

# Angus Fleming's origins

by James Michael Fleming

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**Jim Fleming** is a retired Customs Manager and lives on Sydney's lower north shore. He began researching his family history in 1983 and has been a member of the Society of Australian Genealogists for 35 years. Aside from genealogy he enjoys travelling and sings baritone in two choirs.

**Researching:** Bowen, Flowerdew, Gardner, Gordon, Grady, Hanrahan, Jolliffe, Kemp, Kessey, Murphy, Poulton, Press and so many more!

**Website:** <http://jimfleming.id.au/up/index.htm>

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## Contents

Contents .....	2
Introduction.....	3
Previous knowledge of our Angus .....	3
Three possible baptism records.....	4
Angus baptism number 1 is ruled out .....	5
Other Angus Flemings in Scotland .....	6
Angus Fleming in Canada.....	6
Angus baptism number 2 is very unlikely .....	7
Angus baptism number 3 is our man .....	7
What happened to Angus's family? .....	7
Margaret Lawson's origins .....	9
James Fleming and Mary Sinclair.....	9
Mary Sinclair's origins .....	10
Where did Angus Fleming's name come from? .....	10
Did the Fleming and Sinclair families use the Scottish naming convention?.....	11
Was there an earlier unrecorded Angus Fleming? .....	11
Conclusion .....	12
James Fleming's origins .....	12
Fleming names .....	12
My father's generation .....	13
My grandfather's generation.....	13
My G-grandfather's generation.....	13
My GG-grandfather's generation.....	14
My GGG-grandfather's generation .....	14
My GGGG-grandfather's generation .....	15
Summary .....	16
Further research .....	17

## Angus Fleming's origins

### Introduction

This document outlines the research efforts that I have made in order to find the origins of my 4G-grandfather, Angus Fleming, who was buried in a pauper's grave at Cambuslang (Scotland) on 30 April 1837. Where and when had he been born? More importantly, who were his parents? And could I unearth the family's earlier history?

Normally a genealogist aims to find a document that relates to the person and names their parents. I wanted to find direct evidence of Angus's parents (such as his marriage certificate or death certificate) but Angus died 18 years before such certificates were introduced in Scotland. Despite my best efforts, I could find no direct evidence about his parents. I realised that this meant that I would probably never be able to settle this question "beyond reasonable doubt".

In the absence of such definitive evidence of his parents, I decided to use more intensive research methods in the hope that I would find something that would shed some light on Angus's birth. I was hoping to find a range of indirect evidence that could, when considered together, identify his parents "on the balance of probabilities".

It is accepted practice for genealogists to use indirect evidence in cases where direct evidence is unavailable. An oft-cited example for getting around a brick wall for an ancestor is to trace back a sibling of that ancestor<sup>1</sup>. In this case, however, I was not aware of any sibling.

Nevertheless, there are other methods for getting around brick walls. One that I have used with success in the past is to locate all the possible answers and then attempt to rule out the incorrect ones based on other evidence. So that is the technique that I started with in this case.

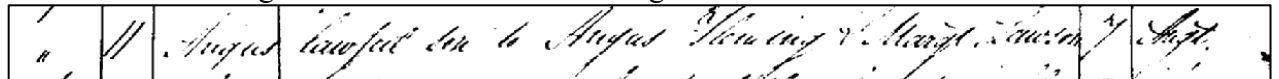
In order to leave no stone unturned, I also used another technique for the first time. The Scottish naming convention was an integral part of Scottish culture in the 1700s, 1800s and early 1900s. Some Scottish families (including our Fleming family) followed it closely in choosing names for their children. Could known children's names provide a clue to their grand-parents' names?

Finally, can evidence obtained from DNA analysis help to identify earlier ancestors?

### Previous knowledge of our Angus

To assess any new evidence that I found, I needed to compare it to what I already knew about Angus.

I knew that the name of my 4G grandfather was Angus Fleming because it is recorded on the baptism record of his son, also called Angus Fleming, who was born on 11 Jul 1831. This record also reveals that Angus senior was married to Margaret Lawson.



Baptism record of Angus Fleming's son, Angus Fleming, Parish of Cambuslang (Glasgow), 7 Aug 1831

There are a few more records from the life of Angus Fleming senior. Firstly, as expected, there is a record of his marriage to Margaret Lawson, which took place at Govan on 28 April 1826.

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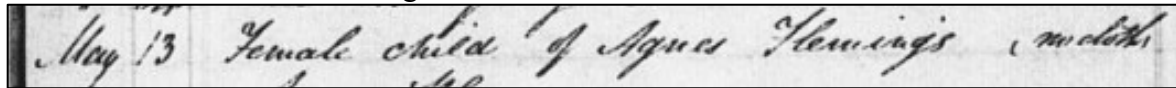
<sup>1</sup> I employed this technique successfully for my ancestor George Waples – see [The Waples Roadblock](#).  
Angus Flemings origins.docx

## Angus Fleming's origins

Booked		Married		Persons' Names		His parish		Her parish	
April	14	April	28	Ellie Robertson & Ann Crawford		Govan	Govan		
"	"	"	"	Angus Fleming & Margaret Lawson		"	"		

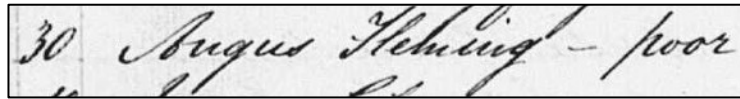
Marriage record of Angus Fleming and Margaret Lawson, Parish of Govan (Glasgow), 28 April 1826

Their son Angus was born five years later and may have had older siblings<sup>2</sup>, although there are no surviving baptism records for them. When young Angus was nearly 3 years old, an unnamed sister was buried at Cambuslang.



Burial record of an unnamed daughter of Angus Fleming and Margaret Lawson, Parish of Cambuslang, 13 May 1834

The burial record notes “no cloth”, which means that her parents were not able to afford the cost of renting the parish mortcloth that was used to cover the deceased before burial.



Burial record of an Angus Fleming, Parish of Cambuslang, 30 April 1837

Just four years later, on 30 April 1837, Angus Fleming was himself buried in a pauper's grave at Cambuslang. Two more of his children were buried within a year of his death.

So, Angus married Margaret Lawson at Govan in 1826; they had at least 4 children (including Angus junior who was born at Cambuslang in 1831); one child died in 1834; and two more died in the year after Angus senior died on 30 April 1837.

### Three possible baptism records

The scant information outlined above is all I could find about the life of Angus Fleming, my 4G grandfather. Unfortunately, there are no hints about his parents' names. The only hint about his birthplace is that he was married at Govan and both he and his children were all buried at nearby Cambuslang.

I tried to estimate when he was born based on the date of his marriage, 1826. If he was twenty years old when he married, then he would have been born in about 1806. If he was extremely young when married (very unlikely), then he could have been born as late as 1810 or 1811.

On the other hand, if he had married late in life he could have been born as early as 1776 (which would make him 50 years old at marriage).

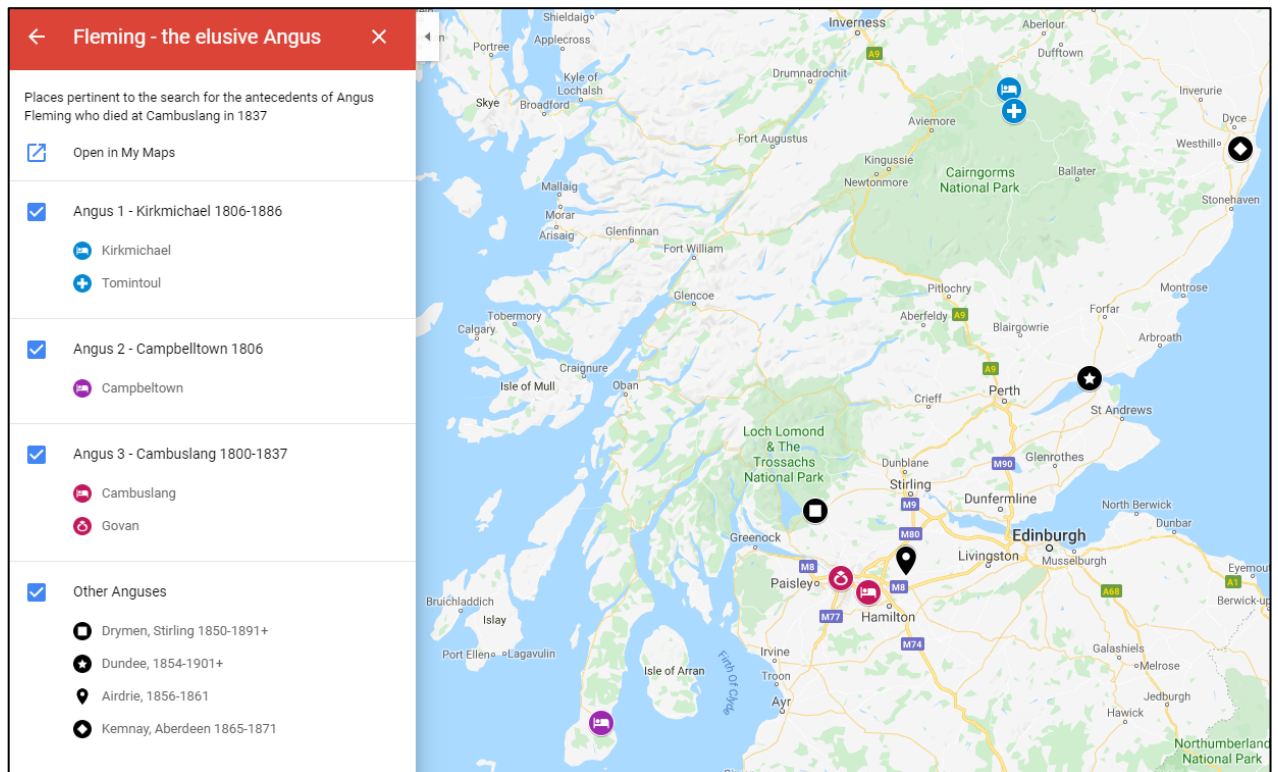
I searched the Scottish Old Parish Records for the baptism records of any Angus Fleming born between 1776 and 1810. There are only three such records:

1. Angus Fleming f James bap 20 Jun 1805 at Kirkmichael & Tomintoul
2. Angus Fleming f Malcolm m Margaret MacEachern bap 15 Jun 1806 at Campbelltown
3. Angus Fleming f James m Mary Sinclair bap 14 Jun 1800 at Cambuslang.

<sup>2</sup> The possibility of older siblings for 1831 Angus Fleming is explored in the *Fleming names* section below.  
Angus Flemings origins.docx

## Angus Fleming's origins

I now proceeded to trace the lives of these three Angus Flemings looking for clues that might help me to rule two of these possibilities out, thus identifying the remaining one as our Angus. Now, we know that our Angus Fleming died in 1837. So, if we can find any subsequent record of an Angus Fleming that can be definitively linked to one of those three baptisms, then that baptism is ruled out.



Map showing the key places that feature in the search for the elusive Angus

### Angus baptism number 1 is ruled out

There are many post-1837 records of the Angus Fleming who was baptised at Kirkmichael & Tomintoul in 1805. Firstly, he is recorded on the 1841 census as a 35-year-old mason at Kirkmichael & Tomintoul living with Janet Cameron (70) and Elspet Fleeman. As we shall see later, Janet Cameron was his mother (listed under her maiden name as most widows were). It is likely the Elspet was Angus' sister. The next household was headed by 40-year-old James Fleeman (a farrier) who may have been Angus' older brother.

He is not listed on the 1851 census, but he married Isabella Stewart on 29 April that year. They are listed at Kirkmichael on the 1861 census, he as a 54-year-old stone mason and she as his wife Isabella (aged 44). He is listed on the 1871 census at Kirkmichael as a 62-year-old stone mason married to Isabella (aged 54). He is listed at the same place on the 1881 census, aged 72.

He died on 6 January 1886 at Tomintoul. The death certificate is consistent with all the details on his baptism record – his age is 80; his father is James. The death certificate also gives the name of his mother: Janet Cameron, with whom he was living on the 1841 census record. (Note that his first wife Isabella had passed away and his second wife was named Ann Grant.)

Angus Fleming	1886	M	80	James Fleming (farmer - deceased)	General debility of old age	Ann Fleming Widow	1886
Stone Mason	January			Janet Fleming (deceased)	Uncertain	Mark Widow	January 11 <sup>th</sup>
Married to Ann Grant	24.30. AM.				as cert. by W. A. Tennant C. R. C. P. &c Tomintoul	John Grant Registrar.	

Death Certificate of Angus Fleming number 1 of Kirkmichael & Tomintoul 1805-1886.

## Angus Fleming's origins

There is no doubt that the Angus Fleming who was baptised at Kirkmichael & Tomintoul on 20 June 1805 became a stone mason and lived out his four score years in the area where he was born. We can confidently rule out the baptism record of Angus Fleming number 1.

### Other Angus Flemings in Scotland

There are a few other nineteenth century Scottish records of people named Angus Fleming, but none of them are associated with the 1806 baptism (number 2) or the 1800 baptism (number 3).

These records relate to Angus's son Angus (born 1831); his grandsons named Angus (born in 1852 and 1863 respectively); and four other younger boys.

- A. This Angus Fleming was born at Drymen (Stirling) about 1850 and recorded there on the 1851 census. He is recorded as an 11-year-old on the 1861 census living with his father (William) and mother (Janet). In both 1871 and 1881 he is recorded as a miller living at Milton (Lanarkshire). In 1881 and 1891 he is recorded as having returned to Drymen (Stirlingshire) as a steel worker<sup>3</sup>.
- B. Another Angus Fleming was born about 1854 and first recorded as an eight-year-old on the 1861 census at Dundee. He was still at Dundee in 1871 as a 17-year-old who had been born at Forfarshire (Dundee), father Angus. In 1891 he is recorded at Dundee as a 35-year-old calenderer. He is again recorded at Dundee in 1901. Both he and his father may descend from the Angus Fleming who died at Dundee on 25 November 1824, "husband of the late Margaret Ogilvie". [It is extremely unlikely that this grandfather Angus could be Angus baptism 2 (Campbelltown 1806) or Angus baptism 3 (Cambuslang 1800). For this to be the case, he would have had to have moved to Dundee, married, fathered a son Angus, been widowed and then died himself, all before the age of 18 or 24.]
- C. A third Angus Fleming was born in 1856 and recorded on the 1861 census living at Airdrie with his father Daniel Fleming (a 29-year-old Engine Keeper born at Stirling) and mother (Margaret aged 28 from Bothwell). There are no other records of him.
- D. Finally, a fourth Angus Fleming was recorded as a 5-year-old on the 1871 census at Kemnay, Aberdeen, son of John Fleming (a 48-year-old mason from Ireland) and Margaret Nicholson. His 1865 birth at Aharacle in Argyll is recorded in a document available from FindMyPast.

Each of these records clearly relate to people named Angus Fleming who were born after 1830; most after 1850. Therefore, none of them relate to either of the two baptism records that we are interested in for our Angus Fleming, my 4G grandfather.

So far, we know that, of the three baptism record possibilities, one relates to the mason who was born at Kirkmichael and who lived there for 80 years before dying there. One of the other two must relate to our Angus, who was married at Govan in 1826 and died at nearby Cambuslang in 1837. But what happened to the other Angus? I have shown that none of the other Scottish records relate to him. Could he have died an unrecorded death at a young age?

No, it seems that he emigrated to Canada.

### Angus Fleming in Canada

The 1861 census record for the township of Collingwood in the county of Grey (Ontario, Canada) records a 60-year-old Angus Fleming from Scotland, plus his wife and three sons named Henry, Alexander and Andrew.

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<sup>3</sup> Pat Thomson (who has done extensive research on Lanarkshire Flemings), tells me that this Angus is a grandchild of a Fleming from Carmunnock. His father William was a miller.

## Angus Fleming's origins

17	Angus Fleming	farmer	Scotland	60	1	ca
18	Mrs Fleming		Scotland	60		1 ca
19	Henry Fleming	farmer	Scotland	30	1	3
40	William Fleming	farmer	Scotland	28	1	3
41	Andrew Fleming	farmer	Scotland	32	1	3

1861 Canadian census record for Angus Fleming (farmer), born in Scotland circa 1801

It seems likely that this new Canadian is our missing Angus.

But which of the two baptism records relates to the Angus Fleming who went to Canada; and which relates to our Angus who was buried at Cambuslang in 1837? Unfortunately, it isn't possible to answer this with absolute certainty.

On the one hand, the 1861 Canadian census gives Angus' age as 60, indicating that he was born about 1801. This implies that it is more likely that he was baptism number 3 (recorded in 1800 at Cambuslang, f James Fleming m Mary Sinclair). On the other hand, our Angus and his family were recorded at Cambuslang and nearby many times over subsequent years. Also, most Scottish emigrants to Canada before 1860 came from the Highlands, which would imply that baptism number 2 is the one more likely to have emigrated (recorded in 1806 at Campbelltown in Argyll, f Malcolm m Margaret MacEachern).

### Angus baptism number 2 is very unlikely

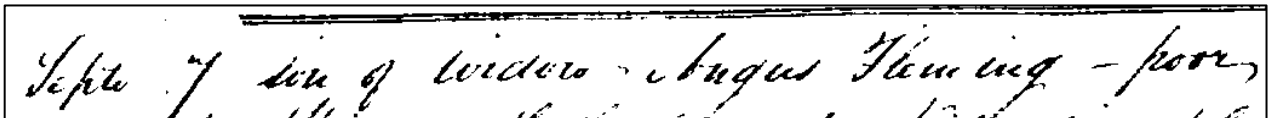
While I can't say definitively, my judgement is that it was the highland Angus (from Campbelltown in Argyll) who emigrated to Canada. The alternative would require a very high level of coincidence – that is, Cambuslang Angus emigrates; then Campbelltown Angus just happens to move from Campbelltown to Cambuslang. In my judgement, the chances of that having happened are very low.

### Angus baptism number 3 is our man

So, having considered the broad range of evidence outlined above, it is my judgement (based on the balance of probabilities) that our Angus Fleming is the one who was born at Cambuslang on 14 June 1800 to James Fleming and Mary Sinclair. At the age of 26 he married Margaret Lawson at Govan (just 8.6 miles from Cambuslang). He died nine years later at Cambuslang.

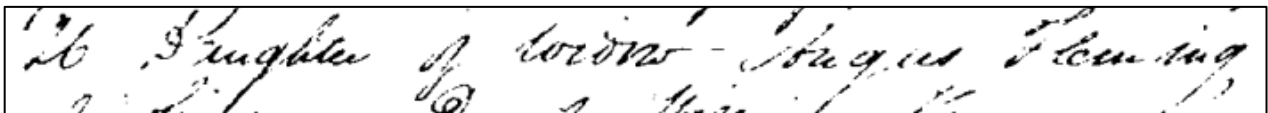
### What happened to Angus's family?

Angus's widow, Margaret Lawson, was left with at least three living children: six-year-old Angus had a sister and a brother. Unfortunately, they both joined their father in death during the following year. Without her husband's income, Margaret must have struggled to provide her children with food and a healthy home.



Sept 7 son of widower Angus Fleming - poor

Burial record of an unnamed son of the late Angus Fleming and Margaret Lawson, Parish of Cambuslang, 7 September 1838



26 Daughter of widower Angus Fleming

Burial record of an unnamed daughter of the late Angus Fleming and Margaret Lawson, Cambuslang, 26 October 1838

## Angus Fleming's origins

Twenty months after her first husband died, Margaret Lawson married John Currie (a nightwatchman) at Rutherglen (5 kilometres from Cambuslang). He was a widower with four young children. The blended family (including Margaret's ten-year-old son Angus) was living at Warroch Street in Glasgow when the census was recorded in June 1841.

I found the 1841 census record for this blended family by following a series of clues. Firstly, I reasoned that Margaret must have remarried because there is no record of her on the 1841 census under either Fleming or Lawson; nor could I find her son Angus Fleming.

There are three possible marriages: to Alexander McLuckie at Old Monkland in 1837; to Thomas Loudon in Glasgow in 1839; or to John Currie at Rutherglen in 1839.

There is no ten-year-old Angus on the 1841 census with the surname McLuckie or Loudon. But there is one Angus in the household of John Currie at Barony (see image below). Could this child be Angus Fleming but recorded with his stepfather's surname? Is it significant that the census record does not include "ditto" (i.e. Currie) for Angus' surname?

John Currie	35	Night Watchman	4
Mrs do	55		4
William do	10		4
John do	10	Rivert Boy	4
Marion do	8		4
James do	6		4
Angus	10		4
George do	10 months		4

1841 census record of the blended Currie/Fleming family

There is no record of John Currie having named a child Angus during his first marriage. While an Angus Currie was baptised at Barony on 1 July 1827 (father John Currie mother Martha McMillan), that must be a different Angus Currie, because his parents and some of his siblings are recorded elsewhere on the 1841 census (at Glasgow). Furthermore, that family did not have children named William, Marion or James (part of the blended Currie/Fleming family in 1841).

So, our ten-year-old Angus Fleming junior was recorded on the 1841 census living in Glasgow with his mother (now Mrs Currie), stepfather (John Currie), stepbrothers (William, John and James) and stepsister Marion. The newly married couple also had another son (Angus's half-brother George) who had been born nine months after their marriage.

By the time of the 1851 census, young Angus Fleming (now 20 years old but recorded as 18 years old) was lodging at Gartsherrie with James Landles and his wife Janet. James Landles was a wagon driver and Angus was his apprentice. Angus's mother, Margaret, was living with her husband John Currie and their younger children at 16 Landressey Street in nearby Calton. I have not been able to find any further record of them.

Later that same year, young Angus married Elizabeth Taylor and they had six children between 1852 and 1865: Angus, Charles, William, Jane, Angus and Matthew. In 1865, Angus deserted his wife and there are few further records of him. Young Angus seems to have lived all his life in the suburbs of Glasgow, including Gartsherrie, Tollcross, Coatbridge, Airdrie, Calton and Old Monkland.



## Angus Fleming's origins

In summary, Angus Fleming (senior) married Margaret Lawson at Govan in 1826 and they produced at least two sons and two daughters over the next 11 years before Angus died. One daughter died three years before her father, while a son and a daughter died about 18 months after he himself died. Angus and his three children were all buried in paupers' graves at Cambuslang. His widow remarried and his only surviving child (Angus junior) became a wagon driver, married Elizabeth Taylor and produced a family of six children.

### Margaret Lawson's origins

I have not been able to discover any subsequent record of Margaret Lawson. Without her death certificate, we cannot know the names of her parents with any certainty. I have reasoned below (in the *Fleming names* section) that her father's name might have been William Lawson (because her son Angus named his third son William). If so, then she might be the Margaret Lawson who was baptised at Barony on 17 February 1799, daughter of William Lawson and Jean Alexander who had married at Glasgow on 29 April 1794.

### James Fleming and Mary Sinclair

I now turned to the earlier origins of the Fleming family, starting with James Fleming and Mary Sinclair, who (I had now established), were the parents of Angus Fleming senior.

Confusingly, there were two separate James Fleming and Mary Sinclair families in Lanarkshire at the same time: one in Glasgow (1786-1806) and the other in Blantyre and later Cambuslang (1782-1805).

The marriage of the Glasgow couple was recorded on 29 June 1786 in the parish of James Fleming: Gorbals. It was recorded one month later in the parish of James' new wife, Mary Sinclair: Glasgow. It was normal practice to record marriages in the parish of both the bride and groom. These records reveal that James was a cordiner (shoemaker) and that Mary's father Archibald Sinclair was a porter. But they can't have been the parents of our Angus (born at Cambuslang in 1800) because they baptised other children at Glasgow both before and after 1800 – Andrew 1796; James 1802; and Catherine 1806).

This means that Angus Fleming's parents were the Blantyre/Cambuslang couple. I am indebted to Pat Thomson for putting me on the right track here!

Scotland's Old Parish Registers of baptisms record 10 children for James Fleming and Mary Sinclair: 7 at Blantyre and 3 at Cambuslang (including our Angus). (Blantyre is 5 km from Cambuslang where Angus was born in 1800.) I have been unable to find a record of the marriage between James Fleming and Mary Sinclair. Nevertheless, their children were:

1	1782	Janet	Blantyre	
2	1784	Robert	Blantyre	
3	1786	Janet 2	Blantyre	1782 Janet must have died
4	1789	James	Blantyre	
5	1792	John	Blantyre	
6	1794	Isobel	Blantyre	
7	1798	Hugh	Blantyre	
8	1800	Angus	Cambuslang	
9	1803	Hugh 2	Cambuslang	1798 Hugh must have died
10	1805	Janet 3	Cambuslang	1786 Janet must have died

## Angus Fleming's origins

James was recorded by the Reverend Henry Stevenson as a "private soldier" on the baptism record of his first-born. Stevenson also recorded the baptism of the other six children in Blantyre, but for five of these he recorded that James was a tailor. The family lived at Hunthill (near Blantyre) for 5 baptisms but had moved to nearby Barnhill for the 1798 baptism of Hugh.

For all three Cambuslang baptisms, the family was recorded as residing at Deans. In two cases James was working as a weaver; and one as a tailor.

## Mary Sinclair's origins

After William Fleming married Jannet Strathor at Blantyre on 30 October 1700, no-one with the Fleming surname was baptised, married or buried in Blantyre for the next 82 years - until the baptism of Janet Fleming, the first child of James Fleming and Mary Sinclair<sup>4</sup>. It is reasonable to conclude from this that James Fleming was probably not a native of Blantyre. And, therefore, that Mary Sinclair probably was.

Mary Sinclair bore her children between 1782 and 1805. Her birth year, therefore, is likely to fall between 1750 and 1765. A search around these years for Lanarkshire identifies four possible baptism records:

- 26/2/1764 f Angus, Blantyre = highly likely;
- 3/1/1767 f Andrew m Mary Harton, Glasgow = very unlikely (1<sup>st</sup> child 1782);
- 30/12/1768 f Archibald m Cathrin, Glasgow = The OTHER Mary Sinclair; and
- 23/11/1770 f James m Isobel Laird, Glasgow = very unlikely (1<sup>st</sup> child 1782).

The 1764 baptism is very likely to be our Mary Sinclair. Firstly, the other three were all too young to have given birth in 1782. Secondly, the 1768 one is the other Mary Sinclair who married the other James Fleming and raised a family in Glasgow. Thirdly, she is the only one of the four possibilities to be baptised at Blantyre where our Mary later gave birth to her first seven children. Fourthly, her father<sup>5</sup> bore the same name as her son: Angus! I will explore the issue of the name Angus in the next section (*Where did Angus Fleming's name come from*).

Angus Sinclair of Blantyre is recorded as the father of six children altogether (but his wife's name is not recorded):

- 1757 Margaret
- 1758 John
- 1761 Hugh
- 1764 Mary = our Mary
- 1766 Janet
- 1768 John

Given that Mary Sinclair later named her eldest daughter Janet, it is probable that her mother was also named Janet. If so, we would expect that the third daughter in Mary's generation would be named Janet (after her mother). Sure enough, Mary's younger sister Janet (born in 1766) is the third daughter.

## Where did Angus Fleming's name come from?

While Angus is a relatively common name in Scotland, my earlier searches had found relatively few Fleming men with this Christian name. Could it be that the name came into our Fleming family from the Sinclair branch?

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<sup>4</sup> Blantyre baptisms, marriages and burials for that period are available through the ScotlandsPeople website.

<sup>5</sup> Angus Sinclair was a "portioner", or small landholder.

## Angus Fleming's origins

Most Scottish families in this period of history used the Scottish naming convention when choosing names for their children. This meant that the first four sons were generally named for (in order), the father's father; the mother's father; the father; and the father's eldest brother. Similarly, the first four daughters were named for the mother's mother; the father's mother; the mother; and the mother's eldest sister.

### Did the Fleming and Sinclair families use the Scottish naming convention?

There is no doubt that our Fleming ancestors used the Scottish naming convention – see my detailed analysis in the *Fleming names* section below. My GG-grandfather's generation complied with the rules exactly. So did the next generation (with one exception that is very understandable). My grandfather's generation also complied (albeit only on second names after the third child). Even my father's generation complied (with one understandable exception).

Given that these recent Fleming generations complied with the naming convention, it is therefore highly likely that earlier generations had conformed quite closely to it also. Hence, it is likely that our Angus Fleming was named after an ancestor; or, at least, after an uncle.

There are no baptism records for an Angus Fleming in Lanarkshire in the century before our Angus was baptised in 1800. So, it seems that the name Angus was not a Fleming family name and so it must have come from his mother's side of the family.

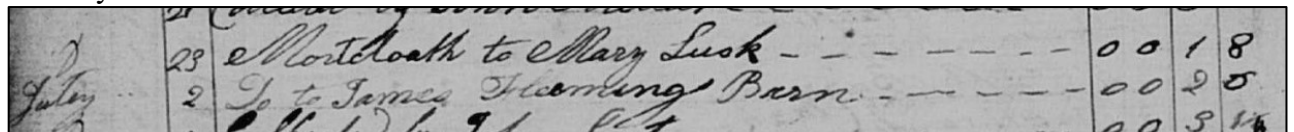
If the 1764 Blantyre baptism record for Mary Sinclair is indeed his mother, then it seems that our Angus (born 1800) was named for his maternal grandfather, Angus Sinclair.

### Was there an earlier unrecorded Angus Fleming?

This line of reasoning is not entirely convincing, however, because Angus was the fifth known son of James Fleming and Mary Sinclair. It was normally the second son that was named after his mother's father.

Now, it is possible that James and Mary did have a second-born son named Angus (born after Robert in 1784 and before James in 1789) who died before our Angus was born in 1800. But, if so, there is no definitive record of his baptism or burial.

Nevertheless, there is a record of James Fleming paying 2/6 to the local church in mortcloth money on 2 July 1789. This would have been for the burial of one or more of his children. It couldn't have been for the burial of 1784 Robert (who was later recorded on the 1851 census); 1786 Janet (presumably still alive when Isobel was born in 1794<sup>6</sup>); or 1789 James (who didn't die until 11 Jul 1828). It could have been for his eldest daughter 1782 Janet, although she had died at least 3 years earlier.



23	Mortcloth to Mary Lusk	00	18
2	To James Fleming's Burial	00	25
		00	314

Record of James Fleming's payment of 2/6 in mortcloth money to the Blantyre parish on 2 July 1789.

The same page records a payment on 19 June of 6/- for the same reason by John Fleming of Nock. Could this be James' brother? Also, on the same page is a payment of 6/- mortcloth money on 22 May by Angus "Sinckler", probably Mary Sinclair's father.

<sup>6</sup> Otherwise Isobel would have probably been named Janet.

## Angus Fleming's origins

### Conclusion

All things considered, I conclude that there is reasonable evidence to support the theory that James and Mary had an unrecorded son named Angus who was born after Robert in 1784 and before James in 1789. The burial of that son may be the reason why James Fleming paid 2/6 in mortcloth money on 2 Jul 1789. If so, then our Angus (born in 1800) was named for his late brother and, indirectly, for his mother's father (Angus Sinclair).

### **James Fleming's origins**

Pat Thomson has done extensive research on the various Fleming families of Lanarkshire which she has generously shared with me. She has traced many modern Fleming families back many generations; back to the mid-1700s and earlier in some cases. But she has not been able to definitively determine the origin of our Fleming family for the same reasons that I am struggling. That is, there is a lack of direct evidence of parental relationships in many cases before 1800.

So, Pat has tentatively pencilled in our James Fleming as a son of Robert Fleming and Agnes Hamilton who had a child (Agnes) at East Kilbride in 1744. DNA match evidence was a factor in making this connection.

However, it seems very likely that James Fleming and Mary Sinclair employed the Scottish naming convention (see the evidence laid out in the *Fleming names* section below). If so, then James' parents would probably be Robert Fleming and Isobel or Robert Fleming and Janet<sup>7</sup>. There are no Scottish baptism records between 1730 and 1767 for a James Fleming son of Robert and Isobel; or son of Robert and Agnes Hamilton. There are, however, two James Flemings born to Robert/Janet couples.

While one of these is very improbable (because it is in far-off Edinburgh in 1743), the other baptism record is much more promising. Robert Fleming and Janet Hamilton baptised their son James Fleming on 7 January 1761 at Stonehouse, which is about 20 km south of Blantyre. They had five children baptised altogether:

- 1756 John
- 1758 Robert
- 1761 James = our James?
- 1764 Thomas
- 1768 Andrew

This is probably the same Robert Fleming and Janet Hamilton who were married at Avondale (now Strathaven) on 9 April 1752. Avondale is 6km from Stonehouse and 15 km from Blantyre.

I conclude that our James Fleming is probably the one who was baptised at Stonehouse on 7 January 1761 (father, Robert Fleming and mother, Janet Hamilton).

### **Fleming names**

I noted above that there is no doubt that our Fleming ancestors used the Scottish naming convention. The family complied with the rules of the convention in all of the 26 cases where all the facts are known from direct documentary sources (albeit that they skipped a rule in 6 of these cases and applied the next rule; and that they applied the rule only to a second name in 2 cases.

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<sup>7</sup> Their first daughter (Janet) would normally be named for Mary's mother, with the second daughter named for James' mother. But the second daughter was also named Janet (for her late sister), so we look down to the third daughter: Isobel. But it is also worth considering that the mothers of both James and Mary could have had the same name: Janet (which is one of the most common Christian names in Scotland)

## Angus Fleming's origins

The fact that the family, over five generations, complied with the Scottish naming convention in 100% of known cases suggests strongly that they also complied in the other cases. Accordingly, this gives us another source of indirect evidence about Fleming family names.

### My father's generation

Even my father's generation (born in the 1920s and 1930s) complied with the naming convention (with one understandable exception).

Name	Status	SNC rule	SNC s/b named for	Possibly name	Namesake name
<b>Reginald Angus &amp; Stella Jolliffe (James Jolliffe &amp; Amy LE Gardner)</b>					
1 Reginald Bruce	S1	Father's Father	Charles Taylor Fleming	Father	Reginald Angus
2 James Ballantyne	S2	Mother's Father	James Jolliffe		

(In this and the following tables, **green cells** denote compliance with the convention. Light green denotes compliance but only on the second name; or use of another rule. **Grey** denotes unknown. **Red text** denotes my name speculations based on the rules.)

My father (Reginald Bruce Fleming) was not named after his father's father (Charles Taylor Fleming). I believe that his parents skipped the first rule of the naming convention because of his mother's antipathy towards her father-in-law (who had implacably opposed her marriage to his son). Instead, he was named for his father (Reginald Angus Fleming). Their second son (James Ballantyne Fleming) was named for his mother's father (James Jolliffe), in compliance with the convention. (The Ballantyne part of his name came from his GG-grandparents, Thomas Ballantyne and Christina Ballantyne.)

### My grandfather's generation

My grandfather's generation also complied (albeit only on second names after the third child).

Name	Status	SNC rule	SNC s/b named for	Possibly name	Namesake name
<b>Charles Taylor Fleming &amp; Ada Grace Flowerdew (John James Flowerdew &amp; Grace House)</b>					
1 Charles Gordon	S1	Father's Father	Charles Fleming		
2 John Flowerdew	S2	Mother's Father	John Flowerdew		
3 Eric William	S3	Father's Oldest SURVIVING Brother	William Fleming		
4 Reginald Angus	S4	Father's Second Oldest Brother	Angus Fleming		
5 Irene Margaret	D1	Mother's Mother	Grace House	Father's Mother	Margaret Scott Ballantyne
6 Ada	D3	Father's Mother	Margaret Scott Ballantyne	Mother	

The first two sons were named for their two grandfathers (as expected). The third son was not named for his father, as that name (Charles) had already been used for his older brother. So, they went to the next rule, but only used it for his second name (Eric William). The fourth son (Reginald Angus) also got the conventional name for his second name. For some reason, the mother's mother's name (Grace) was skipped completely and the next child (Irene Margaret) got the (next) conventional name (Margaret, after her father's mother) for her second name. The second daughter then got the next conventional name (Ada, after her mother).

### My G-grandfather's generation

My G-grandfather's generation complied (with one exception that is very understandable).

Name	Status	SNC rule	SNC s/b named for	Possibly name	Namesake name
<b>Charles Fleming &amp; Margaret Scott Ballentine (Thomas Ballantyne &amp; Christina Ballantyne)</b>					
1 Charles Taylor F	S1	Father's Father	Angus Fleming	Father	Charles Fleming
2 Thomas Ballantyne F	S2	Mother's Father	Thomas Ballantyne		
3 William F	S4	Father's Oldest SURVIVING Brother	William Fleming		
4 Angus F	S5	Father's Second Oldest Brother	Angus Fleming		
5 Christina F	D1	Mother's Mother	Christina Ballentine		
6 Elizabeth Taylor F	D2	Father's Mother	Elizabeth Taylor		

## Angus Fleming's origins

This generation is 100% compliant with the rules, except that the first rule was skipped completely. The eldest son was not named for his father's father (Angus Fleming junior) because he had abandoned the family. Instead, he was named for his own father (as if he were the third son).

### My GG-grandfather's generation

My GG-grandfather's generation complied with the rules exactly.

	Name	Status	SNC rule	SNC s/b named for
	<b>Angus Fleming &amp; Elizabeth Taylor (Charles Taylor &amp; Jane Robertson)</b>			
1	Angus	S1	Father's Father	Angus Fleming
2	Charles	S2	Mother's Father	Charles Taylor
3	William	S3	Father's Oldest Brother	William Fleming?
4	Jane	D1	Mother's Mother	Jane Robertson
5	Angus		Deceased brother	Angus Fleming
6	Matthew Taylor	S4	Mother's Oldest Brother	Matthew Alexander Taylor

The only unknown is why the third son was named William. Was he, as expected, named for his father's oldest brother? I think he was, as we shall see below.

### My GGG-grandfather's generation

This is the most mysterious generation! We know that Angus (who was born in 1800) had two sisters and a brother who died as children in 1837 and 1838, but we don't know the names of those children. I have included suggested names based on the application of the Scottish naming convention.

	Name	Status	SNC rule	SNC s/b named for
	<b>Angus Fleming &amp; Margaret Lawson (possibly William Lawson &amp; Jean Alexander)</b>			
A	James?	S1	Father's Father	James Fleming
1	William? d 1838	S2	Mother's Father	William Lawson
2	Angus	S2	Mother's Father	Angus Sinclair
3	Jean? d 1837	D1	Mother's Mother	Jean Alexander
4	Mary? d 1838	D2	Father's Mother	Mary Sinclair

For example, Angus named his third son William (see the chart above on my GG-grandfather's generation). He and his wife followed the naming convention for all their other children. It follows, therefore, that his third son would have been named for Angus's dead brother who was probably older. It follows that Angus's older brother must have also been named William.

Furthermore, since Angus was named for his father, this would imply that he was the third son, not the second. There may, therefore, have been another brother who was older than William. This eldest brother may have been named after his father's father (James Fleming).

So, in the chart above, I have made several suggestions (in **red letters**) about this generation of the family, since the family had closely adhered to the Scottish naming convention in preceding and generations (see below) and continued to adhere to it in succeeding generations (see above). In summary, I suggest that:

- Angus Fleming and Margaret Lawson may have had another son who was not recorded in the Old Parish Registers; and that he was named James after his father's father (James Fleming);
- The son who died in 1838 was probably named William; and since he would have been named after his mother's father, that her father's name was William Lawson;

## Angus Fleming's origins

- The eldest daughter (who died in 1837) would probably have been named Jean after her mother's mother (who may have been the Jean Alexander who had married William Lawson at Glasgow on 29 April 1794); and
- The youngest daughter (who died in 1837) would probably have been named after her father's mother, Mary Sinclair.

### My GGGG-grandfather's generation

The table on page 9 lists by name ten children of James Fleming and Mary Sinclair. When checked against the rules of the Scottish naming convention, there is almost full compliance. The singular exception is that the second son is not named after Mary Sinclair's father, Angus Sinclair. And yet, the fifth son is named Angus. As I outlined above, I suspect that there was another son in this family; that he came after Robert and before James; and that he was named Angus after Angus Sinclair. The chart on the next page depicts this.

	Name	Status	SNC rule	SNC s/b named for
	<b>James Fleming &amp; Mary Sinclair (Angus Sinclair &amp; Janet?)</b>			
1	Janet	D1	Mother's mother	<i>Janet?</i>
2	Robert	S1	Father's father	<i>Robert Fleming?</i>
A	<i>Angus?</i>	S2?	Mother's father	<i>Angus Sinclair</i>
3	Janet 2		Deceased sister	
4	James	S3	Father's father	James Fleming
5	John	S4	Father's Oldest brother	<i>John Fleming?</i>
6	Isobel	D2	Father's mother; or mother	
7	Hugh	S5	Mother's oldest brother	Hugh Sinclair
8	Angus (2)		Deceased brother	
9	Hugh 2		Deceased brother	
10	Janet 3		Deceased sister	

With this addition, this generation of the family complies with the naming convention 100%. Specifically:

- James was named for his father and should therefore be the third son. With the addition of the older Angus, he is.
- John, as the fourth son would be named after his father's oldest brother. As we saw on page 11, there is evidence that his father James may have had a brother named John Fleming (of Nock).
- Hugh, as the fifth son would be named after his mother's oldest brother. As we saw on page 10, Mary's oldest brother was named John. But this name has already been used, so we move down to her next brother – who was called Hugh.
- Janet, as the first daughter would be named after her mother's mother. So, Mary's mother must have been Janet.
- Robert, as the first son would be named after his father's father. So, James' father must have been Robert Fleming. Based on that, I have concluded that James was born at Stonehouse on 7 January 1761 and that his parents were the Robert Fleming and Janet Hamilton who were married at Avondale on 9 April 1752 (see detailed explanation above).

## Angus Fleming's origins

### Summary

Our Angus Fleming was married to Margaret Lawson at Govan in 1826 and died nine years later at Cambuslang. His wife may be the Margaret Lawson who was baptised at Barony on 17 February 1799, daughter of William Lawson and Jean Alexander who had married at Glasgow on 29 April 1794.

I identified three Angus Fleming baptisms that could possibly be his and was able to eliminate two of these by identifying them as still alive (one in Kirkmichael and Tomintoul; the other in Canada) after our Angus died in 1837. This means that our Angus Fleming was very probably born at Cambuslang on 29 June 1800, a son of James Fleming and Mary Sinclair.

Angus's widow Margaret Lawson married John Currie in 1839 and is recorded living with him in Glasgow on both the 1841 and 1851 censuses, but her fate is unknown. Her surviving son (Angus junior) was with her in 1841, but in 1851 he was apprenticed to wagon driver James Landles and living in his household at nearby Calton. He married Elizabeth Taylor in 1851 and had six children before abandoning the family. His fate is also unknown.

James Fleming and Mary Sinclair (the parents of Angus Fleming senior) had at least ten children. Mary Sinclair was almost certainly a native of Blantyre (where their first seven children were born). It is very likely that she is the Mary Sinclair who was baptised at Blantyre on 26 February 1764, a daughter of Angus Sinclair. While her mother's name is not stated on that baptism (or on the baptism of any of her five siblings), it is very likely that her name was Janet (because Mary named her eldest daughter Janet).

James Fleming was almost certainly not a native of Blantyre (because there were no Flemings baptised, married or buried at Blantyre in the 82 years before his first child was baptised). Since he named his eldest son Robert, this was probably also his father's name. While the Scottish naming convention suggests that his mother's name could have been Isobel (the second Christian name used for his daughters), there is no record of the baptism of a James Fleming whose parents were Robert and Isobel between 1730 and 1767. His mother may have had the same name as his wife's mother (Janet). If so, he could well be the James Fleming who was baptised on 7 January 1761 at Stonehouse. His parents (Robert Fleming and Janet Hamilton) were probably the couple who were married at nearby Avondale on 9 April 1752.

I concluded that Angus Fleming's parents were James Fleming and Mary Sinclair because I was able to eliminate the other two possible baptisms. This conclusion is further strengthened by the likelihood that Mary Sinclair father's name was Angus, because the records indicate that Angus was not a name that was previously used by the Fleming family.

Finally, I think that it is very likely that Angus Fleming senior had an older brother (who died before Angus was born) who was also named Angus. Furthermore, I think that it is very likely that his son (Angus Fleming junior) also had an older brother (probably named James) who died young.

The chart on the last page illustrates the conclusions that I have documented above.



### Further research

This report outlines the research that I have undertaken into the earliest generations of my Fleming ancestors. That research used the direct evidence obtained from contemporary documents (e.g. baptism, marriage, burial and census records) in conjunction with indirect evidence (e.g. eliminating possible records based on other evidence; and analysis of the level of compliance of family names with the Scottish naming convention rules). This begs the question: are there any other avenues of research yet to be explored?

One potential further source of indirect evidence is DNA analysis and matching. I have recently taken some preliminary steps along this path, but there is further work to do.

My family members have submitted samples that have undergone yDNA analysis, mitochondrial DNA analysis and autosomal DNA analysis. These analyses have identified several matches to people with Fleming ancestry for both the yDNA and autosomal DNA samples. I have contacted many of these matches and had a few responses that have allowed me to draw some preliminary conclusions, but there is much more work needed before any definitive outcomes are known.

At this stage, my gut feeling is that the common ancestors for most of these Fleming links are further back in history than is suggested by the DNA matching companies. Otherwise, we should have been able to identify more common ancestors than we have so far. In due course I will record the outcomes of my DNA-based research in a separate research report.

# Angus Fleming's origins

