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Client: Redacted for Sample

Sample Bespoke Research Report: A Generational Study

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Research Objective

To trace the Duncan line back from your great aunt Gwendolen Florence Duncan (b. 1906) back to the 18th century in hope to find any connection to Admiral Adam Duncan (born 1731)

Anecdotal Information

Duncan Family

Grandparents:

- George Duncan
- Doris Duncan

Child:

- Celia Duncan
- Born: 26 August 1945

Doris Duncan

- Born: 1 September 1920
- Place of Birth: St Pancras, London
- Died: 17 October 1976
- Place of Death: St Helens Hospital, Hastings

George Duncan

- Born: 8 or 9 September 1914
- Place of Birth: Glasgow
- Died: 10 December 1971
- Place of Death: Hastings

Additional Notes:

- Both Doris and George lived in London during WWII
- The family spent time in Watlington, Oxfordshire, where Celia grew up
- They later moved to Hastings, where George ran a chemist shop

Provided Documents

Short form birth certificate file name:

GWEN-DUNCAN-BIRTH-CERIFICATE-7f8f6fd00fb9f50337bbc1a5fa3a8579.jpg

Introduction

This report presents the findings of a one-name study into the Duncan family line, commissioned by private family history project, with the goal of tracing the family's roots as far back as possible — ideally to the mid-18th century or earlier, around the time of the Jacobite Rising and the Battle of Culloden. Starting with known individuals in England, the research has confirmed the lineage through multiple generations, linking modern family members to their Scottish origins. Each generation is explored using a combination of birth, marriage, death, census, and military records, and includes a narrative profile with supporting evidence.

Research Findings

George C Duncan and His Children

The starting point of this research is a twentieth-century member of the Duncan family, born on 26 August 1945 in Amersham, Buckinghamshire.¹ Celia is the daughter of George C. Duncan and Doris M, who were married between October and December 1942 in Hendon, Middlesex.² The couple resided in Watlington, Oxfordshire, where Celia was raised.³

Celia's father, George C Duncan, was born on 8 September 1914 in Gourrock, Renfrewshire, Scotland.⁴

1914. BIRTHS in the DISTRICT of GOUROCK in the COUNTY of RENFREW

No.	Name and Surname.	When and Where Born.	Sex.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father, Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother. Date and Place of Marriage.	Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
154	George Cyril	1914.	m	George Duncan.	Geo. Duncan.	1914,
	Duncan.	September		Ernie Villa.	Father.	September 15 th
		28		Florence Duncan		at Gourrock
		28		M. A. Barry.		John Macmillan.
		Cox Road.		1894 September 12 th		Registrar.
		Gourrock.		Hamilton, Canada.		

Figure 1: 1914 Birth record — DUNCAN, George C

George passed away in Hastings, Sussex, on 10 December 1971⁵, where he had established a career as a chemist.

George C had at least two sisters:

G I Duncan, born on 20 July 1905 at 20 Cranbrook Road, Greenwich, London.⁶

No.	Name and Surname.	When and Where Born.	Sex.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father, Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother. Date and Place of Marriage.	Signature and Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Birth occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
128.	Georgina Ivy	Twentieth July 1905.	Girl	George Duncan	George Duncan, Father, 20, Cranbrook Road	Eleventh August 1905. J. B. Chapman Registrar.
				Florence Maud Duncan formerly Barry	Engineers Fitter	

Figure 2: 1905 Birth record — DUNCAN, Georgina Ivy

G F Duncan, born on 21 July 1906 in West Plumstead, Kent.⁷ Her birth was registered at an address in 6 Arthur Street, Plumstead, Woolwich, and she was later baptised on 24 June 1907 in Chirton, Wiltshire.⁸

400	Twenty first July 1906 6 Arthur Street	Gwendolen Florence	girl	George Duncan	Florence Duncan formerly Burry	Fitter and Turner Arsenal	Florence Duncan mother 6 Arthur Street Plumstead	Third September 1906	E.W. Carter Deputy Registrar
-----	---	--------------------	------	---------------	--------------------------------	---------------------------	---	----------------------	------------------------------

Figure 3: 1906 Birth record — DUNCAN, Gwendolen Florence

All three children were listed as being born to George Duncan and Florence Burry.

George Duncan (1868–?) and Florence Burry

The next generation in the Duncan line is George Duncan, born on 26 November 1868 in Lower Brents, Preston, Faversham, Kent.⁹ He was the son of George Duncan and Elizabeth Gregory.

459	Twenty sixth November 1868 Lower Brents Preston	George Boy	George Duncan	Elizabeth Duncan formerly Duncan	Mariner	E. Duncan mother Lower Brents Preston	Sixteenth December 1868	James Dunn 25 Deputy Registrar
-----	--	------------	---------------	----------------------------------	---------	--	-------------------------	-----------------------------------

Figure 4: 1868 Birth record — DUNCAN, George

George pursued a naval career and served as a Petty Officer aboard H.M.S. *Blake*. His service took him to Canada, where he married Cora Edith Cameron on 12 September 1894 in Hampton, Kings County, New Brunswick.¹⁰ However, throughout Cora's life in the UK, she was known as Florence Burry.¹¹ The discrepancy in names was confirmed by tracing the birth certificate of their son, George C Duncan, which includes the parents' date and place of marriage. This led directly to the Canadian marriage record, where the bride is named as Cora Edith Cameron.

Schedule B.—Marriages.

BRIDEGROOM.						BRIDE.				
No.	His Name.	Age.	Residence When Married.	Place of Birth.	Bachelor or Widower.	His Name.	Age.	Residence When Married.	Place of Birth.	Spinster or Widow.
117	Duncan George		Northfleet Kent	England		Cora Edith Cameron	17	Hammond Hill	New Brunswick	
118	Bygon Byron		London	India		Richard		London	India	

Figure 5: 1894 Marriage record — DUNCAN, George and CAMERON, Cora Edith

This raises questions about Cora's identity and her later use of the name Florence Burry. Based on the available records, she appears to have been born around 1882 in Quebec, which would make her unusually young at the time of the 1894 marriage. The discrepancy should therefore be treated with caution until further corroborating evidence is found.

Notably, the civil marriage register entry (Figure 5) omits the ages of both bride and groom, as well as the names of their parents, even though other entries on the page include these details. This unusual omission may be relevant to the inconsistency, but the reason for it cannot be confirmed from the surviving record alone.

There is no known record explaining why Cora later used the name Florence Burry, and no formal name change or supporting documentation has been located. The surname 'Burry' does not appear in the Canadian marriage paperwork. For now, the evidence supports the conclusion that Cora Edith Cameron and Florence Burry were the same woman, but the reason for the change in name remains unknown.

In 1906, the couple lived at 6 Arthur Street, Plumstead, Woolwich, London — the address where their daughter Gwendolen Florence Duncan was born.¹² George's naval service may have placed them in close proximity to the Woolwich arsenal or dockyards.

According to the 1911 census, George and Cora (now Florence) were residing at Concept House in Gourrock, Renfrewshire, Scotland. George was employed as a Machine Engineer at the Government Torpedo Works.¹³

The image shows a 1911 census form for the household of George Duncan. The form is divided into several sections: Civil Parish and Parish Ward (Gourrock), Burgh of (Gourrock), and Parliamentary Constituency of (West Renfrewshire). It lists the names and relationships of all household members: George Duncan (Head, 42), Florence Duncan (Wife, 28), George Duncan (Son, 6), and Gwendolen Florence Duncan (Daughter, 4). George's occupation is listed as 'Mechanics Engineer' at the 'Government Torpedo Works'. The form also includes details about the property, such as the number of rooms and the type of house.

Figure 6: 1911 census — DUNCAN, George (head)

The 1921 census gives additional information regarding George's employment stating he was working for the Royal Navy Torpedo Factory as a Fitter. The family had by then moved to 32 Cove Road, Inverkip, Renfrewshire.¹⁴

The image shows a 1921 census form for the household of George Duncan. The form is divided into several sections: Civil Parish of (Inverkip), Burgh of (Gourrock), and Parliamentary Constituency of (West Renfrewshire). It lists the names and relationships of all household members: George Duncan (Head, 52), Florence Duncan (Wife, 39), George Duncan (Son, 15), Gwendolen Florence Duncan (Daughter, 14), and George C. Duncan (Son, 6). George's occupation is listed as 'Engine Fitter' at the 'Royal Naval Torpedo Factory'. The form also includes details about the property, such as the number of houses and the type of house.

Figure 7: 1921 census — DUNCAN, George (head)

This is the last known record for either George or Florence. No definitive death records have yet been located, either in Scotland, England, or Canada.

George Duncan (1838–1920) and Elizabeth Gregory – Life in Faversham, Kent

George Duncan, born on 17 August 1838 in Faversham, Kent, was the son of Archibald Duncan and Deborah Arnold.¹⁵ He lived his entire life in and around Faversham and worked primarily in maritime occupations.

The image shows a birth record for George Duncan, born on 17 August 1838 in Faversham, Kent. The record is a handwritten entry in a ledger, listing the name of the child (George), the names of the parents (Archibald Duncan and Deborah Duncan, formerly Deborah Arnold), and the date of birth (17 August 1838). The record also includes the names of the witnesses (The Minister of the Gospel, Deborah Duncan, and Deborah Arnold) and the name of the registrar (John Smith).

Figure 8: 1838 Birth record — DUNCAN, George

In the 1841 Census, George appears as the youngest child, living with his family in Mall, Preston, near Faversham — a likely riverside area suitable for a seafaring household.¹⁶

PLACE <small>as marked on the general map</small>	HOUSES		NAMES of each Person who abode therein the preceding Night.	AGE and SEX		PROFESSION, TRADE, EMPLOYMENT, or of INDEPENDENT MEANS.	Where Born	
	Uninhabited or Building	Inhabited		Males	Females		Whether Born in same County	Whether Born in Scotland, Ireland, or Foreign Parts.
Mall		1	Archibald Duncan	30		Bricklayer	✓	
			Sabara do	40			✓	
			William Hadlow	15			✓	
			Edward Hadlow	10			✓	
			Archibald Duncan	6			✓	
			Jane do	4			✓	
			George do	2			✓	

Figure 9: 1841 census — DUNCAN, Archibald (head)

By the 1851 Census, he is found living in Flood Lane, Faversham, aged 12, likely just entering work. His parents are present, and the household appears stable and local.¹⁷

Parish or Township of <i>Faversham</i>		Ecclesiastical District of <i>Faversham</i>		Urban Borough of <i>Faversham</i>		Town of <i>Faversham</i>		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
					Males	Females			
142	Flood Lane	Ludina do (Wife)	Wife	Married		12	Bricklayer	do do	
		Archibald Duncan	Son	Single		12		do do	
		Sabara do (Wife)	Wife	Married		40		do do	
		Archibald do	Son	Single		10		do do	
		George do	Son	Single		12	Mariner	West Ham Hill	

Figure 10: 1851 census — DUNCAN, Archibald (Head)

In the 1861 Census, George was residing in Flood Lane East, Canterbury, Kent. He was listed as a mariner.¹⁸

On 5 May 1866, George married Elizabeth Gregory¹⁹, a Faversham native born around 1848²⁰, the daughter of Edward Gregory.²¹ Together, they had at least nine children, all of whom appear to have been born and raised in Faversham:

- Archibald Duncan, born ca. 1867²²
- George Duncan (b. 1868, see earlier section)
- Charles Duncan, born ca. Jan 1871²³
- Edith Duncan, born ca. 1877²⁴
- Florence Duncan, born 10 May 1879²⁵
- Percy Duncan, born ca. 1880²⁶
- Clara Duncan, born ca. 1884²⁷
- Ethel Duncan, born ca. 1886²⁸
- Martha Duncan, born ca. 1892²⁹

In the 1871 Census, the couple lived at 92 West Street Passage, Faversham. George is listed again as a mariner, and the household included several of their young children.³⁰

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the Parish of Faversham											Page 25
*Civil Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Village or Hamlet, &c, of	Local Board, or (Improvement Commissioners District) of	Ecological District of				Whether
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c, and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited (U.A. or B.)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION	AGE of	Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN		1. Deaf-and-Dumb 2. Blind 3. Imbecile or Idiot 4. Lunatic	
78	92 " " Page	1	George Duncan	Head	Mar.	33	Mariner	Faversham "			
			Elizabeth Duncan	Wife		23		"			
			Archibald Duncan	Son		3		"			
			George Duncan	Son		2		"			
			Charles Duncan	Son		3 Mo.		"			

Figure 11: 1871 census — DUNCAN, George (head)

In the 1891 Census, George is still in Faversham, appearing as head of household, now well-established and continuing to work in a maritime trade.³¹

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the											Page 8	
Civil Parish	Municipal Borough	Municipal Ward	Urban Sanitary District	Town or Village or Hamlet	Rural Sanitary District	Parliamentary Borough or Division	Ecological Parish or District					
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c, and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited (U.A. or B.)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employer	Employed	Whether in Employment	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf-and-Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot
36	57 West Str	1	George Duncan	Head	M	58	Mariner		X		Kent Faversham	
			Elizabeth	Wife	M	43					"	
			Archibald	Son	M	27			X		"	
			Edith	Son		14	Scholar				"	
			Thomas	Son		12					"	
			Clara	Son		5					"	
			Edith	Son		4					"	
			Percy	Son		2					"	

Figure 12: 1891 census — DUNCAN, George (head)

In the 1901 Census, the family was living at 57 West Street, just steps from their earlier address. George was listed as a fisherman, reflecting either a shift in occupation or aging into more local work.

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the											Page 5
Civil Parish	Ecological Parish	County Borough, Municipal Borough or Urban District	Ward of Municipal Borough or of Urban District	Rural District	Parliamentary Borough or Division	Town or Village or Hamlet	Ecological Parish or District				
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c, and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES Inhabited (U.A. or B.)	NAME and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON-DITION as to Marriage	AGE last Birthday of	PROFESSION or OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb (2) Blind (3) Lunatic (4) Imbecile, feeble-minded
36	57 West Str	1	George Duncan	Head	M	64	Fisherman	Own acct		do do	
			Elizabeth	Wife	M	53				do do	
			Archibald	Son	S	32	Fisherman	worker		do do	
			Thomas	Son	S	19	Domestic Servant			do do	
			Percy	Son	S	21	Fisherman	worker		do do	
			Edith	Son		15	Breakfast	worker		do do	
			Mytha	Son		9				do do	
			Clara	Son		12	Domestic Servant			do do	

Figure 13: 1901 census — DUNCAN, George (head)

By the 1911 Census, the couple remained in Faversham Within. George, now in his 70s, was still described as a fisherman and head of household.³² (See Figure 6)

George died on 15 June 1920 and was buried in Faversham Cemetery.³³ The outcome of Elizabeth was not researched.

Archibald Duncan (1807–1864) and Deborah Arnold

Archibald Duncan was born around 1807 in Ospringe, Faversham, Kent, and baptised on 26 April 1807 at St Mary of Charity, the principal parish church in Faversham.³⁴ He was the son of Archibald Duncan and Jane Godsafie, and followed a typical trade-based career for the area, working as a bricklayer.³⁵

He married Deborah Hadlow nee Arnold, on 13 August 1834 at St Marys Northgate in Canterbury. Deborah was born around 1799 in Henhill, near Faversham.³⁶

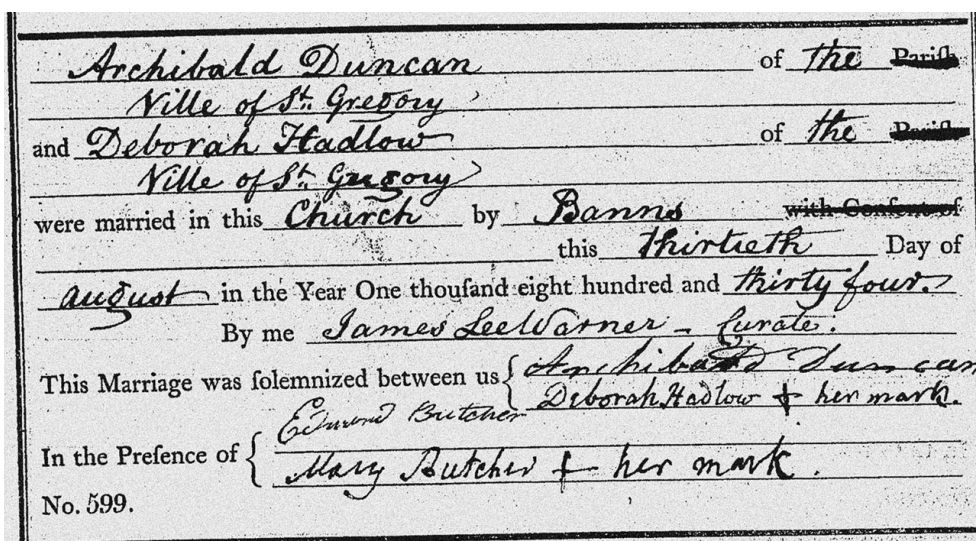


Figure 14: 1834 Marriage record — DUNCAN, Archibald and HADLOW, Deborah

The Archibald and Deborah had at least three children:

- Archibald Bishop Duncan, born ca. 1834 in Henhill, Faversham³⁷
- Jane Duncan, born 1836 in Henhill³⁸
- George Duncan (b. 1838, see previous section)

Deborah also had two additional children, William Hadlow (b. ca. 1826) and Edward Hadlow (b. ca. 1831), from her previous marriage.

In the 1841 Census, Archibald and Deborah were living in Mall, Preston, near Faversham. The census confirmed Archibald worked as a bricklayer (See Figure 9).³⁹

By the 1851 Census, the family was recorded in Flood Lane, Faversham, still in the heart of town. Archibald remained employed as a bricklayer, and the household included several of their children (See Figure 10).⁴⁰

In the 1861 Census, the family was listed in Flood Lane East, Canterbury — though this area still fell within the Faversham registration district. It's likely they remained in the same general neighbourhood, perhaps even the same street. By this point, most of their sons were grown or nearly grown.⁴¹

Page 50		The undermentioned				Parliamentary Borough of		Hamlet or Tything, Sec., of		Ecclesiastical District of	
Parish (or Township) of		Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of		Faversham		Canterbury			
No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	HOUSES		Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf and Dumb	
		No. of Inhabitants	U.S. of Inhabitants								
				Mary a do	Wife		8	Schooler	Widdow (Kilpat)		
200	do do	1		Archibald Duncan	Head	Mar	58	Bricklayer	Kent (Faversham)		
				Deborah do	Wife	Mar	62		do Faversham		
				George do	Son	Mar	22	Mariner	do Faversham		
				John do	Son	Mar	40	Person	Faversham		

Figure 15: 1861 census record — DUNCAN, Archibald (head)

Archibald died in between Apr and June 1864 in Faversham, Kent.⁴² Deborah's outcome was not investigated.

Archibald Duncan (1759–1827) and Jane Godsafe

Archibald Duncan was born in 1759 in Musselburgh, just outside Edinburgh, Midlothian, and was baptised on 7 October 1759 in the parish of Inveresk with Musselburgh. He was the son of Robert Duncan and Christian Smyle.⁴³ In his early years, Archibald relocated from Scotland to southern England — a significant move that laid the foundation for the Duncan family's long residence in Kent.

Archibald married Jane Godsafe on 9 November 1788 in Canterbury, at St Andrew's in the City.⁴⁴ Together they had a large family, with at least seven children all born in Faversham:

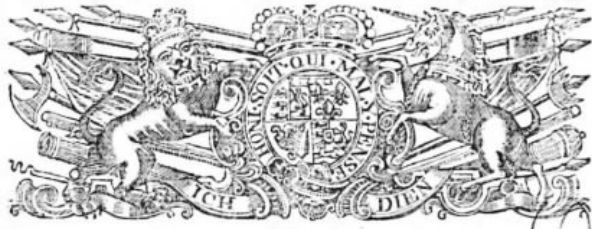
- Archibald Duncan (b. 1807, see previous section)
- Jane Archibald, born 1807 (Archibald's Twin sister)⁴⁵
- Sophia Duncan, born 24 December 1795⁴⁶
- Mary Duncan, born 1789⁴⁷
- James Duncan, born 18 February 1793⁴⁸
- Robert Duncan, born 5 December 1801⁴⁹
- Edward Bishop Duncan

The reason for Archibald Duncan's move from Midlothian to Kent is unknown, but several possibilities exist. It may have been prompted by a military transfer, the search for economic opportunity, or perhaps he simply fell in love. Whatever the reason, the documentary record begins to clarify his path once in Kent.

As previously mentioned, Archibald was trained as a cordwainer (shoemaker), but stepped away from this trade for several years to serve in the Eleventh Regiment of Light Dragoons. The exact date of his enlistment is not known, but he was formally discharged on 30 May 1791.⁵⁰

His military career was brought to an end by injury. According to his discharge letter, he “nearly lost his sight while on smuggling duty on the Coast of Norfolk in the year 1789,” leaving him unfit for continued service. As a result, he was discharged and “humbly recommended as a proper object for his majesty's Royal Bounty of Chelsea Hospital.”

This recommendation suggests that Archibald likely received some form of military pension or assistance for the remainder of his life.⁵¹



His Majesty's 60th Regiment of Light Dragoons
whereof General Mordaunt is Colonel.

THESSE are to certify, That the Bearer hereof,
Archibald Duncan in the Colonel's Troop,
Private of the aforesaid Regiment,
Born in the Parish of *Muskhorough* in or near the
Market Town of *Muskhorough* in the County of
Middlesex Aged *thirty two* years and by Trade a
Cordwainer Hath served honestly and faithfully
in the said Regiment *thirteen* Years: But by *having*
nearly lost his sight on the 1st of July
in the Coast of Scotland in the year 1770, by which he
is rendered incapable of carrying on his Trade he therefore
is hereby Discharged, and humbly recommended as a
proper Object of His Majesty's Royal Bounty of
CHELSEA HOSPITAL. He having first received
all just Demands of Pay, Clothing, &c. from his Entry
into the said Regiment, to the Date of this Discharge,
as appears by his Receipt on the Back hereof.

GIVEN under my Hand, and the Seal of the Regiment,
at *Stains* this *thirtieth* Day of

Nov 1791

Alfred Mordaunt
Lieut Colonel

J. Mordaunt
Surgeon

N. B. When a Soldier is discharged, his Wounds and Disorders must be
particularly mentioned, when, where, and how they were contracted;
and the Surgeon must sign the Certificates as well as the Field Officer.

Printed for T. Egerton, Successor to J. Millan, near Whitehall.

Figure 16: 1791 Military record — DUNCAN, Archibald

Following his military discharge, Archibald returned to his shoemaking profession. By 1793, Archibald was recorded as a shoemaker⁵², and by 1803, he had established himself in Faversham, Kent, working as a Master Cordwainer. His status is confirmed by his appearance in the apprenticeship indenture fees register, which shows that he was formally trained William Wraight in the trade, passing on his skills to the next generation.⁵³

Warrant N^o 30 Ind^o 53 Bro^t 14 June 1803

27 d^o 1802 10 John Sea Sw^r: Millin: C. of d^o Draper & Taylor Jas^o Mitchell
 29 d^o 1802 11 Sam^t: Steddy ashford: C. of d^o Wheelwright John Cook
 2 Dec^r: 1802 12 Archibald Duncan Faversham: C. of d^o Ordwainer W^m Drought

Figure 17: 1803 Apprenticeship indenture record — DUNCAN, Archibald

Archibald died in August 1827 in Faversham and was buried on 10 August 1827 in Faversham Cemetery.⁵⁴ Jane's death is not yet traced.

Robert Duncan (–1787) and Christian Smyle

The earliest reliably identified ancestor in the Duncan line is Robert Duncan, a coach driver who lived and worked in the parish of Inveresk with Musselburgh, Midlothian, Scotland.⁵⁵ His wife was Christian Smyle (also recorded as Smele), and together they had at least two known children:

- Archibald Duncan (b. 1759, see previous section)
- Jean Duncan, born 29 October 1761 in Musselburgh⁵⁶

Nothing is known at this point about Robert's early life or parentage. He was buried on 21 November 1787 in Inveresk, with the burial register noting that he was laid to rest "five paces southeast of William Robertson's stone" — a helpful locational detail for future reference.⁵⁷

21th Nov 1787 Robert Duncan Coachman in Musselburgh
 buried 5 paces south east William Robertson Stone

Figure 18: 1787 Burial record — DUNCAN, Robert

It is not known if Robert was from Musselburgh or further afield, but if he were from the area, there are four possible baptism records for individuals named Robert Duncan in the Inveresk and Musselburgh parish registers, ranging from 1721 to 1743. The most plausible entries include:

Surname	Forename	Parents	Baptism Date	Parish
Duncan	Robert	Alexander Duncan / Katheren Duncan ⁵⁸	13 May 1722	Inveresk and Musselburgh
Duncan	Robert	David Duncan / Isabell Blackie ⁵⁹	30 Jan 1743	Inveresk and Musselburgh
Duncan	Robert	Robert Duncan / Isabell Sinclair ⁶⁰	26 Jan 1721	Inveresk and Musselburgh
Duncan	Robert	Stephen Duncan / Susanna Clerk ⁶¹	14 Apr 1723	Inveresk and Musselburgh

Possible Baptism records for Robert Duncan d. 1787

Unfortunately, none can be confirmed without further corroborating evidence. Ages were not recorded at death, and no definitive naming pattern, marriage, or land records have been found to favour one over the others.

Christian Smyle's origins are similarly uncertain with no matches in Scotland for the years 1715-1745.

While this branch of the Duncan family clearly lived in Inveresk, a town long associated with the Duncan surname, there is no evidence linking Robert Duncan or his descendants to Admiral Adam Duncan, 1st Viscount

Camperdown. Adam was born in Dundee into a prominent mercantile and political family — the son of Alexander Duncan of Lundie, who served as Provost of the city.⁶² His lineage is thoroughly documented through peerage records and naval biographies, and no Robert Duncan — whether a coach driver or otherwise — appears in Adam’s immediate or extended family.⁶³

The two lines occupied very different spheres in 18th-century Scotland: while Adam’s relatives were engaged in civic leadership, higher education, and senior naval service, this Duncan line contributed to their communities through skilled trades such as shoemaking, fishing, and domestic service. These occupations, though less publicly celebrated, were essential to the daily life and economic structure of the towns they lived in — and they reflect a lineage of resilience, hard work, and craftsmanship rather than inherited privilege.

As such, while both families share the Duncan surname and Scottish origins, no connection can be made between them based on the currently available evidence.

In regard to the potential parents of Robert Duncan in Inveresk: There is evidence that an Alexander Duncan of Arbroath and a Robert Duncan of Lochlee were involved in the Jacobite Rising of 1745–46, both listed among the rebels. Alexander was noted for his public support of the cause, while Robert served in Lord Ogilvy’s Forfarshire regiment and likely survived the Battle of Culloden.⁶⁴ However, no direct connection can be made between these individuals and the Duncan family line traced in this report, and it remains unclear whether they were related at all to the branch originating in Inveresk and Musselburgh.

Conclusion

The evidence gathered in this research does not support a connection between Archibald Duncan (b. 1759) of Musselburgh and Admiral Adam Duncan of Camperdown. Their backgrounds, geography, and documented family lines are distinct.

Further Research

This report focused on the direct Duncan line only. Collateral lines were not explored in detail unless they helped confirm key relationships.

Further work could include a fuller investigation of siblings, collateral branches, and the wider Duncan families of Inveresk and Musselburgh. Additional research into land, tax, kirk session, apprenticeship, or military material may also help clarify the earlier generations.

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