

4 Feb 2013

Comments: Hello, I am thinking there is a possibility that the Christian Trotter you list as being the wife of Andrew Penman may be the daughter of James Trotter and Christian Reddie.  
Children of James Trotter and Christian Reddie

The lives of James Trotter and Christian Reddie's four children is unknown outside of their only known son, Walter [next chapter]. Parish records for Fife County were searched for any Agnes or Jean marrying between 1764 and 1780, when their ages would have ranged from sixteen to 31. But none appeared. Considering the traditional Scottish naming pattern of the time, James and Christian's third daughter would have been named after her mother, Christian. A search of the records showed one Christian Trotter, born about 1748/49 of Auchterderran Parish, who married Andrew Penman of Kinglassie Parish.

Penman: Andrew, born May 26, 1755 in Abbotshall, Fife, was the son of son of David Penman and Helen Dick. David Penman was born May 16, 1726 in Dunfermline, Fife, and his wife Helen was born June 20, 1725 in Kirkcaldy. They married July 10, 1750 in Kirkcaldy Parish.

Christian Trotter and Andrew Penman's Children: No marriage record could be found, but the birth/baptismal records of their six known children were found. Unfortunately, the practice of baptismal witnesses had fallen out of use by this time, so only the parents' and children's names are listed in the parish records. Their children included:

1. David, born November 2, 1779; christened November 7, 1779 in Auchterderran Parish;
2. James, born February 4, 1781; christened February 18, 1781 in Kinglassie Parish;
3. Christian, born and christened January 5, 1783 in Kinglassie Parish;
4. William, born and christened March 21, 1785 in Kinglassie Parish;
5. Walter, born September 15, 1786; christened September 24, 1786 in Kinglassie Parish;
6. Henry, born January 17, 1789; christened January 25, 1789 in Kinglassie Parish;

Three main reasons support the possibility that Christian Trotter, wife of Andrew Penman, was the daughter of James Trotter and Christian Reddie: dates and places; naming patterns; Auchterderran Parish records only list descendants of Walter and Agnes Trotter.

1. The Dates And Places: As mentioned earlier, Kinglassie and Auchterderran Parishes share a common boundary and are quite small areas, making travel between the two more easily accomplished. The ages of birth, marriage, and having children fall within reason. Christian Trotter would have been about thirty years of age when she had her first known, surviving child.

2. Naming Patterns: Following Scottish naming customs of the time, the first son was usually named after his paternal grandfather- David in this case. The second son was often named after his maternal grandfather- James, as it appears for Christian and Andrew's second son. The first daughter was named after her maternal grandmother- Christian, which fits this family. Fourth sons often were named after the father- not so in this family. The fifth son was named after the father's oldest brother- in this family, the fourth son, William, holds the name of Andrew's oldest brother. And the following son was commonly named after the mother's oldest brother, which in Christian's case, would be Walter, her only brother.

And so it is with Christian and Andrew's son. Succeeding sons, if they had a namesake, were named after uncles, ministers, other relatives, or friends. The naming pattern for Andrew and Christian's children certainly adheres to common naming practices.

3. Auchterderran Parish Records & the Trotters: Twenty-two children with the Trotter surname were christened in Auchterderran Parish from 1700 to 1850. All of them are descendants of Walter and Agnes Steidman. So it would seem then, that Christian Trotter would not be the lone exception, especially since there was an unnamed female of James and Christian who was born at the same time as Andrew Penman's wife, Christian Trotter. Seven marriages involving Trotters were registered in Auchterderran Parish from 1700 to 1850, and all are descendants of Walter and Agnes Steidman. Based on recorded baptisms and marriages all the Trotter people in Auchterderran Parish from 1700 to 1850 were from one family.

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