

Research into Thomas Neil who died of cholera in 1854

I have been looking for the death of a Thomas Neil or any other information about him. He was the father of John Neill who was born 14th April 1836 and baptised 4th July 1836, the lawful son of Thomas Neill and Agnes Feran. His baptism was recorded St. Andrew's Cathedral in Clyde Street and the entry was found for me by Mrs Elizabeth Smith of the Glasgow and West of Scotland FHS.

Many years passed with no further movement of either Agnes or Thomas until one day when I came across postings by Matt Neil on the members forum section of the Association of O'Neill Clans web site that traced his ancestry back to our common ancestor John Neil and his wife, Sarah Cassidy.

"This is some of the info i've gotten from my father and his side of the family. I'm hoping more info will become available from my fathers side but i think the well is near enough dry and i'm skint for the foreseeable future so no ancestry/genealogy sites for me :{.

Me - Matthew James Neil, DOB 05.08.1991, Glasgow.

Father - Gordon Neil, DOB 29.08.1957, Glasgow

Mother Linda Fee (Brueton) DOB 28.01.1956 Glasgow.

Grandfather - James McCue Neil, DOB 01.02.19232, Glasgow Gorbals.

Grandmother - Martha Mary Neil (McLean) 02.01.1934, Glasgow Springburn, DOD 11.12.1992.

*Great Grandfather - Charles Neil, DOB 30.04.1899 DOD - 1934, Glasgow (i'm assuming).
Married Marion McMillan Neil (Barrat)*

Great Grandmother - Marion McMillan Neil (Barrat), DOB 17.12 1900. no DOD.

Marion's Parents :

Richard Barrat born Ireland 1857. Married Flora Morrison 04.11.1898.

Flora Morrison born Scotland 1862. Married Richard Barrat 04.11.1898, DOD 14.09.1909.

Richard Barrat's Parents : Patrick Barrat born Ireland 1821, Bridget Haggerty 1827.

Flora Morrisons Parents : David Morrison and Agnes Taylor.

*Great Great Grandfather - John Neil, Born 1860 Glasgow. Married Mary Anne 02.10.1880.
Both 19.*

*Great Great Grandmother - Mary Anne Neil (Chrystal) born 1860, Glasgow. Married John Neil
02.10.1880. Both 19.*

Mary Anne Chrystal's Parents Timothy Chrystal and Mary McFillan.

Great Great Great Grandfather - John Neil (no DOB). Married Sarah Cassidy 1860 in Glasgow.

Great Great Great Grandmother - Sarah Cassidy (no DOB). Married John Neil 1860 in Glasgow.

More to come hopefully. Could anyone per chance help me with my stuff ? it'd be much appreciated."

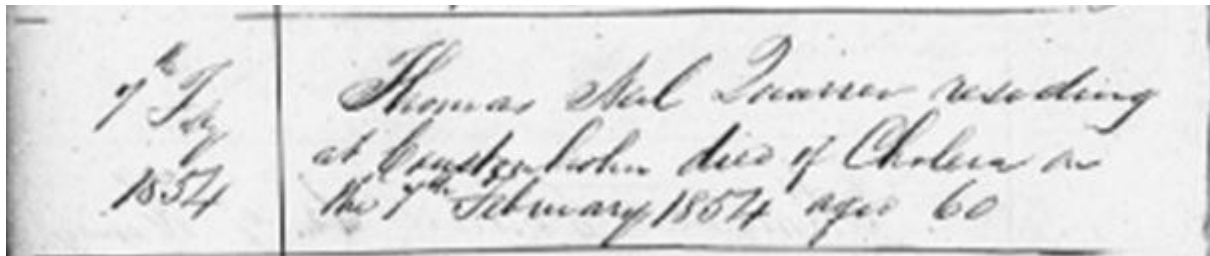
from <http://www.oneillclans.com/forum/4-genealogy/1659-neil-line-my-line.html>

It was clear from this that he and I shared the John Neil & Sarah Cassidy connection but he did not know any more ; or at least not until he later posted suggesting that he had discovered Thomas Neil's death in Glasgow. "

"Thomas Neil born 1793 Donegal, Ireland. Died aged 60 of Cholera, Glasgow. So i've found my irish ancestor :D."

from <http://www.oneillclans.com/forum/4-genealogy/1659-neil-line-my-line.html>

Sometime later I looked in the records for this death and I found the following :



The entry reads

"7th February 1854 (registered) Thomas Neil Quarrier residing at Coustonholm died of Cholera on the 7th February 1854 aged 60"

The curious thing about this is that whilst it does mention the death of Thomas, it does not mention his place of birth. Since Matthew Neil had said that he was born in Donegal, I tried to contact him to try to clarify where this piece of information came from. I eventually managed to contact him (with some difficulty) but he could not enlighten me further as this information had been collected by his father and although I asked him to get his father to contact me if he was interested in discussing this, I did not hear anything more so it remained a mystery. If the death registration did not mention a place of birth, how did Matt know it was Donegal ? At the time I wrote "*Since we cannot find out the source of this information it is not really possible to verify it*". The date of birth is also a problem. If this is the same Thomas he would have been born about 1794 and therefore about forty years old at the birth of John Neill who was born 14th April 1836 and was baptised 4th July 1836.

This whole issue went on the back burner for another few years until I heard from Elizabeth Smith - somewhat out of the blue - as a result of renewing my FHS membership (she had become the membership secretary and had noticed an email from me) and emailed saying hello. I updated her on the Matthew Neil information and on the mystery of the Thomas Neil who had died of cholera in 1854. She replied saying that "*we have recently completed photographing and transcribing the stones ...at Cathcart Churchyard*" and she had found a gravestone that probably referred to this Thomas Neil. She transcribed the gravestone as follows :

MARGARET MURRAY Sacred to the memory of her husband THOMAS NEIL, quarrier and stone merchant, who died 7th February 1854
and their family,
JAMES, died 8th November 1839,
MARGARET died 2nd July 1844,
ROBERT died at Rodney Downs, Queensland, 17th December 1874,
THOMAS died 10th May 1886.
The above MARGARET MURRAY died 6th July 1888,
their daughter AGNES NEIL died 2nd April 1917,
their daughter JANET NEIL died 2nd September 1920.

This was clearly the Thomas Neil, "*Quarrier residing at Coustonholm died of Cholera on the 7th February 1854 aged 60*" of the Cathcard register so it was obvious, even if this was not "my" Thomas that I should try to find more about this family since the gravestone gave us so much information to start with. The first thing we looked at was for the death of Margaret Neil nee Murray and the Statutory Register of Deaths turned up the following :

Your SR Deaths Search Returns

You searched for: Surname: "**Neil**"; Surname Option: **Fuzzy**; Forename: "**Margaret**"; Forename Option: **Prefix**; Sex: "**Female**"

No	Year	Surname /Maiden Name	Forename	Mother's Surname	Other Surnames	S e x	A g e	District	C o u n t y
1	1888	NEIL	MARGARET			F	0	ANDERSTON	GLASGOW CITY
2	1888	NEIL	MARGARET		BROWN	F	68	FALKIRK BURGH	/STIRLING
3	1888	NEIL	MARGARET		SHARP	F	41	WILTON	/ROXBURGH
4	1888	NEIL	MARGARET		MURRAY	F	85	GORBALS	GLASGOW CITY
5	1888	NEIL	MARGARET		DOUGLAS	F	25	KELVIN	GLASGOW CITY
6	1888	NEIL	MARGARET		STEWART	F	38	KINNING PARK FALKIRK	GLASGOW CITY
7	1888	NEILL	MARGARET		BROWN	F	33	LANDWARD	/STIRLING
8	1888	NEILL	MARGARET		HAMILL	F	0	STRANRAER	/WIGTOWN EDINBURGH
9	1888	NEILL	MARGARET		CARR	F	41	ST GILES	CITY/MIDLOTH EDINBURGH
10	1888	O'NEIL	MARGARET			F	1	ST GILES	CITY/MIDLOTH
11	1888	O'NEIL	MARGARET		SMITH	F	24	ST MARY HUTCHESONTOW	DUNDEE CITY/
12	1888	O'NEIL	MARGARET		SCANLAN	F	61	N	GLASGOW CITY

Our Margaret seemed quite likely so be obtained an image of the entry :

1888 NEIL, MARGARET (Statutory Deaths 644/12 0476)

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1888 DEATHS in the District of <u>Forth</u> in the County of <u>Canary</u>									
No.	Name and Surname. Rank or Profession, and whether Single, Married, or Widowed.	When and Where Died.	Sex.	Age.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Cause of Death, Duration of Disease, and Medical Attendant by whom certified.	Signature & Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Death occurred.	When and where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.	
475	James McKenzie (Single)	1888. July 17th 1888. 27 Salisbury Street Glasgow.	M.	1 year	James McKenzie Railway Porter Mrs. McKenzie Mrs. S. Hamilton	Exhaustion 4 days Connexion As Cert. by Dr. McNeill M.D.	James McKenzie Father Glasgow	1888. July 17 At Glasgow Glasgow Registrar.	
476	Margaret Neil Widow of Thomas Neil Quarry Master	1888. July 6th 1888. 114 South Portland Street Glasgow.	F.	15 years	James Murray House Builder Master deceased Janet Murray Mrs. McMeekin (deceased)	General Exhaustion from Old Age As Cert. by Dr. Kelly M.D.	Agnes Neil Daughter (Present)	1888. July 7 At Glasgow Glasgow Registrar.	
477	Mary Shaw Widow of Thomas McCallum Baker (Houseman) Mr. George Shaw	1888. July 11th 1888. 118 Pollokshaws Road Glasgow.	F.	45 years	Douglas M. Bell Tailor (Houseman) (deceased) Sarah M. Bell Mrs. Walker (deceased)	Exhaustion As Cert. by Patrick A. Smith M.D.	Agnes McCallum Daughter (Present)	1888. July 9 At Glasgow Glasgow Registrar.	

The information gleaned was as follows :

Margaret Neil, widow of Thomas Neil, Quarry Master died 10pm 6th of July 1888 at 114 South Portland Street, Glasgow. Her father was James Murray, House Builder (Master deceased). Her mother was Janet Murray ms Mc. Meekin (?) (deceased). She died of General Exhaustion from Old Age as certified by A. R. Kelly M Dr. The informant was Agnes Neil, daughter, Present +.The death was registered 7th July 1888 at Glasgow.

This Margaret Murray was obviously the correct one and she was born circa 1803 so we thought that she probably married Thomas Neil after about 1820

The only likely Thomas Neil marrying a Margaret Murray I could find was one that took place in Sorn, Ayr and dated 22 June 1827

Your OPR Banns & Marriages Search Returns

You searched for: Surname: **"Neil"**; Surname Option: **Variants**; Forename: **"Thomas"**; Forename O Variations; Sex: **"Any"**; Spouse's Surname: **"Margaret Murray"**; Date From: **01 January 1812**; L 31 December 1853;

[Help information on these records](#)

[Refine your search](#)

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No	Date	Surname	Forename	Spouse Name Frame No	Sex	Parish	City/ County	GROS Data	Image	Extract
1	22/06/1827	NEIL	THOMAS	MARGARET MURRAY/FR819 (FR819)	M	SORN	/AYR	613/00 0040 0061	View (5 Credits)	Order

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I looked up the marriage registration in the parish registers online but they merely confirmed the above saying "Thomas Neil and Margt. Murray both in this Parish after being duly proclaimed here in order to marriage, were married 22d. June 1827" (18th was written but scored out) The parish was Sorn and the County was Ayr. So nothing was learned from looking at this entry that we hadn't already got from the index entry.

Moving on, we decided to look for children born to this couple and a look at the LDS web site turned up the following children that seem to be connected to these parents :

Name	born	christ	where
Janet Neil	24 April 1828	4 May 1828	Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland
Elizabeth Neil	6 April 1830	18 April 1830	Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland
Robert Neil	19 August 1832	2 September 1832	Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland
Agnes Neil	25 July 1834	10 August 1834	Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland

The only other possible fits with parents of the same age were :

Name	born	christ	where
Harriet Neil	6 September 1842		Eastwood, Renfrewshire
Thomas Neil	10 November 1845		Eastwood, Renfrewshire

We found some other outliers with the same parental names but these were obviously not "mine"

Name	born	christ	where
Catherine Neil	13 January 1874		Jedburgh, Roxburgh mother given as Margaret Neil
Isabella Neil	31 August 1881		Wilton, Roxburgh mother given as Margaret Murray Neil
William Neil	20 October 1883		Roxburghshire, Scotland died Vancouver 8 January 1979

The gravestone that Elizabeth Smith sent mentioned a James, a Margaret, a Robert, a Thomas, an Agnes and a Janet. So we were still missing some births from the LDS returns. They did not mention James, Margaret, or Thomas. The Thomas born 10 November 1845 could be the missing Thomas but that seemed like a long gap between Agnes in 1834 and this Thomas in 1845. I thought that probably the best way to find out about these gaps between children was to try to find the family in the census taken a couple of years before Thomas senior died - the 1851 census.

I did the following search

Your Census Search Returns

You searched for: Surname: **"Neil"**; Surname Option: **Exact**; Forename: **"Thomas"**; Forename Option: **Exact**; Relative Forename: **Margaret**; Sex: **"Any"**; Year: **1851**; Advanced Filter: **Janet Elizabeth Robert Agnes Sorn**;

[Help information on these records](#)

[Refine your search](#)

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No	Year	Surname	Forename	Sex	Age	District	City/ County	GROS Data	Image	Extract
1	1851	NEIL	THOMAS	M	2	FALKIRK	/STIRLING	479/00 004/00 040	View (5 Credits)	Order
2	1851	NEIL	THOMAS	M	5	EASTWOOD	/LANARK	562/00 007/00 040	View (5 Credits)	Order
3	1851	NEIL	THOMAS	M	57	EASTWOOD	/LANARK	562/00 007/00 040	View (5 Credits)	Order
4	1851	NEIL	THOMAS	M	4	GALSTON	/AYR	593/00 009/00 015	View (5 Credits)	Order
5	1851	NEIL	THOMAS	M	35	RICCARTON	/AYR	611/00 004/00 046	View (5 Credits)	Order
6	1851	NEIL	THOMAS	M	2	TARBOLTON	/AYR	619/00 003/00 013	View (5 Credits)	Order
7	1851	NEIL	THOMAS	M	58	TARBOLTON	/AYR	619/00 003/00 008	View (5 Credits)	Order
8	1851	NEIL	THOMAS	M	8	TARBOLTON	/AYR	619/00 003/00 008	View (5 Credits)	Order
9	1851	NEIL	THOMAS	M	29	MINTO	/ROXBURGH	800/00 001/00 012	View (5 Credits)	Order

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Clearly the two Thomas Neils as in Eastwood District are the same return and the Thomas we were interested in was supposed to have resided in Coustonholm at his death in 1854. (which according to Elizabeth Smith is in Eastwood) so looked at the census return and it showed :

30/03/1851 NEIL, THOMAS (Census 1851 562/00 007/00 040)

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Parish of		Quoad Sacra Parish of		Within the limits of the Parliamentary Burgh of		Within the limits of the Royal Burgh of		Town or Village of	
Eastwood		Auldfield						Pollockshaws	
No. of House	Name of Street, Place, or Road, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether blind or deaf-mute
					Males	Females			
117	3 Coustonholm	William Campbell	Head	Mar	61		Road Carver	England	
		Marian De	Wife	Mar		61	do's wife	Ayrshire, Leaden	
		Hellen De	Daughter	U		32	do's daughter	Renfrew, Glasgow	
		Thompson Campbell	Grandchild		8		Scholar	do, P. Mearns	
118	4 Coustonholm	Thomas Neil	Head	Mar	57		Master Quarrier employing men	Ayrshire, Kilmarnock	
		Margaret De	Wife	Mar		46	Daughter	do, do	
		Janet De	Daur	U		21	do	do, do	
		Elizabeth De	Daur	U		19	do	do, do	
		Robert De	Son	U		17	Son	do, do	
		Agnes De	Daur			15	Daur	do, do	
		Hellen De	Daur			13	do	do, do	
		Harriet De	Daur			7	Scholar	Renfrew, P. Mearns	
		Thomas De	Son			5	do	do, do	
119	Hope Hill	Malcolm Wright	Head	Mar	62		Gardener	Renfrew, Paisley	
		Janet De	Wife	Mar		61	gardener's wife	Stirling, Shire	
		Elizabeth Carmichael	Daur	Mar		20		Renfrew, Paisley	
		Janet De	Daur			1		Renfrew, Glasgow	
		Duncan Buchanan	Grandson	U		26	Gardener	Renfrew, P. Mearns	
		Mary Gooden	Servant	U		13	House Servant	do, do	
		William Macdonald	do	U		15	Carton	do, do	
Total of Houses		Total of Persons		8		12			

This reads : Parish of Eastwood, Quoad Sacra Parish of Auldfield, Town of Pollockshaws Entry No 168, 4 Coustonholm

Thomas Neil	Head	Mar	57		Master Quarrier employing men (Stone Merchant is crossed out)	Ayrshire, Kilmarnock
Margaret Neil	Wife	Mar		46	Daughter (sic)	Ayrshire, Kilmarnock
Janet Neil	Daur	U		21	Daughter	Ayrshire, Kilmarnock
Elizabeth Neil	Daur	U		19	Daughter	Ayrshire, Kilmarnock
Robert Neil	Son	U	17		Son	Ayrshire, Kilmarnock
Agnes Neil	Daur			15	Daughter	Ayrshire, Kilmarnock
Hellen Neil	Daur			13	Daughter	Ayrshire, Kilmarnock
Harriet Neil	Daur			7	Scholar	Renfrew ????
Thomas Neil	Son		5		Scholar	Renfrew ????

This confirms that Harriet and Thomas did belong to these parents but also adds another child, Hellen, born circa 1838. This raises a curious problem; the ages of the children given in the census are almost 2 years older than the ages returned by the LDS query in all cases where there was an LDS mention of the child. Thomas's age seems right but Margaret is possibly a couple of years out as well. What we do not find here, obviously, is a James that the gravestone inscription mentions as dying 8th November 1839 but, more curiously, we could find no reference to this death in the parish registers either.

I decided to look back at the 1841 Census to see if I could find the family then.

You searched for: Surname: "NEIL"; Surname Option: **Variants**; Forename: "THOMAS"; Forename Option: **Prefix**; Relative Forename: **AGNES**; Sex: "Any"; Year: 1841;

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There were two families here but obviously the Eastwood one was the more likely. I looked up the page and found them thus :

[illegible]

The entry reads

06/06/1841 Neil, Thomas (Census 1841 562/00 011/00 009

Parish of Eastwood or Polloc Town of Pollockshaw (?)

Address : Coustonholm

Name	Age M	Age F	Profession etc	This County
Thomas Neil	40		Master Quarrier	No
Margaret Neil		30		No
Janet Neil		13		No
Elizabeth Neil		11		No
Robert Neil	9			No
Agnes Neil		7		No
Margaret Neil		5		No
Margaret Neil		7 mo		Yes

As well as the children mentioned previously we also find not one but two Margarets (??) Margaret Neil aged 5 years so born 1837 and Margaret Neil aged 7 months, so born 1840. According to the gravestone she died 2 July 1844. This brings all the known children into the picture as far as the census is concerned except James who died 8 November 1839 before either of these censuses. On the matter of two children in the same family having the same name there is some discussion of this at <http://www.rootschat.com/forum/index.php?topic=616324.0>

From all of the above it is hard to see where our John Neil would fit into all of this and so we have to conclude that this is not the Thomas Neil who was the father of Our John Neil who was born 14th April 1836 and baptised 4th July 1836, the lawful son of Thomas Neill and Agnes Feran despite the connection that Matt Neil seems to have made.

When I did the reconstruction of the children of this family including OPR mentions, the 1851 census and the information from the gravestone, I was stuck by the longevity of some of these children and started wondering if I had got the births of some people and the deaths of other people. In particular I looked at Janet Neil b 24/4/1828 Sorn and who the gravestone said died 2/9/1920 This would have made her about 90 - 92 years of age at death. Her mother had died aged 85 but this still seemed suspicious so I looked up deaths of Janet Neils (in case she had not married) :

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No	Year	Surname / Maiden Name	Forename	Mother's Surname	Other Surnames	S	A	e	g	x	e	District	City / County / MR	GROS Data	Image	Extract
1	1918	NEIL	JANET		DAVIDSON	F	72					KILMARNOCK (AYR)	/AYR	597/00 0527	View (5 Credits)	Order
2	1918	NEIL	JANET		MEIKLEJOHN	F	87					ST NINIAN	/STIRLING	488/01 0018	View (5 Credits)	Order
3	1919	NEIL	JANET		CUNNINGHAM	F	71					NEW CUMNOCK	/AYR	608/00 0032	View (5 Credits)	Order
4	1920	NEIL	JANET		CAMPBELL	F	53					LIVINGSTON	/WEST LOTHIAN	669/01 0005	View (5 Credits)	Order
5	1920	NEIL	JANET			F	90					POLLOKSHIELDS	GLASGOW CITY/LANARK	644/18 0339	View (5 Credits)	Order
6	1920	NEIL	JANET			F	83					COATBRIDGE OR OLD MONKLAND	/LANARK	652/02 0625	View (5 Credits)	Order
7	1920	NEIL	JANET		DICKIE	F	71					MILTON	GLASGOW CITY/LANARK	644/09 0042	View (5 Credits)	Order
8	1921	NEIL	JANET		HAIR MOORE	F	50					KILMARNOCK (AYR)	/AYR	597/00 0476	View (5 Credits)	Order
9	1922	NEIL	JANET		ALLAN	F	71					CLACKMANNAN	/CLACKMANNAN	466/00 0036	View (5 Credits)	Order
10	1922	NEIL	JANET		MORTON	F	82					NEWMILNS	/AYR	603/01 0010	View (5 Credits)	Order
11	1922	NEIL	JANET			F	62					BARRHEAD AND LEVERN	/RENFREW	572/02 0033	View (5 Credits)	Order

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The likely entry would be the one for a Janet Neil who died in Pollockshields aged 90 so I looked at the certification :

IL JANET (Statutory Deaths 644/18 0339)

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1920 DEATHS in the DISTRICT of POLLOKSHIELDS in the BURGH of GLASGOW

No.	Name and Surname, Rank or Profession, and whether Single, Married, or Widowed.	When and Where Died.	Sex.	Age.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father, Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Cause of Death, Duration of Disease, and Medical Attendant by whom certified.	Signature & Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Death occurred.	When and where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
337	Janet Davidson Building Coastal Married to Jane Page	1920. September First 8.30 PM 459 Shields Road Glasgow	M	67	William Davidson Farmer (deceased) Ellen Davidson Mrs Carr (deceased)	Cardiac Disease Cerebral (deceased) Subsided 11.2.1920 11.3.1920	James Davidson Glasgow	1920. September 2nd At Glasgow J. Davidson Registrar.
338	Emabella Fisher Jarvis Fisher Frank Fisher (Single)	1920. September First 10.45 PM 35 Smith Street Glasgow	F	42	Thomas Fisher Wood Carrier (deceased) Janet Fisher Mrs Bennett	Pneumonia (deceased) Subsided Anderson 11.4.1920	Thos. Fisher Brother 28 Overdale Garden (Present)	1920. September 2nd At Glasgow J. Davidson Registrar.
339	Janet Neil (Single)	1920. September Second 3.10 PM 45 Nithsdale Road Glasgow	F	90	Thomas Neil Quartermaster (deceased) Margaret Neil Mrs Murray (deceased)	Chronic Bronchitis 10 years Cardiac failure (deceased) Subsided 11.4.1920	Thomas Neil Nephew Parent	1920. September 3rd At Glasgow J. Davidson Registrar.

J. Davidson Registrar.

The register of the deaths in the district of Pollockshields in the burgh of Glasgow for 1920 (entry no 330) records the death of Janet Neil, Single who died 0h10m PM (?) on the 2nd of September at 49 Nithsdale Road, Glasgow aged 90 years. She died of Chronic Bronchitis 10 years, Cardiac Failure 1 day. She was the daughter of Thomas Neil, Quarrymaster (deceased) and Margaret Neil ms Murray (deceased). The informant was Thomas Neil, Nephew, who was present.

Unable to make a connection between this family and mine I emailed Elizabeth Smith to say :

Dear Elizabeth,

Thank you very much for the photo and the transcription; I spent some of the weekend looking up the people mentioned and discovered that Margaret Murray married Thomas Neil 22/6/1827 in Sorn, Ayrshire (both were "of this parish") I looked at the IGI and found some children to this couple but in order to find out a bit more I looked at the 1851 census and found them living at 4 Coustonholm : Parish of Eastwood, Quoad Sacra Parish of Auldfield, Town of Pollockshaws Entry No 168.

Thomas Neil is crossed out)	Head Mar 57 Ayrshire, Kilmarnock	Master Quarrier employing men (Stone Merchant
Margaret Neil	Wife Mar 46 Ayrshire, Kilmarnock	Daughter (sic)
Janet Neil	Daur U 21 Ayrshire, Kilmarnock	Daughter
Elizabeth Neil	Daur U 19 Ayrshire, Kilmarnock	Daughter
Robert Neil	Son U 17 Ayrshire, Kilmarnock	Son
Agnes Neil	Daur 15 Ayrshire, Kilmarnock	Daughter
Hellen Neil	Daur 13 Ayrshire, Kilmarnock	Daughter
Harriet Neil	Daur 7 Renfrew, Mearns ?	Scholar
Thomas Neil	Son 5 Renfrew, Mearns ?	Scholar

It has to be said that there is an approximately two year difference between some of the ages as given in the census and other sources I looked at.

The gravestone, though, mentions other children - James who died 8 November 1839 and Margaret who died 2 July 1844. It is possible that these children died at birth and that the order of the children was like this :

Janet	b 24/4/1828 Sorn	d 2/9/1920 (according to gravestone)
Elizabeth	b 6/4/1830 Sorn	
Robert	b 2/9/1832 Sorn	d 17/12/1874 at Rodney Downs, Queensland (according to gravestone)
Agnes	b 25/7/1834 Sorn	d 2/4/1917 (according to gravestone)
Hellen	b circa 1836 Sorn	
James	b ?	d 8/11/1839 (according to gravestone)
Harriet	b 6/9/1842 Renfrew	
Margaret	b ?	d 2/7/1844 (according to gravestone)
Thomas	b 10/11/1846 Renfrew	d 10/5/1886 (according to gravestone)

I also found the death registration of Margaret Neil (nee Murray) in 1888. She was Margaret Neil, widow of Thomas Neil, Quarry Master and died 10pm on 6th of July 1888 aged 85 at 114 South Portland Street, Glasgow. Her father was James Murray, House Builder (Master

deceased). Her mother was Janet Murray ms Mc. Meekin (?) (deceased). She died of General Exhaustion from Old Age and the informant was her daughter Agnes.

So, all in all, I can't find any way of connecting the Thomas Neil, father of this family, to the Thomas Neil who was married to Agnes Feran and whose son, John, was born 14th April 1836 and baptised 4th July 1836 at St. Andrew's Cathedral. This family also seem to be of a rather "better" class of people than my ancestors so I don't think I can add these people to my family tree in any obvious way yet.

As I mentioned earlier Matthew Neil or his father Gordon Neil seemed to think that our common ancestor, John Neil, had a father who is described in the death register for Cathcart thus : "7th February 1854 (registered) Thomas Neil Quarrier residing at Coustonholm died of Cholera on the 7th February 1854 aged 60". This is clearly the same person referred to in the gravestone you sent me the photo of and, as I say, it is obviously not the father of my our ancestor. Whether they just found the only death of a Thomas Neil they could find in roughly the right place and roughly the right time and settled on that I don't know. It still remains a mystery.

On the plus side, I had a good few hours looking into this family and enjoyed myself doing so; and who knows when it might prove of interest to someone else or even fit into "mine" in some indirect way. Either way it has got me back into the family history groove so I will have to get back to my Thomas Neil and Agnes Feran again now. Perhaps I should be looking in the poor law records or the police records ?

Anyway, thank you again for your interest and I hope you have a breakthrough in your own researches; one never knows when something might appear !

Very best wishes

Bill Neil

Ps would you happen to have any information on who had the gravestone erected and when ?