

**The Family of William Greig**  
**A study of a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Aberdeenshire Working Class Family**

By Vicky Stol, for ProGen 55

Life during the Victorian Era in Scotland was especially challenging for the working-class poor. Although poor relief assistance existed, assistance was not available to the “able-bodied” who struggled to care for their families as described below.<sup>1</sup>

*“For some working families, the living conditions were so pathetic that they required their children to work in order to bring home some extra income to survive. The death of their father meant that there is no income to the family, and they eventually were forced to live on streets or some public housing.”<sup>2</sup>*

This was especially true for the Greig family following the death of husband and father William Greig, who died on 26 October 1889, leaving behind his widow Ann and their many children.<sup>3</sup> Life could not have been easy for the children and Ann. Following William’s death, the children old enough to fend for themselves, left home. Three others were placed in Industrial Schools. The two youngest remained with their mother, Ann, who on 8 May 1890, was sentenced to ten days in prison for child abandonment and neglect, defending herself by claiming she was out trying to fend for them.<sup>4</sup> Just three years later, Ann Lute Greig died on 6 January 1892, in the City Poorhouse of Aberdeen Scotland, at the age of 42.<sup>5</sup>

**Ann’s Early Life:** Ann Lute was born on 9 February 1850 and baptized in the Church of Scotland on 10 April 1850 in Aberdeen, Scotland, the daughter of Thomas Lute and Sarah Hamilton.<sup>6</sup> Ann’s parents were immigrants to Scotland: Thomas, a hose web weaver, was originally from Newry, Armagh, Ireland, and

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<sup>1</sup> Knox, W. W. “A History of The Scottish People Poverty, Income and Wealth in Scotland 1840-1940” Chapter 5, page 2, *SCRAN*, (<https://www.scran.ac.uk/scotland/>: accessed 10 April 2022).

<sup>2</sup> “Victorian Era Society and Social Class Structure” webpage, *Victorian Era* (<http://victorian-era.org/>: accessed 22 March 2022).

<sup>3</sup> “Statutory Registers of Deaths,” database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> : accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, p.316, #947 William Greig death registration, 26 October 1889, registered 28 October 1889, St. Nicholas Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/1 947.

<sup>4</sup> “Shameful Neglect of Child, Drink and Miser,” *Aberdeen Evening Express*, Aberdeen, Scotland ,8 May 1890, *The British Newspaper Archive* ([www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk): accessed 22 March 2022) col 1; citing print edition.

<sup>5</sup> “Statutory Registers of Deaths,” database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> : accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, p. 9, Ann Greig death registration, 6 January 1892, registered 7 January 1892, St. Nicholas Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/1 26.

<sup>6</sup> “Old Parish Register Births,” database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, Ann Lute, birth registration, 4 April 1850, City of Aberdeen; citing OPR no. 168/a 60.

Sarah was born in Jersey, Channel Islands.<sup>7</sup> Ann's parents, Thomas and Sarah were residing in Aberdeen as early as 1839 when their first child, Thomas was born on 17 July 1839.<sup>8</sup>

Aberdeen was a city well known for linen manufacturing, and as opposed to Ireland during the 1830s, offered more opportunities to earn a livable wage. Scotland of the 1820s-1840s saw a number of Irish immigrants with "highly valued textiles and jute knowledge" immigrate from areas in Northern Ireland that produced linen and yarn.<sup>9</sup> Perhaps this is why Ann's father Thomas, a weaver, from Northern Ireland, chose to immigrate to Aberdeen.

While living conditions may have been better in Scotland than in Ireland, life was not easy for an Irish immigrant. The arrival of Irish immigrants to Scotland meant an increase in competition for good jobs, which resulted in tensions and discrimination towards the Irish. Irish Catholics faced even greater hardships. As a result of the Scottish Reformation of 1560, Scotland adopted Presbyterian as the country's religion, and at the same time outlawed the practice of the Catholic mass. Although the Catholic Emancipations of 1792 and 1829 helped to ease some of the restrictions placed on Catholics, prejudices still remained as the majority of Scotland's population still practiced Presbyterianism.<sup>10</sup> Based on the baptism of the family's youngest child, Thomas, who was baptized in the Roman Catholic Church, the family was likely of the Catholic faith in 1839.<sup>11</sup> These two factors probably made life a bit challenging for the Lute family.

Did the trials of living in Scotland as an Irish Catholic become too difficult? It is hard to tell, but it seems the family may have left the Catholic Church by 1850, when Ann was baptized in the Church of Scotland. Further, starting in 1861, census records began identifying Ann's father Thomas as English.<sup>12</sup> Was this an error or intentional? Given the political climate of the time, Thomas may have chosen to identify as a Presbyterian Englishman rather than Irish Catholic.

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<sup>7</sup> "1851 Census of Scotland," Old Machar, Aberdeen, database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* ([www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk): accessed 10 March 2022) p. 32, #147, household of Thomas Luke [sic] (age 42); citing census 168/B 30/32.

<sup>8</sup> "Catholic Registers Births and Baptisms", database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, Thomas Luke [Lute], 17 July 1839, registered 5 August 1867, St Mary's with St Peter's, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Church Records, MP 10 1 2 5 9.

<sup>9</sup> Santry, Claire. "Irish immigration to Scotland" webpage, *Irish Genealogy Toolkit* (<https://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/>: accessed 22 March 2022).

<sup>10</sup> *Wikipedia* ([www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org); accessed 22 March 2022), "Catholic Church in Scotland", rev. edited on revision: 5 March 2022, at 19:43.

<sup>11</sup> "Catholic Registers Births and Baptisms", database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, Thomas Luke [Lute], born 17 July 1839, registered 5 August 1867, St Mary's with St Peter's, Aberdeen.

<sup>12</sup> "1861 Census of Scotland," Old Machar, Aberdeen, database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* ([www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk): accessed 10 March 2022) p. 42, #220, household of Thomas Lute (age 54); citing census 168/ 24/42.

Ann spent the first ten years of her life residing at 9 North Broadford Place.<sup>13</sup> As it happens the Lutes' home was just down the street from Broadford Works, a flax spinning mill, which produced linen and jute products. Well-known for the production of fire hoses, Broadford Works was one of the largest employers in Aberdeen in the 1800s.<sup>14</sup> Although it cannot be confirmed through employment records, it seems likely that Ann's father, Thomas, who was described in the 1861 census as a "flax hose web weaver", could have been employed by Broadford Works.<sup>15</sup>

Growing up in Scotland in the mid-1800s was difficult for children of the working class. It was common to see children working outside of the home as they were expected to help support their families. During the early to mid-1800s, textile employers viewed children as cheap labor, and pushed them to work long hours. In fact, at times more children could be found working in a mill than adults.<sup>16</sup> Ann's siblings were part of that work force. By 1861, Mary, age 16 was employed as a flax spinner and Ann's brother William, age 13, a comb maker jobber. Ann, age 11, was fortunate to still be attending school.<sup>17</sup>

Just five years later, at age 16 and 8 months, Ann, a "spinster" married William Greig "a bachelor" (also age 16<sup>18</sup>) on 2 November 1866 at 45 Causewayend, in Aberdeen, Scotland, where they were both residents. At that time, Ann was described as a flax mill worker and William as a comb maker, and both indicating on the record that they were age 18.<sup>19</sup> Although the minimum age to marry in Scotland at the time was 12 for girls and 14 for boys, marriage at a young age was rarely practiced.<sup>20</sup> In fact, the average age for a first marriages at the time was age 25.<sup>21</sup> Even though it was legal to marry at age 16, perhaps it was more socially acceptable for Ann and William to claimed to be 18 when they married.

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<sup>13</sup> "1851 Census of Scotland," Old Machar, Aberdeen, database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, household of Thomas Luke [sic] (age 42); and 1861 Census of Scotland, Old Machar, Aberdeen, database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, p. 42, #220, household of Thomas Lute (age 54) .

<sup>14</sup> "The History and Heritage of the City of Aberdeen- Broadford Works ~ A Dark Satanic Mill," *Doric Columns* (<https://doriccolumns.wordpress.com/>: accessed 20 March 2022).

<sup>15</sup> "1861 Census of Scotland," Old Machar, Aberdeen, database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* ([www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk): accessed 10 March 2022) p. 42, #220, household of Thomas Lute (age 54) ; citing census 168/ 24/42.

<sup>16</sup> Stewart, Suzy. "Victorian Child Labor and the Conditions They Worked In, Factories and Textile Mills", *Victorian Children* (<https://victorianchildren.org/victorian-child-labor/>: accessed 20 March 2022).

<sup>17</sup> "1861 Census of Scotland," Old Machar, Aberdeen, database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, household of Thomas Lute.

<sup>18</sup> "Catholic Registers Births and Baptisms" , database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, William Greig, 22 November 1849 , registered 5 August 1867, St Mary's with St Peter's, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Church Records, MP 10 1 1 3 50.

<sup>19</sup> "Statutory Registers of Marriages," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> : accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, p. 141 #282 William Greig and Ann Lute, marriage registration, 2 November 1866, registered 5 November 1866 St. Nicholas Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/1 282.

<sup>20</sup> Scottish Government "What Was and Is the Minimum Age for Marriage in Scotland?" *National Records of Scotland* (<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/>: accessed 20 March 2022 ) citing *Vital registration: a manual of the law and practice concerning the registration of births, deaths, and marriages*. (G T Bisset-Smith. 1st edition. Edinburgh: William Green & Sons, 1902).

<sup>21</sup> "How to celebrate a Victorian wedding," *History Extra* (<https://www.historyextra.com/period/victorian/how-to-celebrate-victorian-wedding-dresses-food-honeymoon/>: accessed 15 April 2022).

**William's Early Life:** William Greig, the son of John Greig and Janet Fraser, was born 30 September 1849 in Aberdeen, Scotland, and baptized on 22 November 1849 in the Roman Catholic Church of St. Peters, also in Aberdeen.<sup>22</sup> William's parents John Greig and Janet Fraser were married in 1845 in Aberdeen, John was a wood sawyer born in nearby Stonehaven and Janet Fraser was born in Aberdeen.<sup>23</sup>

Unfortunately for the family, John struggled with mental illness and was in and out of the asylum during his life, and likely did not provide a lot of support for the family. John was institutionalized first in November of 1852, and was described as "having attacks of mania" when William was just a toddler. John was discharged from the asylum in June 1853.<sup>24</sup> However, throughout the rest of his life, John continued to be institutionalized at various points. Although poor laws covered relief for the insane, they did not provide support for their families, leaving Janet to provide for the family.<sup>25</sup>

Fortunately, Janet's mother, Christina was still living and likely helped to support Janet and her children. Residing together in 1851, Christina at age 68 was working as a shop keeper, residing with her daughter Janet, a "laborer's wife", granddaughter Catherine age 2 and grandson William age 1. John was not shown in the home.<sup>26</sup> Times must have been difficult for Janet who was basically a single mother caring for her children. The record of her son David's birth in 1855 indicates she was the mother of six children, but only 3 living. Just three years later, David would also die from "marasmus" otherwise known as malnourishment likely caused by poverty.<sup>27</sup> Janet would go on to have another son, Thomas, born 18 June 1858,<sup>28</sup> but he too died young, just two years later on 8 August 1859.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> "Catholic Registers Births and Baptisms", database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, digital image, William Greig, 22 November 1849, registered 5 August 1867, St Mary's with St Peter's, Burgh of Aberdeen.

<sup>23</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, David Fraser Greig birth registration, 08 November 1855, registered 21 November 1855, St. Nicholas Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/1 1135.

<sup>24</sup> Aberdeen Insane Asylum, Admission Register, volume reference GRHB 2/3/8, "Case Notes," copy, page 233, John Greig, age 46, sawyer, married, 11 November 1852. Photocopy in the possession of Vicky Stol.

<sup>25</sup> For poor relief provided to John, Poor Relief Records, Aberdeen, General Register of Poor Belonging to John Greig, Lunatic, p 214, digital image, in possession of Vicky Stol. For poor relief laws, Knox, W. W. "A History of The Scottish People Poverty, Income and Wealth in Scotland 1840-1940" Chapter 5, page 2, *SCRAN*, (<https://www.scran.ac.uk/scotland/>: accessed 10 April 2022).

<sup>26</sup> "Victorian Era Society and Social Class Structure" webpage, *Victorian Era* (<http://victorian-era.org/>: accessed 22 March 2022).

<sup>27</sup> "1851 Census of Scotland," Old Machar, Aberdeen, database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* ([www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/): accessed 10 March 2022) household of Christina Fraser (age 68); citing census 168/A 21/27.

<sup>28</sup> "Marasmus" webpage, *Byju's* (<https://byjus.com/biology/marasmus/>: accessed 20 March 2022).

<sup>28</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 14 March 2022) digital image Thomas Fraser Barron birth registration, 18 June 1858, registered 21 June 1858, St. Nicholas Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/1 175.

<sup>29</sup> "Statutory Registers of Deaths," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, Thomas Fraser or Greig or Barron, death registration, 8 August 1859, registered 9 August 1859, St. Nicholas Parish Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/1 175. [cause of death not shown].

In 1861, John returned to the family for a period, where the family resided in a tenement home at 45 Causewayend, Aberdeen. The Greig family was fortunate: their flat had two windows, while many in the same building only had one.<sup>30</sup> Tenement housing was common. According to the 1861 census, 71% of all families in Scotland lived in residences with only one or two rooms. The rooms were small, a mere 14 feet by 11.5 feet, many with only one window.<sup>31</sup>

**Married Life:** William and Ann likely met in the tenement house in which they both resided when they married in 1866. Their first child Catharine would be born just 9 months later on 26 July 1867. Her father, William was present at her birth, as indicated by his signature. Her mother Ann, signed with her X mark.<sup>32</sup> Although Ann attended school until at least age 11, she may not have been able to read or write, as suggested by her “x” mark on daughter Catherine’s birth certificate.

William Greig and Ann Lute would go on to have 11 additional known children: son William born in 1869,<sup>33</sup> Ann born in 1871,<sup>34</sup> John born in 1872,<sup>35</sup> Charles born in 1874,<sup>36</sup> a 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter named Catherine born in 1876,<sup>37</sup> Florence born in 1879,<sup>38</sup> Sarah born in 1882,<sup>39</sup> Isabella born in 1883,<sup>40</sup> Simon born in

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<sup>30</sup> “1861 Census of Scotland,” St. Nicholas Parish, Aberdeen, database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk: accessed 10 March 2022) Jannet Fraser (age 46) ; citing census 168/ 1 25/25.

<sup>31</sup> Knox, W.W. “ A History Of The Scottish People, Urban Housing In Scotland 1840-1940” Chapter 4, page2.

<sup>32</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/: accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, Catharine Greig, birth registration, 26 July 1867, registered 5 August 1867, St. Nicholas Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/2 0164.

<sup>33</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/: accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, William Greig birth registration, 4 May 1869, registered 24 May 1869, Old Machar Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/2 491.

<sup>34</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/: accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, p. 93, Ann Greig birth registration, 9 February 1871, registered 24 February 1871, St. Nicholas Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/1 293.

<sup>35</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/: accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, p. 159, John Luke Greig birth registration, 08 December 1872, registered 28 February 1869, St. Nicholas Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/1 475.

<sup>36</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/: accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, p. 536, Charles Greig birth registration, 07 November 1874, registered 24 November 1874, St. Nicholas Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/1 1608.

<sup>37</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/: accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, p. 101, Catharine Greig birth registration, 14 February 1876, registered 28 February 1869, St. Nicholas Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/1 1301.

<sup>38</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/: accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, p. 253 Florence Greig birth registration, 5 May 1879, registered 22 May 1879, St. Nicholas Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/1 758.

<sup>39</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/ : accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, p. 36, Sarah Greig birth registration, 02 January 1882, registered 18 January 1882, St. Nicholas Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/1 107.

<sup>40</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/: accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, p. 546, Isabella Greig birth registration, 06 November 1883, registered 12 November 1883, St. Nicholas Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/1 1637.

1885,<sup>41</sup> Janet born in 1887<sup>42</sup> and Douglas born in 1889.<sup>43</sup> Unfortunately, William and Ann's son Charles and their oldest daughter Catherine died in childhood. Passing away in the same year, Catherine died on 24 July 1874 of tuberculous meningitis (otherwise known as TB)<sup>44</sup> and Charles, just an infant, died on 19 December 1874 of bronchitis.<sup>45</sup>

William supported his family working as a comb maker, likely for Aberdeen Comb Works. Aberdeen Comb Works, located on Hutcheon Street, as of 1851 was the largest comb maker in the United Kingdom, eventually becoming the largest in the world.<sup>46</sup> It is no surprise that the family resided on Hutcheon Street near the comb factory in 1871. While William was working as a comb maker, Ann did not work and likely stayed home to care for the couple's large family.<sup>47</sup> William would work as a comb maker until his death in 1889 from stomach cancer.<sup>48</sup>

Life for his family was not easy following William's death. Several newspaper articles describe the downfall of Ann and her children. An article published on 28 March 1890 detailed a Sheriff's Courts proceedings in which Florence Greig (age 10) Sarah Greig (age 8) Isabella Greig (age 6) and Simon Fraser Greig (age 4) were found without proper guardianship. Their elder brother, William, told the court that his father died five months prior and since then their situation had gone from "bad to worse" as his mother had been intoxicated for some time. He described the home as having one bed, as most of the furniture had disappeared. William had tried to help the family financially, but reported his mother just used the money for alcohol. Ann's brother William Lute also testified indicating Ann was addicted to alcohol and spent all her the money on it, even pawning the family's furniture. As a result, Florence,

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<sup>41</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, p. 494, Simon Fraser Greig birth registration, 02 October 1885, registered 28 February 1869, St. Nicholas Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/1 1482

<sup>42</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, p. 513, Janet Fraser Greig birth registration, 08 October 1887, registered 19 October 1887, St. Nicholas Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/1 539.

<sup>43</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, p. 159, Douglas Greig birth registration, 28 March 1889, registered 9 April 1889, St. Nicholas Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/1 475.

<sup>44</sup> "Statutory Registers of Deaths," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, p. 9, Catharine Greig death registration, 24 July 1874, registered 24 July 1874, St. Nicholas Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/1 725.

<sup>45</sup> "Statutory Registers of Deaths," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, Charles Greig death registration, 19 December 1874 registered 21 December 1874, St. Nicholas Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/1 1129.

<sup>46</sup> "The History and Heritage of the City of Aberdeen- Aberdeen Comb Works," *Doric Columns* (<https://doriccolumns.wordpress.com/>: accessed 20 March 2022).

<sup>47</sup> "1871 Census of Scotland," St. Nicholas Parish, Aberdeen, database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, ([www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/): accessed 10 March 2022) p. 13, household of William Greig (age 21) ; citing census 168/1 25/13.

<sup>48</sup> "Statutory Registers of Deaths," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, digital image, p. 316, #947 William Greig death registration, 26 October 1889, registered 28 October 1889, St. Nicholas Parish, Aberdeen.

Sarah, Isabella, and Simon were sent to Industrial Schools.<sup>49</sup> Industrial Schools were created to help with childhood delinquency. The schools were meant to help neglected children by teaching them a usable trade allowing them to care for themselves and prevent them from turning to crime.<sup>50</sup>

Less than two months later, Ann would again appear in court facing charges of child neglect. Ann was accused of leaving her daughter Jessie (aka Janet) and infant son Douglas without sufficient food or clothing. While in court, Ann testified she began to drink when her husband William passed away several months ago. This time, Ann would be sentenced to ten days in prison and the children would be removed from her care.<sup>51</sup> Ann died of acute alcoholism in the city poor house on 6 January 1892, a little over two years after the death of her husband, William.<sup>52</sup>

Sadly, two of William and Ann's children would pass away while inmates of Industrial Schools. Florence Greig, passed away on 27 September 1891<sup>53</sup> and Simon Fraser Greig- just 5 years old- died on 1 May 1891,<sup>54</sup> a little over a year after being placed in the Industrial School. The couple's oldest son, William, would go on to fight in the Boer War where he was killed during battle on 24 January 1900.<sup>55</sup> The couple's two youngest children Douglas and Janet would be placed in the poor house until they were taken in by a foster family in 1893.<sup>56</sup> Douglas and Janet would later immigrate to Canada with their foster parents, the McCurrachs.<sup>57</sup> From Canada, Douglas would immigrate to the United States, becoming a US citizen in 1937.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> "Sad Cases of Misery and Starvation" *Aberdeen Press and Journal*, Aberdeen, Scotland, 27 March 1890 *The British Newspaper Archive* ([www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk): accessed 22 March 2022) col 1; citing print edition.

<sup>50</sup> *Wikipedia* ([www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org): accessed 22 March 2022), "Industrial Schools", rev. edited on revision: 16 February 2022, at 18:02.

<sup>51</sup> "Shameful Neglect of Child, Drink and Misery" *Aberdeen Evening Express*, Aberdeen, Scotland, 08 May 1890 *The British Newspaper Archive* ([www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk): accessed 22 March 2022) col 1; citing print edition.

<sup>52</sup> "Statutory Registers of Deaths," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, digital image, p. 9, Ann Greig death registration, 06 January 1892, registered 7 January 1892, St. Nicholas Parish, Aberdeen.

<sup>53</sup> "Statutory Registers of Deaths," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, Florence Greig, death registration, 27 September 1891, registered 29 September 1891, Old Machar, Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/2 765.

<sup>54</sup> "Statutory Registers of Deaths," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>: accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, Simon Fraser Greig, death registration, 1 May 1891, registered 2 June 1891, Old Machar, Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/2 765.

<sup>55</sup> "UK, Casualties of the Boer War, 1899-1902" database, *Ancestry*, entry for W Greig, killed 24 Jan 1900.

<sup>56</sup> Siobahan Covery, Archivist, Archives, Aberdeen Scotland, to Vicky Greig, letter, 20 July 2000, search of City Parish relief records for Douglas and Janet [Jessie] Greig, 2000; privately held by Vicky Greig Stol, Berkley, Michigan. 2021.

<sup>57</sup> "Canada Passenger Lists, 1865-1935," database with images, *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com>: accessed 18 October 2021), manifest *SS Sardinia*, Glasgow, Scotland to Quebec and Montreal, Canada, arriving 16 June 1904, page 4, line 1490, Chas McCurrach; citing Passenger Lists, 1865-1935, Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa, Ontario.

<sup>58</sup> "Michigan, Eastern and Western Districts, Naturalization Records, 1837-1993", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:ZC7D-ZXMM>: accessed 18 October 2021), Douglas Greig, filed 7 Jan 1937; citing Naturalization Petition and Record, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan, Southern Division, Detroit, Folder Number 102301089.

## GENEALOGY SUMMARY

### *Generation One*

1. **WILLIAM GREIG**, son of John Greig and Janet Fraser, was born 22 November 1849 in Aberdeen, Scotland,<sup>59</sup> and died 26 October 1889 in Aberdeen, Scotland.<sup>60</sup> On 2 November 1866 in Aberdeen, Scotland, William married Ann Lute, daughter of Thomas Lute and Sarah Hamilton.<sup>61</sup> Ann Lute, was born 4 April 1850, and baptized 14 April 1850 in Aberdeen, Scotland.<sup>62</sup> She died 2 November 1892 in Aberdeen, Scotland.<sup>63</sup>

William and Ann were the parents of 12 children- only 7 identified below due to space limitations:

### *Generation Two*

- i. CATHARINE GREIG, born 26 July 1867,<sup>64</sup> died 24 July 1874 both in Aberdeen, Scotland.<sup>65</sup>
- ii. WILLIAM GREIG, born 4 May 1869 in Aberdeen, Scotland,<sup>66</sup> died 24 January 1900 in Spion Kop, South Africa.<sup>67</sup>
2. iii. ANN GREIG, born 9 February 1871,<sup>68</sup> died 2 January 1966 both in Aberdeen, Scotland.<sup>69</sup> On June 1890 in Aberdeen Scotland, she married John Wright Smith.<sup>70</sup>
3. iv. JOHN LUKE GREIG, born 8 December 1872,<sup>71</sup> died 22 March 1937 both in Aberdeen, Scotland.<sup>72</sup> On 4 May 1894 in Aberdeen, Scotland, he married Jane Duncan.<sup>73</sup>

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<sup>59</sup>"Catholic Registers Births and Baptisms," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, digital image, William Greig, 22 November 1849, registered 5 August 1867, St Mary's with St Peter's, Aberdeen.

<sup>60</sup> "Statutory Registers of Deaths," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, digital image, p. 316, #947 William Greig death registration, 26 October 1889, registered 28 October 1889, St. Nicholas Parish, Aberdeen.

<sup>61</sup> "Statutory Registers of Marriages," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, digital image, William Greig and Ann Lute, marriage registration, 2 November 1866, registered 5 November 1866 St. Nicholas, Aberdeen.

<sup>62</sup> "Old Parish Register Births and Baptisms," database with digital image, *ScotlandsPeople*, entry for Ann Lute, born 4 April 1850, Aberdeen.

<sup>63</sup> "Statutory Registers of Deaths," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, digital image, p. 9, Ann Greig death registration, 06 January 1892, registered 7 January 1892, St. Nicholas Parish, Aberdeen.

<sup>64</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, digital image, Catharine Greig birth registration, 26 July 1867, registered 5 August 1867, St. Nicholas, Aberdeen.

<sup>65</sup> "Statutory Registers of Deaths," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, digital image, p. 9, Catharine Greig death registration, 24 July 1874, registered 24 July 1874, St. Nicholas Parish, Aberdeen.

<sup>66</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, digital image, William Greig birth registration, 4 May 1869, registered 24 May 1869, Old Machar, Aberdeen.

<sup>67</sup> "UK, Casualties of the Boer War, 1899-1902" database, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1912/>; accessed 22 March 2022) entry for W Greig, killed 24 Jan 1900; citing Military-Genealogy.com, comp. Boer War Casualties 1899-1902. The Naval and Military Press Ltd. [www.military-genealogy.com](http://www.military-genealogy.com).

<sup>68</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, digital image, p. 93, Ann Greig birth registration, 9 February 1871, registered 24 February 1871, St. Nicholas, Aberdeen.

<sup>69</sup> "Statutory Registers of Deaths," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>; accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, p. 9, Ann Smith death registration, 2 January 1966, registered 4 January 1966, Southern Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/2 14.

<sup>70</sup> "Statutory Registers of Marriages," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>; accessed 14 March 2022) digital image John Wright Smith and Ann Greig, marriage registration, 20 June 1894, registered 23 June 1890, Old Machar Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/2 37.

<sup>71</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, digital image, p. 159, John Luke Greig birth registration, 08 December 1872, registered 28 February 1869, St. Nicholas Parish, Aberdeen.



- v. CHARLES GREIG, born 07 November 1874,<sup>74</sup> died 19 December 1874, both in Aberdeen, Scotland.<sup>75</sup>
4. vi. CATHERINE GREIG, born 14 February 1876,<sup>76</sup> died 17 December 1936, both in Aberdeen, Scotland.<sup>77</sup> She married James Hepburn on 13 Jul 1894 in Aberdeen, Scotland.<sup>78</sup>
- vii. FLORENCE GREIG, born 22 May 1879<sup>79</sup> died 27 September 1891<sup>80</sup> both in Aberdeen Scotland.
5. vii. ISABELLA GREIG, born 6 November 1883,<sup>81</sup> died 8 September 1967, both in Aberdeen, Scotland. She married Charles Henderson Grant on 10 June 1904 in Aberdeen, Scotland.<sup>82</sup>

### PROOF SUMMARY

According to family history, William Greig, son of William Greig and Ann Lute, was killed in the Boer War.<sup>83</sup> No record of his death has been found. This is not uncommon, as rarely were non-commissioned officers killed in action identified by name.<sup>84</sup> However, an evaluation of available evidence substantiates the argument that William Greig, son of William Greig and Ann Lute, did die in the Boer War.

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<sup>72</sup> "Statutory Registers of Deaths," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> : accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, John Greig death registration, 22 March 1937, registered 23 March 1937, Eastern District of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/3 192.

<sup>73</sup> "Statutory Registers of Marriages," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> : accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, John Greig and Jane Duncan, marriage registration, 4 May 1894, registered 8 May 1894, St. Nicholas Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/1 189.

<sup>74</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* ,) digital image, p. 536, Charles Greig birth registration, 07 November 1874, registered 24 November 1874, St. Nicholas, Aberdeen.

<sup>75</sup> "Statutory Registers of Deaths," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, digital image, Charles Greig death registration, 19 December 1874 registered 21 December 1874, St. Nicholas, Aberdeen.

<sup>76</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, digital image, p. 101, Catharine Greig birth registration, 14 February 1876, registered 28 February 1876, St. Nicholas Parish Aberdeen.

<sup>77</sup> "Statutory Registers of Deaths," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> : accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, Catherine Hepburn, death registration, 17 December 1936, registered 19 December 1936, Northern District of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/1 1254.

<sup>78</sup> "Statutory Registers of Marriages," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> : accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, James Hepburn and Catherine Greig, marriage registration, 4 May 1894, registered 8 May 1894, St. Nicholas Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/1 380.

<sup>79</sup> Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, digital image, p. 253 Florence Greig birth registration, 5 May 1879, registered 22 May 1879, St. Nicholas Parish, Aberdeen.

<sup>80</sup> Statutory Registers of Deaths," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, digital image, Florence Greig, death registration, 27 September 1891, registered 29 September 1891, Old Machar, Aberdeen.

<sup>81</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, digital image, p. 546, Isabella Greig birth registration, 06 November 1883, registered 12 November 1883, St. Nicholas Parish, Aberdeen.

<sup>82</sup> National Records of Scotland, "Statutory Registers of Marriages," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> : accessed 14 March 2022) digital image Isabella Greig and Charles Henderson Grant, marriage registration, 10 June 1904, registered 13 June 1904, St. Nicholas Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 1681/ 328.

<sup>83</sup> Catherine Cooper, Greig Family Chart, dated July 1973, privately held by Vicky Greig Stol, 2005. Chart inherited upon passing of Helen Corkins Greig, spouse of Douglas Greig, son of William Greig and Ann Lute. Chart indicates William Greig died in Boer War, no date given.

<sup>84</sup> "Soldier's Records 1660- 1913," *National Army Museum*, ([https://web.archive.org/web/20160323205227/http://www.nam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/20150402\\_TSC\\_InformationSheet\\_2\\_RM.pdf](https://web.archive.org/web/20160323205227/http://www.nam.ac.uk/sites/default/files/20150402_TSC_InformationSheet_2_RM.pdf): accessed 15 April 2022).

William Greig, was born 4 May 1869 in Aberdeen, Scotland, son of William Greig and Ann Lute.<sup>85</sup> He is shown in both the 1871 and 1881 censuses residing with his parents and siblings.<sup>86</sup> William's father William, passed away in 1889, at which time William Greig, Jr. was residing in Aberdeen, Scotland.<sup>87</sup> Searches of the Statutory Register of Deaths in Scotland for a William Greig born between 1867-1871, mother's maiden name Lute, Luke, Luite or other phonetic matches, produced no matching results.<sup>88</sup>

The Boer War began in October 1899 in South Africa between the British Empire and the Boers of the Transvaal and Orange Free State, during which 7,582 British Forces were killed in action.<sup>89</sup> A search of UK Casualties during the Boer War for a William Greig produced no results. However, two W Greigs appear in the index. W O Greig, who died 5 January 1900, a member of the Border Regiment killed at Ladysmith, and a W Greig, who died 24 January 1900 a member of the Scottish Rifles (aka Cameronians) in Spion Kop.<sup>90</sup>

Although the available indexes only provide first initials, a search of Scottish newspaper publications a clue. The Glasgow Herald, published 31 January 1900, identifies "Cameronians" killed in the war and includes a "William Greig, reservist, 31 Stevenson Street, Aberdeen."<sup>91</sup> Further research identifies several of the residents of 31 Stevenson Street in Aberdeen in 1901 as James Hepburn, wife Catherine (age 25) and border, Isabella Greig (age 17), all born in Aberdeen, Scotland.<sup>92</sup>

Additional records confirm that Catherine Hepburn and Isabella Greig shown residing at 31 Stevenson Street in 1901 were William's sisters. Catherine Greig, daughter of William Greig and Ann Lute, married James Hepburn on 13 July 1894 in Aberdeen, Scotland. Age 18 at the time of her marriage, Catherine Greig Hepburn would have been age 25 in 1901, which agrees with the census entry noted.<sup>93</sup> Isabella Greig, daughter of William Greig and Ann Lute, was born in 1883 in Aberdeen, making her 17 years old in 1901 which agrees with her census entry.<sup>94</sup> Although no formal death record has been found, the news article and supportive census records seem to support the argument that William Greig, son of William Greig and Ann Lute died in the Boer War.

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<sup>85</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, digital image, William Greig birth registration, 4 May 1869, registered 24 May 1869, Old Machar, Aberdeen.

<sup>86</sup> "1871 Census of Scotland," St. Nicholas Parish, Aberdeen, database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, p. 13, household of William Greig and <sup>86</sup> 1881 Census of Scotland, St. Nicholas Parish, Aberdeen, database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, p. 24, #148, household of William Greig.

<sup>87</sup> "Statutory Registers of Deaths," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, digital image, p. 316, #947 William Greig death registration, 26 October 1889, registered 28 October 1889, St. Nicholas Parish, Aberdeen. [William shown as informant].

<sup>88</sup> William Greig did not appear in the Statutory Register of Deaths in Scotland, " database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> : accessed 14 March 2022) searches for William Greig, born 1867-1871, mother's maiden name Luke/Lute/Luite/or a phonetic match, produced no results.

<sup>89</sup> "Boer War begins in South Africa," webpage, *History* ([www.history.com](http://www.history.com): accessed 15 April 2022)

<sup>90</sup> "UK, Casualties of the Boer War, 1899-1902," database, Ancestry ([www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com): accessed 15 April 2022) search for W. Greig; citing Military-Genealogy.com, comp. *Boer War Casualties 1899-1902*. The Naval and Military Press Ltd. [www.military-genealogy.com](http://www.military-genealogy.com).

<sup>91</sup> "THE CAMERONIANS, Notes on the Killed and Wounded," *Glasgow Herald*, p.8, col. 1, 31 January 1900 digital image, *The British Newspaper Archive* (<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/viewer/bl/0000060/19000131/025/0008>: accessed 15 April 2022).

<sup>92</sup> "1901 Census of Scotland," St. Nicholas Parish, Aberdeen, database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* ([www.Scotlandspeople.com](http://www.Scotlandspeople.com): accessed 15 April 2022) p. 25 household of James Hepburn; citing census 168/2 11/A 25.0

<sup>93</sup> "Statutory Registers of Marriages," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> : accessed 14 March 2022) digital image, James Hepburn and Catherine Greig, marriage registration, 4 May 1894, registered 8 May 1894, St. Nicholas Parish, Burgh of Aberdeen; citing Statutory Registers no. 168/1 380.

<sup>94</sup> "Statutory Registers of Births," database with images, *ScotlandsPeople*, digital image, p. 546, Isabella Greig birth registration, 06 November 1883, registered 12 November 1883, St. Nicholas Parish, Aberdeen.