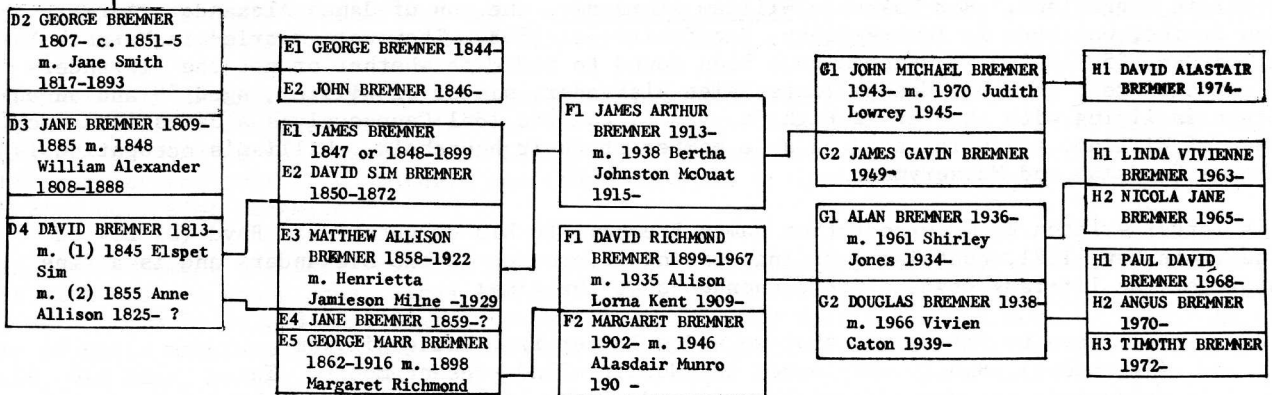


# THE SCOTTISH BREMNERs



D2 GEORGE BREMNER ) THESE THREE BREMNERs HAVE NO BLOOD RELATION TO THE HENDERSONs.  
 D3 JANE BREMNER ) BARBARA HENDERSON WAS SISTER-IN-LAW TO EACH. THESE THREE REMAINED  
 D4 DAVID BREMNER ) IN SCOTLAND AND ARE IDENTIFIED AS THE "SCOTTISH BREMNERs."

D2 GEORGE BREMNER was born on Aug. 27, 1807, and baptized on Nov. 7, in Foggieelone before James Cowe and George Glass, witnesses, according to the Marnoch Parish Register. From the Marriage Register of the town of Huntly, County of Aberdeen, we learn that "on the 23rd December, 1843, George Bremner, Merchant, and Jane Smith, both residing in this Parish gave up their names in order to proclamation of banns. They were three times proclaimed and were married on 8th Jan. 1844, by Rev. Mr. Walker before witnesses: the Rev. Wm. Donald and Mr. John Gray." Jane was born in Rothiemay, Banffshire, on June 22, 1817. The record states that "John Smith, Square Wright in Mill Town had a child by his wife Isobel Brebner born on this date, baptized July 6 ensuing, and named Jane before the congregation." The Census Record for 1851 indicates George was a Grocer and Seedsman in Huntly. They lived on Upper Kirkgate St. The Census for 1861 lists Jane as a widow and she had a servant, Ann Gray, aged 21 living with her. The younger son John, now 14, was still at home. No record of George's death could be found, but it likely occurred between 1851 and 1855, a period when there are no death records for Huntly. In 1893 Huntly Death Records we find that Jane died Aug. 31, at 9:18 a.m. at 15 Upper Kirkgate, aged 76. Daughter of John Smith, writer (dec.) and Isabella Smith, m.s. Brebner (dec.). Malignant disease of liver, jaundice as certified by J. O. Wilson, M.D.

## SONS OF GEORGE BREMNER AND JANE SMITH BREMNER:

E1 GEORGE BREMNER  
 E2 JOHN BREMNER

E1 GEORGE BREMNER was born in Huntly and baptized on Sept. 17, 1844 before John Smith and John Gray, witnesses. He appears in the 1851 Census aged 6, as a scholar, does not appear with his family in the 1861 Census, and in 1881 is listed as a Colporteur--a distributor of religious books, tracts, etc.

E2 JOHN BREMNER was baptized on Sept. 22, 1846, in Huntly and the event was witnessed by the same two gentlemen who were present at his brother's baptism. An entry in Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae (Scottish Church Records) runs thus:

John Bremner, born Huntly, Aberdeenshire, 22nd Sept. 1846, son of George Bremner and Jane Smith; educated at Huntly Parish School, Grammar School and Universities of Aberdeen and Edinburgh; M.A. (Aberdeen 1866) B.D. (Edinburgh 1870) licensed by Presbytery of Linlithgow 20th December, 1870; Assistant at Liberton and St. George's Parish, Edinburgh; ordained 2nd May 1876.

His death occurred at 50 Greenbank Cres., Edinburgh, on Aug. 28, 1925. He was a Minister of the Church of Scotland, single, and 78 years of age. He died of a cerebral haemorrhage and was buried in Edinburgh on Aug. 31, 1925. -99-

D3 JANE BREMNER, according to the Marnoch Old Parochial Register of Births, was born the first day of December, 1809, and baptized on the 14th. The witnesses were James Murray and Alexander Practer in Foggielone. Her husband, William Alexander, the son of James Alexander, farmer, and Helen Irvine, was born in Inverkeithny, Banffshire, c. 1808. They were married in Marnoch Parish, on Dec. 25, 1848. No records have been found to indicate whether or not the Alexanders had any children; the 1851 Census lists Helen Alexander, sister of William, aged 58 and an annuitant as living with them at 12 High St. Banff, and the 1861 Census gives a James Alexander, nephew of William, a scholar aged 14 as a member of their household. William's occupation is given as Seedsman and Nurseryman.

A letter written by my grandfather James Bremner, to his daughter Jean Boyd (D1 E2) on Friday, 4th Nov. 1881, contains some interesting references to the Alexanders and is a fine example of the literary style of correspondence at the time:

I have to inform you that we had a letter from Uncle William (Alexander), Banff. He leaves the Nursery 22nd present month. The valuations are passed, and have proved a very laborious process; he says there were seven millions of plants and all to count! He mentions a great depression in the nursery and seed business and that if the valuation had been last year he would have had £400 more. He does not tell us what was the amount. He says Jane and he are getting frail and old. Jane is much troubled with her breathing especially in the mornings, but gradually gets better through the day and by evening is pretty well, if she avoids much exertion. He has pretty good health but has never fully recovered the illness he had last winter. He expresses himself much pleased at getting freed from the Nursery as "he has neither energy nor strength any longer to do it justice." Helen Alexander has come to reside with them and is proving a great comfort to Aunt Jane.

You will be glad to hear that James Bremner, Glasgow (likely D4 E1) is much improved in health and able to attend to his business. He had applied to Wm. Alexander regarding the Nursery, as he thinks the confinement of the shop injurious to his health; but Wm. discountenanced the thing because he had not learned the business. . . .

Jane died of apoplexy at 1 p.m. on Sept. 13, 1885 at 12 High St. Banff, aged 76 years. William died Mar. 9, 1888 at 0.40 a.m. at 12 High St., Banff, aged 80 years, of acute pneumonia after an illness of seven days. The informant was James Alexander, nephew, of Redbraes, Edinburgh. (Rev. William Alexander Bremner (D1 E7) was named after his uncle, William Alexander.)

An entry in my mother's diary dated Nov. 1883 mentioned the Alexanders: "Had a letter from Banff, also a silver brooch for (her sister) Elsie, left to her by B. Alexander. Lots of news in Uncle's letter: Their niece Nellie has left them for a home of her own, against their will, however, as her husband elect does not seem to be what he should be. (B. Alexander might be William's sister.)

D4 DAVID BREMNER was born in Aberchirder (Foggielone) on Aug. 8, 1813, and baptized on Aug. 20, as witnessed by Jas. Murray and John Fraser. His first marriage is recorded in the Parochial Register of the Parish of Old Deer in Aberdeenshire: David Brebner, Merchant of Stuartfield in this parish, married Elspet Sim Keith of Lenabo in the Parish of Longside, on Dec. 13, 1845. Elspet was the widow of John Keith and had one son William who, after his mother's remarriage to David Brebner, came to Forglen to live with his Uncle James Bremner. This is recorded in the 1851 Census for Forglen where he is listed as a scholar, aged 10, nephew of James Bremner, Baker. He died at Forglen on Feb. 5, 1862, of phthisis--a wasting away of the body, now known as pulmonary tuberculosis. No record of Elspet's death was found, but in the Census of 1851, David is a widower, 35 years old, a general merchant with two sons: James aged 3, and David aged 1. He had a housekeeper, Elizabeth Hay, unmarried, aged 45; Ann Rollo, a servant, aged 25, and an 11 year-old nurse, Isabel Connor.

SONS OF DAVID BREMNER AND ELSPET SIM (KEITH) BREMNER:

E1 JAMES BREMNER  
E2 DAVID SIM BREMNER

E1 JAMES BREMNER was born at Longside, Aberdeenshire, on Sept. 24, 1848. He worked in Glasgow in the 1880's (see letter of James Bremner (D1) to his daughter Jean Boyd, above). He saw service in the South African War and was killed at the battle of Pieter's Hill (Pietermaritzburg), a battle which preceded the relief of Ladysmith, between Feb. 12 and 22, 1899.

E2 DAVID SIM BREMNER was born in Longside Parish, Aberdeenshire, on Jan. 14, 1850. He worked as a compositor for the Nairnshire Telegraph, a weekly newspaper (Nairnshire is east of Inverness). He died at the age of 22 at Longside of consumption on Nov. 7, 1872. The death certificate states that he was single and that there was no immediate medical attendant. He was buried Nov. 8 at Longside.

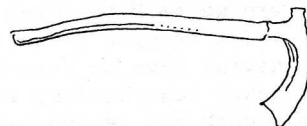
When David Bremner (Senior) lost his wife Elspet Sim Bremner (between 1850 and 1855) he was left with his two young sons, James and David Sim. His second wife was Anne Allison, the daughter of David Allison and Jane Clark. Anne was born in Old Deer Parish on Oct. 4, 1824. At the time of their marriage David was 40 and Anne 31 and a spinster. They were married at Stuartfield, Old Deer, on Dec. 27, 1855, after marriage banns were published and according to the forms of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland. The minister of the U. P. Church in Stuartfield performed the marriage and the witnesses were Rev. David Allison, George Marr and James Adie.

The Census of Longside Parish in 1861 indicated that David was still a General Merchant in the village of Lenabo (Easterton) and their dwelling consisted of three rooms. David Sim was now 11 years old and at school, James had apparently left home for work or school, and two children had been born to the second marriage: Matthew Allison, 3, and Jean A., 2. There were two servants: Elizabeth Hay, 55, and Elizabeth Paterson, 20, both unmarried. Lenabo is a small village directly west of Buchan Ness on the east coast of Aberdeenshire south of Peterhead. It is also near Clola, 4 miles south of the village of Longside.

David is buried in St. Machar's Cathedral Graveyard in Aberdeen near the seven lancet windows at the back of the church. The stone bears the inscription: "Merchant at Lenabo."

#### CHILDREN OF DAVID BREMNER AND ANNE ALLISON BREMNER:

- E3 MATTHEW ALLISON BREMNER
- E4 JANE ALEXANDER BREMNER
- E5 GEORGE MARR BREMNER



E3 MATTHEW ALLISON BREMNER was born on Feb. 13, 1858 at Lenabo in the Parish of Longside, Aberdeenshire. He operated the business of James Bremner & Co. at 24 Queen St., Glasgow, and manufactured ladies' mantles with the help of some thirty seamstresses, one of whom he married. She was Henrietta Ewing Jamieson, and had been previously married (Dec. 17, 1897) to Alexander McCulloch Milne by whom she had a daughter, Henrietta (Hettie) Jamieson Milne (b. June 18, 1890).

The Bremners lived in Bearsden five miles N.W. of Glasgow, and later at "Ravenswood" in Lenzie, another suburb of Glasgow six miles N.E. Matthew travelled daily to the city by train. He was a church manager and an amateur photographer using a large camera with glass plates. He kept in touch with his Bremner cousins in Canada and corresponded regularly with my mother. Frequent references are made to him in her diaries and I can remember how greatly she appreciated his letters.

Matthew's wife, Henrietta, was fond of entertaining and gardening, and was an excellent housewife and mother. She took up bowling as a sport when it became fashionable for ladies to do so. She brought up her brother's son when his mother died. Hettie, her daughter, took the name Bremner when her mother remarried.

Matthew died at "Ravenswood," Lenzie on Jan. 28, 1922. His wife died on May 3, 1929. Both are buried in Cathcart Cemetery, Glasgow. Hettie died on Jan. 11, 1975 in Birmingham and her ashes were sprinkled over the family graves.

SON OF MATTHEW ALLISON BREMNER AND HENRIETTA JAMIESON BREMNER:

F1 JAMES ARTHUR BREMNER was born at "Lochgarry Lodge," Lenzie, Dunbartonshire, on June 6, 1913. He attended Lenzie Academy and became an apprentice motor engineer, operating his own garage in Rhu until the outbreak of the war. From 1939 to 1944 he served as an engine fitter in the R.A.F. From 1949 to 1962 he was a poultry farmer at Strathkinness in Fife. James was an accomplished musician and played the organ in the Parish Church at Rhu for four years and in Hope Parish Church at St. Andrew's for ten years.

His wife, Bertha Johnston McOuat, was born on Mar. 26, 1915, at Castlehill, Lenzie, and attended the Lenzie Academy. She worked in her aunt's gown shop and was active in church and Sunday School work. They married on Dec. 3, 1938.

In 1963 James decided to enter the ministry of the church and became a Divinity Student at St. Mary's College, St. Andrew's University, where he studied for three years and was ordained a minister of the Church of Scotland. He served in Dervaig on the Isle of Mull until 1968, in Bonkyl and Preston/Reston, Berwickshire until 1972, and now serves the Kilfinichen and Kilvickeon Parish in the Isle of Mull. They live at Bunessan, the little port from which the ferry runs across to Iona, the site of a monastery founded by St. Columba in the sixth century which marked the beginnings of Christianity in Scotland.

Both James and Bertha have many interests beyond their work in the church. James has two preaching appointments each Sunday and visits homes over a scattered parish. Bertha directs the Sunday School and the Women's Organizations. Their manse has an open door to all and they are involved in many community activities including a Gaelic Club which keeps alive the old native language and sings the old songs in the original Gaelic. Both enjoy walking, good music and caravan holidays in Wester Ross and the Highlands. Just recently they visited their sons in Canterbury and Oxford while on a "Land Rover" holiday.

I first met James in Glasgow on my first trip to Europe in the summer of 1936. He drove me around the city to see the University, the Botanical Gardens and to the Clyde docks where we took the free ferry over the Clyde to see the all-steel, four-masted wind-jammers which brought grain from Australia. I spent Christmas 1948 with James and Bertha at Rhu, having come up from London on an overnight bus to York and on to Glasgow by train. Wartime power restrictions were still in effect and I remember how the roasting of the Christmas cock was delayed when the power unexpectedly was cut off. My next visit was in the summer of 1958 when I visited the poultry farm in Fife, met the two boys, and enjoyed the usual warm Scottish welcome. When I was in Edinburgh in the fall of 1971 working on this history at the Registry Office, I took a few days off to visit my cousins when they were in Berwickshire. We visited St. Andrew's and had a delightful visit to Holy Island, south of Berwick on Tweed, crossing over the sandy spit by car when the tide was out. My most recent visit was in the fall of 1973. I was taking a motor trip through Aberdeenshire, Banffshire, and the Western Highlands with a young friend, Dr. John Gonder. We found James and Bertha at Bunessan and spent two wonderful days with them at the manse. The highlight of the visit was our trip to Iona enriched by James' familiarity with so much of the historical background of the island. Scottish hospitality has to be experienced before it can be truly appreciated.



SONS OF JAMES ARTHUR BREMNER AND BERTHA JOHNSTON MCOUAT BREMNER:

G1 JOHN MICHAEL BREMNER  
G2 JAMES GAVIN BREMNER

G1 JOHN MICHAEL BREMNER was born at Preston, Lancashire, on Sept. 5, 1943 (Bertha was staying there with an aunt while James was serving with the R.A.F.). He attended primary school at Strathkinness, secondary school at Madras College, St. Andrew's, and later, St. Andrew's University where he earned his B.Sc. degree in (Hons.) Mathematics. At University College of Wales in Aberystwith he received his Master's Degree in Statistics and now

lectures at the University of Kent at Canterbury. He is a Fellow of the Royal Statistical Society.

His wife is Judith Doris Lowrey, born on Mar. 24, 1945, at Vancouver, B.C. Canada. She has an Honours B.A. in English from U.B.C. and a Master's in English and American Literature from U. of Kent, Canterbury. Judith has a wide variety of interests including swimming, riding, choral singing and reading, and has travelled extensively in Canada. She enjoys entertaining Micheal's students and other friends. Micheal is interested in all modes of transportation, photography, music, cycling, and swimming. He has made several trips with Judith to visit her family in Vancouver. They were married in Bonkyl Church, near Duns, Berwickshire on Aug. 7, 1970.

SON OF JOHN MICHAEL BREMNER AND JUDITH DORIS LOWREY BREMNER:

H1 DAVID ALASTAIR BREMNER, b. Mar. 6, 1974 at Canterbury, Kent.

G2 JAMES GAVIN BREMNER was born at Rhu, Dunbartonshire, on June 27, 1949. He attended Madras College at St. Andrew's and St. Andrew's University where he earned First Class Honours in Psychology (B.Sc.). He is now doing post-graduate work in Developmental Psychology at Oxford. His main hobby is sailing and during vacations has instructed at Tighnabruach Sailing School. He is Commodore at St. Andrew's University Sailing Club.

E4 JANE ALEXANDER BREMNER was born at Lenabo in the Parish of Longside, Aberdeenshire, on Feb. 15, 1859. She died in 1880 of consumption.

E5 GEORGE MARR BREMNER was born at Lenabo, Parish of Longside, on May 12, 1862. He began working as a joiner and a grocer, but when his half-brother, James died in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, where he had gone to try to regain his health from consumption, he entered his brother Matthew's mantle business as a cashier. Before his marriage he lived with his brother Matthew in Bearsden near Glasgow. On Aug. 5, 1898, he married Margaret R. Richmond, a bookkeeper, daughter of William Richmond, a mechanical engineer, and Margaret Reid. They were married at the Bath Hotel in Glasgow. George died July 24, 1916, at Edzell in Angus, and is buried in Cathcart Cemetery, Glasgow. Margaret died on May 4, 1955.

CHILDREN OF GEORGE MARR BREMNER AND MARGARET REID RICHMOND BREMNER:

F1 DAVID RICHMOND BREMNER

F2 MARGARET BREMNER

F1 DAVID RICHMOND BREMNER was born on Sept. 26, 1899. His university education was interrupted by the war during his second year. He served as Second Lieutenant in the Royal Scots, arriving in France four days before the end of the war. His unit went on to the Rhine. Returning to university he continued his course in Classics and graduated with a First Class. He taught at Jordan Hill College, Glasgow, and was Master of Methods in the teachers' College. He became a school inspector and served in Glasgow, Ayrshire, and in Aberdeenshire-Kincardineshire.

His wife, Alison Lorna Kent, born Nov. 9, 1909, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Kent of 122 Munro Rd., Jordanville, Glasgow. They were married at the Belhaven Hotel on the Great Western Road on Apr. 19, 1935. James Arthur Bremner, David's cousin, was best man.

David suffered a mental breakdown while in Aberdeen and had to give up all his activities. Lorna looked after him in their home for several years. He died at the age of 67 on Apr. 3, 1967, and was buried at Edinburgh. Lorna returned to teaching in Edinburgh retiring in 1973.

SONS OF DAVID RICHMOND BREMNER AND ALLISON LORNA KENT BREMNER:

G1 DR. ALAN BREMNER

G2 DOUGLAS BREMNER

G1 DR. ALAN BREMNER was born on Mar. 8, 1936. He is a Doctor of Medicine from Aberdeen University. He married Shirley Jones, also an M.D. from Aberdeen University, who was born on Feb. 9, 1934.

DAUGHTERS OF DRS. ALAN BREMNER AND SHIRLEY JONES BREMNER:

H1 LINDA VIVIENNE BREMNER, b. July 30, 1963, in Peebleshire.  
H2 NICOLA JANE BREMNER, b. Apr. 12, 1965, in Edinburgh.

G2 DOUGLAS BREMNER was born on Sept. 18, 1938. He is a graduate in Natural Sciences from Aberdeen University, and is principal of Conservancy Park on the Culzean Estate, near Maybole, Ayrshire. This property was Scotland's first country park and is operated by the National Trust. His wife, Vivien Caton, was born on Nov. 16, 1939. They were married at Malham, Yorks, on June 11, 1966.

SONS OF DOUGLAS BREMNER AND VIVIEN CATON BREMNER:

H1 PAUL DAVID BREMNER, b. May 23, 1968, in Yorkshire  
H2 ANGUS BREMNER, b. Feb. 3, 1970, in Ayrshire  
H3 TIMOTHY BREMNER, b. July 3, 1972, in Ayrshire

F2 MARGARET BREMNER was born at 284 Crow Road, Glasgow, on Sept. 1, 1902. She attended Thornwood Primary School, Glasgow High School for Girls and Glasgow University where she obtained her M.A. in Hons. Classics in 1924. On July 23, 1946, she married Alasdair Munro who was born at 23 Darnley Gardens, Glasgow, on Dec. 6, 190-. He attended Hyndland Secondary School and Glasgow University, graduating with B.Sc. in Honours Chemistry (1925). He also has the Diploma in Education. Both Margaret and Alasdair taught in high schools in Glasgow until their retirement. Margaret's interests included badminton, tennis and music; Alasdair's badminton, cricket and photography.

I had the pleasure of spending a couple of days with the Munros in 1971 and enjoyed their lovely home and their warm hospitality.



George Marr and Margaret  
Richmond Bremner, David  
Richmond and Margaret.