



The Ayton Family Society

President – Pieter Cor Aitton

Convener's Letter

I am writing this letter during the week between Christmas and New Year. This is a time when I am sure that we all think of our families, no matter where they are. My wife and I were fortunate to have both our sons, their wives and children with us over Christmas. I should maybe replace 'fortunate' with 'exhausting' as my 6 year old granddaughter Megan, and her 5 year old brother Cameron, are full of non-stop noise and energy. However, no matter how exhausting they were, it was great to see them and my youngest granddaughter Isla (15 months) will be wondering, for the next few days at least, why the house is so quiet.

Of course, the family is much bigger than those we can cram into our homes, there's brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, in-laws, cousins, second cousins and maybe just some good friends whom your children have always called aunt or uncle; my brother even had an 'adopted' grandpa! I know that not too many members of the Ayton Family Society can claim relationship to one another but I like to think that we all count ourselves as part of this much larger family and as such I take the liberty of wishing, from us all, to us all, a very Happy New Year.

Now before you question my above bad grammar I must question 'where were you?' for our AGM and annual gathering. Our gathering at the refurbished Aytoun Hall in Auchterarder was a very pleasant visit for the few of us who turned up. We were greeted by our host, David Homewood, who had organised coffee and biscuits for our arrival. As we chatted

there were photos of the restoration work, which has taken place since our last visit, being shown on a large screen in the main hall. David then gave us an introductory talk before giving us a tour round the building. We were impressed by the high quality of the work and glad that the name Aytoun will be preserved on the main street of Auchterarder for many years to come. Sadly, due to the poor turnout, Hamish had to cancel the caterer. However David Homewood suggested a very nice restaurant about a hundred yards away from the hall and we had a very pleasant lunch there.

After lunch we returned to the Aytoun Hall where we met for what should have been our AGM. As we sat round the council table of the former Auchterarder Town Council Hamish pointed out that we require six members for a quorum and as we had only five, Hamish Neilson, Marion Aitton, Alison and John Sones (who had come all the way up from Cheshire) and myself the AGM could not be held. No election having taken place, officially we now have no committee, therefore this letter should really be headed 'Acting Convener's Letter', your acting committee will carry on until the next AGM in the hope that we can once again form a proper committee.

Those of us who did attend had a good meeting, with John giving Hamish some very useful advice regarding our finances. It was really good to see you again, John, after your long illness. Alison and Marion don't look a day older but I'm saying nothing about Hamish and myself! After the meeting we took a

short drive to the edge of the town where we took a small dead end road where we parked our cars. From here we took a short walk which led us to the boundary of one of the greens of the famous Gleneagles Hotel Golf Course. Just below this green we admired the small aqueduct which had been built

through the generosity of Captain Aytoun to take the first running water supply to the town, and why the grateful citizens of Auchterarder named their public hall after him.

David Eaton

Gathering at Auchterarder August 2011

In August 2011 members and spouses met at Auchterarder, in Perthshire, where facilities for the Gathering were provided at the refurbished Aytoun Hall. Members may remember that the Hall was built as a memorial to Captain Chadwick Marriot Walker Aytoun, a local landowner, who was instrumental in obtaining the first pure water supply for the town in 1831. We first visited there in 2008.

First on the agenda for the day was a conducted tour of the refurbished Hall, which is really a complex of halls, rooms and service areas behind the stone façade which fronts onto Auchterarder Main Street. Our guide was David Homewood, who has undergone some changes since we first met him, having suffered from a heart attack.

David has recovered well, and has remained the driving force in ALRA, the Auchterarder Leisure and Recreation Association, the body set up to promote and guide the restoration project for the Hall. Plans for the state-of-the-art refurbishment were drawn-up following a public consultation between residents and ALRA.

The project had a long gestation period, and the budget increased in size during that process until the final estimated sum came to £1.4 million. However, the construction industry in Scotland has been so depressed that the lowest bid, when the contract went out to tender, was significantly lower, at £690,000. The main contractor appointed on the basis of this bid was Mansell Construction Limited.

A whole host of construction work was carried-out at the venue in the Lang Toon's High Street, including in installation of a lift on the upper floor. The former snooker hall was moved, and heating, lighting, acoustics, and IT facilities improved.

The fact that the contract was valued so much lower than the tender meant that many of the extra items and changes, that are almost inevitable in such a complicated project, could be afforded, and there are actually some funds left in the budget. Besides Perth & Kinross Council funds of £900,000, local people raised about £60,000, which was dedicated towards buying furniture and crockery. The remainder was pledged by the Scottish Government in 2005 following the G8 Summit at nearby Gleneagles.

Council leader Ian Miller has said: 'The commitment we have made to the people of Auchterarder will ensure that the Aytoun Hall continues to be a valuable asset for the local community for many years. This major investment will have great long-term benefits for local residents, and the ambitious refurbishment and modernisation is something we are all very excited about.' The overall theme of the project was to make the Hall as flexible a venue as possible.

The work was finished towards the end of the year 2010.

As of August 2011, when we met there, the main contract was finished, and the client and contractor

were at the stage of 'snagging', or identifying and rectifying all the faults and deficiencies that could be identified.

Maintenance and repairs to the clock tower were recently completed in 2011 but further work to repair the roof drainage system will be undertaken at a later date. Meanwhile, the inside of the clock tower will undergo a survey to ensure there is no evidence of further water problems.

Aside from work on the building, ALRA has been working on the production of marketing literature and establishing a website for the Aytoun Hall. ALRA has accepted the lead in this work and is financing the literature and website. To do this an ALRA marketing sub-group has been set up.

The Council set itself the objective, through close working with ALRA, to identify the best approach for the Aytoun Hall to maintain its significant role in the community for the future. As far as we could see, the standard of work on this very complex project was high, and the Main Hall in particular has been very tastefully restored. It has state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment to allow a number of varied events to be held, from dinners, to weddings and conferences. After a very thorough tour, we gave David Homewood our sincere thanks and congratulations on a successful and worthy project. At our meeting, the Secretary, Hamish Neilson, summarised a letter from the President, Pieter Cor Aitton, noting his regrets at not being able to be present, and passing on his good wishes. Cor wrote that he and Fok, his wife were 88 and almost 93 years old, and travelling long distances was a problem. Cor then thanked everyone for coming to the meeting, which he highly appreciated.

Among those who submitted their apologies was Malcolm Ayton, and the meeting sent condolences to him on the deaths of his wife Jean, and his mother earlier in the year. Although only a small number of members were present, not quite enough for a quorum, it was agreed to carry on with the business of the AGM. David Eaton spoke as Convenor for the last year. David noted with pleasure that significant progress was being made with the website at last, and it was proposed to have the basic site up and running very soon. He had examined various other websites, including an inspiring one from Orkney. David had been working on heraldry information,

which had recently been sent to the website consultant for inclusion.

Unfortunately, during the year, David Scott Aiton had had to withdraw from editing the Newsletter due to pressure of business, and Stephanie Robertson, our historian, had offered to take over, in memory of Jim Eaton. Although she could not be present, our thanks were expressed to her for taking on this role, as well as our thanks to David Scott Aiton for his contribution over several years. However, it was noted, as so often before, that the Newsletter needs contributions from members.

There was a debate about whether we should put family trees onto the website, taking into account the difficulty of making sure that contributions are authentic. At the simplest level, we might have the name of a past family member, with dates of birth and death, with the name of the person submitting the entry. David Eaton suggested an index of names and details, available only to members. It was agreed that the Secretary should consult the Scottish Genealogy Society for advice.

It was noted with concern that Ayton Castle has been advertised for sale and it was agreed to write to Lady Christine de la Rue to seek information about the situation.

The Secretary and Treasurer spoke about the Accounts, which showed a balance of £3,665.84. It was agreed that we should seek higher rates of interest on much of these funds.

It was suggested that a venue should be arranged for the 2012 AGM, perhaps at Fernie Castle Hotel, near Ayton, in Fife. The date suggested was Sunday 12th August, although it has since been pointed out that this is to be the closing date for the London Olympics, and therefore the following weekend might be preferable.

After a good lunch at a local restaurant in Auchterarder we left the town, but called in at the Gleneagles Golf Course to visit the aqueduct there, which brought the water supply from the Crook of the Moss to the town, by means of Captain Aytoun's scheme.

Hamish Neilson
January 2012



The explorers standing in front of the Aytoun aqueduct at Gleneagles Golf Club. From left to right: Alison Sones, Hamish Neilson, David Eaton and Marion Aiton.

Photo by John Sones

We five had to park on the road side, then squeeze ourselves through a small gap after crossing a ditch, by the side of a locked gate. Then across a yard, the ground being covered in soft white sand which was used for the hallowed bunkers of Gleneagles Golf Course. We then managed to go through the next gate easily, and onto a grassy path which led us over the viaduct and into the golf course. One member, David, actually stepped onto the pristine green. We followed a track back and had our photograph taken in front of the viaduct, and then retraced our footsteps, back to our cars.

Alison Sones

Another WWI victim found

If you drive along the A923 between the Perthshire towns of Blairgowrie and Dunkeld, at about four or five miles from Blairgowrie you will come to the small Loch of Clunie. On arrival at the loch there is a side road on the left which takes you on a picturesque route round the loch to the hamlet of Clunie. The hamlet consists of a few houses, a church, a 50ft high grass knoll or motte, and an old dilapidated boathouse. There is also a ruined castle on an artificial tree clad island in the loch. The motte is claimed to be the site of a summer palace or hunting

lodge of King Kenneth Macalpine, while the castle, with walls up to 9ft. thick, was built by Bishop George Brown of Dunkeld, sometime between 1485 and 1514. However it is the now closed church which interests us. Inside the church there is a brass memorial plaque to a former minister which reads: IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE REV ALEXANDER AYTOUN YOUNG WHO MINISTERED TO THE PEOPLE OF CLUNIE FROM 15TH MAY 1891 UNTIL HIS DEATH 19TH AUGUST 1927. This brass is mounted on a wooden board which also holds at its

foot one of the circular death plaques which were sent to the next-of-kin of all servicemen/women who were killed during the First World War. The name on this plaque is also ALEXANDER AYTOUN YOUNG, the date 14th March 1917 age 22 having been added below the name.

The result of my research into the two Alexander's, father and son, is as follows:

REV. ALEXANDER AYTON YOUNG (1853-1927)

Alexander Aytoun Young was born on the 14th January 1853 at Hamilton in Lanarkshire the son of Hugh A Young and Lilius Aytoun. He attended St John's Grammar School, Hamilton and then the University of Glasgow. On qualifying for the ministry he was licensed, in May 1877, by the Presbytery of Glasgow and the following month became assistant minister of the East Parish Church Greenock. He moved east to be ordained and admitted to his first charge, Sinclairtown, Dysart (now part of Kirkcaldy) on 29th March 1881. Here family connections must have been important as the Aytouns of Inchdairnie and Ayton held lands in this district. Alexander can be found in the 1881 Census as a bachelor living at 13 Rosslyn Street, Dysart. He is listed as head lodger and minister of E C Sinclair [Established Church (Church of Scotland) Sinclairtown]. He did not remain in Dysart long as he transferred to Methil, slightly further up the Fife coast, on the 1st May 1883. This move was probably so that he could provide a better home for his intended bride, as on 18th September 1883 he married Isabella, daughter of David Hislop, Belhaven, Dunbar (Isabella was born 22nd January 1858 and died 18th October 1905, aged 47). After ministering to the good people of Methil for eight years Alexander, on 15th May 1891, transferred and was admitted to Clunie, Perthshire where he remained for the rest of his life.

Alexander and Isabella had issue two sons and four daughters as shown on the chart on the next page.

The Youngs must have been very proud of their Aytoun connection as all six children were given the Aytoun name. Indeed in one of the references I found Alexander, Snr, shown with his name hyphenated as Aytoun-Young.

SECOND LIEUTENANT ALEXANDER AYTOUN YOUNG (1894-1917)

Alexander Ayton Young, Jnr, was the second son and youngest of the six children of Alexander Ayton Young, Snr., and his wife Isabella Hislop. He was born on the 15th October 1894 and brought up at the Manse of Clunie. Alexander attended Blairgowrie High School, leaving on the 28th June 1912 to go on to university [I have not traced which one] where he gained an MA degree.

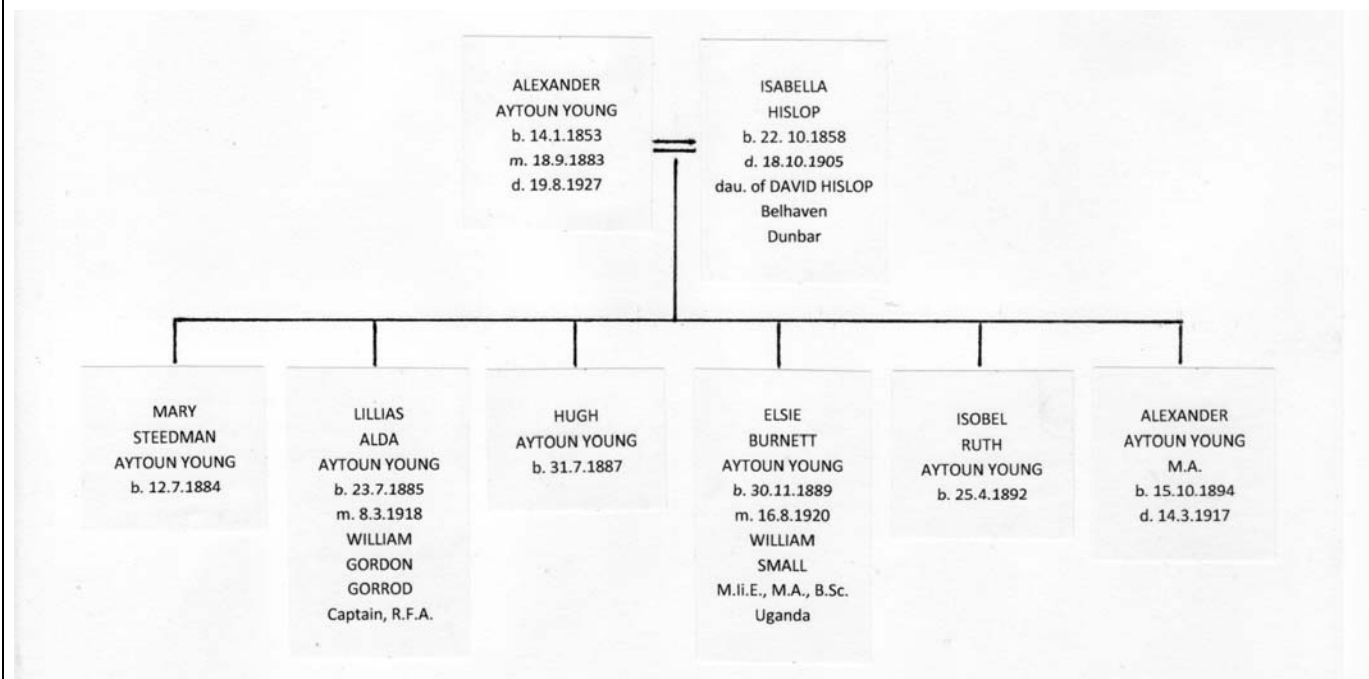


Clunie Kirk

The local newspaper, *The Blairgowrie Advertiser*, of 24th April 1915 reported on page 6, 'Commission to a Clunie Native' Mr Alexander Aytoun Young, son of Rev. A. Aytoun Young, Clunie Manse, has been gazetted to Second-Lieutenant in the York and Lancashire Regiment. On 30th October 1915 the same paper, on page 3 included, 'Promotions' - Clunie. The 'London Gazette' on Wednesday announced that temporary Second-Lieutenant Alexander Aytoun Young, Lincoln Regiment, has been promoted Second-Lieutenant in special reserve of officers for the Black Watch. Was the promotion temporary to established second-lieutenant - or was it from one of the two English regiments given to become a member of the Black Watch?

Sadly Second-Lieutenant Alexander Aytoun Young died of wounds received in the Battle of Mushaidie, Mesopotamia on 14th March 1917 while serving as an officer in the 3rd Battalion, but attached to the 2nd Battalion, Black Watch (Royal Highlanders). He is commemorated on the war memorial at Basra, Iraq, on panels 25 and 63. The reason that he is shown twice is presumably that he is shown under both battalions.

David Eaton



The battle of Inverurie

In the history of the Jacobite uprising, much attention has been given to the disaster at Culloden and recently to the success at Prestonpans. The Jacobites' success at a smaller skirmish at Inverurie in Aberdeenshire has not attracted much notice.

There have been three battles in the vicinity of Inverurie: in 1308, during the Wars of Independence, King Robert Bruce defeated his domestic rival John Comyn, 3rd Earl of Badenoch near Inverurie. In 1411 the bloody but inconclusive Battle of Harlaw was fought just north of the town, between Donald Lord of the Isles and the Earl of Mar. And on 23 December 1745 a small Jacobite army headed by Lord Lewis Gordon defeated a slightly larger government force headed by MacLeod of MacLeod.

Lord Lewis Gordon was the third son of the second Duke of Gordon and at the time of the battle was aged about 20. Before joining the Jacobite rising in October 1745, he had been a lieutenant in the navy. Prince Charles Edward Stuart appointed him lord lieutenant of the counties of Aberdeen and Banff, and there Lord Lewis raised the Aberdeen and Aboyne battalions, not without difficulty as not everyone in the locality was enthusiastic for King

James. His brother the third Duke of Gordon supported the Hanoverian government.

John Campbell, 4th Earl of Loudoun, King George's commander-in-chief in the North, set out to end Lord Lewis's recruitment activities. He sent MacLeod of MacLeod from Inverness with 500 men of Clan MacLeod. MacLeod gained support from George Munro of Culcairn with 200 men from the Clan Munro and the Laird of Grant with 500 men of the Clan Grant.

Lord Lewis ordered his men to fall back to Aberdeen where he was joined by a detachment from the second battalion of the Forfarshire Regiment, raised by Lieutenant Colonel Sir James Kinloch. He was also joined by Lord Drummond's French troops who had just landed in Montrose, 300 men of the Clan Farquharson, and his own two battalions under James Moir of Stoneywood.

On the government side, the Laird of Grant became fearful for his own territory and returned home; George Munro of Culcairn established himself in Oldmeldrum, which he held to be a safe place. MacLeod, however, decided to advance and occupied

the town of Inverurie, 16 miles north-west of Aberdeen. Lord Lewis Gordon decided to attack. On 23 December Lord Lewis moved from Aberdeen with 1,100 men and five pieces of cannon which had been taken off a ship in the harbour. He took the main body of his army up the left bank of the River Don while sending a detachment of 300 men including French troops along the right bank. The French party arrived at about 4 p.m. and waded across the river to attack the MacLeods on the south-west side of Inverurie. Lord Lewis's troops crossed the River Urie on the east side of the town near the parish church and took the MacLeods by surprise from that point.

The traditional battle site is in an area of low-lying ground known as The Stanners at the junction of the River Don and the River Urie. The northern part of the site is now occupied by a sewage works. It appears no finds were made during the excavation for the sewage farm. The southern part remained under pasture.

The MacLeods took shelter behind walls and ditches and returned fire but were eventually forced to retreat. The chief and most of his men managed to get away, fighting by moonlight during the retreat towards Elgin, but there were a number of casualties and about 50 of his force were taken prisoner.



View of Inverurie and the surrounding countryside
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Following his victory, Lord Lewis moved south in January to join Prince Charles at the Battle of Falkirk and then at Culloden. After Culloden he went into hiding and eventually escaped to France. He obtained a commission in the French service but

increasing signs of mental instability put an end to his military career. He died in exile in 1754. The second battalion of the Forfarshire Regiment, commanded by Sir James Kinloch, has been mentioned among the Jacobite troops at the Battle of Inverurie.

The Forfarshire Regiment's first battalion was raised by David, Lord Ogilvy, and it accompanied Prince Charles into England. The second battalion was raised by Sir James Kinloch to hold Angus (Forfarshire) for the Prince. It later united with the first battalion and the regiment fought as one body at Falkirk and Culloden.

The Forfarshire Regiment uniform was a kilt or a suit in the black and red checked Rob Roy tartan. Payment for a private was eightpence a day. It was very well organized. Even after the defeat at Culloden it retired to Ruthven in good order and a few days later was disbanded at Clova.

Among the men of the second battalion were two sergeants named Aiton. James Aiton was a mason from the Nether Tenements of Caldhome, Brechin; John Aiton lived at KinCraig Farm, Brechin.

James and John both submitted after the defeat at Culloden and it appears they were allowed to return home without punishment. One indication that they resumed their normal lives is that a John Aiton and a James Aiton appear in the Brechin parish registers in 1749 and 1753 as the parents of children being baptised.

The Battle of Inverurie in music

Although not one of the best known battles of the Jacobite uprising, the Battle of Inverurie has some notable musical associations.

MacCrimmon's Lament

Among the prisoners taken by the Jacobites at Inverurie was MacLeod's piper, Donald Ban MacCrimmon, the greatest of all Highland pipers. As a mark of respect the Jacobite pipers refused to play until he was released. The silence of the Jacobite pipers ensured his release and Donald Ban rejoined MacLeod.

Donald Ban MacCrimmon was killed during the Rout of Moy on 18 February 1746 when Lord Loudoun led 1,500 men in an attempt to capture Charles Edward Stuart while the Jacobites were advancing on Inverness. As the government troops advanced on

Moy in the dark they encountered a watch made up of only a handful of Mackintoshes. In the encounter a single shot was fired and Donald Ban was instantly killed. When MacLeod's piper was silenced, panic spread and Loudoun's forces fled.

According to legend, MacCrimmon had a premonition of his death and wrote the tune the night before he was killed. The words are supposed to have been written by his sister. There are many different translations of the original Gaelic words, which can be heard in various recordings. Here is the version sung by the great Scottish traditional singer Jeannie Robertson.

MacCRIMMON'S LAMENT

Doun Coullin's peaks the night is sailin
The banshee crouns her note o wailin
Bit my blue een wi sorrow are streamin
For him that will never return - MacCrimmon

No more, no more, no more forever
In war nor in peace shall return MacCrimmon
Till daws the great day o dule an burnin
MacCrimmon is home no more returnin

The breeze on the braes is mournfully moanin
The brook in the hallow is plaintively mournin
Bit my blue een wi sorrow are streamin
For him that will never return - MacCrimmon

No more, no more, no more forever
In war nor in peace shall return MacCrimmon
Till daws the great day o dule an burnin
MacCrimmon is home no more returnin

You can hear Jeannie Robertson's version via this weblink:

<http://www.myspace.com/jeannierobertson/music/songs/maccrimmon-s-lament-11004042>

Lewie Gordon

Despite his troubled state of mind, Lord Lewis became the hero of a song written by Alexander Geddes, a Catholic priest educated on the lands of the Catholic Gordons (Lord Lewis himself was a Protestant).

LEWIE GORDON

Rev'd Alexander Geddes (1737-1802)

Oh! Send Lewie Gordon hame,
An the lad I daurna name;
Tho' his back be at the wa';
Here's to him that's far awa'.

Chorus:

Ohon! My Hielandman;
Oh! My bonnie Hielandman;
Weel wid I my true love ken,
Amang ten thousand Hielandmen.

Oh! To see his tartan trews,
Bonnet blue and laigh-heeled shoes,
Philabeg upon his knee,
That's the lad that I'll gang wi'.

The princely youth of whom I sing,
Is fitted for to be a king;
On his breast he bears a star -
You'd take him for the god of war.

Oh! To see the princely one.
Seated on a royal throne,
Troubles a' wad disappear,
Then begin the jubilee year.

The only free online recording appears to be a performance for harp and piano at the Lake Como festival in Italy, by Floraleda Sacchi and Marco Cadario:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fD80GrejQ_I.

Robert Burns wrote Scots Wha Hae to the tune Hey Tuttie Tatie, traditionally believed to be Robert Bruce's march at Bannockburn, but his publisher George Thomson thought the tune did not have enough grandeur. Eventually the words were first published by Thomson to the tune of Lewie Gordon. Thomson later changed his mind and decided that Hey Tuttie Tatie was 'much better adapted for giving energy to the Poetry', particularly after he asked Haydn to arrange the setting.

Stephanie Robertson

An Aiton in Arizona

Hello distant Aiton Cousins. My name is Nancy Fees and I am an Aiton through my paternal grandmother. She was a second generation Aiton to be born in the States. Her grandfather came here from Scotland. I have always hoped one day I would find a contact who could help me with the Scotland Aitons. I have some information on my great-great-grandfather's family but with someone's help, maybe I can fill in some blanks. I have a tree in Ancestry.com. It is titled My FEES Tree. I have a lot of information on

the Aitons once they came to the States. However, not much on them in Scotland. I can help anyone who wants history on this branch of Aitons if someone can help me from your end. Thanks in advance,

*You can contact Nancy in Tucson, Arizona, on
fancynees@yahoo.com*

Fanny Ayton, opera singer

For about eight years, Fanny Ayton enjoyed some fame as a soprano on the London stage. She is said to have been born in Macclesfield in Cheshire around 1806. She was thus probably the Frances Ayton who was baptized at St Michael's Church, Macclesfield on 25 October 1804, the daughter of William and Sarah Ayton. The parish records mention an older sister Sarah baptized in 1803 and a younger sister Caroline baptized in 1806. There were a number of Eatons recorded in Cheshire over the centuries. Fanny was related to an Ayton banking family in London and it is not clear whether these Aytons were related to the Cheshire Eatons. The Eatons in this area presumably took their name from the Eaton to the south of Macclesfield.

It must have been recognized early that Fanny had promise as a singer as she studied with Giovanni Liverati in London. She was then sent to study with Manielli in Florence, and made her stage debut in Venice in 1825.

In 1827 she was engaged to appear at the King's Theatre in London, where she played Ninetta in Rossini's *La gazza ladra* and Fiorella in *Il turco in Italia*. She received mixed reviews, which continued to be the case throughout her short career: her acting was frequently praised more than her singing.



Fanny Ayton

© Victoria and Albert Museum, London

In May 1827 she performed at Drury Lane. In December 1827 and January 1828 she performed leading roles with Giuseppe de Begnis's Italian opera company in Edinburgh. In April 1828 she was back at Drury Lane.

A review in *The Times* on 26 April 1828 records: 'Miss Ayton appeared last night in *Guy Mannering* as *Lucy Bertram*. It is we believe the first time that she has taken a part the music of which professes to be unmixed with the foreign school, and we must say that her Italian habits were rather too conspicuous throughout her singing. Scotch and English music, of the character which is introduced in this opera, will not bear florid ornament; it strikes the ear at once as being out of place. Nevertheless, Miss Ayton went through her part in a manner which rendered it highly interesting. We look upon this lady as an extremely valuable acquisition to any theatre; and although the Italian opera is far best suited to her talents, and we should have preferred seeing her there, it is a matter of congratulation to all theatrical visitors [sic] that she has not altogether ceased to grace the stage with her appearance.'

It would appear that Fanny's style was sometimes too Italian for her British audience. Her stage performances continued until 1832. She tended to

be overshadowed by other singers but 'she fought up courageously against disappointment and the failure of means for a year or two - and then passed out of public sight'.

Fanny retired into private life when she married James Wilson Barlow in Liverpool on 12 July 1833. The Barlows had a daughter named Adela Fanny, born in Wigan on 18 April 1834. There are many Barlows in that area so it is not clear whether it was Fanny's husband who died in Wigan at the end of 1872. However, in 1881 Fanny was a widow and had decided to return to London, where she had made her career; in that year she was living with the unmarried Adela in the district of St George Hanover Square in London. By the time the 1891 census was taken she and Adela had moved to Charlton, near Dover, in Kent. Fanny died there later the same year, aged 88. It was almost 60 years since her stage career had ended; one wonders whether she thought about those days.

Stephanie Robertson

Eaton in Norfolk



The village of Eaton, just outside Norwich in Norfolk, appears to be the place where the East Anglian Aytons originated. As elsewhere, there seems to have been an interchange between the forms Eaton and Ayton. The village name is derived from the old English meaning: 'town on a river'.

Left: The village sign, with its elephant and barrel, represents a play on words; the 'E' for elephant and 'tun', another word for a barrel.

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Right: Eaton Church, dedicated to St Andrew, is the only thatched church in Norwich.

© Copyright Katy Walters¹

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