

David Imrie (1787-1862) Tenant Farmer and Millmaster of Haughmill and Bankhead
By His Distant First Cousin, Michael T. Tracy

He was a well-known and respected agriculturalist, miller and corn dealer of Markinch Parish, Fife for many years. David Imrie was a tenant farmer of Bankhead and Haughmill since the early 1800s as well as the Dams of Holekettle in Kettle Parish. He would marry into another well-established Fife farming family, the Arnots. After his marriage, the couple returned to Markinch Parish where they had ten children who were all born at Haughmill. Haughmill was a noted corn mill and Imrie was an accomplished miller of his time and a corn dealer of the area. This then is the narrative of the life and times of David Imrie.

Early years

There was no record of his birth; however, he was born in the year of 1787 in Newburgh.¹ He was the eighth child of Robert Imrie (1736-1820) and Rachel Buist (1747-1819). Along with his parents and siblings, he came to Markinch area as a young child after the year of 1798. Very little is known of his early years.

Haughmill, Markinch Parish

Haughmill was located 3/8 of a mile southeast of the village of Miltown and described as a “small flour and meal mill driven by two breast shot water-wheels, abt. [about] equal to 17 horsepower situate near to the River Leven, 35 chains W. [West] of Cameron Bridge.”²

List of Names to be corrected if necessary	Orthography, as recommended to be used in the new Plans	Other modes of Spelling the same Name	Authority for these other modes of Spelling when known	Situation	Descriptive Remarks, or other General Observations which may be considered of Interest
Haugh Mill	Haugh Mill (Corn & Flour)	Haugh Mill - 7 th - 8 th - 9 th	Traders County Map - 7 th - Mr. D. Amis - 8 th - Mr. Ballingall - 9 th - Mr. James Baller	1/2 mile S.W. of the village of Miltown	A small flour & meal mill driven by two breast shot water wheels, abt. equal to 17 horse power. Situate near to the River Leven, 35 Chains W. of Cameron Bridge.

Fig.1. Ordnance Survey Name Book for Haughmill, Markinch Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of ScotlandsPlaces.gov.uk

¹ Death Record of David Imrie, 2 June 1862, Markinch Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 447/0000 0044

² Ordnance Survey Name Books, Fife and Kinross-shire OS Name Books, 1853-1855, Volume 95, OS1/13/95/15



Fig.2. Ordnance Survey Map of Haughmill, Markinch Parish, Photograph Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland

Haugh is a Scots term referring to a piece of flat alluvial land by the side of a river, forming part of the floor of the river valley. Mr. Neil Sutherland, Chairman of the Markinch Heritage Group writes that “the Haughmill, situated near Windygates and in Markinch parish was a large water-powered corn mill, using water from the river Leven. The main range was three-storey on an L-plan, with a kiln at the north end, and there was a detached two-storey block, perhaps a granary. There was also a corn mill and later a bleachfield. The Haughmill also refers to a small community that once existed there too.”³ Presently, where the Haughmill once stood a distillery is there now. Haughmill is mentioned in the 1845 Statistical Accounts of Scotland as “a very extensive grain distillery at Cameron Bridge.”⁴ It is unclear as to when exactly David Imrie became a tenant of the property but it was in the early 1810s. The first early record of him residing at Haughmill was at the baptism of the birth of his first child, Jean, in 1814.⁵

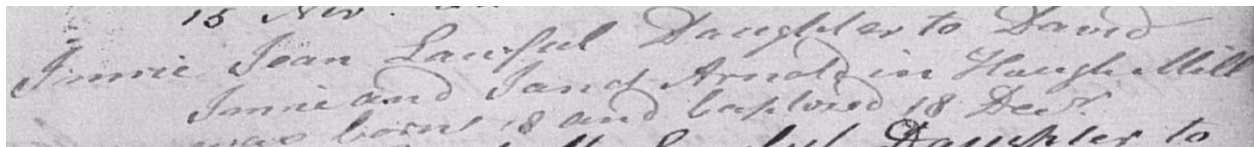


Fig.3. Baptismal Record of Jean Imrie, 18 December 1814, Markinch Parish Records, Crown Copyright

³ Email communication of Neil Sutherland to Michael T. Tracy, 6 December 2017, Markinch, Fife, Scotland

⁴ The Statistical Accounts of Scotland 1791-1845, *Markinch, County of Fife, NSA, Volume IX, 1845*, p. 677

⁵ Baptismal Record of Jean Imrie, 18 December 1814, Markinch Parish Records, Old Parish Records 447/0020 0195

There is evidence that Imrie also had a flax mill on the property. Flax mills were concerned with the manufacture of flax or known as linseed. In a letter written by George Thomson of the Commissioners and Trustees for Manufactures dated Thursday, 23 December 1824 Thomson requests information from Imrie in order to bequest him his premium on flax and hemp.⁶ The Commissioners and Trustees for Manufactures was a Board that established Scottish industrial policy and whose goal was to build an economy that was complementary with neighbouring England. There are two printed instruction forms used to advise flax growers how to provide the information to acquire their premiums.⁷

⁶ Letter of George Thomson to David Imrie, 23 December 1824, Tullis Russell Paper Mills Collection. R. Tullis and Company Papers. University of St. Andrews Special Collections, Call Number ms38973/RT/2/2/1

⁷ Letter of George Thomson to David Imrie, 23 December 1824, Tullis Russell Paper Mills Collection. R. Tullis and Company Papers. University of St. Andrews Special Collections, Call Number ms38973/RT/2/2/1

Mr David Imrie
Sir

We have just now recd,
three Flax Affidavits from you for Crop 1823. - but find
that they do not correspond with the intimations
of sowing, which you transmitted here as follows, viz^t

- 1.st - 32 Pecks on Farm of Grantfield Parish of Markinch
- 2.nd - 32 d^o on Farm of Balcormie - d^o solely
for your own behoof - And
- 3.rd - 32 d^o on the farm of Earlsseat parish of Wemyss,
for behoof of yourself and James Gibb.

But the Affidavits sent state

- 32 pecks sown on the farm of Man, or Little Lion, Markinch
- 16 d^o farm of Bantchhead of Balcormie - d^o &
- 32 - on Earlsseat parish of Wemyss, making oath that
it was sown for your own behoof without any ex-
planation about the said James Gibb.

They are all herewith returned, as quite
irregular, in not corresponding, with the intimations
which you transmitted here. I am Sir

New Ob^d Servant
G^o Thomson

Trustees' Office, Edin^g
23rd Dec^r 1824

Fig.4. Letter of George Thomson to David Imrie, 23 December 1824, Page 1, Photograph Courtesy of the University of St. Andrews Special Collections, Call Number ms38973/RT/2/2/1, Special Permission for the Use of This Photograph Granted by the Head of Special Collections

(1823.)

PREMIUMS ON FLAX AND HEMP.

Trustees Office, Edinburgh, 12th March 1823.

The COMMISSIONERS and TRUSTEES for MANUFACTURES, &c. in Scotland, do hereby give notice, That, for the year 1823, they will distribute throughout Scotland, equally, according to the claims that shall be made, in terms of the following Regulations, a sum not to exceed

TWO THOUSAND POUNDS STERLING,

IN PREMIUMS, ON THE FLAX OR HEMP RAISED, NOT EXCEEDING ONE SHILLING PER STONE:

The same to be clean sketched, and fit for the heckle; and no claim to be admitted from any person sowing less than SIXTEEN PECKS OF SEED; and where a person sows in farms distinctly separate, it is to be understood that he must have at least SIXTEEN PECKS on each Farm.

Provided always, That if, at the rate of ONE SHILLING per Stone of Flax or Hemp, more Money is claimed than the foresaid sum of L.2000, then the RATE OF PREMIUM MUST OF COURSE BE REDUCED to such extent as shall be found necessary.

Every person who shall sow Seed, with a view to the aforesaid Premium, must send to this office, on or before the first day of June next, an INTIMATION, precisely in the following Form, specifying the Pecks sown, the Farm, Parish, and Shire, in separate lines at the beginning, thus:

" PECKS SOWN...
" FARM of.....
" PARISH of.....
" SHIRE of.....

" I do hereby intimate, that I have sown the above quantity of Lintseed, on the above Farm, solely on my own behoof; (And if there be a partner in the concern, the name to be mentioned.)

(The date here.)

(The Subscription here.)

But no Copartnery will be allowed, unless the Partners are joint renters of the ground, and shall have sown, for each person concerned, SIXTEEN PECKS ON EACH FARM. And it is to be particularly noticed, that in order to prevent the trouble and expense of having the ground measured, it is not required to specify the acres sown, but the pecks of seed only.

And every person who shall have sent the intimation above required, must make an AFFIDAVIT as to the Produce, and send the same to this Office before the end of December 1824, precisely in the following Form, specifying the number of Pecks sown, the total Produce in Flax, and the Farm, Parish, and Shire, all in separate lines, at the beginning, thus:

AFFIDAVIT.

" PECKS SOWN
" PRODUCE in Stones, Avoirdupois wt.
" FARM of.....
" PARISH of.....
" SHIRE of.....

in 1823.

(To be in words, not figures.)

" I do solemnly swear, as I shall answer to God, that the above is a true account of the Pecks sown, and Flax produced, clean sketched, and fit for the heckle; and that the Crop was sown for my behoof."

" Sworn before me, one of his Majesty's
" Justices of Peace, at
" this day of

(The Subscriptions here.)

It is to be observed, THAT IN ALL CASES, WHETHER OF INDIVIDUALS OR COPARTNERS, THE AFFIDAVIT MUST BE MADE BY THE VERY SAME PERSON WHO INTIMATED THE SOWING, AND THAT THE PREMIUM WILL BE PAID TO HIM, AND TO HIM ONLY; so THAT IF HE SELL THE CROP WHILE GROWING, WHICH HE IS QUITE AT LIBERTY TO DO, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR HIM TO STIPULATE, THAT THE BUYER OR BUYERS SHALL FURNISH HIM WITH THE LINTMILLER'S CERTIFICATE OF THE PRODUCE, TO ENABLE HIM TO MAKE HIS AFFIDAVIT. For, at the foot of each Affidavit, there must be a Certificate by the Master or Manager of the Mill or Mills where the Flax has been sketched, in the following Form, viz.

" I the Manager of the Flax-mill at
" that Stones of Flax Avoirdupois weight above-mentioned, were clean-sketched, fit for the heckle; and that no part of the Refuse or Tow was left in it, intentionally at least. And that I am willing to make oath to the truth of this, if called upon."

(The Subscription here.)

As much trouble has frequently been occasioned at the Office by the inaccuracies of the Flax-growers, notice is hereby given, That no claims will be at all regarded, unless the Intimation and Affidavit contain distinct information of the particulars above required, and unless they are transmitted here within the respective dates above specified, and unless the regulations before prescribed are attended to.

It is recommended to the Managers of Lintmills, the parish Schoolmaster, or others, to PRINT, in the above form, Intimations, as well as Affidavits, with the certificate subjoined to the affidavit; fill up the blanks in writing; and, after the Magistrate has taken the oath, to send the papers, collected together, by the Mail Coach, to the Trustees' Office; charging but SIXPENCE to each Flax-grower for so doing. If this practice were generally adopted, by persons living in central situations of Flax districts, it would be beneficial to all concerned, and would insure the papers reaching this office in safety, and in a correct form; and prevent any one from losing his premium, by the inaccuracies too common in written papers.

In order to prevent the carelessness and waste of Flax at Mills, which is frequently complained of, the Trustees recommend to the Flax-growers to attend themselves at the Mill, as much as in their power, during the time of skutching; and to weigh out to each workman, employed at the skutching, equal quantities of rolled Flax, and to superintend the skutching thereof.

The Premiums will be paid as soon as possible after the time limited for receiving Affidavits, of which due notice will be given by Advertisements in some of the Edinburgh Newspapers, and by printed Lists to be sent to the different Parish Churches; and every person getting a Premium must grant a receipt in the following Form:

" FARM of
" PARISH of
" SHIRE of

" Received from Sir WILLIAM ARBUTHNOT, Bart. the sum of
" of Premium for Flax, raised Crop 1823 on the above Farm, agreeably to my Affidavit."

(The place of residence and date here)

(The Subscription here.)

By order of the Trustees,

WILLIAM ARBUTHNOT, Sec.

John Moir, Printer.

Fig.5. Printed Instruction Form regarding the 1823 Premiums on Flax and Hemp, Page 1, Photograph Courtesy of the University of St. Andrews Special Collections, Call Number ms38973/RT/2/2/1, Special Permission for the Use of This Photograph Granted By the Head of Special Collections

On Thursday, 2 October 1832 Imrie registered to vote and was listed as the tenant of the lands and mills of Haughmill.⁸

REGISTER of VOTERS for the COUNTY of FIFE, in terms of the Act of Parliament 2d and 3d WILLIAM IV. cap. 65—1832.

No.	Date of Registering	Name.	Calling.	Proprietor or Tenant.	Description of Property, Land, House, Feu-duty, &c.	Name of Place, Village, Farm, &c.	County.	72.
				Mark				
1643	3 October 1832	Hutton David	Deer & Ambusher	Proprietor	ONE Cottage		Fife	72.
1644		Haggart William		Proprietor	Two Houses & Garden of Thornton	Thornton	Fife	72.
1645	3 October 1832	Houston Robert	Smith	Proprietor	Dwelling house offices & Gardens at or near Mauchline	Mauchline	Fife	72.
1646	3 October 1832	Kyle William		Proprietor	House & Garden Ground at Marysgate	Marysgate & Milton	Fife	72.
1647	3 October 1832	Kitchison George		Proprietor	Houses in Mauchline	Mauchline	Fife	72.
1648	3 October 1832	Kitchison Robert		Proprietor	Two Houses & Gardens of Oxalloun	Oxalloun	Fife	72.
1649	3 October 1832	Kitchison Robert	Mason	Proprietor	House & Land of Oxalloun	Oxalloun	Fife	72.
1650	3 October 1832	Little Intsch Andrew		Proprietor	House & Land of Rosebank	Rosebank	Fife	72.
1651		Little Intsch Robert	Manufacturer	Proprietor	Land & House being part of the Park house	Park house	Fife	72.
1652		Little Intsch Andrew	Smith	Proprietor & Occupier	House & Garden being part of the Park house	Part of Mauchline	Fife	72.
1653		Samson James	Manufacturer	Proprietor	Two Houses & Dubby-side	Dubby-side	Fife	72.
1654		Johnston David	Farmer	Proprietor	Land of Little Sun	Little Sun	Fife	72.
1655		Imrie David	Tenant	Tenant	Land & Mills of Haughmill	Haughmill	Fife	72.

Fig.6. 1832 Fife, Scotland Voters List showing David Imrie of Haughmill (Last Entry)

Two years later in a letter written by George Thomson of the Trustees Office for the Commissioners for Manufactures dated Saturday, 18 October 1834 to David Imrie, Thomson requests that he send his Affidavit and Lintmiller's Certificate.⁹

⁸ Fife, Scotland, Voters List, 1832-1894. Ancestry.com. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010

⁹ Letter of George Thomson to David Imrie, 18 October 1834, Tullis Russell Paper Mills Collection. R. Tullis and Company Papers. University of St. Andrews Special Collections, Call Number ms38973/RT/2/2/1

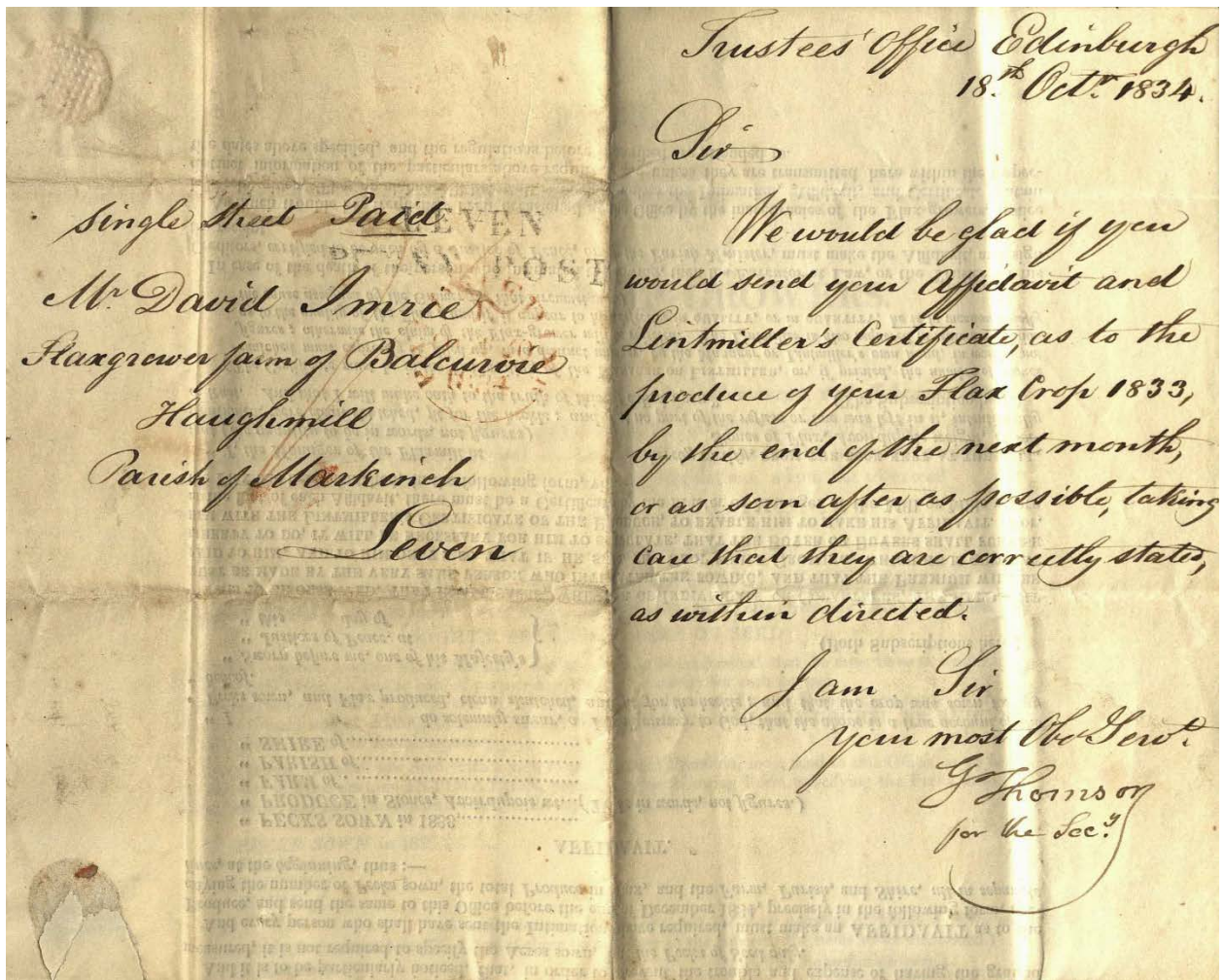


Fig.7. Letter of George Thomson to David Imrie, 18 October 1834, Page 1, Photograph Courtesy of the University of St. Andrews Special Collections, Call Number ms38973/RT/2/2/1, Special Permission for the Use of This Photograph Granted By the Head of Special Collections

1833.

PREMIUMS
TO
FLAX AND HEMP GROWERS.

TRUSTEES' OFFICE, Edinburgh, 20th February 1833.

THE COMMISSIONERS and TRUSTEES for MANUFACTURES, &c. in Scotland, do hereby give notice, That for the year 1833, they will distribute throughout Scotland, equally, according to the claims that shall be made, in terms of the following Regulations, a sum not to exceed

TWO THOUSAND POUNDS STERLING,

IN PREMIUMS, ON THE FLAX AND HEMP RAISED,

NOT EXCEEDING ONE SHILLING PER STONE AVOIRDUPOIS :

The same to be clean sketched, and fit for the heckle; and no claim to be admitted from any person sowing less than EIGHTY IMPERIAL PECKS OF SEED :

And where a person sows on Farms distinctly separate, it is to be understood that he must have at least Eighty Pecks on each Farm.—And in case of partnership, the same quantity for each partner.

Provided always, That if, at the rate of ONE SHILLING per Stone of Flax or Hemp, more money is claimed than the foresaid sum of £2000, then the RATE OF PREMIUM MUST OF COURSE BE REDUCED to such extent as shall be found necessary.

Every person who shall sow Seed, with a view to the aforesaid Premium, must send to this Office, on or before the first day of June next, an INTIMATION, precisely in the following Form, specifying the Pecks sown, the Farm, Parish, and Shire, in separate lines, at the beginning, thus :—

“ PECKS SOWN in 1833.....

“ FARM of.....

“ PARISH of.....

“ SHIRE of.....

“ I do hereby intimate that I have sown the above quantity of Lintseed on the above farm, solely for my own behoof.” (And if there be a partner in the concern, the name to be mentioned.)
(The Date here.) (The Subscription here.)

And it is to be particularly noticed, that, in order to prevent the trouble and expense of having the ground measured, it is not required to specify the Acres sown, but the Pecks of Seed only.

And every person who shall have sent the Intimation above required, must make an AFFIDAVIT as to the Produce, and send the same to this Office before the end of December 1834, precisely in the following form, specifying the number of Pecks sown, the total Produce in Flax, and the Farm, Parish, and Shire, all in separate lines, at the beginning, thus :—

AFFIDAVIT.

“ PECKS SOWN in 1833.....

“ PRODUCE in Stones, Avoirdupois wt... (To be in words, not figures.)

“ FARM of.....

“ PARISH of.....

“ SHIRE of.....

“ I do solemnly swear, as I shall answer to God, that the above is a true account of the Pecks sown, and Flax produced, clean sketched, and fit for the heckle; and that the crop was sown for my behoof.

“ Sworn before me, one of his Majesty's }
“ Justices of Peace, at
“ this day of

(Both Subscriptions here)

IT IS TO BE OBSERVED, THAT IN ALL CASES, WHETHER OF INDIVIDUALS OR COPARTNERS, THE AFFIDAVIT MUST BE MADE BY THE VERY SAME PERSON WHO INTIMATED THE SOWING, AND THAT THE PREMIUM WILL BE PAID TO HIM, AND TO HIM ONLY; SO THAT IF HE SELL THE CROP WHILE GROWING, WHICH HE IS QUIET AT LIBERTY TO DO, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR HIM TO STIPULATE, THAT THE BUYER OR BUYERS SHALL FURNISH HIM WITH THE LINTMILLER'S CERTIFICATE OF THE PRODUCE, TO ENABLE HIM TO MAKE HIS AFFIDAVIT. For, at the foot of each Affidavit, there must be a Certificate by the Master or Manager of the Mill or Mills where the Flax has been sketched, in the following form, viz.—

“ I, the Manager of the Flaxmill at hereby certify, FROM THE BOOK KEPT AT THE MILL, that (the quantity to be in words, not figures) Stones of Flax, Avoirdupois weight, aforesaid, were clean sketched, fit for the heckle; and that no part of the refuse or tow was left in it, intentionally at least. And that I will make oath to the truth of this, if called upon.” (The Subscription here.)

(The Certificate must be in the handwriting of the MANAGER or LINTMILLER, or, if printed, the number of Stones sketched must expressly be filled up, in a distinct manner, by the Manager or Lintmiller's own hand, in words, not figures; otherwise the claim of the Flax-grower will be rejected. The Lintmiller is also required to state his opinion as to the quality of the Flax; and if it appear to him defective in QUALITY, or in QUANTITY, he is to mention briefly the cause assigned by the Grower for that circumstance.)

In case of the death of the person who intimated the sowing, then his Executor at Law, or the Trustee of his Creditors, certified to be such by a Justice of Peace, or by the Parish Minister, must make the Affidavit, and sign the receipt.

As much trouble has frequently been occasioned at the Office by the inaccuracies of the Flax-growers, notice is hereby given, That no claims will be at all regarded, unless the Intimation, Affidavit, and Certificate contain distinct information of the particulars above required, and unless they are transmitted here within the respective dates above specified, and the regulations before prescribed are attended to.

Fig.8. Printed Instruction Form regarding the 1833 Premiums to Flax and Hemp Growers, Page 1, Photograph Courtesy of the University of St. Andrews Special Collections, Call Number ms38973/RT/2/2/1, Special Permission for the Use of This Photograph Granted By the Head of Special Collections

Bankhead, Markinch Parish

Bankhead was situated about one mile east of the village of Miltown and described as an “excellent farm with a good dwelling house, garden and steading situate [d] on the high ground N. [North] of the Kirkcaldy Trust No., is the property of R. B. W. Ramsay, Esq., [of] Whitehill near Edinburgh.”¹⁰

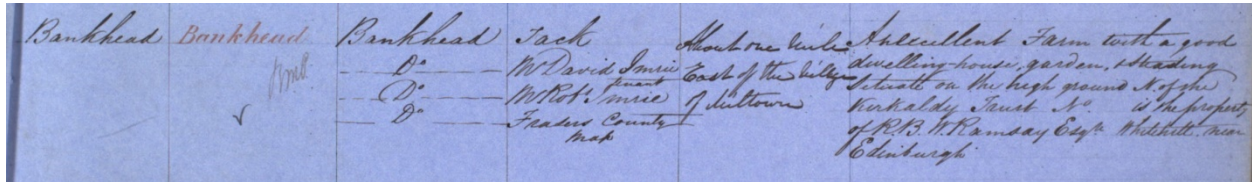


Fig.9. Ordnance Survey Name Book for Bankhead, Markinch Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of ScotlandsPlaces.gov.uk



Fig.10. Ordnance Survey Map of Bankhead, Markinch Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland

As in the case of Haughmill, it is unclear as to when exactly Imrie assumed the tenancy of Bankhead but it was in the early 1810s.

¹⁰ Ordnance Survey Name Books, Fife and Kinross-shire OS Name Books, 1853-1855, Volume 95, OS1/13/95/13

Marriage and Family life

Janet Arnot was born on Monday, 4 June 1787 in Monimail Parish, Fife.¹¹ The Arnot family was another well-established Fife farming family. David Imrie met Janet Arnot and soon they began dating. They were married on Saturday, 8 January 1814 in Edinburgh's St. Cuthbert's Parish Church.¹²

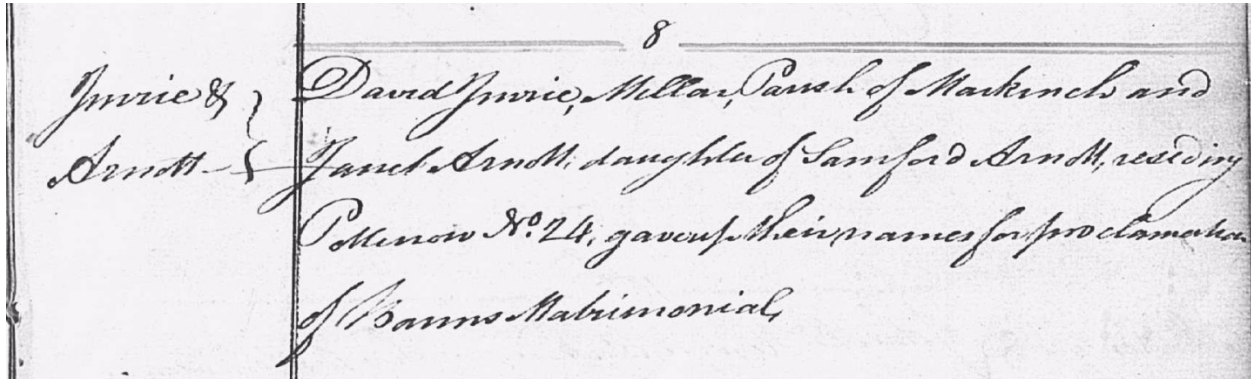


Fig.11. Marriage Record of David Imrie, 8 January 1814, Edinburgh St. Cuthbert's Parish Records, Crown Copyright

¹¹ Baptismal Record of Janet Arnot, 14 June 1787, Monimail Parish Records, Old Parish Records 448/0020 0080

¹² Marriage Record of David Imrie, 8 January 1814, Edinburgh St. Cuthbert's Parish Records, Old Parish Records 685/2 0180 0567



*Fig.12. St. Cuthbert's Parish Church at Edinburgh, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010
Michael T. Tracy*

The couple resided at Haughmill where they had ten children. They were:

Jean (Jane) born on Sunday, 18 December 1814¹³ and died in 1868;¹⁴
Rachel born on Wednesday, 20 December 1815¹⁵ and died on Saturday, 21 August 1819;¹⁶
Ann born on Wednesday, 26 March 1817¹⁷ and died on Monday, 7 June 1897;¹⁸
Robert born on Monday, 30 November 1818¹⁹ and died on Saturday, 28 November 1903;²⁰
Sandford Arnot born on Friday, 20 October 1820²¹ and died on Saturday, 1 January 1887;²²
Isabel born on Thursday, 18 July 1822²³ and died on Thursday, 16 May 1872;²⁴
Janet born on Wednesday, 16 June 1824²⁵ and died on Monday, 10 July 1905;²⁶
David born on Wednesday, 25 October 1826²⁷ and died on Wednesday, 8 November 1826;²⁸
David born on Saturday, 27 October 1827²⁹ and died on Monday, 9 December 1867;³⁰
Henry Arnot born on Monday, 12 April 1830³¹ and died on Friday, 24 March 1916.³²

¹³ Baptismal Record of Jean Imrie, 18 December 1814, Markinch Parish Records, Old Parish Records 447/0020 0195

¹⁴ Death Record of Jane Fleming, 1868, Kirkcaldy Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 442/0000 0062

¹⁵ Baptismal Record of Rachel Imrie, 22 December 1815, Markinch Parish Records, Old Parish Records 447/0020 0203

¹⁶ Burial Record of Rachel Imrie, 23 August 1819, Markinch Parish Records, Old Parish Records 447/0030 0407

¹⁷ Baptismal Record of Ann Imrie, 30 March 1817, Markinch Parish Records, Old Parish Records 447/0020 0212

¹⁸ Death Record of Ann Houston, 7 June 1897, Markinch Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 447/0000 0072

¹⁹ Baptismal Record of Robert Imrie, 22 December 1818, Markinch Parish Records, Old Parish Records 447/0020 0226

²⁰ Death Record of Robert Imrie, 28 November 1903, Windygates Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 447/0002 0027

²¹ Baptismal Record of Sandford Arnot Imrie, 20 October 1820, Markinch Parish Records, Old Parish Records 447/0050 0050

²² Death Record of Sandford Arnot Imrie, 1 January 1887, Kennoway Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 434/0000 0002

²³ Baptismal Record of Isabel Imrie, 3 August 1822, Markinch Parish Records, Old Parish Records 447/0050 0027

²⁴ Death Record of Isabel Gibb, 16 May 1872, Markinch Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 447/0000 0062

²⁵ Baptismal Record of Janet Imrie, 5 July 1824, Markinch Parish Records, Old Parish Records 447/0050 0044

²⁶ Death Record of Janet Imrie, 10 July 1905, Windygates Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 447/0002 0016

²⁷ Burial Record of David Imrie, 8 November 1826, Markinch Parish Records, Old Parish Records 447/0070 0054

²⁸ Burial Record of David Imrie, 8 November 1826, Markinch Parish Records, Old Parish Records 447/0070 0054

²⁹ Baptismal Record of David Imrie, 25 November 1827, Markinch Parish Records, Old Parish Records 447/0050 0072

³⁰ *Fife Herald Newspaper*, 26 December 1867, p. 3

³¹ Baptismal Record of Henry Arnot Imrie, 12 April 1830, Markinch Parish Records, Old Parish Records 447/0050 0096

³² Death Record of Henry Arnot Imrie, 24 March 1916, Innerleithen Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 762/0100 0008

Tenancy of the Dams of Holekettle

The Dams of Holekettle was a farm consisting of nearly 50 acres in the parish of Kettle. Imrie was a tenant farmer of these lands since the year of 1817. In 1824 the *Fife Herald Newspaper* published a notice stating that the farm was available to lease and presently occupied by David Imrie.³³ The notice is reproduced below.

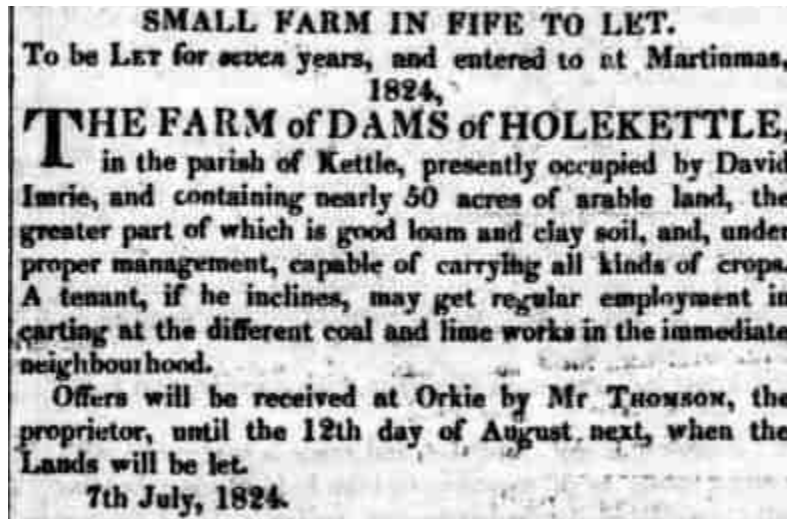


Fig.13. Dams of Holekettle Notice, *Fife Herald Newspaper*, 8 July 1824, Page 3

It is unclear as to how long David Imrie held tenancy over the Dams of Holekettle.

The Census Records and Valuation Roll

According to the 1841 Scotland Census for Markinch Parish, Fife, Scotland, David Imrie was listed as being 50 [sic] years of age and working as a farmer and miller; his wife, Janet, was also listed as being 50 [sic] years of age with the following children: Anne age 20 [sic]; Robert age 20 [sic]; Sandford age 20; Isabella age 15 [sic]; Janet age 15; David age 13 and Henry age 11.³⁴

³³ *Fife Herald Newspaper*, 8 July 1824, p. 3

³⁴ 1841 Scotland Census for Markinch Parish, Fife, Scotland; Enumeration District 14, Page 12

Haugh Thill	24	David Imrie	30	5	45	Farmer & Miller	4
		Janet Do			30		4
		Anne Do			20		4
		Robert Do			20		4
		Sandford Do			20		4
		Isabella Do			13		4
		Janet Do			13		4
		David Do			13		4
		Henry Do			11		4

Fig.14. 1841 Scotland Census for Markinch Parish, Fife, Scotland listing David Imrie and Family

The 1851 Scotland Census listed David Imrie as being 63 years of age and working as a farmer and mill master of 243 acres employing 15 laborers, 3 foremen and a boy; his wife, Janet is 62 years of age with the following children: Robert age 31 and working as a superintendent of the mill; Isabella age 27 and Janet age 25.³⁵

23	Haughland Hill Farm	David Imrie	Head	Mar	63	Farmer & Mill Master Farming 243 acres employing 15 laborers 3 foremen & a boy	D ^o Newburgh
		Janet Do	Wife	Mar	62		D ^o Markinch
		Robert Do	Son	Mar	31	Farmer & Superintendent of Mill	D ^o Markinch
Total of Persons				11	15	10	

Fig.15. 1851 Scotland Census for Markinch Parish, Fife, Scotland listing David Imrie and Family, Page 1

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	
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 and Dumb
					Male	Female			
23	Haughland Hill Farm	Isabella Imrie	Daughter	Single	27		Farmer & Daughter employed in the mill	Fife Markinch	
		Janet Do	Do	Do	25		Do Do	Do Do	

Fig.16. 1851 Scotland Census for Markinch Parish, Fife, Scotland listing David Imrie and Family, Page 2

³⁵ 1851 Scotland Census for Markinch Parish, Fife, Scotland; Enumeration District 12, Pages 6-7

The Lands Valuation (Scotland) Act of 1854 established a uniform valuation of landed property throughout Scotland, which was collected annually for each parish in each county and burgh. These records record the name of each proprietor, the occupier of the property and the annual rateable value of the property. David Imrie was listed in the 1855 Valuation Roll as the proprietor of Haughmill and the yearly rent or value of the property is shown as 6 pounds and 18 shillings.³⁶

VALUATION				ROLL.		
County of Fife.				Markinch Parish.		
Number.	DESCRIPTION AND SITUATION OF SUBJECT.	PROPRIETOR.	TENANT.	OCCUPIER.	YEARLY RENT OR VALUE.	
					As Rated by Assessor.	As Rated on Appeal or Appeal.
				Not entered.	£ 20,439 14	
616	House Markinch	Mr Bond Robertson Hamilton			2 10	2 10
617	House Garden Do	James Robertson James Markinch			3 15	3 15
618	House Garden Do	Mr August Dickson Markinch			3 -	3 -
619	House Garden Do	Commercial Bank of Scotland		Mr James Rankin, Agent Markinch	28 -	28 -
620	House Garden Do	Thomas Rankin Green Markinch		Said Thomas Rankin	9 10	9 11
621	Two Small Tenements Do	Mr James Rankin, Markinch		Said Mr J. Rankin	28 -	28 -
622	House Do	Mr John Mitchell Leighton			6 2	6 2
623	House Garden Hammerby Burn	John Cookburn James Hammerby Burn		Said John Cookburn	7 -	7 -
624	House Garden Balmorie	Robert Hillenah Balmorie		Said Robert Hillenah	5 -	5 -
625	House Garden Do	Robert Hillenah Balmorie			5 11	5 11
626	House Garden & Wood Do	Mr James Rankin, Markinch	James Patt Leighton Balmorie	Said James Patt	10 10	10 10
627	House Do	Mr John Robertson Balmorie			10 -	10 -
628	House Garden Wood Do	James Rankin, Markinch			7 15	7 -
629	House Garden Wood Do	William Rankin Markinch		Said William Rankin	9 10	8 10
630	House Garden Wood Do	August Walker Balmorie			5 10	5 11
631	House & Garden Do	Robert Arthur Stoddart Balmorie		Said Robert Arthur	5 10	4 15
632	House & Garden Do	John Gibb Allan Balmorie		Said John Gibb	9 -	9 -
633	House & Garden Do	Robert Allan Leighton Balmorie			11 10	11 11
634	House & Garden Do	John Allan Balmorie			5 10	5 11
635	House & Garden Do	John Allan Balmorie			8 -	8 -
636	House Garden Wood Do	James Rankin Allan Balmorie		Said James Rankin	13 -	13 -
637	House & Garden Do	James Rankin Allan Balmorie			10 17	10 17
638	House Garden Wood Do	George Rankin Allan Balmorie		Said George Rankin	10 10	10 10
639	House & Garden Do	Andrew Gibb Leighton Balmorie		Said Andrew Gibb	4 -	4 -
640	House Garden Burn and Wood	James Gray James Balmorie		Said James Gray	6 5	6 5
641	House and Garden Balmorie	David James Haughmill			6 18	6 18

Fig. 17. 1855 Scotland Valuation Roll for Haughmill, Markinch Parish, Fife listing David Imrie (Last Entry)

Imrie was also listed in the 1852 *Directory to Noblemen and Gentlemen's Seats* as residing at Haughmill.³⁷

³⁶ 1855 Scotland Valuation Roll for Haughmill, Markinch Parish, Fife, Scotland (VR101/1/276)

³⁷ 1852 *Directory to Noblemen and Gentlemen's Seats*. Edinburgh: Sutherland and Knox, 1852, p. 87

<i>Residence.</i>	<i>Post-Town.</i>	<i>County.</i>	<i>Occupant, &c.</i>
Harthills	Kintore	Aberdeen	Alexander Masson
Harthope	Moffat	Dumfries	Peter Johnston
Hartrigge	Jedburgh	Roxburgh	Lord Campbell
Hartree	Biggar	Lanark	David Dickson
Hartree Burnfoot	Biggar	Peebles	John Muir
Hartwoodhill	Wishawtown	Lanark	John Allardice
Hartwood Lodge	West Calder	Mid-Lothian	John M. Mowbray
Harvieston House	Fushie Bridge	Mid-Lothian	R. Morrison
Harvieston House	Alloa	Clackmannan	Unoccupied
Harvieston Mains	Fushie Bridge	Mid-Lothian	Robert Veitch
Harwood	Bonchester Br.	Roxburgh	T. M'Millan Scott
Haslebank	Stewarton	Ayr	Andrew Brown
Haslebank	Stewarton	Ayr	John Clark
Hassendean Burn	Hawick	Roxburgh	Misses Dickson
Hassendean Common	Lilliesleaf	Roxburgh	Robert Falla
Hastings Hall	Thornhill	Dumfries	— M'Turk
Hatton	Cupar	Fife	George Russell
Hatton	Marykirk	Kincardine	Hugh Arbuthnot
Hatton	Ratho	Mid-Lothian	William Davidson
Hatton	Auchterless	Aberdeen	Captain John Grant
Hatton	Findhorn	Moray	Miss Paul
Hatton	Kincaldrum	Forfar	James Jollie
Hatton Bank	Hamilton	Lanark	William Leighton
Hattonburn	Milnathort	Kinross	Charles Stein
Hatton Castle	Turriff	Aberdeen	G. Duff
Hattonhill	Newburgh	Fife	Henry Buist
Hatton House	Carnoustie	Forfar	Thomas Collier
Hatton Mains	Ratho	Mid-Lothian	George Glendinning
Hatton Mill	Friockheim	Forfar	Alexander Scott
Hatton of Cargill	Coupar-Angus	Perth	John Tasker
Hatton of Fintray	Kintore	Aberdeen	Village
Hattonside Law	Largo	Fife	Village
Haugh	Mauchline	Ayr	Village
Haughhead	Govan	Lanark	Robert Benzie
Haughhead	Kirknewton	Mid-Lothian	John Wood
Haughland	Elgin	Moray	A. Clark
Haugh Mill	Windygates	Fife	David J. Imrie

Fig.18. 1852 Directory to Noblemen and Gentlemen's Seats listing David Imrie (Last Entry), Photograph Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland

Death of David and Janet Imrie

David Imrie had been suffering from heart disease for almost a year before his death.³⁸ He died on Monday, 2 June 1862 at the age of 75 at Haughmill.³⁹

44	David Imrie	1862	75	Robert Imrie	Heart disease		1862
	Imrie	June	years	Farmer + Miller	—		June 6 th
	—	Second		—	12 months	Robert Imrie	M. Markinch
	Farmer + Grain dealer	Ph. Am. M.M.		Rachel Imrie	As cert ^d by	son	W. J. Hunter
	—	—		Mrs. Beut	(Birth document)	(Present)	Registrar
	Manuscript	Haughmill		Surgeon	Ph. Am. M.M.		

Fig.19. Death Record of David Imrie, 2 June 1862, Markinch Parish Records, Crown Copyright

On Thursday, 5 June 1862 the *Fife Herald Newspaper* reported on his sudden death by stating “A very affecting instance of the uncertainty of life and of all human enjoyments occurred in this neighbourhood on Monday. On that morning, as Mr. David Imrie, Haughmill, was about to proceed to his farm, he fell down at his own door, and instantly expired. Mr. Imrie had been complaining for some time past, but was considered greatly better, being able to go about as usual; and his sudden death is much deplored by a large and extensive circle of acquaintances, he being well known as an extensive corn dealer.”⁴⁰ He was buried on Thursday, 5 June 1862 at Northhall Cemetery in Markinch Parish with his burial record reading “David Imrie, farmer at Haugh Mill, aged 75 years was intd [interred] 5th June. He lys [lies] in the South grave of No. 2.”⁴¹ On Monday, 9 March 1863 an inventory was conducted on his estate.⁴² His wife, Janet Imrie, died on Sunday, 15 March 1868 at the age of 80 at Haughmill.⁴³

27	Janet Imrie	1868	80	Sandford Arnot	Natural decay		1868
	Imrie	March	years	farmer	—	Robert Imrie	March 15 th
	—	Second		—	No medicine	son	—
	Widow of David Imrie - grain miller	Ph. Am. M.M.		Janet Arnot	Certificates		M. Markinch
	—	—		Mrs. Battingson	—		W. J. Hunter
	Manuscript	Haughmill		Both deceased		Registrar	

Fig.20. Death Record of Janet Imrie, 15 March 1868, Markinch Parish Records, Crown Copyright

She was buried on Thursday, 19 March 1868 next to her husband at Northhall Cemetery with her burial record reading “Janet Arnot, Relict of the late David Imrie at Haughmill, aged 80 years, was intd [interred] 19th March. She lys [lies] by Northside [of] her husband, 38th int [internment] 1862, Middle Grave of No. 2.”⁴⁴

³⁸ Death Record of David Imrie, 2 June 1862, Markinch Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 447/0000 0044

³⁹ Death Record of David Imrie, 2 June 1862, Markinch Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 447/0000 0044

⁴⁰ *Fife Herald Newspaper*, 5 June 1862, p. 3

⁴¹ Campbell, Andrew. *Markinch Burial Ground Surrounding Parish Church 1853-1856 and Northhall Cemetery 1854-1887*, Fife Family History Society

⁴² Inventory of David Imrie 9 March 1863, Cupar Sheriff Court (SC20/50/35)

⁴³ Death Record of Janet Imrie, 15 March 1868, Markinch Parish Records, Statutory Deaths 447/0000 0027

⁴⁴ Campbell, Andrew. *Markinch Burial Ground Surrounding Parish Church 1853-1856 and Northhall Cemetery 1854-1887*, Fife Family History Society

David Imrie was a noted agriculturalist, miller and corn dealer of the Markinch area. He was a long-time tenant farmer of Bankhead and Haughmill since the beginning of the 19th-century. His primary residence was at Haughmill where, after his marriage, all of his ten children were born and raised. Also at Haughmill, he had a large water-powered corn mill, using the water from the nearby river Leven. He was a respected corn dealer of the area as well. David Imrie is warmly commemorated here in grateful esteem and recognition by his distant first cousin, Michael T. Tracy. This work is dedicated to the Memory of David Imrie, the agriculturalist and millmaster of Haughmill.

Memoratus in aeternum (Forever Remembered)

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