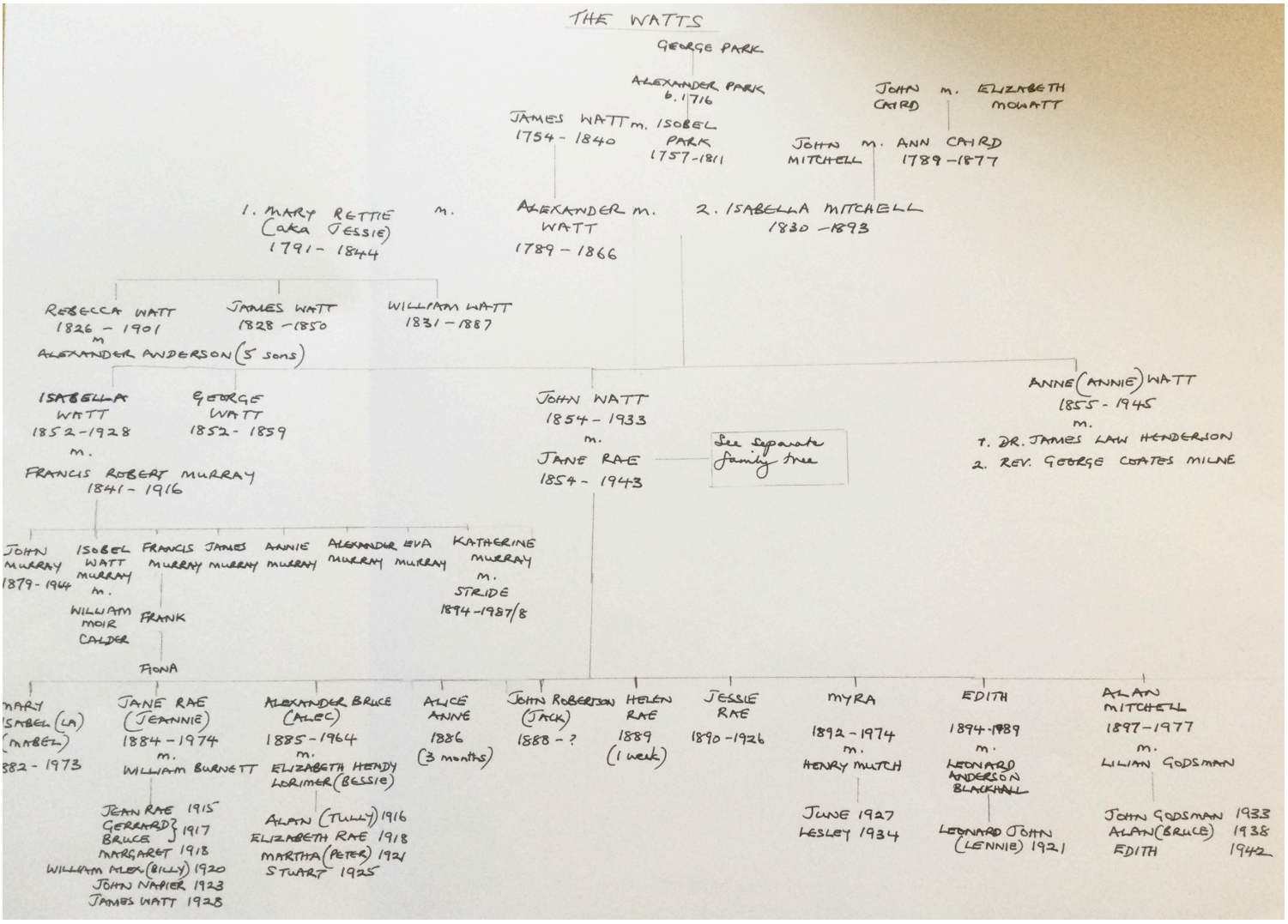

Watt family tree

Introduction

I started this research while going through my mother's 79 photo albums and many many boxes of memorabilia after she died in 2014. One of her last requests on her death bed was that we wouldn't just throw everything away. Her vast collection needed sifting and organising. Lots went to recycling but I selected some treasures and decided to make scrapbooks to include photos, documents, letters, family trees, memories. Early on I was in contact with my cousin Kath and her husband Mike Gibb who have done extensive research into the Forbes and Barnet families. This inspired me to research the Watts and Mutches and over the last eight years I have enjoyed searching mainly the Scotland's People website for accurate evidence to back up family myths. I have shared my findings with my aunt Lesley Smith (nee Mutch) continuously and even made a fact-finding trip to Aberdeen with her in January 2020.
Recently Susan O'Brien (wife of Peter Ross, grandson of Alec Watt) has been in contact as she is also researching family history. She has unearthed many new documents and photographs. This inspired me to get in touch with the other branches of the Watt family with living descendants, ie, the descendants of Jeannie, Alec, Myra and Alan. Gerrard Burnett (grandson of Jeannie) knows the most and has cleared up some 'mysteries'. He has extensive family trees, has explored graveyards, and has a wealth of anecdotes. Of the Watt cousins of June's generation only the Burnett children grew up in Fraserburgh and so Gerry, for example, would have known the extended family well and kept in touch. Alan's daughter Edith, along with her brother Bruce Watt and Lesley are now the only living cousins out of seventeen. Edith and her husband Olav Underdal have also done a lot of research. The research is fun - I always wanted to be a detective - but the writing up has been hard. I keep finding out new things. Hopefully we can all share what we know and have found out. I am very aware that there will be lots of errors and look forward to adding to and changing what I have written.

I certainly don't believe in life after death but I like to think that people live on in the memories of others. It would be good to think that for example Lennie Blackhall will be remembered by future generations. Gran would be very pleased.