



Paternal line of
Maggie McGregor of Camerory
Parish of Cromdale
Moray
Scotland

This client's request was to establish the paternal line of a McGregor family originally from Grantown-on-Spey. To protect client anonymity the research shown commences in the 19th century with a sibling line. Locations mentioned in the report appear in Timothy Pont's 16th century map, Roy's Military Map, Seafeld Estate plans and Ordnance Survey maps but have not been included. This case is a good example of what can be achieved for an ordinary family using the pre and post 1855 records, estate papers and visiting ancestral locations.

Chris Halliday www.scotlandsgenealogy.com

Generation 1



1. **MAGGIE GRANT** was born on 22 March 1878 in Sleanfarin, Parish of Inverallan, County of Elgin, Scotland. ¹

BIRTH

Name Margaret GRANT (Illegitimate)

Born 22 March 1878 at 4.30am ,at Sleanfarin,Grantown

Father -----

Mother Jessie GRANT Domestic Servant

Informant Jessie GRANT. Mother



Ruins of Sleanifern today.²

Although no father was named, in the 1881 census she is living in the household of bachelors, Alexander McGregor and his brother William McGregor in Camerory.

1881 CENSUS ³

Camerory

NAME	RELATIONSHIP & AGE	OCCUPATION	PLACE OF BIRTH
Alexander McGregor	Head Unm. Age 53	Farmer of 20 acres (arable)	Cromdale, Elginshire
William	Brother Unm. Age 38	Farm Servant	Cromdale, Elginshire
Christina Kennedy	Servant Age 17	General Servant	Cromdale, Elginshire
Peter McGregor	Age 9	Scholar	Cromdale, Elginshire
Margaret McGregor	Age 2		Cromdale, Elginshire

Generation 2

2. WILLIAM MCGREGOR later married Margaret's mother **Jessie Grant** on 15 January 1884.⁴ They married at the farm of Dreggie which is close to the ruins of Sleanifern.

MARRIAGE

On the 15th day of January 1884 at Dreggie, Inverallan, after Banns according to the forms of the established Church of Scotland.

Groom; William MCGREGOR, farmer, bachelor, age 45 resident in Camerory, Inverallan

Parents: Alexander MCGREGOR, farmer, deceased.

Jane ROSS deceased

Bride: Jessie GRANT domestic servant, age 30 resident in Sleaniferan, Inverallan

Parents: Donald GRANT labourer

Isabella McINTOSH

Witnesses: Donald GRANT

Christina KENNEDY

Registered: 18 Jan 1884 At Grantown. W.Duncan, Registrar.

BIRTH

WILLIAM McGREGOR appears in the Old Parish Register of Cromdale. ⁵

son of Alexr McGregor, farmer at Camerorie and Jane Ross his spouse was born 23 Febr and bap 18 June 1842. ⁶

From the census returns **William McGregor** and **Jessie Grant** had the following children

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| +2.1 Margaret | Born abt.1878 |
| 2. Jessie | Born abt.1881 |
| 3. Alexander | Born abt.1884 |
| 4. Donald | Born abt.1885 |
| 5. William Peter | Born abt.1888 |
| 6. Jane | Born abt.1889 |
| 7. John Grant | Born abt.1892 |
| 8. James | Born abt.1893 |
| 9. Elsie Grant | Born abt.1895 |

In the 1891 census the family were living at Camerory, a croft situated near the Grantown-on-Spey to Forres road. Both William and Jessie could speak Gaelic and English. The introduction of compulsory Education (Scotland) Act 1872 saw the demise of Gaelic and it was not taught in the local Grantown Grammar school.⁷ Earlier references in the Statistical Account for the parish of Cromdale comment on the increasing use of English by the locals.⁸ The Parish of Cromdale, Inverallan and Advie has a complex administrative history: sometimes in Invernesshire and then in Elginshire/Moray.⁹ Archives for the area can be found in Elgin or Inverness depending on the period in question.

1891 Census¹⁰

Camerory

NAME	RELATIONSHIP & AGE	OCCUPATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	Gaelic Gaelic & ENGLISH
William McGregor	Head Age 48	Farmer (Croft) Employed	Inverallan Elginshire	Gaelic & English
Jessie	Wife	Outdoor Worker Employed	Inverallan Elginshire	Gaelic & English
Margaret	Dau. Unm Age 18	Scholar	Inverallan Elginshire	
Jessie	Dau. Unm Age 10	Scholar	Inverallan Elginshire	
Alexander	Son Age 6	Scholar	Inverallan Elginshire	
Donald	Son Age 5	Scholar	Inverallan Elginshire	
William Peter	Son Age 3		Inverallan Elginshire	
Jane	Dau		Inverallan	

	Age 1		Elginshire	
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Jessie Grant gave birth to a daughter **Elsie Grant McGregor** on 14 Feb 1895.¹¹ Sadly Jessie Grant died two weeks after the birth from complications and infection.¹² She left William with a new baby girl and a young family to look after.

DEATH.

Name: Jessie McGREGOR m.s. GRANT (married to William McGREGOR, crofter)

Died: 3 March 1895 at 9.0pm, at Camerory, Inverallan Age 40.

Father: Donald GRANT labourer, deceased.

Mother: Isabella GRANT m.s. MACKINTOSH deceased.

Cause of death: Endometritis 14 days as certified by John Grant M.D.

Informant: William McGREGOR, widower.

Registered: 7 March 1895 at Grantown, W. Duncan, Registrar.

William McGregor with the help of his elder daughters Margaret and Jessie looked after the family. Unfortunately William succumbed after a two year struggle with cancer of the tongue and died on 26 Dec 1899 at Camerory aged 58.¹³ He now left a young family in the care of his sister **Jessie McGregor**.

DEATH

Name: William McGREGOR, farmer (widower of Jessie Grant.)

Died: 26 Dec 1899 11.30 pm at Camerory, Inverallan Age 58.

Father: Alexander McGREGOR farmer, deceased.

Mother: Jane McGREGOR m.s ROSS.

Cause of death: Cancer of the tongue 2 years as certified by John Grant M.D

Informant: Peter McGREGOR, nephew present. Residing in Mill of Castle Grant.

Registered: 30 Dec 1899 at Grantown on Spey, W. Duncan, Registrar.

The 1901 census shows only the two middle boys at home with their aunt **Jessie McGregor**. Further research is necessary to locate the other members of the family.

1901 Census¹⁴

Camerory

NAME	RELATIONSHIP & AGE	OCCUPATION	PLACE OF BIRTH
Jessie McGregor	Head Single Age 60	Farmer	Inverallan Elginshire Gaelic and English
Donald McGregor	Nephew, Brothers son Age 16	Apprentice Grocer	Inverallan Elginshire
Peter McGregor	Ditto Age 15	Apprentice Butcher	Inverallan Elginshire

Generation 3

3.ALEXANDER McGREGOR the father of Willliam appears in the OPR for Cromdale ¹⁵

BAPTISM

Alexander, son to Alexr McGregor, Forester above Bellzward of Castle Grant and Isobella McQueen his spouse was baptized 12 October 1794.

There is also an entry in the Old Parish Record for the marriage of **Alexander McGregor**.¹⁶

MARRIAGE

Alexander McGrigor Miltown of Castle Grant married *Jean Ross* Barns of Castle Grant 5 July 1821.

There is a continuous record for this family in the census returns from 1841-1871.

They appear to have had the following children:

- +3.1 Jane Born abt. 1823
- .2 Isabella Born abt. 1825
- .3 Peter Born abt. 1825
- .4 John Born abt. 1829
- .5 Alexander Born abt. 1831
- .6 Margaret Born abt. 1835.
- .7 Jessie/Janet Born abt. 1839
- .8 William Born 23 Feb 1842

1871 Census¹⁷

Camerory

NAME	RELATIONSHIP & AGE	OCCUPATION	PLACE OF BIRTH
Alexander McGregor	Head widr Age 76	Retired Farmer	Cromdale Invernesshire
Peter	Son Unm	Farmer of 35 acres 13 arable	Cromdale Invernesshire

	Age 43		
Jessie	Dau Unm Age 31		Cromdale Invernesshire
Jane	Gd dau Age 11	Scholar	Cromdale Invernesshire
Christina Kennedy	Niece Age 7	Scholar	Cromdale Invernesshire
Christina McIntosh	Serv Unm Age 22	General Servant	Moy Invernesshire

1861 Census¹⁸

Camerory

NAME	RELATIONSHIP & AGE	OCCUPATION	PLACE OF BIRTH
Alexander McGregor	Head Mar Age 72	Farmer of 30 acres	Cromdale Invernesshire
Jane	Wife Mar Age 63		Cromdale Invernesshire
Peter	Son Unm Age 40		Cromdale Invernesshire
Margaret	Dau Age 22		Cromdale Invernesshire
Jessie	Dau Age 21		Cromdale Invernesshire
William	Son	Ploughman	Cromdale Invernesshire

	Age 19		
David Stuart	Grandson Age 14	Scholar	Cromdale Invernesshire
Jane McGregor	Grand daughter Age 2	Farmer's Granddaughter	Cromdale Invernesshire

1851 Census¹⁹

Camerory

NAME	RELATIONSHIP & AGE	OCCUPATION	PLACE OF BIRTH
Alexander McGregor	Head Age 58	Farmer of 8 acres, with 8 acres pasture employing 4 farm servants	Cromdale Invernesshire
Jane	Wife Age 52	Farmer's wife	Cromdale Invernesshire
Peter	Son Age 26	Ag lab and sawyer	Cromdale Invernesshire
Jane	Dau Age 24	Employed on farm	Cromdale Invernesshire
Alexander	Son Age 20	Employed on farm	Cromdale Invernesshire
Margaret	Dau Age 13	Employed on farm	Cromdale Invernesshire

Jess	Dau Age 10		Cromdale Invernesshire
John	Son Unm Age 43(age appears wrong)	Employed on farm	Cromdale Invernesshire
William	Son		Cromdale Invernesshire
David Stuart	Grand Child Age 3		Cromdale Invernesshire

1841 Census²⁰

Camerory

NAME	OCCUPATION & AGE	PLACE OF BIRTH
Alexander McGrigor	Age 48 Farmer	Born in County of Elgin
Jane McGrigor	Age 45	Ditto
Jane McGrigor	Age 18	Ditto
Isabella McGrigor	Age 16	Ditto
John McGrigor	Age 12	Ditto
Margaret McGrigor	Age 6	Ditto
Janet McGrigor	Age 2	Ditto

Alexander McGregor farmed the croft of Camerory and probably did seasonal work as well. His son Peter was a sawyer and agricultural labourer. The forests of Strathspey were noted for their timber and the felled trees were floated down the River Spey to Garmouth for boat building.



Cromdale Church and River Spey²¹

Jane or **Jean Ross** died at Camerory on 21 March 1865 age 65.²²

DEATH

Name: Jane McGREGOR m.s ROSS (married to Alexander McGREGOR, farmer)

Died: 21 March 1865 at 11.25 am at Camerory, Cromdale Age 65

Father: Neil ROSS farmer deceased

Mother: Ann ROSS m.s GRAY deceased

Cause of death: Muco Gastritis 1 month as certified by C Houston M.D. LRSE.

Informant: Alexander McGREGOR his x mark widower present

John Stewart Registrar, witness

Registered: 28 March 1865 at Grantown, John Stewart, Registrar.

Her husband **Alexander McGregor** died at Camerory on 29 Sept 1873 age 78.²³ His son Peter was the informant but he had forgotten or never knew the Christian name of his grandmother, **Isobella McQueen**.

DEATH

Name: Alexander McGREGOR farmer (widower of Jane Ross)
Died: On 29 Sept 1873 at 11 pm at Camerory, Cromdale Age 78.
Father: Alexander McGREGOR farmer, deceased.
Mother: ----- McGREGOR m.s. McQUEEN
Cause of death: Apoplexy 3 days certified John Grant M.D
Informant: Peter McGREGOR ,son
Registered: 4 Oct 1873 at Grantown, John Saunders, Registrar.

Generation 4

4.ALEXANDER McGREGOR

Alexander McGregor and his spouse **Isobella McQueen** are remembered by a fine gravestone in Cromdale cemetery. He died on 19 March 1840 aged 85 years. **Isobella McQueen** died on 24 Feb 1837 age 83 years. .

There are no extant marriage records for Cromdale and Inverallan prior to 1798 therefore no search could be made for the marriage of Alexander McGregor and Isabella McQueen.



Gravestone of Alexr McGregor & Isabella McQueen²⁴

A search for the birth of **Alexander McGregor** born about 1755 in the parochial register of Cromdale and Inverallan (birth records blank from April 1749 to December 1765) from 1746 to 1749 as expected was unsuccessful. However a search in the Seafeld Papers reveals several McGregor families living close to Castle Grant on the farms of Lynmore, Cottartown, Balliward and Camerory. Several receipts were paid to an Alexander McGregor in Camrorie and Cottartown as forester to Sir James Grant. Amongst this extensive collection is a letter dated 25 July 1807 from a **James McGregor** requesting a reference from Sir James Grant.²⁵ **James McGregor** mentions his father was the late **Alexander McGregor** in Cottertown,

forester to Sir James Grant and likewise his brother **Alexander McGregor**, farmer in Camrorie who has acted as forester since the father's death.

Thus from this letter although the birth of Alexander McGregor (Camerorie) spouse of Isobella McQueen cannot be found we now know he had a brother James and their father was also Alexander McGregor (Cottertown) late forester to Sir James Grant. If Alexander was born about 1755 his father would be born about 1730.

Generation 5

5. ALEXANDER McGREGOR

The OPR for Cromdale commences in 1702. Only one possible entry excluding other McGregors in the parish due to names and locality appears very likely.²⁶

BIRTH

Cromdale March 6 1725

*Alexr son to **Patrick McGrigor** and **Marjorie** in Gartkin born the 7th Feb was the 6 March 1725 baptized in face of Congregation*

There is no further record of this **Alexander McGregor** in the OPR but he does appear regularly in the Seafield papers. According to a deposition dated 1770 by **William McGregor**, Cottartown against James McQueen and his family for threatening him and allowing their sheep into Sir James Grant's young fir plantations.²⁷

*Compeared Alexr McGrigor in Cottertown a Married Man ffortysix years of age are there by witness cited for the compleanor, and....that one Saturday last petitioner McQueen being in the Deponants houses, that **Wm McGrigor** came in there*

The age stated for Alexander McGregor in 1770 matches the 1725 birth and later his wife is also named:

*Compeared **Isobel Smith** spouse to **Alexander McGrigor** in Cottartown of Castle Grant who being solemnly sworn ...That she heard at her own house in Cottertown, Patrick McQueen say that he would not allow the Complainer use that house in Camerory as a Pound fold...*

The family relationship was also confirmed with the birth of his brother **William McGregor**.²⁸

Cromdale May 22 1712

William son to Peter Bain alias Grigorach in Grantown and to Marjorie Grant spouse, was born May 16 1722 and baptized May 22 witnesses Peter Stuart, Milntown and William Cuming, Port.

Generation 6

6. PATRICK McGRIGOR

MARRIAGE

***Patrick McGrigor** in Davoch of Castle Grant and **Marjorie Grant** in Milntown of Castle Grant both parishioners and free from scandal, declared their purpose of marriage and consigning pledges to observe order were married 31 July 1711.*

Patrick and Peter are synonymous but why the different surnames? The surnames: Grigor, Gregorach, Gregory, Gregorach and aliases recorded in the parish records were not uncommon for McGregors. The clan was outlawed in 1603 by James VI and John Gant of Grant was fined 16,000 marks for protecting members of clan McGregor. This was rescinded in 1661 but revived in 1693 by the Act of Proscription imposed by William of Orange, which outlawed the clan name. The Act was finally repealed in 1784²⁹



Castle Grant³⁰

‘It was ordained that the name of MacGregor should be abolished and that the whole persons of that name should renounce their name and take some other name and that they nor none of their name and that they nor none of their posterity should call themselves Gregor or MacGregor underpain of death... that any person or persons of the said clan who has already renounced their names or hereafter shall renounce their names or if any of their children or posterity shall at any time hereafter assume or take to themselves the name of Gregor or MacGregor...that every such person or persons assuming or taking to themselves the said name...shall incur the pain of death which pain shall be executed upon them without favour.’

Local oral tradition and place name evidence strongly suggest that this family of McGregors belonged to those seeking protection from the Grant chiefs. Located close to the former site of old Grantown and in the shadow of Castle Grant is LyneMacGregor – MacGregor’s enclosure or field. This is beside the neighbouring farms of Ballieward, Camerorie, Cottartown and Lynmore and from the following biographical article dated 1897 would add further weight to that tradition.³¹

THE CELTIC MONTHLY:

A MAGAZINE FOR HIGHLANDERS.

Edited by JOHN MACKAY, Glasgow.

No. 10. Vol. V.]

JULY, 1897.

[Price Threepence.



WILLIAM GRANT MACGREGOR,
LONDON.



ABOUT the time that the penal statutes were in full force against the MacGregors, a small sept of the royal and ancient clan, driven by these cruel laws from the home of their ancestors, were permitted by the Laird of Grant to settle down upon a narrow strip of land in Strathpey to the north of the village of Grantown. The spot became and is still known as Lynmacgregor. The humble colony increased and spread northward, and in process of time acquired a name and habitation among the small farming settlements of Camerorie and Cottertown, where their descendants still live. It is to this sept that the subject of our present sketch belongs.

He was born on the farm of Achnarrow, situated among the braes of Castle Grant—a

strictly enjoined by his parents. Both now sleep side by side in the quiet picturesque churchyard of Cromdale, and on the stone which he has erected to their memory, there is inscribed, in the language dear to them as it still is to him, "*Gus an coinnich sinn a ris 's an daobhaidh ghlornhor zbona ud an toath thall do'n bhias.*"

When in his sixteenth year an offer of an apprenticeship in London was accepted, and soon after he arrived, an utter stranger, in the great Metropolis. He had the good fortune to receive an introduction to the Young Men's Christian Association in Aldersgate Street, where for several years he was a diligent student in the French, German, and other classes held in connection with that useful institution. At the close of one of the sessions he was named by the Professor as the winner of the "Samuel Morley Prize" for German. In the midst of other studies, we need hardly mention that his native Gaelic was not forgotten, on the contrary he procured and read every Gaelic work within reach. It was during those years that he made the acquaintance of his kinsman, the late Professor Grant, F.R.S.—one of Strathpey's most distinguished sons. Mr. MacGregor gave some little assistance in the translation of Arago's "Popular Astronomy"—"lent a hand," as the Professor generously used to say—and from that time astronomy became his favourite study among the sciences. He is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Very soon after his arrival in London Mr.

Further Research

It would be possible to extend the research to siblings of the direct line and search Cromdale kirk session and poor relief records for a mention of the family. I think the most interesting route to explore would be in the estate records of the Seafeld gifts and deposits in the National Records of Scotland, Edinburgh. This vast archive of material containing rentals, maps and general correspondence on estate matters has already been fruitful and I think it would be worth extending the research at your convenience.

References:

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- ¹ GROS 1878 Birth RD No 128B/2 Entry No 24 Parish of Inverallan
 - ² Sleanifern, Grantown by C.Halliday.
 - ³ GROS 1881 Census RD No128B/3 ED No 1 Page 5 No of Schedule 24 Parish of Inverallan.
 - ⁴ GROS 1884 Marriage RD No 128B/2 Entry No 1 Parish of Inverallan.
 - ⁵ OPR Parish No 128B Vol 3 Parish of Cromdale & Inverallan.
 - ⁶ OPR Parish No 128B Vol 3 Parish of Cromdale & Inverallan.
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http://www.simplyscottish.com/readingroom/history/gaelic_education.htm(accessed 03/03/2011).
 - ⁸ New Statistical Account . Available on line <http://edina.ac.uk/stat-acc-scot/> Cromdale County of Inverness Account of 1834-45 vol 14 page 432 (accessed 03//03/2011).
 - ⁹ Scotlandsplaces Cromdale, Inverallan & Advie. Available on line
<http://www.scotlandsplaces.gov.uk>(accessed 03/03/2011).
 - ¹⁰ GROS 1891 Census RD No 128B/2 ED No 1 Page 8 No of Schedule 42 Parish of Inverallan.
 - ¹¹ GROS 1895 Birth RD No 128/2 Entry No 8 Parish of Inverallan.
 - ¹² GROS 1895 Death RD No 128/2 Entry No 8 Parish of Inverallan.
 - ¹³ GROS 1899 Death RD No 128/2 Entry No 40 Parish of Inverallan.
 - ¹⁴ GROS 1901 Census RD No 128/2 ED No 1 Page 5 No of Schedule 21 Parish of Inverallan.
 - ¹⁵ OPR Parish No 128B Vol 2 Parish of Cromdale & Inverallan.
 - ¹⁶ OPR Parish No 128B Vol 3 Parish of Cromdale & Inverallan.
 - ¹⁷ GROS 1871 Census RD No 128B/2 ED No 1 Page 9 No of Schedule 54 Parish of Inverallan.
 - ¹⁸ GROS 1861 Census RD No 93 ED No 7 Page 4 No of Schedule 16 Parish of Cromdale & Inverallan.
 - ¹⁹ GROS 1851 Census RD No 128/B ED No 8 Page 9 No of Schedule 12 Parish of Comdale & Inverallan.
 - ²⁰ GROS 1841 Census RD No 128/B ED No 4 Page 3&4 Parish of Cromdale & Inverallan.
 - ²¹ Cromdale Church by C.Halliday
 - ²² GROS 1865 Death RD No 93/2 Entry 10 Parish of Inverallan.
 - ²³ GROS 1873 Death RD No 128B/2 Entry 40 Parish of Inverallan.
 - ²⁴ McGregor Gravestone, Cromdale.by C. Halliday.
 - ²⁵ GD 248/707/Bundle5 The Seafield Papers.
 - ²⁶ OPR Parish No 128/B Vol 1 Parish of Cromdale and Inverallan.
 - ²⁷ GD 248/256/Bundle 10 The Seafield Papers.
 - ²⁸ OPR Parish No 128/B Vol 1 Parish of Cromdale & Inverallan.
 - ²⁹ Fraser, Sir W. (1883) *The Chiefs of Grant*.
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 - ³¹ William Grant McGregor. London. *The Celtic Monthly*. (1897) No 10 Vol.V. Available on line <http://www.archive.org/stream/celticmonthlomag03mack#page/n257/mode/2up> (accessed 15/03/2011).