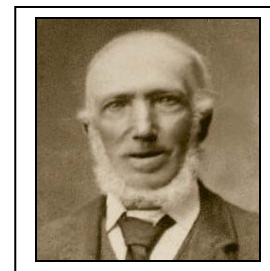


SAMUEL HEPBURN OF CASTLEFIN
1836 – 1913

Samuel Hepburn was born in Donegal, Ireland around 1836 to **Andrew Hepburn**, a mason, and **Jane** (possibly **Eliza Jane Marks**).



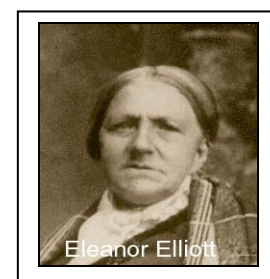
He was the brother of: **William Hepburn**, weaver of **Raphoe**, **Edward Marks Hepburn**, weaver of **Stranorlar** and **Anne Jane Hepburn** wife of **Edward Lapsley**, weaver of **Raphoe**.

[Other probable, but unconfirmed, siblings are **Mary Hepburn** wife of **Joseph Patterson** of **Castlefin** and **John Hepburn**, carpenter of **Strabane**.]

He states his occupation as in various records and certificates as **mason**, **labourer** and/or **farmer** of the **townsland Sessiagh Allison** in the **Castlefin** district.

Castlefin or **Castlefinn** is situated in the **Parish of Donaghmore** and Barony of **Raphoe**, about 15 miles from Londonderry, 5 miles from **Strabane**, and 4 miles from **Raphoe**. It was a Station on the **Donegal Railway** which used to connect **Strabane** with **Killybegs**. Its population in 1913 was 600.

Samuel Hepburn married **Eleanor Elliott of Corcullion** townsland 21 December 1857 in **Donaghmore Parish Church of Ireland** (daughter of **David Elliott & Eleanor Marshall**). He signed his name as “**Samuel Heyburn**”. They had 10 children between 1858 and 1879, all sons, eight of whom survived to adulthood. The birth of all their children are each registered with the Irish State simply as “male”. There is also a great variation in the spelling of the surname (e.g. **Haburn**, **Hubburn**, **Heyburn**, **Hepbourn**). Each birth has been verified and confirmed through a variety of alternative sources of records,



In 1884 Samuel Hepburn is found listed as a declared member of the **Donaghmore Parish Church of Ireland** and living in the district of **Mccaulstown** (next to **Sessiagh Allison**). From this point onwards, Samuel was signing his name as “**Samuel Hepburn**”.

On the 1901 census, he is listed as a 65 year old **Farmer & Stone Mason** living with his wife, **Eleanor** and two unmarried sons, **Matthew** a shoemaker and **George Elliott Hepburn** a stone mason in **Sessiagh Allison**. It is noted that he could read and write.

In 1910 several of Samuel sons convened and rebuilt the family homestead using the stones from the existing cottage. The rebuilt cottage was still standing in 2007 and occupied by the brother-in-law of one of Samuel’s grandchildren. A small section of foundation of the old cottage can still be seen in the corner of the front garden at **Sessiagh Allison**.

After the cottage was re-built, his sons **James Marshall Hepburn** (and his family) and **John Hepburn** returned to their homes in **Toronto, Canada** by way of **Liverpool** on the **SS CORSICAN** on 16 February 1911.

Other sons involved with the re-build would have included **Matthew & George Elliott Hepburn** of **Sessiagh Allison**, **Andrew Hepburn** a shoemaker & bricklayer living in **Belfast**, **William Hepburn** a bricklayer-mason living in **Londonderry** and **Samuel Hepburn**, a bricklayer living in **Chicago** at the time.

David Elliott Hepburn, a Baptist Minister in **Virginia** remained in the **USA**.

On the 1911 census for **Sessiagh Allison**, Samuel Hepburn, aged 78, was living with his wife **Eleanor**

SAMUEL HEPBURN OF CASTLEFIN
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and his unmarried son George Elliot Hepburn. It is noted that he is deaf and has been married for 44 years.

On both censuses he states that he was **born in County Donegal**.

In 1912 Samuel signed the **Ulster Covenant** objecting to the move towards Home Rule.

On the 18th March 1913, Samuel Hepburn, recorded as being 74 years old, a widow, died of old age at Sessiagh Allison and was buried in the **Donaghmore Parish Church of Ireland graveyard** with his wife Eleanor who preceded him in death the year before.

A gravestone has been recently erected for Samuel Hepburn saying that he was born in Scotland, although records indicate he was born in County Donegal.

Issue:

1. Andrew 1858-?
 x Sarah Margaret Wilkie
 x Elizabeth Oliphant
2. David 1861-1861
3. William 1865-1948
 x Mary Ann Henderson
4. David Elliott 1866-1931
 x Georgia McCord Nuthall
5. Samuel 1867-?
 x Cora
6. John 1868-1929
7. James Marshall 1870-1953
 x Elizabeth Kain
 x Janet Watkin
8. Matthew 1873-1914
 x Isabella Nixon
9. George Elliot 1876-1936
 x Catherine Ann Jones
10. Robert Marks 1879-1880

Sources:

1. Irish General Records Office birth, marriage, death registration
2. PRONI MIC 1/209 Donaghmore Parish Church marriage register
3. Census of Ireland 1901: District Electoral Division: Castlefin, Poor Law Union: Strabane, Barony: Raphoe South, Townsland: Sessiagh Allison
4. Census of Ireland 1911: District Electoral Division: Castlefin, Poor Law Union: Strabane, Barony: Raphoe South, Townsland: Sessiagh Allison
5. PRONI MIC 1/209/E/1 Donaghmore Parish Church membership
6. 1953 Family Letter "Dear Father" by Samuel Hepburn, Commissioner
7. BJSJH Trip to Donegal August 2007
8. Passenger List, SS CORSICAN 16 Feb 1911: Liverpool to Halifax (John Hepburn)
9. PRONI: Ulster Covenant 1912, East Donegal Division
10. PRONI MIC 1/209 Donaghmore Parish Church burial register
11. Passenger List, SS EMPRESS OF BRITAIN 22 April 1910: Liverpool to Quebec
12. Communications:
 - a. James Marshall Hepburn, Lt. Col. (dec)
 - b. James Hughes Hepburn of Rockland, Mass. USA
 - c. Andrew Hepburn of Burton on Trent, England (dec)
 - d. David Hepburn of Culmore, Londonderry, N. Ireland
 - e. Frances & William McClure of Castlefinn, Donegal, Eire