mentioned that she had a brother, William Guild, who went to the West Indies and founded the firm of Wm. Guild & Co., Belize and Glasgow, merchants and shipowners. He became a wealthy man. "Uncle Guild," as he was known in our circle, lived in his later years in Dalblair House, Ayr, where he kept up considerable style. He was generous to his nephews and nieces and several of them and of their children received from him financial and other assistance and inherited legacies at his death. One or more of his sister's children usually kept house for him, and my grandmother, though only his niece by marriage, was, after her husband's death, an occasional visitor to him at Dalblair House. In the summer of 1868 she was living in Ayr, but in furnished rooms, and my brother James and I, small boys, spent our month or six weeks' holiday in her company there. We were frequently in Uncle Guild's house, though of himself we saw little,

the old man being rather a forbidding personality to young lads. His two men-servants, however, were distinctly friendly and we were always made free of the fine garden. I particularly remember the greenhouses, with the splendid melons and other fruits grown there. At Dalblair House, also, we met distant cousins, such as Lucy Jefferson and Freddy Thomas, grand-nephews and nieces of the old man's. Of them I have long since lost all trace. Many years after Mr Guild's death, the house at Ayr was turned into an Hotel, a new front door being thrown out into the Sandgate through what had formerly been the back of the house. I stayed in the Hotel over a Sunday in (I think) 1905 or 1906, and was interested to find that I at once recognised the handsome oval-shaped public rooms. The "Hotel Dalblair," is, I believe, still carried on.

William Guild & Co's business at Belize passed eventually into the hands of a Glasgow man, Mr James Currie, with whom it continued to prosper. Him I never saw, but his sister I knew. His widow, Mrs James Currie, whom I have met, is still living in London. She is a sister of the late Mrs R. H. Falconer, the aunt of my wife (Charlotte Paul).

Robert Robertson, the younger brother of my great-grandfather, remains to be mentioned.

He entered the Army also, and served in North America under Sir Henry Clinton, receiving a Commission in 1779 as Ensign in the 84th Regiment of Foot. We find him in Dumbarton in 1804 as Adjutant of the Dumbartonshire Volunteer Infantry. He was made a Burgess of the Burgh of Dumbarton in that year. He died in the Castle there.

We come now to Major James Robertson's descendants. It should be stated that prior to his marriage with Catherine Guild, the Major had formed a connection in India and become the father of a boy, whose mother—according to an apocryphal legend current in Glenshee—was “a Native Princess.” The lad, who was named John, was brought up by Mrs Robertson along with her own family; and I recollect my grandmother (her daughter-in-law), informing me that it was considered greatly to the credit of all concerned that (except for the fact that he was not to inherit Cray), John was never allowed to feel any difference between his half-brothers and sisters and himself. He followed, in time, his father's profession, and saw military service abroad. He became Captain in the 2nd Queen's Royal Regiment, but died early. He married a lady highly esteemed by us all, whom in later life I often met—Margaret Archer (“Aunt Mattie”), daughter of Andrew Archer, Abbey

Hill, Coupar-Angus. She subsequently lived in Edinburgh and survived until 1891. They had one son, James Robertson. He went to Melbourne and engaged in business there, but died a young man, in 1861, while on a voyage to Fiji, leaving a widow. She had been a Miss Emily Foy. About two years later she married in Australia, Mr Henry Paul, a Scotsman, who had been, I believe, a friend of her first husband. The Pauls returned later to this country, where Mr Paul became Manager of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency, Ltd., London. He died in 1907. Their son, Ernest Moncreiff Paul, entered the Royal Engineers and is now retired with the rank of Brigadier-General. He succeeded a year or two ago to a property in the Island of Coll and has assumed the name of Stewart in addition to his own. His mother, Mrs Henry Paul, who lived until 1920, was a most attractive woman. I met her on several occasions in both Scotland and London. She had visited Cray and retained her friendship with, and interest in, the Robertson family until the end of her life. Her husband was the grandson of the Rev. Wm. Paul, D.D., Minister of the West (otherwise St. Cuthbert's) Parish Church, Edinburgh, who died in 1802. This connection is of special interest to myself, as my second wife, Charlotte Paul, is a cousin of

General Paul-Stewart, she being a great-great-grand-daughter of the Rev. Dr Paul referred to. Mrs Henry Paul had a further connection with the Robertsons, for another Miss Foy, her elder sister Caroline, had married Alexander Nowell Robertson (our Uncle Alick), in 1851. He was, of course, uncle of James Robertson, Mrs Paul's first husband, this being a case of uncle and nephew marrying two sisters.

Before passing from Mrs John S. Robertson, ("Aunt Mattie"), it may be added that her younger sister, Jessie Archer, became the wife of the Rev. Francis C. Gillies, at that time, 1841, Parish Minister of Rattray. Mr Gillies left the Church of Scotland at the Disruption in 1843, and some years thereafter was appointed minister of Free St. Stephen's Church, Edinburgh. He officiated at my mother's marriage at Cray in 1855. He and his wife had a number of children, some of whom we knew very intimately. Their youngest son, the Rev. James Robertson Gillies, D.D. (named after his cousin) has been minister successively at Coldstream, in Hampstead, and at Ancrum, in Roxburghshire, and is a particular friend. He was Moderator of the English Presbyterian Church in 1914. Now retired, he lives in Edinburgh, and is the sole survivor of his family, but is himself married and has a daughter.

Returning now to old Major Robertson's family, my grandfather, Major James Robert Robertson, was the second child of the marriage. His older brother, Thomas Musgrave, died in infancy. My grandfather entered the East Indian Army, and became Major in the 8th Madras Cavalry. In 1833 he married Federata Cutcliffe Whitlock, at Exeter. Her father had been a surgeon at Ottery-St.-Mary, where she was born in 1806. Their only child (my mother) was born 14th February, 1837, at Ootacamund, India, and christened Catherine Charlotte. When they returned from India, my great-grandmother, Mrs James Robertson, was still living at Cray, and it was not until after her death in 1852 that my grandfather went to live there. He gave the site for the Free Church and Manse of Cray. He died suddenly at Cray on 18th September, 1861, aged 58, and is buried at Kirkmichael. My grandmother survived her husband till 24th September, 1887, when she also died at Cray, and is buried beside him. Tablets in the Church at Cray commemorate them both. She was 81 years of age.

As I was but little over three years of age when my grandfather passed away, my recollections of him are faint, but I can remember seeing him fishing from the boat on the little pond at Cray, and on another occasion being taken on his

knee and given sweetmeats. We were at Cray when he died, and I have also not forgotten watching the funeral procession winding up the Lair Brae on its way to Kirkmichael—the kind of spectacle likely to make an impression on a small child. He is said to have looked older than he really was, had a white beard, and a gentle, quiet manner—very unlike the popular conception of the average Anglo-Indian military man. He was studious and fond of poetry, and I possess a volume in MS., in which he had carefully copied out, while in India, considerable poetical extracts from writers such as Walter Scott and Byron. The difficulty, of course, of carrying about books in the India of that period should not be forgotten, but the circumstance shows something of the direction in which my grandfather's tastes lay.

My grandmother was, in many ways, a remarkable woman. Her education, I suppose, was deficient in much that is taught to young ladies to-day, but she had a refined and cultivated mind. When in India she had enjoyed the benefit of congenial European society. She had an alert perception, a vivacious manner, and a great sense of humour. Very affable and easy of approach, she could be, on occasion, extremely dignified. She possessed a beautiful voice, and it was a treat to hear her, even when quite an

old lady, singing a duet or joining in a catch with her granddaughter. In addition, she was an excellent housekeeper and cook, and any young girl from the Glen, coming to Cray to assist in the house, received there an admirable domestic training. During her long widowhood my grandmother dispensed hospitality at Cray to a wide circle of relatives and friends, and how she did so on her very moderate income was a continual marvel. No doubt the style of living was plain and the pleasures simple, but few visitors came to Cray who were not anxious to return. Very fond of gardening, she kept the immediate surroundings of the place beautifully. The numerous paths through the plantations and round "the Pond," as the little loch was always styled by us, added much to the amenity of the grounds. This small sheet of water, with its boat and swan, was a great attraction; the latter, (in the first instance), a gift from a neighbour, Mr D. A. Paterson of Dalnaglar, with whose family we were, for many years, on terms of friendly intimacy. The pond, in our boyhood, afforded quite fair trout fishing, but subsequently it came to be silted up with gravel and covered over by weeds. It was during my grandmother's later years that the trees at and round Cray were at their best. The beeches and other hardwood, in particular, on the avenue and near the house,

have suffered much since then; and the removal of the older plantations of larch, fir and other trees from the slopes of Mount Blair has, to some extent, altered the appearance of the place.

The gardener, or rather "factotum," at Cray was usually a personality. Lake Falconer had left, I think, after my grandfather's death, if not earlier, but was tenant (for a time), at Broughenreid, and, like his wife, remained always a friend of the family. Alexander Fleming and Donald Gillies in turn succeeded, and were the trusted companions of our boyhood. Donald Gillies, a West Highlander from the Island of Raasay, afterwards married Martha Spalding (herself once a maid-servant at Cray), the widow of Sandy Fleming, his predecessor, and survived until 1916. These men added much to our happiness and comfort when at Cray, and I would pay a tribute to their memory now.

One word more should be added about my grandmother. While in India, she and her husband were much influenced by the "Low," or Evangelical, section of the Anglican Church, which, through the well-known Captain Hedley Vicars and others had a considerable following in military circles there. In Scotland, however, though thus influenced (and bred, indeed, an Anglican), she joined and supported the Free

Kirk and was a devoted worshipper in the little Church at Cray. A deeply religious woman, my grandmother carried her principles into daily life. For many years she taught a Sunday class for young people at Cray, a duty later taken over by her niece—our "Aunt Mary" Robertson. I might perhaps add that she was a voluminous letter-writer, finding pleasure in what is to-day almost a lost art. She wrote a beautiful "Italian" hand and kept in touch with a long list of correspondents. On her motherless grandchildren she lavished a thoughtful and affectionate care which it was not perhaps until later years they came to understand and appreciate fully. And though nearly forty-seven years have passed since she was laid to rest, I venture to think that in Glenshee, as well as elsewhere, she is still remembered with respect and esteem.

Of my grandfather's brothers, William also entered the army. He was twice married, and by his first wife had two children, William, who was drowned at sea as a young man, and Mary Georgina. The latter was taken by my grandparents to Cray, and brought up (though younger) along with her cousin, my own mother. We always knew her as "Aunt Mary." Cray was her home until my grandmother died. She never married, and died at Bridge of Allan on 2nd June, 1907, in her 65th year. Major

William Robertson had three children by his second wife, viz. :—Kate, who died in 1881, John—still living*—(now a widower with children), and Jessie, otherwise “Essie,” unmarried, also still surviving.

Alexander N. Robertson (“Uncle Alick”) I knew intimately. He had at one time been in business abroad, but for many years lived in London, spending his summers in Glenshee, and devoted to angling, an art in which he excelled. He had two sons, Percy and Willie. Percy married a Miss Yeo, a woman of much charm, whom I met more than once. They eventually went to South Africa and both died there, he in 1917, she only in 1934. They had a son, Noel, and two daughters. Noel was for a time in Glasgow as a lad, and is now in Johannesburg, married, but with no family. Willie Robertson followed the sea. He was married twice, lived latterly in Australia and died there. He left several children, I believe.

My grand-uncle Jasper I never met. He was a freight-broker in Calcutta and returned to this country in 1872 or 1873. He was married and had a number of children, some of whom I remember. He visited Cray in June 1873, but my brother James and I were not there at the time. Our sister, however, was. A singular

* John has died since this was written, 4th July, 1935, in his 79th year.

accident took place on, or about, the 26th of that month, to the party from Cray. A picnic had been planned to Loch Bainie, and Uncle Jasper and our sister Feddy had gone on, in the morning, to the Loch. The ladies followed in a farm cart, the party consisting of my grandmother, Mrs Jasper Robertson, her daughter Georgina (or “Joey”), Aunt Mary, and our small twin half-sisters, Barbara and Grace Williamson. The cart had been taken safely through the ford over the River Shee, near Finegand, and was proceeding along the river bank, when the driver, Sandy Fleming, stepped forward to remove a fallen branch which had blocked the track. The horse attempted to follow, and it was said that Joey Robertson tried to check the animal by seizing the reins. The horse, at all events, backed, and the wheels turning, the cart went over the adjoining bank into the river. Only the two older ladies were badly hurt. Mrs Jasper Robertson sustained injuries to her back and my grandmother to her head, her temple artery being cut. Assistance was at once got from Finegand, where our good friends, William Shaw and Mrs Shaw, rendered every possible help. Very providentially, Dr Lunan from Blairgowrie and Dr MacDonald of Kirkmichael, both happened to be passing up the Glen and Dr Lunan was able to

stitch the wound in my grandmother's forehead. She received a nasty shock, however, and indeed both ladies had a merciful escape. My grandmother bore the mark of the cut to her dying day.

Uncle Jasper did not die until 1877. His daughters Joey and Amy I met more than once, and I knew his son Charley. The latter went, I think, to Brazil or the West Indies. Amy married a Mr Shaw, and went to India. Their son, Douglas Shaw, studied engineering in Glasgow and was intimate there with my sister's family (the Yellowlees). He subsequently went to India, joined the forces during the war, and was sent to East Africa where he succumbed, I believe, to fever. When in London in 1882 I saw Mrs Jasper Robertson, then, of course, a widow—the only occasion I ever met her. I think her youngest son was at school, after that date, in Bridge of Allan, many years ago now; but I have lost all trace of the family.

Of my grandfather's sisters, Susan was the only one I ever remember meeting, the others, indeed, having all died before I had completed my fifth year. Aunt Susan, however, I recollect very well, as I saw her on several occasions. She lived till 1887 and was never married. Of the others in the Family Bible List, as already given,

Catherine Arabella died young.
 Georgina became Mrs Guild.
 Eliza became Mrs Stephenson.
 Jane became Mrs Scott.
 Catherine May Ann became Mrs Walker.
 and Helen became Mrs Astley.

Catherine May Ann Robertson, who became Mrs Walker, and died in Australia, had two daughters, Jane Robertson Walker and Helen Astley Walker. These girls, left orphaned, were educated by their father's sister, in Glasgow, Mrs David McCowan, and with them I was at one time very intimate. Helen Walker ("Nellie") was deaf and dumb. She died in 1907. Jane, or Jeanie, married the Revd. A. Scott Matheson, and after being a widow for some years, died also. She left a son.

Federata Cutcliffe Whitlock, as my grandmother was before her marriage, had several brothers, two of whom were in the Army. George, the elder, served in India, and distinguished himself during the Mutiny there. He was made a K.C.B. I have visited his grave in Heavitree Churchyard, Exeter, where the stone bears the inscription:—

Lt.-Gn. Sir George Cornish Whitlock,
 Col. of H. M.'s 108th Regt.,
 Died 30th January, 1868—Aged 69 years.

His wife is buried beside him. There were two daughters of the marriage. John Whitlock, a younger brother of George, was a fellow officer of my grandfather in India. I recollect his widow. He had a son, John, who entered the army also, but sold out after a few years, studied medicine, and became a general practitioner in London. I remember him being at Cray when he was a medical student. He died in 1908. One of his daughters, Dr Ada M. Whitlock, has a medical degree and holds an appointment in England, in connection, I think, with Factories. She lives in Amersham, Bucks. John Whitlock (Senior) had a daughter, Alice, whom I recollect very well at Cray, and met also many years later, in Glasgow. She died in 1924, unmarried.

We proceed now to the younger generation. My own mother, Catherine Charlotte Robertson, my grandparents' only child, was married to my father, the Revd. H. M. Williamson, on September 18th, 1855. The marriage took place on the lawn at Cray. He was born at Lisnadill, near Armagh, and after being at school at Kilkenny, proceeded to Trinity College, Dublin, and thereafter attended the Divinity Classes at New College, Edinburgh. He was ordained in 1850 at Dunblane, and after a pastorate there, moved to Huntly in May, 1855, where he remained until

February, 1867. To him and my mother were born there five children, viz. :—

James Robert David	Born Sept.	19, 1856.
Henry McIlree	Born July	31, 1858.
Federata	Born April	29, 1860.

and two younger boys, who both died in infancy. Our mother died at Huntly, 11th September, 1864, and is buried there. Our father removed to the Free High Church, Aberdeen, in February, 1867, and from there, in March, 1870, to Fisherwick Place Presbyterian Church, Belfast, of which he remained the Minister for twenty-eight years. He died on 29th December, 1898, in his 73rd year, and is buried in Belfast.

My brother, James Williamson, had succeeded to Cray, but he died at Rothesay (where he was Minister of the West Free Church), on 18th November, 1891. He was but thirty-five years of age. He married in August, 1882, Luisa Constance Rothead, and was survived by her and three children, viz. :—

Catherine Constance, Henry Rothead, and Evelyn Whitlock.

Henry Rothead Williamson inherited Cray, but as he was only a boy when his father died, the place was let during his minority; and his aunt, Mrs Yellowlees, and her husband, became the tenants. My sister Federata had been

married to Dr. David Yellowlees, Mental Specialist, Glasgow, on 20th January, 1886. During their tenancy of Cray, the place was well kept up. Henry took it into his own hands when he became of age, but later on he was absent on military service during the war and eventually decided to part with the property. It was bought, in the Autumn of 1920, by his aunt, Mrs Yellowlees. Shortly thereafter, Dr Yellowlees died, 19th January, 1921, in Edinburgh. He was in his eighty-fifth year, being much older than his wife. As soon as necessary repairs to the house could be effected, the widow moved into Cray. She had occupied it, however, for little more than six months when, on 22nd October, 1921, she died very suddenly there. I was a guest at Cray at the time. My sister and her husband are buried at Stirling.

Dr and Mrs Yellowlees had three children, David, Henry and Mary. The elder son, Dr David Yellowlees, succeeded to Cray, but after a twelvemonth he, too, disposed of it. It was put up to auction in Edinburgh in November, 1922, and bought for £5,600 by Major J. A. Don.

This gentleman has, I understand, improved and enlarged the house and introduced electric light, but as Cray has now gone from the Robertsons and their descendants, these notes

must close. The loved old home remains for us only a cherished memory of "the days that are no more."

No attempt has been made to describe Cray, but it may be mentioned that this little property of some 360 or 370 acres is situated in Perthshire at the Southern extremity of Glenshee. It is distant some $14\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Blairgowrie and $5\frac{1}{2}$ from the Spital and lies on the left bank of the river Shee, which forms its western boundary. The fences on its southern and eastern sides divide, at this point, the counties of Perth and Angus. South of Cray the district is known as Blackwater. To its north lies the estate of Dalnaglar. Access to the house is gained by a road which connects that between Blairgowrie and Braemar with one to Glen Isla, the river being crossed by a bridge just outside the avenue gate. There is a small grouse moor on the slopes of Mount Blair, a well-known landmark, which rises immediately to the east. The House is (or was) a plain white harled structure of three storeys, but its front is broken by a porch and relieved by winged gables at each end, which in our time were largely covered with ivy and creepers. The place was at one time beautifully wooded. There is a fine view to the south-west across the river and over the moors.

Of Cray, the writer of these notes may declare, in Goldsmith's lines :—

“Where'er I roam, whatever realms to see,
My heart untravell'd fondly turns to thee.”



