

Fred's Thread

April 2010

Kincardineshire to Jamaica to Kincardineshire

Alexander Silver was born around 1710 on the small farm of Balnagubs in the parish of Fetteresso Kincardineshire, which his father occupied.

As a young man, Alexander travelled to Jamaica where he became deeply involved in the tea plantation business, working with the East India Company.

During his time in Jamaica, he married Rebecca Parsons on the 14th of February 1740 in the St Michaels Church Barbados. Unfortunately, Mrs Silver died childless.

Alexander Silver amassed a considerable fortune over a period of 20 years, and in 1751 he returned to Scotland, coincidentally at the time when the farm of Balnagubs and the nearby 1500 acre estate of Netherley was up for sale.

Returning from a warm climate, and one of the most fertile soils in the world, I can only surmise that the attraction of his birthplace, and a desire so settle back into farming persuaded Mr Silver to purchase Balnagubs and Netherley Estate.

With no suitable accommodation available Alexander Silver built Netherley House.



On the 23rd October 1768 at Dyce Church Alexander Silver married Anna Burnet and between 1770 and 1774 George, Ann, Adam, and Christian were born to the happy couple.

We should remember that during the 18th Century farming in this area was extremely hard, the country side strewn with boulders, infertile soil, no drainage, etc.

Alexander Silver, and in later times, his son George, became part of a small group of Agricultural Innovators, who introduced new methods of soil cultivation, grain production, cattle breeding, and tree planting which dramatically improved the conditions for making farming a more viable proposition.

For more information, please visit **Portlethen Library**
or email Fred at Fred.Stewart@tphs.org.uk

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Alexander Silver died at Netherley House in 1797.

Netherley House was sold in 1853 to Horatio Ross for £33,000 pounds Sterling

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