

Genealogical Report

Information Provided by the Client

- The client's grandfather was James Harrold (1873–1938), son of unmarried couple Mary Harrold and James Moir. James Harrold is also known as James Moir in records. Mary's parents were James and Elizabeth Harrold of Morayshire, Scotland.
- Several James Moirs in Morayshire are potential candidates to be the father of James Harrold, born 1873.

Research Question:

Which James Moir of Morayshire, Scotland, was the client's ancestor?

Conclusion:

The most probable identity for James Moir, father of James Harrold, was the one born about 1852, son of Donald Moir and Ann Burgess.

Findings and Analysis:

Ancestry's Moray census databases and the People database of Local Heritage Services in Moray list numerous James Moirs. Many of these men cannot be eliminated from the list of potential fathers for Mary Harrold's child given the limited data provided. Instead, finding a James Moir with a connection to Mary Harrold's place of residence is the strategy used to identify him as the likely father of Mary's son James.

1. Locating Mary Harrold

a) 1871 census

Source:

1871 Scotland census, Parish of Elgin, personal census, page 12, no. 60, James Harrold household; imaged, *Scotland's People* (https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/image-viewer/census/census-10891494_1234_135__1_L : accessed 5 April 2026); citing census microfilm reel 135.

Extract:

see image, [Attachment A](#)

Mary Harrold, daughter, unmarried, age 19, occupation staymaker [corset maker], born Dallas, Elginshire, residing at Green Knowes in a house with three windows.

b) 1881 census

Source:

1881 Scotland census, Parish of Elgin, personal census, page 19, no. 96, James Harrold household; imaged, *Scotland's People* (https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/image-viewer/census/census-14346174_1234_135_15_?image_number=019Z) : accessed 5 April 2026); citing census microfilm reel 135.

Extract:

see image, [Attachment B](#)

No. of Schedule [blank]; Road, street, &c., and No. or Name of house: Inchellen Cottage 56, James Harrold household; Mary Harrold, daughter, unmarried, age 29, farm servant, born Elginshire, Dallas

Analysis:

Mary Harrold's 1871 residence, "Green Knowes," is not indexed for any National Library of Scotland (NLS) map (<https://maps.nls.uk/>). The place intended by the enumerator was Greenhowe, known by the preceding household located at Torehead Cottage and the subsequent household enumerated at Thistleflat (see Attachment A). An NLS map of Elginshire shows Greenhowe with adjacent properties "Torhead" about 60 chains (¾ mile) west and "Thistleflat" about 25 chains (⅜ mile) southwest. In 1881, Mary's residence was "Inchellen." Lower Inchallon measures about 35 chains (less than ½ mile) northwest of Greenhowe. Lower Inchallon was located at Castle Hill. See [Attachment C](#).

2. Locating James Moir

James Moir was a common name in Morayshire, Scotland. The correct James Moir would be expected to be one with connections to the residence of Mary Harrold at Inchallon/Castle Hill.

a) James' mother, Ann (Burgess) Moir

Ann Moir, mother of James Moir, died at Castlehill. From her gravestone: "Sacred to the memory of Donald Moir. Farm overseer. Who died at Earnhill. 29th September. 1872. Aged 47 years. Also his wife Ann Burgess. Who died at Castlehill, Pluscarden. 5th July 1912. Aged 90 years. Erected by his two sons. James and Donald."¹

¹ *Find a Grave*, database with images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/197503217/donald-moir>) : added 13 March 2019), "Donald Moir" (1825–1872) memorial maintenance and gravestone image by "Dog Rose"; citing Cluny Hill Cemetery, Forres, Moray, Scotland.

Ann was living at Castlehill the year before her death:

Source:

1911 Scotland census, Parish of Elgin, personal census, page 1, no. 4, Alexander Falconer household; imaged, *Scotland's People* (https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/image-viewer/census/census-26788739_1234_135_16 : accessed 6 April 2026); citing census microfilm reel 135.

Extract:

see image, [Attachment D](#)

Castlehill, Alexander Falconer, head, age 57; wife Helen Falconer, 51, married 26 years, born Elgin; Ann Moir, mother-in-law, 87, widow, born Cromdale, Elgin

Analysis:

Ann's birthdate calculated from her gravestone was between 6 July 1821 and 5 July 1822. This approximates the calculated birthdate between 3 April 1823 and 2 April 1824 from the census. Ann's status as a widow correlates with the 1872 death of her husband Donald. Ann appears to have had a daughter Helen (Moir) Falconer born about 1860.

From these sources, Ann should appear in the Scotland census, probably in Moray, with husband Donald born about 1825, daughter Helen born about 1860, and sons James and Donald.

b) 1861 & 1871 census

Extract:

1861 Census			1871 Census					
Easter Kellas, Dallas, Moray ^a			Earnhill Ag. [—] House, Kinloss, Moray ^b			East Grange Bothy, Kinloss, Moray ^c		
name	age	birth	name	age	birth	name	age	birth
Donald Moir	32	Rosemarkie, Rossshire	Donald Moir	43	Rossshire Rosemarkie			
Ann Moir, wife	31	Inveravon, Banffshire	Ann Moir	42?	Banffshire Inveravon			
Elizabeth Moir, dau.	11	Alves, Elginshire						
James Moir, son	9	Duffus, Elginshire				James Mair [<i>sic</i>], servant	17	Alves, Morayshire
Donald Moir, son	7	Dranil, Elginshire				Donald Moir, servant	16	Drainie, Morayshire
Helen Moir, dau.	3	Elgin, Elginshire	Helen Moir, dau.	12	Morayshire Elgin			
			Annie Moir, dau.	6	Morayshire Alves			
+servants, lodgers								

Sources:

a. “1861 Scotland Census,” database without images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.ca/search/collections/1080/records/2061953> : accessed 6 April 2026), entry for Donald Moir household, ED 2, household 11; citing General Register Office for Scotland, Edinburgh.

b. 1871 Scotland census, Parish of Dyke, personal census, page 2, no. 5, Donald Moir household; imaged, *Scotland's People* (https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/image-viewer/census/census-10468368_1222_133_3 : accessed 5 April 2026); citing census microfilm reel 135. See [Attachment E](#).

c. “1871 Scotland Census,” database without images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.ca/search/collections/1104/records/1058147> : accessed 6 April 2026), entry for Peter Mitchell household, ED 1, household 22; citing General Register Office for Scotland, Edinburgh.

Analysis:

As expected, Ann Moir appears in a household with husband Donald and children James, Donald, and Helen. The ages and birthplaces in the 1861 census correlate with the 1871 census data to show these two Donald Moir households are the same family. (Morayshire and Elginshire refer to the same county.²) In 1871, sons James and Donald were absent from the household and working at the East Grange Bothy, 5.1 miles east of their parents’ home at Earnhill farm.

Finding a James Moir whose mother lived in the same house as Mary Harrold is compelling evidence that this James is the likely father of Mary’s child. James’s mother would be the grandmother of James Harrold, who lived there. She would be the great-great grandmother of the client.

² Jeff Wallenfildt et al., “Moray,” *Encyclopedia Britannica* (<https://www.britannica.com/place/Moray-council-area-Scotland> : modified 7 March 2026), lead section.

3. Locating Other James Moirs

James Moir was a common name in Morayshire, Scotland. The only James that can be connected to Mary Harrold's residence is the one born about 1852, son of Donald and Ann. Several James Moirs who spent time in Moray lack evidence that they were there at the time of James Harrold's birth.

A James Meir [*sic*] was a farm servant in 1871 in the James E. Anton household, enumerated just over two miles from James, son of Donald and Ann.³ The two Jameses have the same birth parish and approximate birthdate. Further research could prove that the James residing at Easter Coltfeld was the son of Donald and Ann. However, it is more likely that James and his brother Donald were working together at the East Grange location. No need to conflate these two neighbouring Jameses into one person enumerated twice is required—a James Moir born about 1853 in Alves, Moray, was the son of William and Janet Moir.⁴

Large age gaps, marriage, and longer distances from Mary Harrold's home reduce the probability that any other James Moir living in Moray about 1872 was the father of James Harrold/Moir born 1873.

	approx. age, 1872	residence	straight-line distance to Castlehill	notes
James Moir ⁵	38	Cromdale and Advie (1871)	>14 miles	single (1871)
James Moir ⁶	23	Dovecot Park, New Elgin (1861)	4.5 miles	died 1872, ⁷ prior to the birth of James Harrold
James Muir ⁸	25	Clackmarras, Elgin (1871)	5.8 miles	single (1871)
James Mair ⁹	41	Urquhart, Moray (1871)	>8 miles	married with eight children
James Moir ¹⁰	14	High Street, Elgin (1871)	5 miles	very young to be James Harrold's father

³ "1871 Scotland Census," database without images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.ca/search/collections/1104/records/3672891> : accessed 5 April 2026), entry for James Meir, ED 3, household 12, line 19; citing General Register Office for Scotland, Edinburgh.

⁴ "1861 Scotland Census," database without images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.ca/search/collections/1080/records/2057436> : accessed 7 April 2026), entry for James Moir, ED 2, household 16, line 5; citing General Register Office for Scotland, Edinburgh.

⁵ "1871 Scotland Census," database without images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.ca/search/collections/1104/records/3678870> : accessed 5 April 2026), entry for James Moir, ED 3, household 23, line 12; citing General Register Office for Scotland, Edinburgh.

⁶ "1861 Scotland Census," database without images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.ca/search/collections/1080/records/938793> : accessed 6 April 2026), entry for James Moir, ED 17, household 44, line 13; citing General Register Office for Scotland, Edinburgh.

⁷ The full names of both parents, David Moir and Hellen Stewart, link James of the census with his birth and death information. See <https://www.ancestry.ca/search/collections/60143/records/19546973> and https://libindx.moray.gov.uk/people/people_report_view.asp?REF_ID=NM133222.

⁸ "1871 Scotland Census," database without images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.ca/search/collections/1104/records/3700530> : accessed 6 April 2026), entry for James Muir, ED 5, household 24, line 3; citing General Register Office for Scotland, Edinburgh.

⁹ "1871 Scotland Census," database without images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.ca/search/collections/1104/records/1067267> : accessed 6 April 2026), entry for James Mair, ED 5, household 27, line 1; citing General Register Office for Scotland, Edinburgh.

Further Research:

Investigating shared DNA segments among descendants of James Harrold/Moir and descendants of siblings of Ann (Burgess) Moir could add evidence to support the placement of James as the child of Donald and Ann.

¹⁰ “1871 Scotland Census,” database without images, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.ca/search/collections/1104/records/3692072> : accessed 6 April 2026), entry for James Moir, ED 2, household 76, line 21; citing General Register Office for Scotland, Edinburgh.

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[Attachment A](#)

1871 Scotland census, Parish of Elgin, personal census, page 12, no. 60, James Harrold household; imaged, *Scotland's People* (https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/image-viewer/census/census-10891494_1234_135__1_L : accessed 5 April 2026); citing census microfilm reel 135.

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¹¹ National Records of Scotland, “Copyright,” *Scotland's People* (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/content/copyright> : accessed 4 April 2026), “Permitted Use” section.

[Attachment B](#)

1881 Scotland census, Parish of Elgin, personal census, pages 19–20, no. 96, James Harrold household; imaged, *Scotland's People* (https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/image-viewer/census/census-14346174_1234_135_15?image_number=019Z) : accessed 5 April 2026); citing census microfilm reel 135.

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[Attachment B \(continued\)](#)

1881 Scotland census, Parish of Elgin, personal census, page 20, no. 96 (continued), James Harrold household; imaged, *Scotland's People* (https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/image-viewer/census/census-14346174_1234_135__15) : accessed 5 April 2026); citing census microfilm reel 135.

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[Attachment C](#)

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, UK, Elginshire, six-inch 1st edition ordnance survey map (n.p.: Sir Henry James, 1874); imaged, National Library of Scotland (<https://maps.nls.uk/view/74426739#zoom=5.6&lat=3706&lon=3743&layers=BT> : accessed 5 April 2026).

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[Attachment D](#)

1911 Scotland census, Parish of Elgin, personal census, page 1, no. 4, Alexander Falconer household; imaged, *Scotland's People* (https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/image-viewer/census/census-26788739_1234_135__16_ : accessed 6 April 2026); citing census microfilm reel 135.

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[Attachment E](#)

1871 Scotland census, Parish of Dyke, personal census, page 2, no. 5, Donald Moir household; imaged, *Scotland's People* (https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/image-viewer/census/census-10468368_1222_133__3_ : accessed 7 April 2026); citing census microfilm reel 135.

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