

Henry Millar Buist (1818-1893): A Tribute to His Life and Times
By His Third Great Nephew, Michael T. Tracy

Henry Millar Buist was the fifth child of Thomas Buist (1789-1829) and grew up with the rest of his siblings at Feddinch in Cameron Parish, Fifeshire. By 1841, he was working at the Kirkton of Largo in Upper Largo as a millwright and later relocated south to Cheltenham, Gloucester, England where he met Elizabeth Lockhart and shortly later they were married. While at Cheltenham they had six children. By 1872-79 the family left England bound for Sac County, Iowa where Henry settled on a farm and began farming his lands. This then is the narrative of the life and times of Henry Millar Buist.

Early years

Henry Millar Buist was born in humble circumstances on Monday, 13 April 1818 at Feddinch in Cameron Parish, Fife to Thomas Buist, Head Gardener at Feddinch, St. Andrews, Fife and Elizabeth Christie, the fifth child of eight.¹ He was baptized at Cameron Parish, Fife on Sunday, 19 April 1818.²

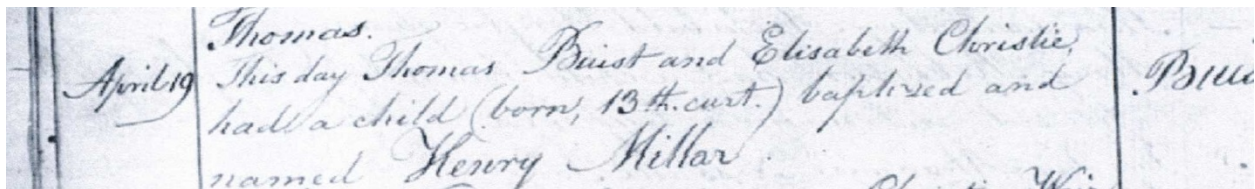


Fig.1. Baptismal Record of Henry Millar Buist, 19 April 1818, Cameron Parish Records, Crown Copyright

Feddinch is located about “one-half a mile east by north from Winthank [and described as] a large farmhouse two stories high with office and thrashing machine all in good repair. There is a garden attached and a farm of about 215 acres of arable land.”³

Parish of Cameron					
No. 21. Plan 12. 6. Sheet 5					
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
Feddinch	Feddinch	Feddinch	Alexander Reid Farmer Briathew Robert Lodge Farmer Feddinch Spat. Act. Shankin's Cl. Prop.	About 1/2 mile E. by N. from Winthank	Large farmhouse two stories high with offices and thrashing machine all in good repair, there is a garden attached and a farm of about 215 acres of arable land. Inhabited by Robert Lodge. The property of James Lindsay, Min. Merchant Perth.

Fig.2. Ordnance Survey Name Book for Feddinch, Cameron Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of ScotlandsPlaces.gov.uk

¹ Baptismal Record of Henry Millar Buist, 19 April 1818, Cameron Parish Records, Old Parish Records 412/0010 0280

² Baptismal Record of Henry Millar Buist, 19 April 1818, Cameron Parish Records, Old Parish Records 412/0010 0280

³ Ordnance Survey Name Books, Fife and Kinross-shire OS Name Books, 1853-1855, Volume 62, OS1/13/62/16



Fig.3. Ordnance Survey Map showing Feddinch, Cameron Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland



Fig.4. Cottage at Feddinch where Henry Buist was born and raised, Feddinch, Cameron Parish, Fife, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy

After growing up he began working as a millwright in Fife. According to the 1841 Scotland Census for Kirkton of Largo, (Upper) Largo Parish, Fife he was listed as being 20 years of age and a millwright.⁴ Kirkton of Largo at this period of time was a small village near the western boundary of the parish about three-quarters of a mile from the sea.

⁴ 1841 Scotland Census for Kirkton, Largo Parish, Fife; Enumeration District Number 3, Page 7

Parish of *Largo (part of)*

PLACE <small>Here insert Name of Village, Street, Square, Close, Court, &c.</small>	HOUSES <small>Number of houses or buildings occupied</small>	NAME and SURNAME, SEX and AGE, of each Person who abides in each House on the Night of 6th June.		OCCUPATION <small>Of what Profession, Trade, Employment, or other of Independent Means.</small>	WHERE BORN <small>Country, County, Parish, Town, &c.</small>	
		NAME and SURNAME	AGE <small>Male Female</small>			
<i>Kirkton</i>		<i>David</i>	<i>6</i>		<i>yes</i>	
		<i>James</i>	<i>12</i>		<i>yes</i>	
		<i>Robert</i>	<i>2</i>		<i>yes</i>	
		<i>Josephine</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>F. S.</i>	<i>yes</i>	
	<i>D.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Christian</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>yes</i>	
	<i>D.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Mary</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>yes</i>	
		<i>Robert</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>Ag. Lab.</i>	<i>no</i>	
		<i>Isabella</i>	<i>62</i>		<i>no</i>	
		<i>Mary</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>Spin. H.L.W.</i>	<i>yes</i>	
		<i>Robert</i>	<i>16</i>		<i>yes</i>	
		<i>James</i>	<i>5</i>		<i>yes</i>	
	<i>D.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>William</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>Wagon</i>	<i>no</i>
		<i>Catherine</i>	<i>39</i>		<i>yes</i>	
		<i>Catherine</i>	<i>8</i>		<i>no</i>	
		<i>Alexander</i>	<i>4</i>		<i>yes</i>	
	<i>George</i>	<i>2</i>		<i>yes</i>		
<i>D.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Robert</i>	<i>74</i>		<i>no</i>	
<i>D.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Andrew</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>Spinner</i>	<i>yes</i>	
	<i>James</i>	<i>36</i>		<i>yes</i>		
<i>D.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Andrew</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>Ag. Lab.</i>	<i>no</i>	
	<i>James</i>	<i>62</i>		<i>yes</i>		
	<i>Miss</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>Millwright</i>	<i>yes</i>		
	<i>Henry</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>D.</i>	<i>yes</i>		
	<i>Ann</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>Ind.</i>	<i>yes</i>		
	<i>Robert</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>Millwright</i>	<i>yes</i>		

Fig.5. 1841 Scotland Census for Kirkton of Largo, (Upper) Largo, Fife listing Henry Buist

Buist left Largo Parish, Fife in about 1847 and settled in Cheltenham, Gloucester, England most likely for better employment opportunities. Cheltenham is a market town and Henry Buist was a millwright there as well. He married Elizabeth Lockhart on Friday, 28 April 1848 at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in Forthampton Parish, Gloucester, England.⁵

⁵ Marriage Record of Henry Buist, 28 April 1848, Forthampton Parish Records, Marriages 1837-1920. Volume 8, GRO Ref. PFC 146 IN 1/8

Page 15.

1848. Marriage solemnized by banns in the Parish of *Forthampton* in the County of *Gloucester*

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
29	April 28 th	Henry Buist Elizabeth Lubbock	29 21	Bachelor Spinster	Engineer Spinster	Cheltenham Forthampton	Thomas Buist John Lubbock	Goldsmith Druggist

Married in the *Parish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Church of England* by me, *Henry Seckie*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *Henry Buist* in the Presence of us, *Thomas Lubbock* and *John Lubbock*

1848. Marriage solemnized by banns in the Parish of *Forthampton* in the County of *Gloucester*

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
30	October 3 rd	John Pitt Elizabeth Clifford	full age full age	Bachelor Spinster	Dr. Med. Spinster	Forthampton Forthampton	Michael Pitt James Clifford	Att. Surg. Dr. Med.

Married in the *Parish Church* according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the *Church of England* by me, *Henry Seckie*

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *John Pitt* in the Presence of us, *Henry Clifford* and *Richard Clifford*

Fig.6. Marriage Record of Henry Buist, 28 April 1848, Forthampton Parish Records



Fig.7. St. Mary the Virgin Church, Forthampton Parish, Gloucester, England, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy

Henry was 29 years old at the time of his marriage and Elizabeth was 21 years old. Forthampton is near Tewkesbury and about 8 miles northwest of Cheltenham. While residing in Cheltenham, Henry and Elizabeth Buist had six children. They were:

Thomas born in February of 1849⁶ and died in June of 1849;⁷
Henry Lockhart born in 1850⁸ and died on Saturday, 2 July 1859;⁹
Thomas born on Saturday, 19 June 1852¹⁰ and died on Saturday, 4 March 1922;¹¹
Robert born on Monday, 29 January 1855¹² and died on Monday, 4 June 1934;¹³
John born on Thursday, 29 January 1857¹⁴ and died on Saturday, 3 January 1942;¹⁵
Mary Jane born on Saturday, 3 November 1860¹⁶ and died on Monday, 3 April 1882.¹⁷

Cheltenham

By 1861 Buist and his family are residing in the Kingsholm Hamlet of Cheltenham. According to the 1861 England Census for Cheltenham, Gloucester it listed Henry as Being 41 years of age and is a millwright and his wife Elizabeth Buist is 35 years of age with the following children: Thomas age 8, Robert age 6, John age 4 and Mary age 5.¹⁸

On Friday, 4 July 1862 *The Western Daily Press Newspaper* reported the following: "Two Months Imprisonment. Mr. Lionel Jones, stealing a box, a purse, and two shillings from Henry Buist at Cheltenham."¹⁹

The Buist family, are listed in the 1871 England Census for Cheltenham, Gloucester. The family is found residing at 44 St. Paul's Street North with Henry being 51 years of age and working as a filler in a sawmill and his wife, Elizabeth is 44 with the following children are listed: Thomas age 18 and a laborer in a sawmill; Robert age 15 and a laborer in a sawmill; John age 13 and a photographic printer and Mary Jane age 10.²⁰

⁶ Birth Record of Thomas Buist, February 1849, Cheltenham Parish Records, Registration Number 21, Entry Number 361, Gloucester BMD Indexes

⁷ Death Record of Thomas Buist, June 1849, Cheltenham Parish Records, Registration Number 17, Entry Number 73, Gloucester BMD Indexes

⁸ Birth Record of Henry Lockhart Buist, 1850, Cheltenham Parish Records, Registration Number 24, Entry Number 8, Gloucester BMD Indexes

⁹ Burial Record of Henry Lockhart Buist, 3 July 1859, Gloucester Borough Cemetery Registers, Ref GBR/L4/4/29, Page 8, Entry Number 108

¹⁰ Birth Record of Thomas Buist, 19 June 1852, Cheltenham Parish Records, Registration Number 28, Entry Number 18, Gloucester BMD Indexes

¹¹ Death Record of Thomas Buist, 4 March 1922, South Dakota Death Index, 1905-1955. Ancestry.com. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com

Operations, Inc., 2004

¹² Birth Record of Robert Buist, 29 January 1855, Cheltenham Parish Records, Registration Number 32, Entry Number 294, Gloucester BMD Indexes

¹³ Death Record of Robert Buist, 4 June 1934, Illinois State Archives, Illinois Statewide Death Index, 1916-1950. Illinois Secretary of State's Office

¹⁴ Birth Record of John Buist, 29 January 1857, Cheltenham Parish Records, Registration Number 35, Entry Number 487, Gloucester BMD

Indexes

¹⁵ Death Record of John Buist, 3 January 1942, South Dakota Death Index, 1905-1955. Ancestry.com. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2004

¹⁶ Birth Record of Mary Jane Buist, 3 November 1860, Gloucester Parish Records, Registration Number 15, Entry Number 353, Gloucester BMD Indexes

¹⁷ *Odebolt Chronicle Newspaper*, Odebolt, Iowa, 5 April 1882, p. 3

¹⁸ 1861 England Census for Cheltenham, Gloucester, England; Pages 2-3

¹⁹ *The Western Daily Newspaper*, 4 July 1862, p. 3

²⁰ 1871 England Census for Cheltenham, Gloucester, England; Page 6

SCHEDULE 1. Census of										STATISTICS OF POPULATION & INDUSTRY										Township.									
NAME OF EACH PERSON			RESIDENCE			PROFESSION, OCCUPATION OR INDUSTRY			PLACE OF BIRTH			MARRIAGE			RELIGION			SCHOOLING			REMARKS								
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X						
90	Lyman	Marill	N.E. N.E.	61	M	Farmer	New York	England	7	7	1																		
	Josephine			58	F		Ill	England	7	7																			
	Mary			16	F																								
	John			0	M																								
91	Basil	Henry	N.W. N.E.	60	M	Retired Far	Scotland	Scotland	7	7	1																		
	Elizabeth			50	F		Scotland	Scotland	7	7																			
	Thomas			51	M		England	England	7	7	1																		
	John			25	M	Farmer	New York	New York	7	7	1																		
92	Miss	Randolph	S.W. N.E.	15	F	Farmer	New York	New York	7	7	1																		
	Amanda			15	F		Ill																						
	Lily M			8	F		Ill																						
	Rosa B			8	F		Ill																						
	Charles R			2	M		Ill																						
	Albert R			0	M		Ill																						
93	Miss	William F	S.W. N.E.	75	F	Retired Far	Rhode Isl		7	7	1																		
	Eliza			75	F		New York																						
	Miss	Vincent		50	F	Farmer																							
	Sarah			50	F																								
	Edward V			18	M																								
	Franky Lona			7	F																								
	Wm Alexander			18	M	Farmer	Mass		7	7	1																		
	Franky William			18	M		Mo																						
94	Stepford	Thomas	S.E. N.E.	57	M	Farmer	Ohio		7	7	1																		
	Josephine			49	F		Conn		7	7																			
	Arthur			8	M		Conn		7	7																			
	Foster Frank			21	M		Conn		7	7	1																		
95	Peterson	Pete G	S.W. S.W.	57	M	Farmer	Iowa		7	7	1																		
	Annie M			46	F																								
	Annie M			46	F																								
	Walter Charles			6	M																								

Fig.10. 1885 Iowa State Census for Wheeler Township, Sac County, Iowa

Henry Millar Buist died on Tuesday, 1 August 1893 at the age of 75 in Wheeler Township. According to the *Odebolt Chronicle Newspaper* dated Thursday, 10 August 1893 "We regret to announce the death of Henry Buist at the home of John Buist in Wheeler Township on Tuesday. Mr. Buist was born in Cameron, Scotland on 12 April 1818. He immigrated to England in 1847 and to Iowa in 1879. He leaves a widow and three sons to mourn his loss."²⁴

We regret to chronicle the death of Henry Buist, at the home of John Buist in Wheeler township last Sunday. Mr. Buist was born in Cupar, Fifeshire, Scotland, April 12, 1818. Emigrated to England 1847, and to Iowa in 1879. He was a most estimable citizen and leaves a widow and three sons to mourn the loss of a kind husband and father, who have the sympathy of all.

Fig.11. *Odebolt Chronicle Newspaper*, Thursday, 10 August 1893, Page 2

He was buried in the Odebolt Cemetery in Odebolt, Iowa, USA on Friday, 4 August 1893. (Lot 81, Row 9)

²⁴ *Odebolt Chronicle Newspaper*, 10 August 1893, p. 2

By 1900 Elizabeth Buist is living with her son, Robert. According to the 1900 U.S. Federal Census for Wheeler Township, Sac County, Iowa, USA, Robert Buist is listed as being 45 years of age and a farmer, his wife, Florence Buist is 34 years of age and his mother Elizabeth Buist is 73 years of age.²⁵ Elizabeth Buist died on Saturday, 17 March 1900 at the age of 74.²⁶ She was buried next to her husband Henry on Monday, 19 March 1900 in the Odebolt Cemetery along with her children, Mary Jane, Robert and his wife Florence.



Fig.12. Buist Family Graves at Odebolt Cemetery, Odebolt, Iowa, Photograph Courtesy of Michael T. Tracy © 2010 Michael T. Tracy

A Man of Fife

Henry Millar Buist, a man of humble circumstances was a millwright most of his life while in Fife and in Cheltenham, England. He left Fife to find a better life and eventually came to the United States with his family to forge a life of farming in the heartland of America. A pioneer of his time, Fife can be very proud of one of its own, Henry Millar Buist, a man who never forgot his origins in Fife. He is commemorated here in grateful esteem and recognition by his third great nephew, Michael T. Tracy. This work is dedicated to the Memory of Henry Millar Buist.

Copyright © 2014 Michael T. Tracy
Copyright © 2018 Michael T. Tracy

²⁵ 1900 U.S. Federal Census for Wheeler Township, Sac County, Iowa, USA: Supervisors District Number 11, Enumeration District Number 128, Sheet Number 3A, Lines 19-21

²⁶ *Odebolt Chronicle Newspaper*, 22 March 1900, p. 1