

A little about Matthew Allison Bremner - the man I never knew  
as Father-in-law by Bertha Johnston Bremner

From Bertha Johnston Bremner -

A little about Matthew Allison Bremner - the Father-in-law I never knew as such, but who remains in my childhood memory as the Father of my playmate, James Arthur (Brem). He died, alas, too soon so I know little of him.

From a member of the Jamieson family (Matthew married Henrietta Ewing Jamieson) I was given some information that brought Matthew alive for me, showing him for the kind-hearted, generous man he was.

Before they married Matthew and Henrietta had a son - I know not his name - and sadly, as was the custom in those days (around 1910) the babe was fostered. My playmate, who later became my husband, told me of this before we married many years after Matthew's death.

He was a man of some means, having made a comfortable living for himself and his family and in his will he provided for his wife instructing her in turn to provide for his son James, for the foster-child, and for his step-daughter Henrietta Milne. His Henrietta had been previously married and Hetty was the only child of the marriage.

So now I have five pictures of Matthew - first in the facsimile of a letter sent by him when a young man in 1878, to an uncle, reproduced by David Henderson Carr in his History of the descendants of George Henderson of Banffshire, 1790-1975, then in my memory of the big bearded man whom I held slightly in awe. He was a Church Elder who, before setting off on a Sunday morning, would polish his "lum" (tyle) hat till it shone black and silky. Then each night he would kneel by his bedside in prayer. His young son, James, must have been impressed by these homely incidents - he it was who told me of them.

And lastly I hear of the fair sharing of his means. I should dearly love to have known more of him, but that will have to do for the present.