



The Mutches

The early information comes from the mutches.com website and I have not verified it all. Interesting in that we know that the Mutches came from the Rayne area but they are only names.

William Mutch b 1811 Rayne

William is the first person we know anything about thanks to the census entries. The census of 1841* shows that he was aged 30 living at Cockmuir farm near Rayne with his wife Isabella and children John, aged 5, and Alexander, aged 3. He was a butcher (or flesher).

The census of 1851* shows that he is a butcher occupying 20 acres, still living at Cockmuir farm with 4 children and a servant. John at 15 is still a scholar while his brother Alexander at 13 is a farm servant.

The census of 1861* shows that William is a farmer of 45 acres employing one man and a boy. His son John (25) is a cattle dealer. He has a new wife, Margaret. They had 6 rooms.

By 1871* he had moved to Monquhitter near Turriff where he was working as a flesher. Only Charles was born in Monquhitter so they must have moved in 1869/70.

The census of 1881* shows him living at Graystone, Montquhitter, aged 69, with Margaret and three children, David, Charles and Peter. He is a crofter of 8 acres arable. They had three rooms. According to the mutches.com website he had seven children by his second wife. The four youngest boys emigrated to Australia.

John Smith Mutch b. Rayne 1835- 1901

The oldest son of William Mutch. Still at school at 15, cattle dealer at 25. The census of 1871* shows he was married with four children, had moved to Aberdeen, and was still a cattle dealer.

The census of 1881* shows that he now has 8 children, is a master butcher and living at 43 Skene Street. John died at 67 in 1903 of a cerebral haemorrhage.

William Mutch 1864- 1916

Born Culsalmond 1864

The census of 1871* shows him aged 6 living at 77 Loch Street, Aberdeen with his father John Mutch, aged 35, his mother Ann Mutch, 36, and John C (5, born Inch), George F (3, born Inch) and Barbara (1, born Aberdeen) plus Robert Young, brother in law, and James Godden, nephew. So his father moved to the city between 1868 and 1870. The photograph of 77 Loch Street shows it has been rebuilt and was probably tenement flats. His father's job is cattle dealer.

The census of 1881* shows him aged 16 living at 43 Skene Street which had 4 rooms with one or more windows, with his father, John Smith Mutch, now master butcher, and siblings: John, George, Barbara, Robert, Alexander, Jane and Adam. William is a pupil teacher- bright children were kept on at school from 13-17 as apprentice teachers. Skene Street was a tenement block now the site of Aberdeen central library built in 1892.

William married Jessie Ann Mollison in 1889* at St John's episcopalian church in Aberdeen. He is a clerk in the Advocates' library and she is a school teacher. He was 25 and living at 11 Summer Street. She was 27 and living at 78 Irvine place. Her father was William Mollison (deceased), a pawnbroker's manager. This is the only photo we have of William Mutch.



The census of 1891 shows William is now 26 and married to Jessie Ann and has an 8 month old baby Alexander Mollison Mutch. They are living at 77 Loirston Road, Cove, Nigg, Kincardineshire which was a fishing village about 5 miles south of Aberdeen on the coast. The house is now at 4 Loirston Road:



The house had 5 rooms with one or more windows. He is a licensed lay preacher and clerk. According to Henry's birth certificate in 1894* he was then a librarian in the Advocates' Library. Cove had a station which would have enabled him to travel daily to Aberdeen. 5 of his children were born here so he must have returned to Aberdeen after Jessie was born in 1899* and before Ellen* was born in 1900.

The census of 1901* shows him living at 8 Cairnfield Place in Aberdeen in a house/flat with six rooms and they had a domestic servant. This looks very respectable. The children are William, John, Henry, Margaret, Jessie and Ellen. He is now a printer and an employer. The eldest son William is now 10 and had muscular dystrophy which may now be obvious.

The census of 1911* shows that all eight children and their parents were living at 68 Carden Place which had 10 rooms and was in a very desirable location. William is still a printer and employer. His business premises were at 34 and 36 Netherkirkgate in the centre of Aberdeen and he had a telephone.

EVENING EXPRESS, SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1916

Among the Churches

◆◆◆◆◆
 I regret to learn of the death of Mr William Mutch, who was so well known in the Episcopal churches throughout the whole Diocese of Aberdeen. When he was assistant librarian of the Advocates' Hall Library Mr Mutch acted as lay reader in charge of the Cove Mission, and after he was in business he took duty somewhere almost every Sunday supplying the places of absent clergymen. Mr Mutch's literary gifts were well known. He was a disciple of the late Dr Grub, and his "Manual of Scottish Ecclesiastical History," which was avowedly based on the larger work of that eminent historian, will keep his name alive. There will be wide-spread sympathy with Mrs Mutch and her family in their sad bereavement.
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William died in June 1916 of cerebral thrombosis 'over 11 months' at the age of 52 so he had a stroke in 1915. He died at Kingseat Asylum.*

From this death announcement we have found out about one of the two books he wrote and Lesley and I both bought 'Scottish Ecclesiastical History' from Amazon! It is

surprisingly well written for a man who had no higher education although the subject matter is interesting! It is not based on original research but is a layman's version of a more scholarly tome.

William's address at the time of his death was 68 Ashley Road. I am guessing that while he was in hospital his printing business closed and that he lost his house. It looks as if the family had to move into a rented flat. He left a widow, 3 disabled children with muscular dystrophy, 3 daughters who did not marry as they were carriers of the gene and two sons who were able-bodied but away at war. Henry also died early at 54 of arterio sclerosis, hypertension and cerebral haemorrhage* and John died at 48*. (William's father John Smith Mutch died at 67 in 1903 of a cerebral haemorrhage*).

But he was a self made man who did very well and provided for his family until his early death. He was obviously well respected in the religious community.

It is believed that the Mollisons contributed to the upkeep of the Mutch family after his death- they did have a car in the 1930s. The family lived at 81 Duthie Terrace until Margaret retired. William and Jessie's children:



