

**12.1.33 : 280056 Private Alexander SINCLAIR aka John DUNCAN**

DATE OF BIRTH: 27<sup>th</sup> May 1876.<sup>1998 1999</sup>

PLACE OF BIRTH: 7 Main Street,  
Greenock, Renfrewshire,  
Scotland.<sup>2000</sup>

DATE OF DEATH: 07<sup>th</sup> March 1915.<sup>2001</sup>

PLACE OF BURIAL: Unknown:  
Commemorated at Le Touret  
Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.<sup>2002</sup>

SERVICE NO: 6584.

REGIMENT: 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Cameron  
Highlanders, (Queen's Own).<sup>2003</sup>

PRE-WAR OCCUPATION: Carter.<sup>2004</sup>

FATHER: Alexander SINCLAIR <sup>2005</sup>(27<sup>th</sup> April 1836 - 20<sup>th</sup> April 1878)<sup>2006</sup>

MOTHER: Hannah HOUSTON (Abt. 1840 - 13<sup>th</sup> February 1927)<sup>2007</sup>

SIBLINGS:

Elizabeth SINCLAIR <sup>2008</sup>(29<sup>th</sup> June 1862 - )

Jemima SINCLAIR (21<sup>st</sup> June 1866 - 1867)

William SINCLAIR (08<sup>th</sup> January 1869 – Aft. 13<sup>th</sup> February 1927)

Jessie SINCLAIR <sup>2009</sup>(04<sup>th</sup> March 1871 - )

SPOUSE: Annie MCKILLOP (Abt. 1875 - 28<sup>th</sup> October 1901)<sup>2010 2011</sup>

DATE OF MARRIAGE: 17<sup>th</sup> July 1896.<sup>2012</sup>

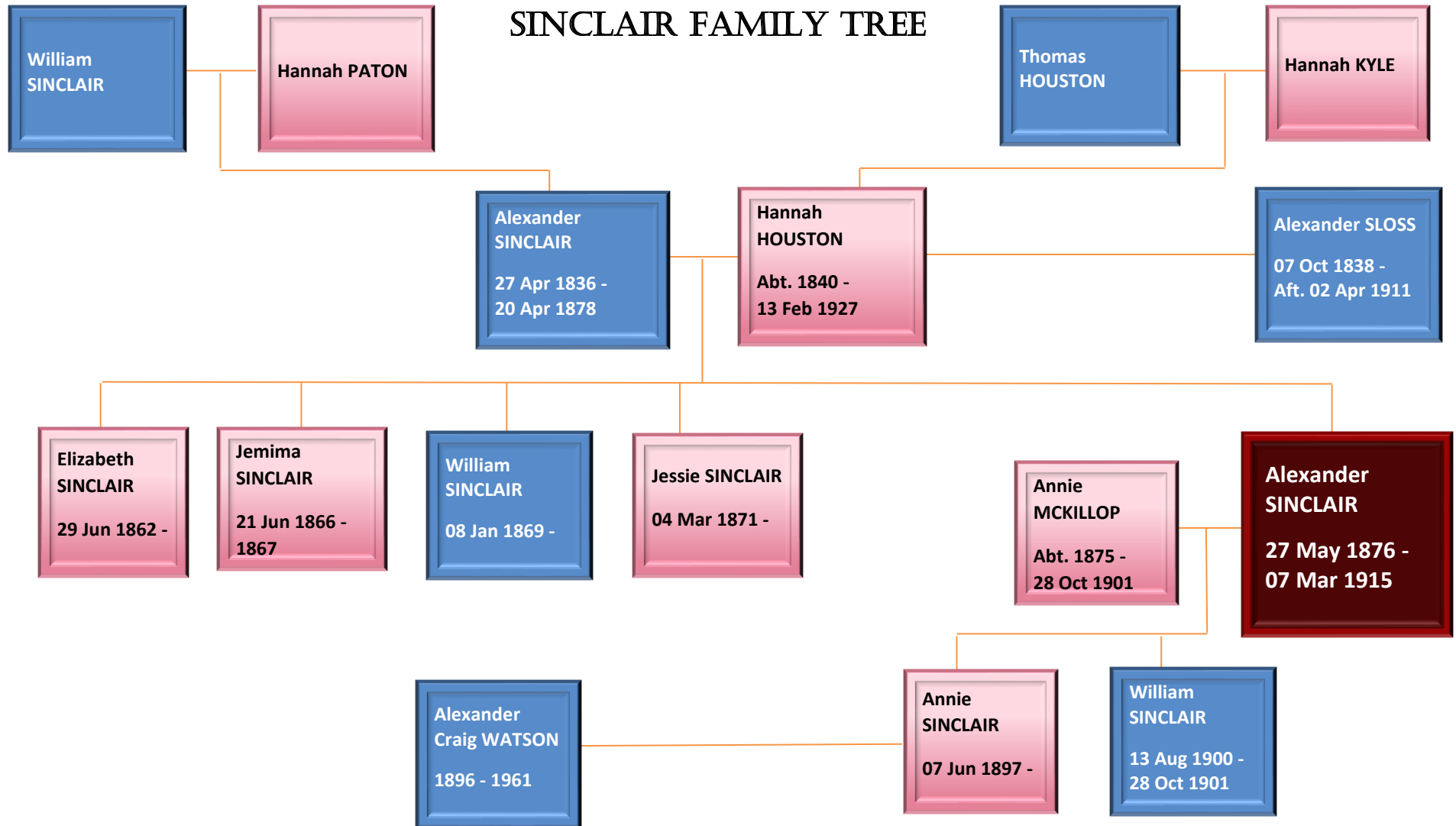
PLACE OF MARRIAGE: 56 Rumford  
Street, Glasgow, Scotland.<sup>2013</sup>

CHILDREN:

Annie SINCLAIR <sup>2014</sup>(07<sup>th</sup> June 1897 - )

William SINCLAIR <sup>2015</sup>(13<sup>th</sup> August 1900 - 28<sup>th</sup> October 1901)<sup>2016 2017</sup>

# SINCLAIR FAMILY TREE



**Alexander SINCLAIR**

(27<sup>th</sup> May 1876 – 07<sup>th</sup> March 1915)

NMA 2024 <sup>2018</sup>	NMA 2022 <sup>2019</sup>	NMA 2017 <sup>2020</sup>	WO 71 <sup>2021</sup>	Parliamentary Pardons	CWGC <sup>2022</sup>	Informal Will
081 – John DUNCAN, aka Alexander SINCLAIR.  Age Unknown.	081 – John DUNCAN.  Age Unknown.	081 – John DUNCAN.  Age Unknown.	WO 71/405 – J DUNCAN.  In File: John DUNCAN. Wife, children and elderly mother. Age Unknown.	John DUNCAN.	(Served as DUNCAN). Son of Mrs. Hannah Sloss, of 59, Franklin Street, Bridgeton, Glasgow.	N/A.

TABLE 66: ALEXANDER SINCLAIR RESOURCE TABLE.

Alexander SINCLAIR was the son of Alexander SINCLAIR <sup>2023</sup>(27<sup>th</sup> April 1836 - 20<sup>th</sup> April 1878) and Hannah HOUSTON (Abt. 1840 - 13<sup>th</sup> February 1927)<sup>2024</sup> who had married on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 1860.<sup>2025</sup> Alexander was a rivetter, his parents were William SINCLAIR, a labourer and Anna PATON. Hannah was born in Canada, her parents were Thomas HOUSTON, a master mariner and Hannah KYLE.

Alexander was the youngest child of Alexander and Hannah. He was born at 09:35pm on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 1876 at 7 Main Street, Greenock, Renfrewshire, Scotland. His elder siblings were Elizabeth, Jemima, William and Jessie.

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1876. BIRTHS in the *East Parish of Greenock* 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.
425	Alexander Sinclair	1876, May Twentieth 9h 35m PM 7 Main Street Greenock	M	Alexander Sinclair Rivetter (Seaman) Hannah Sinclair On 8 Houston 1860 July 13 <sup>th</sup> Glasgow	Alex Sinclair Father	1876, June 14 <sup>th</sup> At Greenock J. McEwen Registrar.

FIGURE 111: ALEXANDER SINCLAIR BIRTH CERTIFICATE.<sup>2026</sup>

Prior to his birth, in the 1871 census, the SINCLAIR family resided at .... Jemima had died in infancy a few years earlier. A decade later in the 1881 census, 5-year-old Alexander is listed as a visitor at his sister Elizabeth and brother-in-law Peter MCVICER abode 30 Cartsburn Street, Greenock. By 1891, Hannah marries widower Alexander SLOSS (07<sup>th</sup> October 1838 - Aft. 02<sup>nd</sup> April 1911) on the 03<sup>rd</sup> September 1891.

In 1895, at 18 years of age, Alexander enlists with the Seaforth Highlanders. His enlistment papers detail his physical description, along with some sordid medical ailments. A year later on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 1896, Alexander marries Annie MCKILLOP (Abt. 1874 - 28<sup>th</sup> October 1901)<sup>2027</sup> 1896 at the 56 Rumford Street, Bridgeton, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland.<sup>2028</sup>

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1896. MARRIAGES in the District of Bridgeton in the Burgh of Glasgow

No.	When, Where, and How Married.	Signatures of Parties.		Age.	Usual Residence.	Name, Surname, and Rank or Profession of Father.		If a regular Marriage, Signatures of officiating Minister and Witnesses. If irregular, Date of Conviction, Decree of Declarator, or Sheriff's Warrant.	When & Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
		Rank or Profession, Whether Single or Widowed, and Relationship (if any).				Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.			
200	1896, on the <u>fourteenth</u> day of <u>July</u> at <u>56 Rumford St.</u> <u>Glasgow.</u>	<u>Signed Alexander Sinclair</u> <u>Bachelor.</u>	<u>Signed Annie McKillop</u> <u>Domestic servant</u> <u>(Partner)</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>56</u> <u>Rumford</u> <u>St.</u> <u>Glasgow</u>	<u>Alexander Belair</u> <u>John Belair (deceased)</u> <u>and Hannah Ross</u> <u>formerly Belair</u> <u>W.P. Houston</u>	<u>Signed</u> <u>John D. Allan</u> <u>William Belair</u> <u>John D. Allan</u> <u>William Duncanson</u>	<u>1896</u> <u>July 20<sup>th</sup></u> <u>At Glasgow</u>	
	<u>after publication</u> <u>according to the</u> <u>forms of the</u> <u>Congregationalists.</u>			<u>22</u>	<u>19</u> <u>North</u> <u>St.</u> <u>Glasgow</u>	<u>John McKillop</u> <u>Post office clerk</u> <u>and</u> <u>Annie McKillop</u> <u>W.P. Ross</u>	<u>Signed</u> <u>William Belair</u> <u>Witness John D. Allan</u> <u>Witness William Duncanson</u>	<u>1896</u> <u>July 20<sup>th</sup></u> <u>At Glasgow</u>	

James Caird Registrar

FIGURE 112: ALEXANDER SINCLAIR & ANNIE MCKILLOP MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.<sup>2029</sup>

They welcomed their daughter Annie a year later on the 07<sup>th</sup> June 1897 at 110 Long Row, Glengarnock, Kilbirnie, Ayrshire, Scotland.<sup>2030</sup> A few years later, on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 1900, the couple welcomed their second child William SINCLAIR on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 1900, at 17 Norman Street, Bridgeton, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland.<sup>2031</sup>

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1897. BIRTHS in the Parish of Kilbirnie in the County of Argy

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.
88	Annie Sinclair.	1897. June Twelfth, 6h. 30m AM.	F	Alexander Sinclair Blacksmith's Labourer.	Alexander Sinclair Father	1897. June 14 <sup>th</sup> At Kilbirnie J. B. V. Smith Registrar.
		110 Long Row Glasgow Kilbirnie		Annie Sinclair M. McKillop		
				1896. July Bridgeton District Glasgow.		

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1900. BIRTHS in the District of Bridgeton in the Burgh of Glasgow

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.
1524	William Sinclair	1900. August Thirteenth at some place	M	Alexander Sinclair Hammerman	A. Sinclair Father	1900. September 10 <sup>th</sup> At Glasgow John Dait Assistant Registrar
		17 Norman Street Glasgow		Annie Sinclair M. P. McKillop	(Present)	

John Dait  
Registrar.

FIGURE 113: ALEXANDER SINCLAIR'S CHILDREN'S BIRTH CERTIFICATES.<sup>2032 2033</sup>

The 1901 census shows Alexander and 3-year-old daughter Annie living with his mother Hannah and stepfather Alexander SLOSS at 11 Newhall Street, Calton, Bridgeton, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland.<sup>2034</sup> Alexander's wife Annie and son William are not at the residence.

Sadly, a few months on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 1901, a double death is registered at Bridgeton, Glasgow. The below documents of register of corrected entries and newspaper coverage, details that Annie had drowned by suicide when jumping into the River Clyde with 14-month-old baby William. Their bodies were not recovered.<sup>2035</sup>

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Register of Corrected Entries

for the DISTRICT of BRIDGETON  
in the BURGH of GLASGOW

The following Report of result of a Prognosis has been received touching the Death of Annie Sinclair registered under No. 1169 in the Register Book of Deaths for the year 1901.

Name & surname	Annie Sinclair.
When & Where Died.	about 6.30 on 28 <sup>th</sup> Oct. 1901. In River Clyde, near Rushgreen Bridge.
Residence	Bell Street, Glasgow.
Sex & age	F, 29 years.
Cause of Death.	Drowning, suicide. Not certified. Body not recovered.

Procurator-Fiscal's Office, Glasgow, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec. 1901. Certified by James N. Hart, Procurator-Fiscal.  
27<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1901, at Glasgow.  
John Daily, Assis. Registrar.

### A CLYDE TRAGEDY.

**MOTHER LEAPS INTO THE RIVER WITH HER CHILD.**

The Glasgow police were on Tuesday informed of a sad tragedy which was enacted the previous night, when a young married woman committed suicide by jumping into the River Clyde, her infant in her arms, both being drowned. The story is a painful one. It appears that the deceased, Ann McKillop, or Sinclair, 28, had been for some time living apart from her husband, a labourer, but on Monday night the couple met at the house of a mutual friend, where they had supper, and appeared to be on fairly good terms. After some time, Sinclair and his wife left the house, taking their two children with them. Their way took them alongside the Clyde, and here a quarrel ensued between them as to money matters. Ultimately the couple came to an arrangement by which the woman was to retain custody of the child which she was carrying in her arms, a boy twelve months old, while the man was to have charge of the other child, Annie, four years old. The couple agreed to separate again, and walked off in opposite directions, the woman talking with her the infant. Suddenly, after she had gone about thirty yards, the woman ran down the river bank and threw herself into the water, her baby clutched tightly to her bosom. Horrified at the spectacle, two girls, who had witnessed the mad act, informed Sergeant Fleming of what had happened. Immediately hurrying to the spot, the sergeant found that the husband, hearing the splash, had also arrived on the scene, and had become almost frantic when he learned the full extent of the calamity. So badly did he appear to feel the loss that the sergeant found some difficulty in preventing him from jumping into the water after his wife and child.

FIGURE 114: ANN[IE] & WILLIAM SINCLAIR RCE & NEWSPAPER ARTICLE.<sup>2036 2037</sup>

After the loss of wife Annie and son William, Alexander should be next listed in the 1911 census, but the search proved negative results upon searching for him or his daughter Annie. They are no longer with his mother Hannah and stepfather Alexander SLOSS.

Alexander at the age of 38 enlisted under an alias, John DUNCAN. He held the rank of private in the regular forces of the Queen's Own 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, Cameron Highlanders (Service No: 6584).

Alexander's trial took place on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 1915. He was charged with desertion when absenting himself from Borre, France on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 1914 at around 6pm until being confided by battery quartermaster Sergeant W J ANDERSON of the Royal Horse Artillery on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1914 at Hazebrouck, France. The WO 71/405 court martial file only ever refers to him as Pte John DUNCAN.<sup>2038</sup>

In a statement dictated by Alexander/John on the 14<sup>th</sup> February 1915 stated:

*“When I was handed over to Sergeant Stuart I was taken up to headquarters and was told that I had to join my section when I went up I found they were in the trenches and handed myself over to Lt Cpl Lovell I was there till the co[mpan]y came away seven days after. I left them in BETHUNE. Anything I did or said was when I was under the influence of drink. When I trust drink I lose my memory altogether.*

*All the time I was in HAZEBROUCK I was among different regiments and told them that I had lost my regiment I was given food and a bed but they did not help me to get back. When I got back to BETHUNE my regiment had gone and I made my way to HAZEBROUCK.*

*I have a wife and two of a family and an aged mother 70 years of age I am really sorry for what I have done and if I get a chance I will not touch drink while I am in service.”*

Alexander was found guilty and was executed near to Rue de L’Epinette, France on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 1915. Unusually, his execution did not take place at dawn, but instead at 17:30pm. He is commemorated at Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France on panels 41 and 42.<sup>2039</sup>

After his death, a year later on the 21<sup>st</sup> July 1916, Alexander’s daughter Annie, marries Alexander Craig WATSON <sup>2040</sup>(1896 - 1961)<sup>2041</sup> at The Masonic Halls, 129 Alexandra Parade, Dennistoun, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland.<sup>2042</sup> Prior to the marriage, Annie had been living at 40 Savoy Street in Glasgow and worked as a domestic servant before moving into the WATSON family home at 30 Kilberry Street, Glasgow. In December 1920, the couple travelled on the S.S. Cassandra to Canada.<sup>2043</sup> They are listed living at 404 Charlotte Street, Sydney, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, Canada on the 1921 census.<sup>2044</sup> A month later, on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 1921, Annie gives birth to a daughter, Robina Wallace WATSON <sup>2045</sup>(30<sup>th</sup> July 1921 - ). and the young mother and child are seen returning to Glasgow a year later.

Alexander’s mother Hannah continued living at 59 Franklin Street until her death on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 1927. Robina moved to Coventry, Warwickshire, England for work, where she met and married Joseph Anthony MITCHELL (05<sup>th</sup> March 1905 - 1983)<sup>2046</sup>. Annie SINCLAIR divorced Alexander Craig WATSON in 1954. The family moved to Watford, Hertfordshire, England.