

# HISTORY OF PORTSOY

## THE WILSON FAMILY

*Researched by Findlay Pirie.*



Lieut. Alexander Wilson, Royal Marines



His wife Jean Gray

## ***LIEUT. ALEXANDER WILSON. R.M. & JEAN GRAY***

Alexander Wilson was born in Portsoy in 1774 according to the manuscript on his memorial.

No evidence has come to hand as to who were Alexander's parents but the following entries appear in the Old Parish Records of Fordyce : -

**2<sup>nd</sup> May 1773.** James Wilson and Ann Inglis both in this Parish contracted and were married.  
**11<sup>th</sup> March 1774.** James Wilson Sailor in Portsoy had a child by his wife Ann Inglis baptised and was called Alexander.  
Witnesses : - Alexander Robertson, Portsoy and Alexander Brebner, Student.

Because of the small numbers of "Wilson's" in Portsoy in 1774 the possibility of two Alexander Wilsons being born in the Parish of Fordyce in that year is unlikely.

The practice then was that the first son was given the same Christian name as his grandfather. When Alexander Wilson eventually married and had family he named his first son Edward Pellew after the Admiral he was serving at the time. Reverting to tradition he named his second son "James" presumably after the baby's grandfather. Another child was named "Ann" possibly because the baby's grandmother was "Anne"

Alexander Wilson must have had some good reason for residing in Portsoy. If his parents were James Wilson and Anne Inglis it would be natural for him to reside there. The names of the witnesses at the baptism in 1774, Alexander Robertson and Alexander Brebner lends weight to the idea that James Wilson, Sailor, was a Portsonian of good standing as both of the witnesses had connections with two of the wealthiest merchants in the town.

In view of the foregoing it would be reasonable to conclude that James Wilson and Anne Inglis were the parents of Lt. Alexander Wilson, Royal Marines.

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Alexander Wilson enlisted in the Royal Marines and saw action at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battle of Ushant in June 1794. He rose to the rank of 1<sup>st</sup>. Lieutenant and became Secretary to Admiral Edward Pellew (*later Lord Exmouth*).

On 10<sup>th</sup> March 1799 he married Jean Gray in Portsoy.

Family of Lt. Alexander Wilson: -

**Jane** : - b. 1800. Married Captain Reid 1822 and had a son and daughter who died unmarried.

**Edward Pellew** : - b. 1803. Married Maria Constanca da Silva Friere of Bahia and had one son, Edward, who married Felisbella Cintra da Silva.

**Anne** : - b. 1805. Married the Rev. Peter Murray

**James** : -b. 1807 and drowned at sea in 1827 aged 20 : -

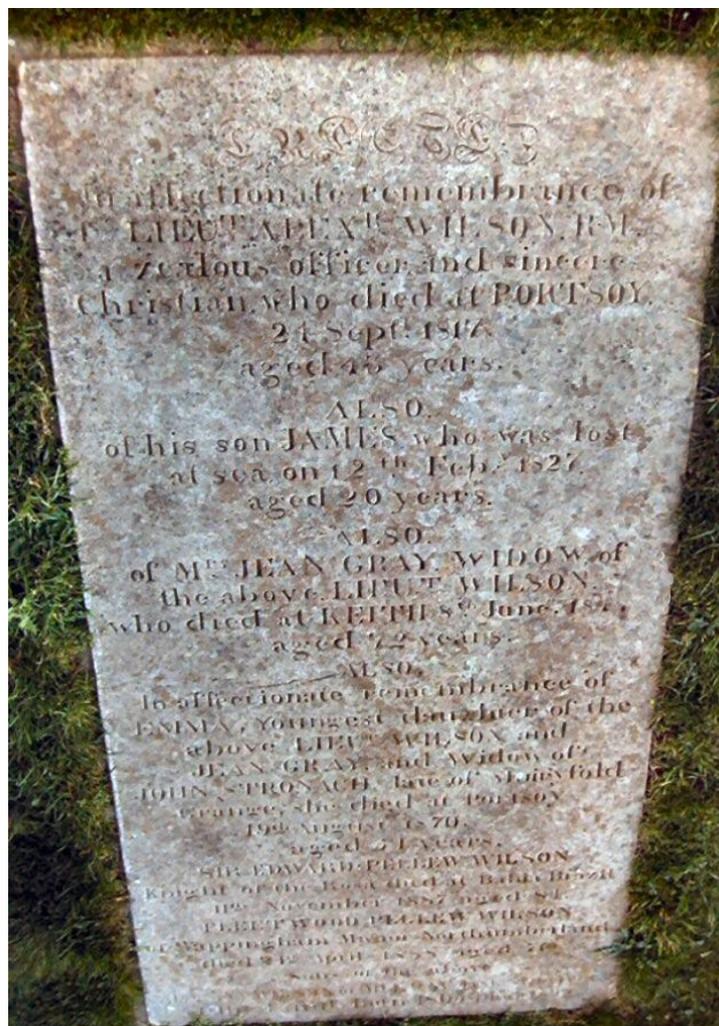
**Fleetwood Pellew** : - b. 1809. Married Frances Stoddart and had a daughter Frances and son Fleetwood. Fleetwood died three days after birth.

**Emma** :- b. 1815 Married John Stronach 1835 and had Jane who married Andrew Nicol : Blanche who married James Allan : Margaret who married Ernest Messervy : Alice who married J. Roydon Hughes : Constance who married Francis Farquharson

The Wilson Family of Portsoy

*The family memorial in Portsoy cemetery, is a flat stone on your immediate right, close to the path, as you enter the oldest section of the cemetery by the outer gate entrance : -*

In affectionate memory of **1<sup>st</sup> Lieut ALEXANDER WILSON ROYAL MARINES** a zealous officer and sincere Christian, died at Portsoy 24 Sept. 1817, age 43; his son **JAMES** who was lost at sea 12 February 1827, age. 20. Also **Mrs. JEAN GRAY widow of the above Lieut. WILSON** died at Keith 8 June 1847, age 72. Also in affectionate remembrance of **EMMA** daughter of the above Lieut. Wilson and Jean Gray and widow of John Stronach late of Muiryfold, Grange died Portsoy 19 Aug. 1870, age 54. **Sir EDWARD PELLEW WILSON**, Knight of the Rosa died Bahia, Brazil 11 Nov. 1887, age 84. **FLEETWOOD PELLEW WILSON** of Wappingham Manor, Northumberland died 24 Apr. 1888, age 76, sons of the above. Also **ANN WILSON, or MURRAY**, last survivor of the family born 1805 died 1892. (Round edge) Also erected to the memory of **JAMES DUFF STRONACH**, son of John & Emma and Stronach died Portsoy 29 May 1904, age 66.



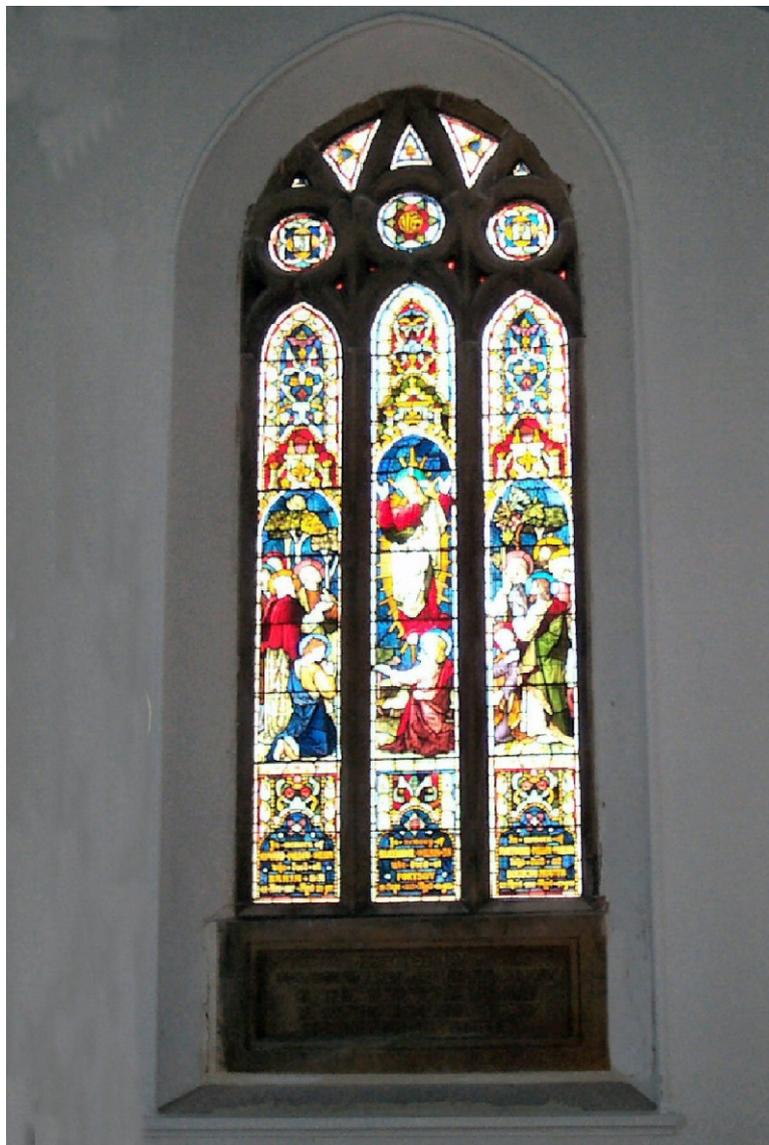
*Notes : -The inscription on the headstone reads "Fleetwood Pellew Wilson of Wappingham Manor, Northumberland". This should have been shown as "Wappenham Manor, Northamptonshire"– Banffshire Journal 1st.May 1888 and Banffshire Reporter 2nd May 1888.*

*Fleetwood Pellew Wilson was baptised on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 1809 and would have been 78 or 79 years of age when he died – Register of Births , Deaths, & Marrages, Episcopal Chapel, Portsoy.*

## Memorial Window at Portsoy

Lieut. Wilson and his two sons, Edward and Fleetwood are remembered by a memorial window placed in St. John's Episcopal Church, Portsoy. The spot selected is a centre one on the south side of the edifice. The window is arched, with a couple of centre columns, the upper portion being divided into three sub-sections.

At the bottom of the three panels inscriptions are inserted, showing forth to whose memory the window has been placed there. Beginning at the left hand side the inscription reads: - "In memory of Edward Pellew Wilson, who died at Bahia, S.A., 11th November 1887, aged 87 years." The inscription which occupies the centre panel reads: - "In memory of Alexander Wilson, R.N. who died at Portsoy 24 Sept 1817 aged 43 years." The panel to the right contains the following inscription: - "In memory of Fleetwood Pellow Wilson, who died at Bournemouth 24th. April 1888, aged 77 years." Underneath, on a freestone tablet, which also forms the base of the window, there appears the following in large raised letters: - "Erected by Mrs. Ann Wilson or Murray, widow of the Rev. Peter Murray, in loving remembrance of her father and brothers."



JEAN (JANE) WILSON (Mrs. Jane Reid)

1800 –

Parents : - Lieut. Alexander Wilson R.M. and Jean Gray

Baptised 14<sup>th</sup> January 1800 at Portsoy.

Married Lieut. Peter Reid R.M. (54<sup>th</sup>. regiment) son of Peter Reid, Merchant, in 1822

Lieut. Peter Reid R.M. and his wife Jane Wilson had a daughter in 1824 and she was named “Jane”

Lieut Peter Reid R.M. and his wife Jane Wilson had a son in 1829 and he was named “Edward.”

*Notes :- The following appears in an article about epitaphs in Portsoy Cemetery :-*

*In memory of James Wilson Esq of Cairnbanno who died at Roseacre Cottage, 27<sup>th</sup> October 1823, aged 42 years.*

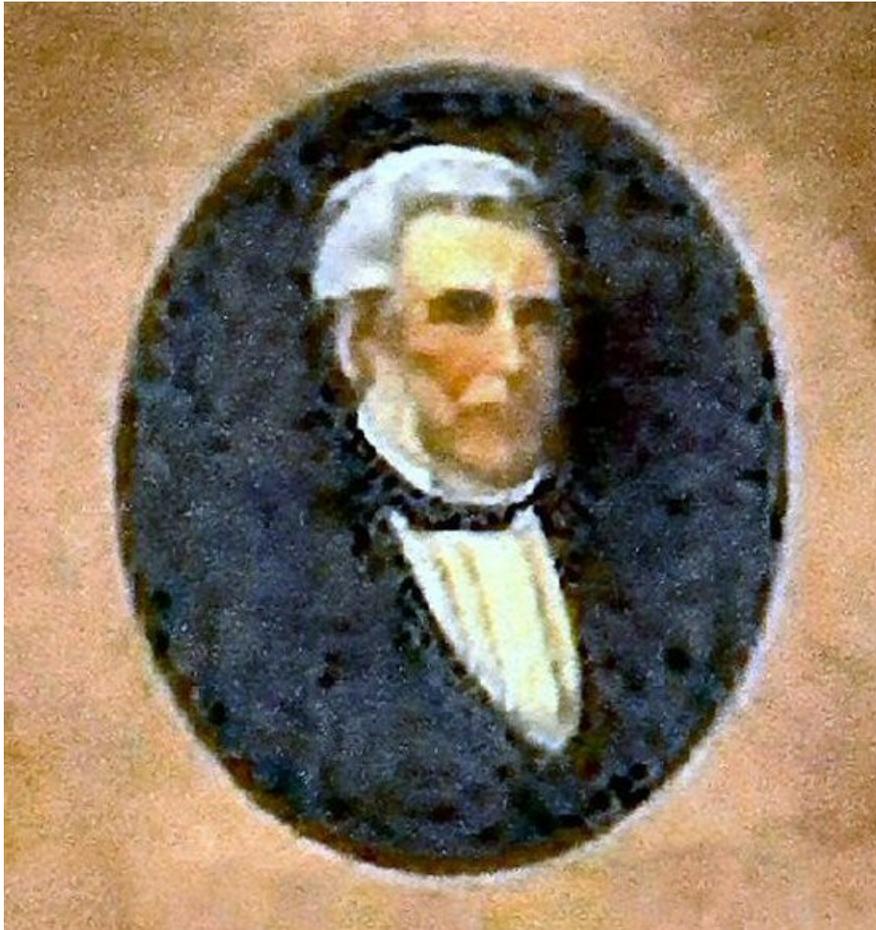
- *Mr. Wilson's paternal name was Reid, and his father was a merchant in Portsoy. He had a sister married to Mr. Forbes of Boyndlie in Tyrie also three brothers who went to Jamaica, one of whom was a surgeon another a lieutenant in the army.*

*Jean Wilson (Mrs Jane Reid) might have died in Jamaica*

## **SIR EDWARD PELLEW WILSON**

**1803 - 1887**

**Businessman in Brazil.**



Parents : - Lieut. Alexander Wilson, R.M. and Jean Grey, Portsoy

Eldest son. Born Portsoy 23<sup>rd</sup>. August 1803.

Edward was educated at the school of Portsoy and at an early age went to Brazil and became successful as a merchant.

Married Maria Constansa da Silva Friere of a Portuguese family in Salvadore City, Bahia, Brazil in 1830. She died in 1877.

Taking a leading part in many matters of public interest, he was rewarded with the honour of Knight of the Imperial Order of the Rose from the Emperor of Brazil in 1866.

Sir Edward Pellew Wilson continued to reside in Bahia, and died on the 11th November 1887 aged 84

From the Internet : - <http://www.wilsonsons.com.br/ingles/saga/index.asp>

## The Wilson Sons Saga.

The beautiful bay two leagues wide, stretching from Bonfim to the Cape of Santo Antonio, showed the other side of its enchantment in the storm which descended upon Salvador. Dozens of boats, schooners, brigs and tenders balanced themselves dangerously on the rough waters, their hulls listing, their sails in rags, lashed by all the winds and spurned by all the saints,

The English brig, loaded with coal, tired of fighting the unknown, the sandbanks, the reefs, the fury of the orixas (Afro-Brazilian deities). The great hull shivers, shrieks, bends and finally gives up to Iemanja ( Goddess of the Seas ).

Three months later, a rosy faced young man lands in the Lower City, darting his eyes over the profusion of colours and bazaars, greets the authority who is awaiting him for the evaluation of the losses and the possible rescue of the wreckage. Together they cross the only road that ran parallel to the sea, where the Public Warehouse, the Customs House and the Commodities Exchange buildings follow each other in succession. Fascinated, the traveller inhales the aromas of cooked cassava and of tapioca, of freshly picked mangoes and cashew fruits, wriggles past the hawkers of snuff and parrots shouting their wares, avoiding tinkers, herbs and potions spread on the curb and the bracelets, glass beads and monkeys being pushed at the pedestrians.

In Portsoy, thousands of miles away, in the Scottish highlands, his family did not even dream that they would never see him again. Edward Pellew Wilson, the rosy youth with large side whiskers, unbuckles his chest and trunks and decides to stay, bewitched by the smells and colours of the New World, and foreseeing infinite business possibilities.

This was the end of the 1820's.

Finally, Edward starts his own business in 1837, Wilson Sons & Company, associated with his younger brother Fleetwood, who takes on the other side of the operation, in London,

When registering the company in the Commercial Registry of Rio de Janeiro, under number 311, Edward could not have foreseen the future that was being traced ... that 160 years later, on the eve of the 21st century, Wilsons would have transformed itself into the biggest towage company in Latin America, the third biggest in the American Continent and the biggest port operator in Brazil, the only company in the country capable of operating in each and every maritime trade area.

But let us go back to the province of Recife where he landed in the middle of the 1850's. He establishes his firms there, under the corporate name of Wilson Brothers and Co., managing the transport of dozens of products, developing the shipping area, the work in the port, and mounting his own shipyard. He starts courting Felisbella Ernestina Cintra da Silva, daughter of a powerful Portuguese shipowner and tradesman, marrying her one year later.

Edward Wilson joins forces with John Cameron Grant, opens a company, and like new bandeirantes, (members of an armed band of early explorers in Brazil), they immediately begin their treasure hunt in Ilheus, Porto Seguro, Marau and Matapira, in Bahia. This event will make Wilson known as the forerunner in the search for oil in the country, and is so described in the "Geographic Dictionary of Mines in Brazil", published in 1885 by Francisco Ignacio Ferreira.

However, the expedition is ill-fated. Years and thousands of pounds later, Grant kills an employee and runs away to England. The result of the adventure: a loss of half a million golden sovereigns. The damage of this incident would end here if it were not for an unusual development some years later, shortly before the turn of the new century.

Edward is invited to associate himself with a small company that carries out transport from England to Holland, carrying tar in barges, and is responsible for the processing and distribution of fuel for fighting. The businessman invites Edward to be a partner and he, still traumatized by the Bahia experience, backs off and announces: "There is no future in this business."

The company was SHELL.

In spite of this incident, the family business thrives. Wilson takes part in a consortia undertaking of the most ambitious projects of that time, such as Ferrovias Great Western of Brazil, today called Rede Ferroviária Federal (the federal railway), or the construction of the first dry dock in the country, in the Mocangue Pequeno Island In Guanabara Bay... inaugurated by Dom Pedro II in 1869 and considered the biggest private work constructed up to then.

In Bahia, it joins other English shareholders in the most daring projects of the time; such as gas lighting. They fight simultaneously on two fronts: for progress with the sugar producers who do not want the railway in their cane plantations, and with the owners of water-front warehouses, who would lose a good source of income if new ports appeared.

Some of the targets include: the project for the new port, the "Bahia Docks Company Limited", and the "Bahia and San Francisco Railway", of which only the first projected stretch is constructed, never reaching Juazeiro and Sao Francisco,

In a daring move to increase the coal business, in 1872, Wilson opens its first branch in South America, in Montevideo, associated with Yarrow, Hett & Company. Up to then, the business had been carried out by representatives.

When the authorities formally deliver the license in September 1878, issued by the Province of Pernambuco, it gives the green light not only for Wilson Brothers, but also for Wilson Sons & Co., Ltd. At that point, the progress of both companies is running high. Their list of clients includes dozens and dozens of prestigious names. It is from this period that another yellowed relic comes: the decree that appoints Wilson as agent for the steamship lines that ran between Brazil and Japan.

They are already operating in Recife with tugs, barges and fighters, complete workshops with slipways in the docks of Santa Rita, In the South of the port, and a floating workshop for repairs alongside the ships. Moreover, during the wars that the world will get involved with in the first half of the coming century, these workshops will play an important role repairing allied minesweepers that are part of the convoys on the Brazilian coast.

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*The Northern Scot, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1894 : -*

### **THE ARREST OF BRITISH SUBJECTS AT RIO.**

(Specially communicated to the "Northern Scot")

Information was received in London on Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> instant of the arrest by the Brazilian Government at Rio de Janeiro on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst, of Mr. Edward Pellew Wilson, of Messrs Wilson, Sons, & Company, Ltd., Drapers' Gardens, London, and Mr. James Moir Florence, the Rio manager of that company, In connection with this announcement, our friend Mr. Fullerton (" Wild Rose") favours us with information from which we deduce the following :— The Messrs Wilson, Sons, & Co. are very extensive coal merchants, having places of business not only in London and Cardiff, but at St Vincent, C.V., Pernambuco, Bahia, Rio de Janeiro, Santos, Montevideo, La Plata, and Buenos Ayres, Mr. Edward Pellew Wilson, a member of the firm, has lived all his life in Brazil, where he is much respected, is over sixty years of age, and was a personal friend of the late emperor of Brazil. Mr. Florence is a young man belonging to Peterhead. He served his apprenticeship in the office of Messrs Boyd & Gray, solicitors there, and through the influence of Mr Fullerton, received from Messrs Wilson an appointment at Bahia some eight years ago. Other lads, from the same office have since received lucrative appointments in Messrs. Wilson's establishments abroad through Mr. Fullerton's influence. Mr. Florence was home on holiday last year with his wife and child and returned to Brazil

The Wilson Family of Portsoy

while the civil war was in progress. On the 8th instant a telegram was received in Peterhead from the London office of Messrs Wilson, Sons, & Co. - "Mr Wilson has been released. Trust Mr. Florence's release will speedily follow. The cause of arrest is not known." The British minister at Rio, Sir Hugh Wyndham, cabled that in the case of Mr. Florence he was doing all he could. From the continued and persistent efforts of the firm, backed by those of Sir Hugh Wyndham, the release of Mr. Florence was obtained on the 11<sup>th</sup> after being nine days imprisoned. The following letters from the manager in London of Messrs Wilson Sons & Co. Ltd., to Mr. Fullerton on the subject of the arrests will be read with interest : -

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13<sup>th</sup> June 1894

Dear Mr. Fullerton,

I duly received your favour of 8<sup>th</sup> inst. I have been very busy, or would have written you before about the Rio Arrests. A friend of mine told me a great secret on Monday the 4th that our manager at Rio had been arrested, but getting no cable ourselves, we didn't believe it.

On Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> we got a cable saying Mr. Wilson and Mr. Florence had both been arrested on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and that the Government refused to say what they had against them. I got into a hansom and drove to the Foreign Office, saw two of the permanent under-secretaries there (Mr. Bertie and Mr. Wyld) and I got them to agree to cable out urgently, afterwards got a House of Commons friend, Mr. Richardson, the Stockton shipbuilder, to introduce me to Sir Edward Gray, who is the most rising young man on the Liberal side, and is expected some day to be Prime Minister. He is only 32, and is very fine looking. He promised to follow the matter up with urgency, and the cable was sent off that day, resulting in the release of Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Florence is still in durance vile, and we can't find out what there is against him, but feel certain there is nothing, and that he has been only been taken to gratify the anti-British feeling now prevalent in Rio. I have been down to the Foreign Office and the House again today. There is nothing fresh, but another urgent cable is being sent today and I hope it will have good effect. I will let you know the result. In the Lobby I had a chat with Sir John Leng, and explained the matter to him. He said it was premature to write about it as the Government had the matter in hand, but if the prisoner is not released soon he will have an article on the subject.

It is very interesting knocking about the Lobby with a member and have all the chief members pointed out to you. I told Mr. R. how much I envied him being there who said, "Well, one gets tired of it. If I attempted to leave the house now without being paired I'd be stopped; I'm just like a prisoner."

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London 14<sup>th</sup> June 1894

Dear Mr. Fullerton,

You will be pleased to hear that Mr. Florence has been released. I enclose a copy of an article which came out in the leading paper this morning about the arrests. The Brazil Government have made a great mistake, as they will find out later on. We know they could not possibly have anything against either Mr. Wilson or Florence.

The following appeared in Fairplay today : -  
"Shortly before the paper went to press last week (the 6th) news came to hand by cable of the arrest at Rio, two days previously, of Mr. E.P. Wilson and Mr. James M. Florence, connected with the firm of Wilson, Sons, & Co. Ltd. Since then the release of Mr. E.P. Wilson had been announced. It seems that the Foreign Office cabled over to Rio on the 6th and that Mr. Wilson

was liberated on the 7th from which it may be gathered that the pressage from this side was strongly worded, and that Mr. E.P. Wilson was released in consequence. How it comes that Mr. Florence had been kept under arrest while Mr. Wilson has been released does not yet appear. On Monday evening in the House of Commons the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs was asked, in the course of a question on the arrests, if he was aware that the firm of Wilson, Sons & Co. gave very material assistance to the British Senior Naval Officer in his attempt to protect British shipping during the revolution in Brazil. Sir E. Gray replied that His Majesty's Government were aware that the firm had rendered assistance during the recent insurrection in Rio harbour. It seems remarkable that gentlemen connected with a firm which had rendered such valuable assistance to British shipping should have been arrested, but having rendered those services, it is the bounden duty of the British Government to demand full explanations and the instant release of the gentleman still under arrest."

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[www.history.ac.uk/gh/22i.htm](http://www.history.ac.uk/gh/22i.htm)

**WILSON, SONS AND CO**, established as a coal and steamship agency in Brazil in 1837. London offices at various City addresses from 1845. Obtained coal from the Ocean group of companies to supply steamships, and in 1908 **Ocean Coal and Wilsons** was formed to formalise this agreement, acquiring both Wilsons and the Ocean group.

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**Edward Pellew Wilson** ... died in November, 1887 ... whilst the breeze from the Bay of all Saints refreshed the solemn mansion on the Corredor da Viffiria. Today, anyone who visits the little English Cemetery - overlooking the sea on the Ladeira da Barra, in Salvador -, where he lies in an imposing white marble tomb surrounded by palm trees, will feel that Edward Pellew Wilson bowed out at the right time. Without feeling the inexorable loss of political influence by the family; without suffering the pressures of Deodoro's government which culminated in the confiscation of the five ships of the Wilson fleet by Flonano Peixoto two years later. *Source* : - [www.Wilson Sons Saga](http://www.Wilson Sons Saga)

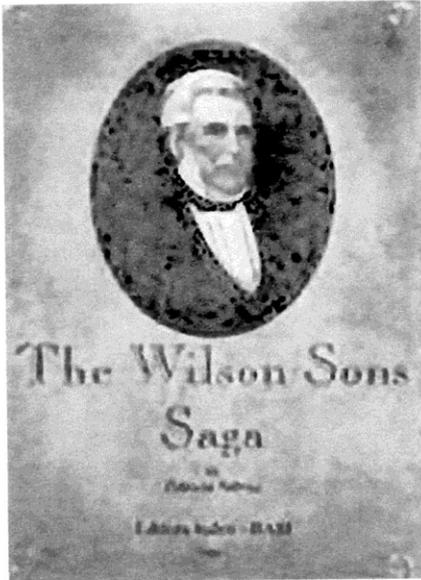
*Notes* : - There has been considerable speculation as to where the Wilson Brothers obtained the finances to start off their various enterprises in Brazil. Their father had a secure position in the Royal Marines but this was not a fortune making appointment and his salary would have been of little assistance.

Their father Lieutenant Wilson was born in 1774 to James Wilson and Ann Inglis and the two witnesses at the registering of the birth were Alexander Brebner and Alexander Robertson, the two most prominent and successful smuggling merchants in the town. This might indicate that the grandfather of Wilson Brothers was connected with the smuggling trade and was benefiting financially from the association and adding considerably to the Wilson family wealth. And could the "Helen Inglis" married to Alexander Robertson, merchant, be an aunt of Lt. Wilson ? - F. Pirie

## Wilson Sons - Chronology

1803 - Edward Pellew Wilson is born in Portsoy. Founder of the Company  
1820 - Wilson disembarks in Salvador, Bahia. 1837 - WILSON & CO., is founded in Salvador. 1845 - Opening of the head office in London. 1850 - Wilson Brothers & Co., is opened in Recife  
1869 - The Company is granted a concession by the Imperial Government to explore oil in Bahia.  
1870 - Decade - Expansion of the Company to the USA, Canada, Belgium, France, Italy, Spain, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Canary Islands and Cape Verde Islands. 1872 - Expansion of the Company to Montevideo  
1877 - Transfer of Head Office to England.  
1878 - Authorization for Wilson, Sons to operate in the Brazilian Empire 1885 - Expansion of the Company to Santos.  
1887 - Edward Pellew Wilson, founder of the Company dies.  
1888 - Expansion of the Company to Buenos Aires, Bahia Blanca Mar del Plata and Necochea. 1891 - Edward II receives the title of Count Wilson from King Carlos I of Portugal. 1896 - The Company opens a branch in Sao Paulo.  
1898 - The Group inaugurates a branch in Rosario (Argentina).  
1899 - Edward II dies in Rio de Janeiro.  
1906 - Expansion of the Company to Alexandria (Egypt).  
1907 - The holding Ocean Coal & Wilson Ltd., appears as a public company on the London Stock Exchange.  
1913 - Expansion of the Company to the Port of Rio Grande.  
1921 - Expansion of the Company to Porto Alegre.  
1923 - Expansion of the Company to Santa Fe.  
1928 - Wilson, Sons inaugurates in Rio de Janeiro, the largest depot in Latin America.  
1935 - Expansion of the Company to Paranagua,  
1936 - Wilson, Sons acquires in Rio de Janeiro the towage company Rio de Janeiro Lighterage Company.  
1942 - Expansion of the Company to Vitoria.  
1948 - Expansion of the Company to Caracas and Maracaibo.  
1949 - The Company opens a branch in Curitiba, under control of Sao Paulo Branch.  
1954 - Salomon family becomes significant investors in Wilson, Sons part company ,Ocean Wilsons Holdings.  
1957 - Head Office returns to Rio de Janeiro.  
1959 - Together with other investors Walter Salomon buys the control, in London, of the Company. 1964 - SAVEIROS, CAMUYRANO - SERVICOS MARITIMOS S/A  
1971 - The holding Wilson, Sons & Co. Ltd., becomes a national company, Companhia Wilson, Sons de Administracao e Comercios 1973 - The Group inaugurates the Guaruja; Shipyard (SP).  
1975 - Expansion of the Company to the Niteroi Shipyard (RJ).  
1976 - The Company opens an office in Sao Sebastiao.  
1977 - The Company opens a branch in Pelotas.  
- The Group acquires SOBRARE-SERVEMAR S/A a port support services company.  
1980 - The Company opens a branch in Manaus.  
1981 - The Company opens a branch in Belem, and offices in Concha de Santa Monica (Paranagua), Angra dos Reis and Arroyo Grande.  
1984 - The Company opens a branch in Sao Luis.  
1988 - William Salomon assumes the Wilson, Sons Group, one year of the death of his father Sir Walter Salomon. 1990 - The Company opens a branch in S3o Francisco do Sul.  
1993 - The Company opens a branch in Fortaleza.  
1994 - The Company opens an office in Novo Hamburgo (RG).  
- ALLINK TRANSPORTES INTERNACIONAIS LTDA commences its activities.  
1995 - WILPORT OPERADORES PORTUARIOS S/A  
- The privatization process begins.  
1996 - Expansion of the company to Imbituba  
1997 - The Group wins, in a consortium, me first licitation in Brazil for the privatization of the Container Terminal of Porto de Rio Grande - TECON RIO GRANDE  
1998 - Expansion of the Company to Maceio.  
- Start of the activities of the ICD - INLAND CLEARANCE DEPOT - EADI PORTO SANTO ANDRE.  
1999 - Our associate company DRAGAPORT Ltda. acquires two dredgers in a public auction.  
2000 - Start of the operations of TECON SALVADOR S/A, acquired by the group at public auction.  
- CD Brasil Founded.- A Joint venture is formed between ASCO and Wilport called BRASCO LOGISTICA DE OFFSHORE LTDA. To attend the expanding offshore oil industry. 2002-Founding of WRC

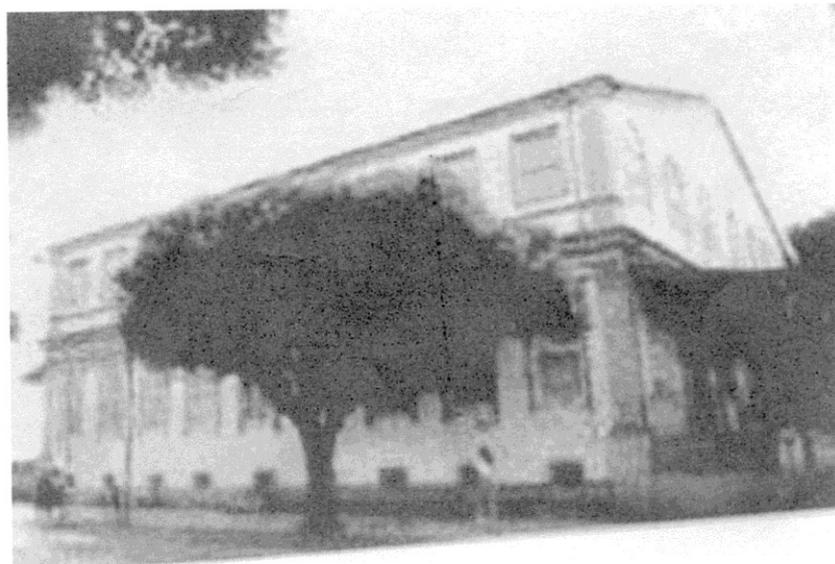
## Sir Edward Pellew Wilson



Sir Edward Pellew Wilson



His Tomb



His mansion on the Corredor da Vitoria Salvador.

[www.wilsonsons.com.br/nossahistoria-ingles/index.html](http://www.wilsonsons.com.br/nossahistoria-ingles/index.html)

## THE HISTORY OF WILSON, SONS

The Wilson, Sons Group was founded in 1837, in Salvador, Bahia, by the Scottish brothers Edward and Fleetwood Pellew Wilson who, initially, devoted their main activities to shipping and the trading of coal fuel for ships. As time went by, other activities were included, namely the construction and provision of supplies and equipment for the Great Western of Brazil and Conde d'Eu railroads. The Group built the first dry dock in Brazil, on the Ilha de Mocangue Pequeno island in the Guanabara Bay, inaugurated in 1369 by Dom Pedro II. Later on, the construction activities were replaced by activities related to core businesses of the Group, such as stevedoring, towage, ship repair and trading in general.

Wilson, Sons is one of the oldest private enterprise companies in Brazil. In the area of maritime activities, it is one of the most traditional shipping agencies, with subsidiaries along the entire Brazilian coastline.

In its first phase, in addition to exercising its shipping business, the company operated as a trading company, for import and export of products ranging from prime needs to, what were at that time more sophisticated goods, such as razor blades, hair dyes, pigments, matches, the Guinness dark stout beverage, Johnnie Walker whisky, among many other items. When Brazil became self-sufficient in many sectors, the trading business was abandoned and the company steered a straight course on its original activity of shipping.

Up to the 1940's, Wilson, Sons was a big supplier of coal-fuel for ships and for industry. Coal, due to its importance, world-wide, as a product and a fuel for over two centuries or more, became the main product represented by Wilson, Sons in the whole of its history. When oil substituted coal, another of the Group's activities was discontinued.

Salt is another product that played a very important role in the company's career. Wilson, Sons expanded its business by buying out the Salinas (salt flats) in Areia Branca, Rio Grande do Norte, from which many tons of salt were shipped and taken to Rio de Janeiro and Santos.

In 1959 Walter Salomon, together with other investors, bought share control of the company, leading to even greater diversification. On his death in 1988, his son William Salomon assumed leadership and continued in the same enterprising spirit as his father. Today, the Wilson, Sons Group holds a position as one of the most solid Brazilian business groups. It has a portfolio of business enterprises that is capable of providing complete and integrated solutions, at all times maintaining the same concept and approach, enabling the Group to uphold its trade mark of quality for each new undertaking. Its field of activities includes Towage, Port Operations, Integrated Logistics, Shipping Agencies, Shipbuilding and Offshore Equipment and Services.

***Notes : - Fraserburgh and Aberdeen have made much of their connection with Thomas Blake Glover who emigrated to Japan, made a fortune, and is regarded as one of the founding fathers of modern Japan.***

***Portsoy on the other hand appears to have totally ignored the Wilson brothers whose work was equally as important in Brazil in founding the world wide firm of Wilson & Co which brought much wealth to Brazil as well as to themselves. The firm in due course merged with another well known Welsh coal and shipping company Ocean Holdings and in 1907 it appeared on the London Stock Exchange where it exists to this day. The firm is now known as Ocean Wilson Holdings. – F. Pirie, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2007***

ANN WILSON (Mrs Ann Murray)  
1805 - 1892

Parents : - Lieut. Alexander Wilson, R.M. and Jean Grey, Portsoy.  
Born Portsoy 30.08.1805. Married Rev. Peter Murray on 12<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1861

PETER MURRAY - born 1810, son of James Murray, Merchant, Elgin. Educated at King's College, Aberdeen. M.A. Schoolmaster of Spynie 1827-43. Ordained as Minister 25th January 1844.

*Banffshire Journal, Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> February 1867 : -*

**DEATH OF THE REV. PETER MURRAY**

We regret to see in our obituary today an intimation of the death of the Rev. Peter Murray, aged 57 at St. Leonards-on-Sea, on 4<sup>th</sup> February 1867, for many years minister in the Established Church of Scotland. Mr. Murray has not been well for some time, and recently, accompanied by his wife, he proceeded to England. Mr. Murray was a native of Elgin, and was for some time schoolmaster of New Spynie. At the Disruption, he was presented by the Earl of Seafield to the Church of Portsoy, of which he has ever since been the pastor. Of a kindly disposition, Mr. Murray, so long as he possessed the means, generously assisted with money, advice, and personal influence, every one in his congregation whose necessities came under his notice. He laboured in his charge under many discouragements; but still kept on in the performance of his duties till failing health compelled him to seek rest and change of air; and the news of his death shows that the rest and the repose came too late. During Mr. Murray's absence, the pulpit at Portsoy has been supplied by the Rev. Mr. Gibson, whose ministrations have, we hear, proved most acceptable. We trust that an effort will be made to place this charge on a more satisfactory footing. Means should be used to take advantage of the Endowment Fund, and Portsoy should be constituted a *quad sacra* parish. We feel assured that the matter has only to be taken up by the Presbytery and the congregation in a proper spirit, to ensure that, with the co-operation of the Earl of Seafield, this most desirable object be attained.

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*Banffshire Reporter, April 6th. 1892 :-*

**DEATH NOTICE** – At 9 Seafield Street, Portsoy, on the 31st. March 1892, Ann Fleetwood Wilson, widow of the Rev. Peter Murray and sister of Mr. Fleetwood Pellew Wilson of 30 Portman Square, London.

*(Note : - Buried at Elgin)*

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The Wilson Family of Portsoy

## **JAMES WILSON**

**1807 - 1827**

Parents :- Lieut. Alexander Wilson R.M. and Jean Gray  
Born Portsoy 8<sup>th</sup>. November 1807  
Died at sea 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1827

## **FLEETWOOD PELLEW WILSON 1809 - 1888**

### **Businessman in Brazil and London.**

Parents : - Lieut. Alexander Wilson R.M. and Jean Gray

Youngest son and born in Portsoy 3rd. June 1809.

Fleetwood Pellew Wilson attended school in Portsoy.

Married Frances Stoddart in Brazil. She died at Malvern, Worcestershire on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1857 aged 26

Daughter : - Frances, born at Alpha House, Regents Park, London in 1860. Died at Baronne on August 23<sup>rd</sup> 1919. Funeral service at Hatcham Church, near Taplow, Buckinghamshire, on Sat. 30<sup>th</sup> August. 1919

Son : - Name, Date of Birth and death not known but believed to have died at an early age.

As soon as he was able to engage in business, he went from Portsoy to join his brother in Brazil. There he remained for about 20 years. Returning to this country, he took up his residence permanently in London for the purpose of carrying on the business there in connection with the Brazilian trade, other enterprises also sharing his time and attention.

Mr Fleetwood Wilson died at Bournemouth on 24<sup>th</sup>. April 1888 aged 74. He was survived by his daughter Frances and by one sister, who was married to the Rev. Peter Murray, minister of the Parish Church at Portsoy.

Frances Fleetwood Wilson inherited her father's fortune and property, and, as Princess Alexis Dolgorouki, died at Bayonne on 23rd. August 1919.

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*The Banffshire Journal, June 25, 1876 : -*

#### **ERECTION OF TOWER TO HOLD NEW TOWN CLOCK.**

##### **Bazaar at Portsoy.**

On Wednesday last the people of Portsoy listened to chiming bells and following the sound with their eyes they learned the time of day from a clock erected in a massive tower built to the Established Church. The clock and musical bells have been presented by Mr. Fleetwood Pellew Wilson to his native town and the proceeds from the bazaar of Wednesday go to defray the cost of the tower.....

..... At about eleven o'clock Colonel Moir entered the marquee at the loch side and addressed those assembled. He also regretted that by Mr. Wilson's absence by whose munificence they were there today, was prevented from being with them, but his heart was with them. He was represented by a stall contributed solely by Miss Wilson, his daughter.....

*(Extracts from a larger article.)*

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*Banffshire Reporter, Wednesday, October 13th 1876:-*

#### **Letter to the Editor of the "Banffshire Reporter from Fleetwood Pellew Wilson**

Dear Sir,

I was somewhat surprised to find the Chimes of the Town Clock made use of as a substitute

for a Bell - a purpose for which they are neither adapted nor made for.

The Clock and the Chimes, as you are aware, was a gift to the town - the former to indicate the hour, and the latter to chime the quarters, and when used exclusively, as originally intended, the harmony of the tones will be increased, and together the Clock, with care, will last for ages.

I have addressed you on the subject in the absence of my friend, Mr. Moir, as I believe when publicity is given to my wishes, the objectionable use of the Chimes will be discontinued. Will you kindly, therefore, give this letter a place in your next "Reporter" and oblige.

Dear Sir, Yours very truly,  
Fleetwood Pellew Wilson.

### **The Editor's Comments.**

We have this week had a visit from our justly respected townsman, Mr. Fleetwood P. Wilson, who on the occasion of his present visit has had an opportunity, for the first time, of inspecting the tower erected to receive his Clock and Chimes. With the tower and other improvements he appears to be well pleased, as affording fair evidence that his very handsome gift to his native town has been properly appreciated by the inhabitants; but it will be seen, by his letter, which appears in another column, that he is much dissatisfied with the plan which has been adopted, of making the chimes of the clock serve as a bell for the Established Church. This appears to have been done without asking his consent or ascertaining his views of the matter; but we feel satisfied that it never would have been done, or so much as thought of, had it been known that the using of the chimes for such a purpose would destroy their harmony, or mar the object for which they were intended - a point, by the way, on which Mr. Wilson, as we were informed by Mr. Buggins, who erected the clock, was not by any means easily satisfied. What Mr. Wilson says in regard to the clock and chimes being "a gift to the town," is just one argument more - and a very forcible one it is - for having some properly constituted authority in the town, if only as responsible recipients of such gifts; and we may add that Mr. Wilson is not unnaturally anxious to know into whose hands the proper keeping of the clock is to be committed. As we have previously stated, it cannot either wind itself up or keep itself in repair, and this is not the age in which such work is done for nothing.

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*Banffshire Journal, Tuesday, October 24th 1877: -*

### **Entertainment to Mr. Fleetwood Pellew Wilson.**

Yesterday afternoon Mr. Fleetwood Wilson, of London, was entertained by the inhabitants of Portsoy to a complimentary banquet in Minty's Hall, in recognition of the handsome gift of a clock and chimes to the town. Our readers will have in recollection that Mr. Wilson in a very generous way supplied what was a great desideratum in the town by giving a clock and chimes to it. The inhabitants erected a handsome tower for its reception. In order to defray the cost of the structure, a bazaar was held, which was so heartily entered into that it was one of the most successful affairs of the kind ever held in this part of the country, and realised sufficient funds for the purpose for which it was organised.

The tower is built to the west of the Parish Church, and the site being of a most commanding character, the tower is a prominent object in the landscape, and the clock is properly displayed. The inhabitants of the town and district considered that it was their duty to give public expression to their feelings of appreciation for the munificent gift, and with this view the banquet was got up. The tables were beautifully laid out, being decorated with flowers etc. Mr. Joseph Webster of the Station Hotel, Portsoy, supplied the wines, which were abundant and of the

choicest description.

The chair was occupied by **Colonel Moir**, who was supported on the right by the guest of the day, Mr. Fleetwood P. Wilson.....

The Chairman asked the company to fill a special bumper to the toast of the hour - Mr Fleetwood P. Wilson, Esq. - and said - I rise to propose this toast with very great diffidence indeed. When the ladies had met in my house to wind up their successful bazaar, I was sent for, as all great men are - (*a laugh*) - and I was requested to communicate with Mr. Wilson on the subject of their strong desire to give some expression to their feelings on behalf of this kind present to the town, and that I should act as chairman on the occasion. Well I am very diffident on such matters, and I was reluctant, but I was overcome, and if they made a mistake they must blame themselves.

We have come here tonight to do honour to our guest, friend, and fellow townsman, Mr. Wilson. (*cheers*) Mr. Wilson has done a noble act in presenting his native town with a clock and chime of bells (*cheers*) which I learn from parties experienced, are of the very first class of mechanism. They are calculated to be of use to the community when we are all elsewhere. The want of a public clock has been long felt and regretted, and he has come in to wipe out this dirty blot against us. (*cheers*) Mr. Wilson has been in the habit of visiting his native town year by year, and he has, as truly as Christmas has turned round, sent me a cheque for distribution amongst the poor of Portsoy, with the expressed wish that no respect should be paid to sect or party. (*cheers*) I have endeavoured to follow out his instructions in this respect, and I suppose parties living in the town will bear me out in saying it has been well conducted by his sister, and through my friend Mr. Leslie and Mr. Macdonald. Mr. Wilson has thus, by his conduct, shown an example to all Portsoyians, whether here or elsewhere, and particularly to the rising young men of the place, who may at some day fight their position upwards as he has done ; for by close attention to business and great industry, he has raised himself to a position that any man may envy. (*cheers*) I hope that he is not the last to help Portsoy. (*cheers*) We have been at a disadvantage here for want of a local Magistracy to conduct any local matters, and hence I guess no Portsoyian has hitherto done anything previous to himself. I am sure you all wish Mr. Wilson, our friend every happiness that this world can give, and long life and prosperity. (*Loud cheers*) His gift has changed the tone of our town altogether. One would fancy they were in some English provincial town of position. (*cheers*) Well, we are a small community, yet I don't know any place of 2000 inhabitants enjoying communication by rail and by sea without some public indicator of the passing time. The blank is now filled up. The site is of his own selection, and it shows his appreciation of the position he has placed it in. It is seen from every point in the town, and from all suburbs surrounding it.

I may state that one day I was talking to the principal fishcurer in the place, and the clock struck. "How do you like our clock ?" "Like it ! Wha widna like it ? It will save me mony a pound in the year, and mony a disagreeable dispute with my men, and every one now carries a time of day of his own but they are not always alike. I may like it and I do like it and it will be of great benefit to me." (*cheers*) That is one index of the great benefit of the clock. I am sure you are ready to drink a hearty bumper to our respected townsman, with a wish of long life and happiness - that he may be long spared to visit his native town, and to show his sonsy face amongst us. (*Loud cheers*)

**Mr. Fleetwood P. Wilson**, in returning thanks said - I feel deeply sensible of this mark of respect which you have been pleased to show me, and I am deeply sensible of the kind and feeling way in which my health has been proposed by our worthy Chairman, and the enthusiastic reception it has met from you all. I appreciate it the more as it is partly unexpected, but nevertheless I cannot for a moment feel I am in my native place. In looking round me, I fancy I am almost another man, and it takes me back to scenes long since gone past, but which have left a deep and lasting impression on my memory. I cannot see nor feel I have done anything to merit this display of public feeling; at the same time it would be an injustice to myself, did I wish to conceal from you the deep interest I feel for the happiness and prosperity of the place - (*cheers*) -

and it is a feeling I have had from my infancy, which has grown upon me now till my mature age. (*cheers*) I enjoy very much a visit to my native place, but it is with mixed feelings of sorrow and of happiness that I visit the haunts of my boyhood, when I was a Portsoy loon. I remember every nook and corner of the place well, and it gives me a great deal of pleasure, but when I again look about me and find that the very faces I then knew in the place - the families may be counted on my fingers - it reminds me of that place to which we are all hastening, and perhaps my time cannot be far distant - still it is life, and we must all look for the inevitable. I don't mean to trespass on your time by giving you a history of my life, but I cannot see that a man who lives for self alone can have much enjoyment in life. (*cheers*) Life was not given us for that, and we ought to look about us and do good for others. Without flattering myself I am glad to say my life in that respect has not been spent in vain. (*cheers*) I have had the opportunity of placing a great many young men in the world. Some have been an honour and credit to themselves, and to all connected with them. Others have gone unhappily the other way, that is their affair unfortunately ; but on the whole I am proud of the young Scotchmen that have had my protection, and many of them will be proud ornaments of their country, and one, if not two, to their native town Portsoy. (*cheers*) I shall not keep you much longer, but I have one word to say. I should be in deep sorrow that anything should have occurred to mar the pleasant enjoyment I have had in meeting you now; but I think it is right, as I may not see you again, to allude to a matter which our Chairman has touched upon, that is the clock and chimes. Perhaps you are not aware of all the circumstances connected with the clock, and may I briefly tell you them. The first idea originated in Mr. Moir's our worthy Chairman's house. In a conversation with him I said "You want very much something to keep you in order, at all events to keep you in time, that was a public clock." Mr. Moir caught at the idea in a minute, as he is always pretty quick in taking up anything for the good of the place, and I said that what was wanted was a suitable place to put it in, and if a tower could be got by subscription, or any other way he could suggest, I would give the clock. After some further details I said I did not see any better situation than the place where it now stands. I expressly stated that the clock was a gift to the inhabitants of the town, irrespective of any sect whatever - (*cheers*) - and no sect would have any right to it, but that it was to be for the inhabitants. As the Chairman has said, you have no baillies or public authority, and knowing that he was a gentleman who took a deep interest in all matters for the good of Portsoy. I confined myself to him. The situation was selected.

Another thing I must say, at the time, or soon after it was mooted, the question of a bell came up and I was asked by a Portsoy man something about it, and I said decidedly in whatever I did, I did spontaneously of my own accord, and did not like to be dictated to. I must do it in the way I liked, or if not you must go without it. Sometime after that I heard that the bell was made use of for public service. I wrote to Mr. Moir as my representative, he must have forgot, and I requested him to see that would not be done, because it would defeat entirely my object - one might say we are appropriating this for the purposes of the Established Church, and that defeated the object I had in view. I don't want to mix myself with the politics of Portsoy whatever. I wish to be on peaceable terms with you all. (*cheers*) The clock is a commencement, but if my wishes are not carried out with regard to the clock it will be like killing the goose for its golden eggs. (*cheers*) I will say again I am perfectly certain it has escaped our worthy Chairman's memory or the chimes would not have been used on two occasions contrary to my wishes. The clock is there, and if you say it is to be used, in that case I would regret very much to sever my connection with the place. I merely ask that the clock shall be used for the purpose it was originally intended for, that is for the town.

I come to another most important point. I visited the tower today and went to see the clock, and I am perfectly certain that Mr. Moir is not aware it is not in a suitable place. The clock, if it is not attended to, will not keep time, and will be completely ruined. What is meant to last for ages will not last for years. The place is open entirely to the air ; it is not enclosed in the room it is in ; it is only in stone walls instead of being lathed and plastered, or at all events fenced with wood. Mr. Mortimer, who was with me, told me it is not a fit place for the clock to be in.

There had been a slight mistake in the tower. That is a matter that does not concern me in the least, except in one point. The clock is meant to go for eight days, and it has not room for the weight, and has to be wound every six days instead of eight. Had I known the tower was in the state it is in, I should certainly not have allowed the clock to be sent here.

I am certain now that steps will be taken, and I am sure Mr. Moir will see to it that the place is made a habitable place or I would say a proper place for the instrument. I would suggest that the Chairman should call a meeting of the inhabitants of the place, and I would then, by document suitable, make over the clock to the town, and that document should be preserved and perpetuated, and when they were all gone, and perhaps their children's children, it would remain and he would not, and still he would say, as a memento to the donor, and also it would reflect credit on the town itself. (*cheers*)

The Rev. Mr. MacDonald gave Miss Wilson and the other Members of Mr. Wilson's family, a toast which was cordially honoured. Mr. Fleetwood P. Wilson replied.

The Rev. Mr. Grant before he proposed the toast assigned to him, begged to be permitted to express the great pleasure it gave to him to join with the ladies and gentlemen now assembled in doing honour to Mr. Wilson as a small acknowledgement of the handsome gift he had recently bestowed on Portsoy. With regard to the slight misunderstanding he would only express the hope that it would be equitably adjusted .....

Mr. Fleetwood P. Wilson in kindly terms proposed the health of the Chairman with whom he had for long had pleasant intercourse.

The Chairman in replying said that Mr. Wilson's statement was true with regard to their many years intercourse. It had always been a very great pleasure to meet with him year after year. On the other matter to which he had referred he was sorry to say that as a very unusual thing with him he happened to be absent on the day he called. It was not a subject to be touched upon at that moment, but he thought Mr. Wilson and he would understand each other afterwards.

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*Banffshire Reporter, Wednesday, May 2nd. 1888* :-

**THE LATE MR. FLEETWOOD PELLEW WILSON** - Fleetwood Pellew Wilson died at Bournemouth on Tuesday last (*24th. April 1888*), in the seventy-ninth year of his age. This announcement will be received with regret by all who had the pleasure of knowing him. Mr. Wilson was a native of Portsoy, where his father (Mr. Alexander Wilson, who was an officer in the Navy), resided during the latter years of his life

The subject of this brief notice was born on the 3rd. of June 1814. He received his early education at Portsoy. He left his native town for Brazil while but a mere youth. There he joined his brother Edward (latterly Sir Edward) in business. Some 20 years later he returned to this country, and took up residence in London, where he successfully carried on business in connection with the Brazilian trade, as well as in other connections. He was a Director of the Union Bank of England. He was a Deputy-Lieutenant of Northamptonshire, where he owned a fine property. He was a keen sportsman, and for many years he rented shootings and fishings in the North of Scotland, latterly on the River Deveron, at Eden, near Banff. He frequently paid a visit to his native town. The poor were not forgotten by him. To him we are indebted for the clock and chime of bells that occupy a place in the tower of the Established Church.

Mr. Wilson married Miss Fanny Stoddart while in Brazil. They had two children by the marriage, a boy and a girl. The former died young. Frances Stoddart, his wife, died 1<sup>st</sup>. September 1857 aged 26. Miss Wilson survives her father, and now inherits his fortune. Mr. Wilson was a brother of Mrs. Murray, Seafield Street, Portsoy. The remains of the deceased were interred on Saturday in Kensal Green Cemetery.

*Banffshire Journal, May 1<sup>st</sup> 1888 : -*

### **DEATH OF MR FLEETWOOD PELLEW WILSON.**

Many will learn with regret of the death of Mr. Fleetwood Pellew Wilson. That event took place at Bournemouth on Tuesday. Mr. Wilson, who was in his seventy-ninth year, had ten days before caught a chill in London. He went down to Bournemouth for a change of air, but did not rally from the effects of the cold. Gradually his strength sank, but his mind remained quite clear. To the last he was conscious of everything and every one about him. His daughter, and only child, was with him, and life passed away quietly at ten minutes to eight o'clock in the morning.

Mr. Fleetwood Wilson was a native of the town of Portsoy. His father, Mr. Alexander Wilson, had been an officer in the Royal Marines, and spent the latter part of his life in Portsoy. There was a family of three boys and three daughters. It may be noted that Mr. Wilson, while in the Navy, held the post of secretary to Lord Exmouth Admiral of the Fleet. The kindly relation in which he stood to the Admiral, as well as high admiration of his qualities, led Mr. Wilson to name his sons after members of the family of Pellew, of which Lord Exmouth was the head. The two brothers, Edward and Fleetwood Pellew Wilson were brought up together and educated at the school of Portsoy.

Edward Pellew Wilson at an early age went to Brazil, and there became successful a merchant. Taking a leading part in many matters of public interest, he was five-and-twenty years ago rewarded with the honour of knighthood from the Emperor of Brazil. Sir Edward Pellew Wilson continued to reside in Bahia, and died there on 11th November last.

Fleetwood Pellew Wilson was born on 3<sup>rd</sup>. June 1809. As soon as he was able to engage in business he went from Portsoy to join big brother in Brazil. There he remained for about twenty years. Returning to this country, he took up his residence permanently in London for the purpose of carrying on the business there in connection with the Brazilian trade. Other enterprises also shared his time and attention. For many years, up to the time of his death, he was an active director of the Union Bank of London.

Mr. Fleetwood Wilson owned a residence in Portman Square, London. He also acquired the fine property of Wappenham Manor in Northamptonshire and usually lived a part of the year there. Of that county he was a Deputy-Lieutenant, and was also upon the Commission of the Peace. Being a keen sportsman, he for many years rented shootings and fishings in the north.

For about twenty years he was lessee of Knockando House on Speyside with fishings in the river and shootings over a stretch of moors on the left bank. Subsequently he spent the autumn for some years on Deeside; and latterly till within a couple of years ago, at Eden on the Deveron near Banff.

Every season Mr. Wilson paid a visit to his native town. For seven and twenty successive years he sent a present of five guineas to provide a Christmas dinner for poor people in Portsoy. About eight years ago made the town a gift of the public clock and chime of bells in the tower of the Parish Church at Portsoy, At the time he made the latter gift he was entertained at a banquet and publicly thanked by a large body of the leading inhabitants. Many young men were sent into the business world by the assistance of Mr. Wilson, who manifested kindness to everybody with whom he was brought into connection.

Once seen Mr. Fleetwood Wilson was not readily forgotten. Tall and active, he was a handsome old gentleman. His portrait, full length, and magnificent as a work of art, was in the Royal Exhibition some years ago, and attracted considerable notice.

While in Brazil. Mr. Fleetwood Wilson married Miss Fanny Stoddart by whom he was long predeceased. They had two children, a boy and girl. The former died early, and the latter Miss Wilson, now inherits her father's fortune and properties. Mr. Wilson was the last except

The Wilson Family of Portsoy

one of his family. His only surviving sister is Mrs. Murray, Portsoy, widow of the late Rev. Peter Murray, minister of the Parish Church there.

The remains of Mr. Fleetwood Wilson were conveyed to his London residence, and on Saturday forenoon were interred in Kensal Green Cemetery.

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*From Scottish notes and Queries Vol II January 1894 : -*

**NOTABLE MEN & WOMEN OF BANFFSHIRE**

**Wilson, Fleetwood Pellew.** Successful business man. Son of a Lieutenant in the Royal Marines, who called his son after Admiral Pellew. He was born about the year 1809 in the town of Portsoy. He went early to sea in the East India Company's service; but after a time settled in Bahia in Brazil, in partnership with his brother Edward. Bye-and-bye, the business extending, Fleetwood came to London, and had a share in many big financial concerns. He died in London about 1888, aged 79 years. At his death he left about a million of money.

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## Frances Fleetwood Wilson

### (Daughter of Fleetwood Pellew Wilson

1850 - 1919

Parents : - Fleetwood Pellew Wilson and Frances Stoddart.  
Born at Alpha House, Regent's Park, London in 1850

*The "Elgin Courant September 22<sup>nd</sup> 1871 : -*

#### **GRAND BALL AT ELGIN**

Ours is a gay city; and certainly if balls and concerts, and fashionable entertainments of various kinds be element in gaiety it deserves the appellation. Ordinary balls and assemblies may however be called quiet gaiety - common entertainment in which there is nothing remarkable and hence newspapers pass over such meetings with a paragraph, ending with the "the dancing was kept up till an early hour in the morning." We cannot treat the ball that was held in the Assembly Room in Elgin on Tuesday evening in that manner. ....

.....Miss Fleetwood Wilson, daughter of Mr. Fleetwood Wilson, having recently come to her majority, and presently sojourning at Knockando House, was offered a dance by her indulgent father either in London, Brighton, or the North of Scotland, and the young lady preferred the neighbourhood of her Highland dwelling. In London and Paris fashion the invitation cards asked the favour of meeting "at home" and some two hundred or more were issued.....

..... We give the names of those present : -

From Knockando House : - Mr. Fleetwood Pellew Wilson ; Miss Frances Wilson ; Lady Broke Middleton ; Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Nicol, Glassaugh House, Portsoy and Miss Douglas Fox.

*(Note : - Mrs. Andrew Nicol (Jane Stronach) was a niece of Fleetwood Pellew Wilson being the daughter of his sister Emma Wilson - FP)*

From North College : - Mr. Robertson, Mrs. and Miss Wane.

From Prospect Lodge : - Miss Robertson,

From Pitgavenie House : - Captain Brander Dunbar ; Major & Mrs. McAndrew ; Miss Constance Harvey

From Hythehill : - Miss Grant Dalchapple ; Mr. and Miss Eliza Geddes, Orbliston ; Deputy Inspector General McLean CB and Miss McLean Dalchapple

From Braemorrison : - Mrs. Sinclair, Lafarg ; The Misses Laing ; Mr. & Mrs. A. Henderson Chalmers of Monkshill ; Lieut. - Col. Wells ; Mr. Falconer Muir.

From South College : - Mr. Inglis ; Mrs. McKinnon, Edinburgh ; Mrs. F. Sowell ; Col. Moxon.

From Newmill : - Major and Mrs. Johnston ; Miss Harvey of Carnousie ; Miss Gordon, Burgie House and Miss Atkins ; Lieut. C.J and Mrs. Johnston and Miss Sangster and Miss Messervy.

*(Note: -Fleetwood Pellew Wilson had a sister Emma Wilson who married a John Stronach. They had a daughter, Margaret Dyce Stronach, who married Ernest F. Messervy. It is presumed that Miss Messervy was a daughter of this marriage and therefore a second cousin of Frances Wilson. - FP)*

From Lesmurdie ; - Mrs Young Leslie of Kininvie ; Mr. F.W. McKenzie and Mr. D.J. McKenzie of Ladyhill.

From Linkwood : - Mr. and Mrs. Brown ; Captain R.N. and Miss Rutherford.

From Dunfermline House : - Mr. Mrs. and Miss Cooper ; Mr. John and Miss Wink ; Miss Weir ; Mr & Mrs William Cooper and Mr. George Cooper.

From the Commercial Bank : - Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie ; Mrs. Bullock ; Mr. Maxwell and the Misses Maxwell.

From the Royal Bank : - Mr. and Mrs. Forsyth.

From the North of Scotland Bank : - Mr. and Mrs. Harboun Mackay with Miss Larkworthy South Villa ; Miss Cooke, Moss Terrace ; the Misses Simpson, Braevilla.

From North Lodge : - Major and Mrs. Culbard..

From Maida Cottage : - Miss Jenkins ; Miss Cochrane ; Miss Tritton ; Capt Walker : Mr. H.J. and Mr. A.M. McKenzie, Ladyhill.

From Burnside : - Mr. Kerr and Mr. Salting, London.

From Fort George : - Capt. Gordon Alexander, Capt. Forbes Robertson, Mr. Brand, Capt. Tanner and Mr. H.A. McLennan, 72<sup>nd</sup>. Highlanders.

From Elgin Parsonage : - Mr. & Mrs. Ferguson ; Miss McNeil ; Miss Paul and Miss Maggie Lawson, Braelossie.

From Calcots : - Col. and Mrs. MacDonald.

From Deanshaugh : - The Misses Barclay ; Dr. and Mrs. Harvey, London : Miss Thomson

From Dellachapple House : - Mr. James Grant, Jnr., of Glengrant and Miss Grant.

Mr. Campbell McPherson, Balliemore ; The Hon. Mr. Moretoun ; Mr. J. Lyon Fraser, Clanallan ; Mr. & Mrs. Allan, High Street with the Misses Allan ; Mr. and Mrs. Black, Institution Road ; Mr. and Mrs. Ward, London ; Mr. Mcnaughton, Edinburgh ; Mr. L.A. Cooke, Moss Terrace and Mr. D. Cooke of London ; Capt. De Pentheny O'Kelly ; Major Clay and Capt-Adjutant Clay ; Mr. Bennet, Elgin Brewery ; Lt. Brander ; Mr. Wade, Trochelhill ; Major Penrose Dunbar ; Mr. Hood, Ceylon ; Mr. Sheriff, Ceylon ; Mr. Mackay, Burgin ; Mr. D. Webster, Bogmuchals Lodge ; Dr. Hunter, Cluny Hill ; Mr. Wm. Rose Elgin ; Mr James Mellis, Easton ; Mr. Cameron, Bilbohall. (*Extracts from a much larger article*)

(*Note : - Fleetwood Pellew Wilson's sister - a Mrs. John Stronach - had a daughter who married a James Allan. It might be that Allans mentioned as guests could have been related to Fleetwood Pellew Wilson – FP*)

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*Aberdeen Journal, July 12 1898: -*

## **THE MARRIAGE OF MISS FRANCES FLEETWOOD WILSON**

### **DOUBLE CEREMONY IN LONDON**

Miss Frances Fleetwood Wilson was married this afternoon to Prince Alexis Dolgorouki in St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, in the presence of a very large and fashionable company. Miss Fleetwood Wilson is the only child of the late Mr. Fleetwood Pellew Wilson, J.P. and D.L. for the county of Hants, of Wappenham Manor, Northamptonshire, and 30 Portman Square London, who was a native of Portsoy, Banffshire. He resided for some time at Knockando House on Speyside and spent at least one season at Eden on Deveronside. His daughter is also very fond of the north, and has taken a lease of Old Mar Castle, which in future is to be known as Braemar Castle. I believe that it is there, when the honeymoon is over, that the Prince and Princess Dolgorouki intend to spend the autumn. Prince Alexis is a member of the Order of St. George of Michaelovka, South Russia, and the younger son of Prince Dolgorouki, who was Secretary of State and Privy Seal to the Emporar of Russia, Alexander II. He distinguished himself in the Russo-Turkish war, and was mentioned in despatches.

St. Margaret's Church was handsomely decorated for the occasion. The entrance to the chancel was studded with tall palms, banked with white flowering plants intermixed with choice ferns and foliaged shrubs. The altar vases also had been specially filled for the occasion with bouquets of varied blooms. The marriage ceremony was impressively conducted by the Bishop of St. Asiph assisted by the Rev. Canon Eyton, of Westminster, rector of St. Margaret's Church, and the Rev. Innes Burgoyne Wane, rector of Castle Ashby, Northamptonshire.

Miss Fleetwood Wilson was accompanied to the church by her cousin, Mr. Augustus Thorne. Preceded by the officiating clergymen, he conducted her to the chancel entrance during the singing of the hymn "Through all the Changing Scenes of Life." Prince Dolgorouki, who had arrived some time previous to Miss Fleetwood Wilson, took up his position on the right hand side of the chancel entrance, attended by his brother, Prince Nicholas Dolgorouki, as his best man. At the marriage ceremony which followed, and which was fully choral, Mr. Augustus Thorne gave the bride away.

Miss Fleetwood Wilson looked remarkably well in a wedding gown of the richest ivory duchesse satin, embroidered with large silver and diamond roses with a touch of gold, the neck being finished with soft tulle and tulle sleeves embroidered with roses and ruffles of old Alencon lace. The court train of the same rich satin, fell from both shoulders, the border being embroidered with roses and lined with cloth of silver caught in at the waist with a jewelled belt. Her fine tulle veil was affixed to her hair. She wore no jewellery, and carried a magnificent bridal bouquet of white roses, myrtle, and orange blossoms in foliage, the gift of Prince Nicholas Dolgorouki.

There were seven bridesmaids at the ceremony - The Countess of Cromartie; Lady Helen Egerton; the Hon. Eileen Butler; Miss Margaret Wane; Miss Marjorie Eden; Miss Sally Thorne; and Miss Phyllis Meservy; the last two being cousins of the bride. All wore Russian costumes, carried out in cream satin with chemisettes and sleeves of white satin. The frocks were trimmed with turquoise blue velvet embroidered in "key" pattern in silver, the same appearing down the front of the skirt and some distance above the hem. They also wore Russian headresses of blue velvet embroidered in silver, with chiffon veils falling down the back. The bridegroom's presents to them were brooches formed in a "D" in diamonds surmounted by a prince's crown in diamonds and white enamel, and each carried a basket of red roses in foliage. Two small pages immediately followed the bride - Master Guy Portman and Master Cholmeley Dowling, cousins of the bride, who were picturesquely attired in Russian blouses. During the service, "O! Perfect Love, all Human Thoughts Transcending" and "Lead us, Heavenly Father Lead us" were sung with effect by the Choir.

Later in the afternoon the marriage was confirmed according to the rites of the Greek Church at the Russian Church in Welbeck Street by the Rev. Eugene Shiroff, Chaplain to the Russian Embassy. Only a very few friends were present.

The wedding reception was held at 30 Portman Square, and subsequently Prince and Princess Alexis Dolgorouki left town for Ruthin Castle, North Wales, where the early days of the honeymoon will be spent, the Princess going away in a travelling costume of the palest grey cloth, delicately embroidered with silver iris.

The guests who were invited to the wedding ceremony at St. Margaret's Church and to the reception included: - Prince Nicholas Dolgorouki; M. Lessar, the Russian Charge d'Affaires; His Highness the Maharajah of Cooch Behar; Count Nieusdorff, the Brazilian Minister; Duchess of Manchester and Lady Alice Montagu; Prince and Princess Demidoff; Prince Radziwell; Duke of Hamilton and Lady Douglas Hamilton; Duke and Duchess of Somerset; Earl and Countess of Ellesmere and Ladies Egerton; Sir George and Lady Julie Wombwell ; Mr and Mrs Conwallis West and Miss West ; The Marquis and Marchioness Camden ; Prince and Princess Loewenstein Wertheim : Sir Edward and Lady Malet ; Lord and Lady Blythwood ; Lord and Lady Ashbourne and Miss Gibson ; Blanch, Countess of Listowel ; Viscount Ennismore ; Lady Mountgarret ; Colonel and Mrs. Farquharson ; Mrs. Bergon ; Lady Eleanor Brodie and Miss Brodie ; Mr Augustus Hare ; Lord and Lady Connemara ; Lady Knightley ; Mr and Lady Florenta Hughes ; Hon. G. Saville ; Sir Charles and Lady Hartoppe ; Earl and Countess of

Portarlington ; Baron Von Oppell ; Sir Nicholas and Lady O’Conor ; Miss Morier ; Mr and Lady Lilian Ogle ; Mr. Richardson and Victoria, Countess of Yarborough ; Colonel Brabazon ; Emily Lady Ampthill and Miss Russell ; Earl and Countess of Annesley ; Mr and Mrs Chamberlain ; Lord and Lady Gage ; Sir Edward and Lady Green ; Mr and Mrs Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore ; Sir John and Lady Constance Leslie ; Sir Reginald and Lady Macdonald ; Earl and Countess of Cavan ; Sir Henry and the Misses Cotterell ; Viscountess Helmsley ; Mr Hamilton Aide ; Hon C. and Mrs Liddell ; Mr and Mrs Maurice Glyn ; Colonel and Mrs Howard ; Madame d’Arcca ; Lady Esher ; Hon Dudley and Mrs Leigh ; Mr and the Hon Mrs Mulholland ; Lord and Lady Morris ; Lady Alfred Churchill and Miss Churchill ; Colonel and Miss Crighton ; Lord and Lady Edward Churchill and Miss Churchill ; Countess of Cottenham and Lady Mary Pepys ; Hon Frank Curzon ; Sir Charles and Lady Legard ; Sir Allan and Lady and Miss Mackenzie ; Earl and Countess of Clanwilliam and the Ladies Meade ; Sir W and Lady Colville and Miss Colville ; Earl and Countess of Dundonald ; Sir Martin Dillon ; Captain and Lady Elizabeth Dawson ; Lady Alfred Paget and Miss Paget ; Mr and Mrs Portman ; Lord and Lady Castletown ; Lord Reuben Sassoon ; Mr and Mrs Thynne ; Mr and Mrs Meysey Thompson ; Miss Vivian and Lord Vivian ; Captain Wyndham ; Hon Wm and Mrs West ; Hon Alexander Yorke ; Mr and Mrs Sherard Kennedy ; Mr and Mrs Wire ; Mrs Cholmeley Dowling ; Mr and Mrs August Thorne ; Mr and Mrs David Farquharson.

### THE PRESENTS.

The presents to Miss Fleetwood Wilson numbered about five hundred. Many of them were very valuable. Among the donors were :- Prince Alexis Dolgorouki, diamond ring, ruby and diamond bracelet, diamond bracelet, ruby and diamond ring, pair topaz links, gold curb bracelet, gold and diamond heart, diamond brooch, two birds ; Earl and Countess of Dundonald, Dresden inkstand ; Lord and Lady Augustus Loftus, “Diplomatic Reminiscences” ; Lady and Miss Emily Forbes, bookmarker ; Mr. George Forbes, stamped leather card case and medallion tray ; Lady Alfred Paget and Misses Paget, Dutch silver bowl ; Prince Frederick Duleep Singh, moonstone and diamond pin ; Ladies Egerton, butterfly box ; Mr Augustus Hare, four volumes “France” ; Lady Jephson, picture “Braemar” ; Dowager Lady De La Warr, gold mounted walking stick ; Lady Henry Gordon Lennox, antique silver box ; Marchioness of Anglesea, white leather bag ; Sir Edward and Lady Ermytrude Malet, French clock ; Lord and Lady Deramore, antique Dutch loving cup ; Prince Alexander and Princess Olga Dolgorouki, diamond and emerald brooch ; Count & Countess Stenbock Fermor, diamond and ruby bracelet ; Princess Nicholas Dolgorouki, diamond mounted lace fan ; Madam Albedinsky, jewelled parasol handle ; Count & Countess Bekendorff, gold semovar ; Mr Hamilton Aide, water colour ; Mr. Edward Pellew, pair leather photo frames ; Dowager Marchioness of Conyngham, Lady Elizabeth Williamson, Viscountess Hemsley, Hon Mr. Dundas, Hon Cecil and Mrs Duncombe, Mr & Mrs Fred Walker, Mr Arthur Meysey Thompson, Mr Hedworth Williamson, Miss Wombwell, Mr Arthur Wombwell, Miss Rachel Duncombe, Miss Alice Sandford, massive silver loving cup ; Servants at 30 Portman Square, small silver set of teapot, coffee pot, sugar basin and cream jug ; Mr & Mrs Schanley, tortoiseshell and silver blotting case ; Marquis and Marchioness of Camden, writing pad ; Mrs & Miss Nicol, silver pencil case ; Mr. Mrs & Miss Ainslie, pair enamelled vases ; Mr Cavendish Abercromby, embossed silver box ; Prince and Princess Soltykoff, pair of diamond flower vases ; Lilian, Countess of Cromartie and Mr. Casenove, silver case of scent bottles ; Mrs Leslie, bood “Renyard the Fox” ; Mr and Mrs Charles Wyndham, silver inkstand ; Duke of Hamilton, silver rose bowl ; Ladies Douglas Hamilton, silver and tortoiseshell inkstand ; Prince and Princess Victor Duleep Singh, silver fish ; Major Victor Farquharson, small enamel box ; Lord and Lady Bingham, case of gold mounted jade pen, pencil, etc. ; Lord Elphinstone, tortoiseshell and gold box ; Miss Grant, “The Sun Maiden” ; Captain and Lady Hilda Murray, brass coal vase ; Sir W Cunliffe Brooks, handsome present ; Madam Ellice, pin cushion ; Lady

Kennard, painting ; General and Mrs Russell, letter case ; Maharajah of Cooch Behar, emerald and diamond bracelet ; Sir William and Lady Eden, tortoiseshell and gilt box ; Princess Henry of ? , Miss Cornwallis West, and others, handsome diamond and pearl arrow ; Sir Robert and Lady Affleck, gold chain purse ; Countess of Cromartie, Dutch silver dishes ; Lord and Lady Stratheden, magnifying glass ; Earl and Countess of Clanwilliam, china bottle ; Miss Mary Moore, photo in silver frame ; Sir George and Lady Julia Wombwell, Earl and Countess of Dartrey, Mr and Mrs Hohler, Mr and Mrs Graham Menzies, Mr Stephen Wombwell, massive diamond turquoise and emerald ornament ; Prince and Princess Demidoff, pebble enamel and diamond heart shaped tray ; Lord and Lady Gerard, small clock "Luck" ; Viscount Ennismore, silver tea service ; Earl and Countess of Listowel, pair of silver gilt dishes ; Prince and Princess Lowenstein Wertheim, pearl and emerald charm ; Mrs Bentick, Russia, leather telegram case ; Lady Hampton and Lady Normanby, carriage box, with clock ; Grand Duke Michael and Countess Torby, fan ; Duchess of Manchester and Lady Alice Montagu, frame ; Sir John and Lady Forbes, handsome article ; Sir L. and Lady Darsell, pair scent bottles ; Hon J and Mrs Campbell, two small glass and silver dishes ; etc., etc.

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*Aberdeen Journal, October 8<sup>th</sup> 1898 : -*

**ST. JAMES'S CHURCH BAZAAR ABERDEEN**

The bazaar promoted on behalf of St. James's Church was opened yesterday in the Music Hall, Aberdeen by Her Highness Princess Alexis Dolgorouki in presence of a large and fashionable assembly of ladies and gentlemen..... *(extract from a large article)*

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*From the "Northern Scot" Saturday, November 16 1901 : -*

OUR LADIES' COLUMN.

**Princess Alexis Dolgorouki** "Plenty of Money and Much Ambition."

Princess Alexis Dolgorouki is now in Paris This lady first made her bow to London society as Miss Fanny Fleetwood-Wilson, daughter and heiress of a Northamptonshire squire.

After the death of her father, she began to entertain in a discreetly definite manner and Lady Julia Wombwell and Mrs Cornwallis-West proved highly efficient social godmothers. Miss Wilson was clever and cultivated, with a fine-featured, thoughtful face, an attractive personality, plenty of money and much ambition. Needless to say, her position was speedily assured. In 1898 she became the wife of Prince Alexis Dolgorouki, a Muscovite aristocrat with landed estates in Southern Russia. The wedding took place in London, and was a triple event, consisting of no less than three services –or, perhaps, one should say ceremonies – the marriage at the registry, one religious function at the Anglican Church, and yet another at the Russian Church, according to the rites of the Greek faith.

Since that time, Princess Dolgorouki has been little in London, and has divided her time between Braemar Castle in Scotland, the Riviera, and her husband's estates in Russia. Before her marriage, the Princess excelled in the art of dinner-giving, and especially in the matter of floral decoration of a dinner-table. One of her inventions was a miniature lake in the centre of the table, with a few water-lilies on it, and in it many real goldfish. During this period she gave several good concerts, besides luncheons, dinners, and those somewhat dreary entertainments known as drawing-room teas. And she made many real friends, for she has the art of adaptability, of never showing herself bored; and – best of all – she is endowed with a large amount of personal magnetism

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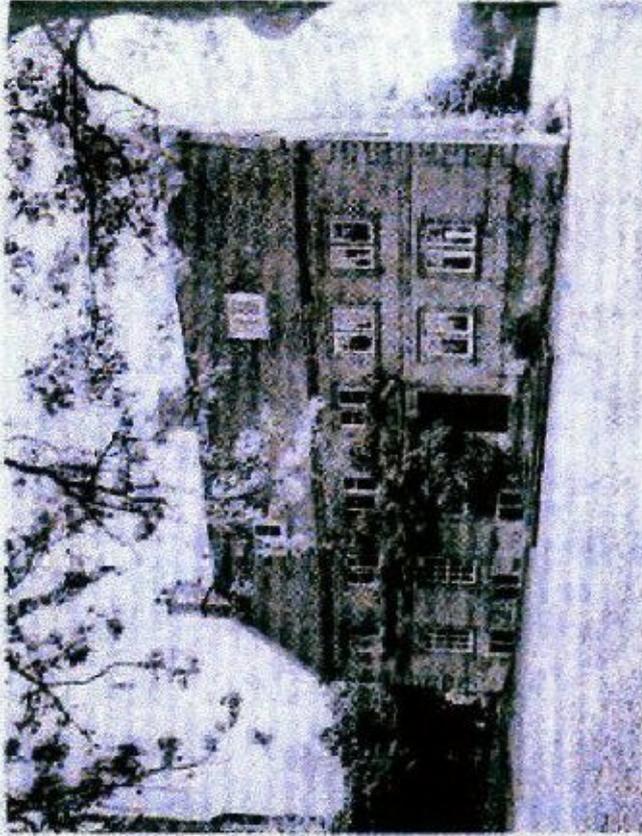
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The Wilson Family of Portsoy

**Princess Dolgorouki**



Prince Alexis Dologouroki



Taken at the Bazaar, Gordon Castle, Nov. 1902

*From the Tatler, No. 40, April 2, 1902, page 19:*

The Princess Pless - It is curious to note that while so few Englishmen belonging to our great families have married women of other nationalities (always excepting, of course, Americans who are now so closely allied with our aristocracy), quite a number of notable Englishwomen of high rank are the wives of Germans, Frenchmen, Russians, and Italians of noble birth. Quite one of the most popular young beauties in society is the wife of a German Prince, Princess Pless, nee Miss Daisy Cornwallis-West, elder daughter of Mrs. Cornwallis-West and sister of the Duchess of Westminster. Since her marriage the Princess has divided her time between England and her husband's stately Silesian home, and the arrival of a much-desired heir several years after her marriage was just the one thing needed to bring perfect happiness to the Prince and Princess.

A Great Russian Aristocrat. - It is rather a coincidence to note that it was the Princess Alexis Dolgorouki, then Miss Fleetwood Wilson, who lent her town house in Portman Square for the wedding of Princess Pless. A few years later Miss Fleetwood Wilson followed the example of her young friend and also wedded a prince of high degree, the marriage taking place firstly at St. Margaret's, in conformity with the rites of the Church of England, and then later in the afternoon at the Russian church, Welbeck Street, in accord with the ceremony pertaining to the Greek church. The Prince's father was Secretary of State and Privy Seal to the late Emperor of Russia. At the wedding of Prince Alexis the pages and the seven bridesmaids wore picturesque Russian costume, and during the ceremony in the Russian church crowns were held over the heads of the couple.

*Courant and Courier, Tuesday, June 23, 1903 : -*

**PRINCE AND PRINCESS DOLGOROUKI** after spending some time in Moscow, are now in Mikhailorka, the Prince's place in South Russia. The health of the Princess is causing anxiety, as the winter in Petersburg was a trying one, and has caused a recurrence of lung weakness. This may necessitate a visit to Switzerland. Moscow is especially interesting to Dolgoroukis, as it was founded by them, and they reigned there till the time of the Romanoffs. The Tsar Peter II married a daughter of the family.

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*The Northern and Moray and Nairn Express Saturday August 29 1903 : -*

**LIBRARY BAZAAR AT LOSSIEMOUTH – Opened by Princess Dolgorouki**

Not so much on account of the fine weather, but in all probability because of the presence of a Princess, there was a great crowd of ladies and gentlemen at the opening of the bazaar on Tuesday.....

.....Tuesday's opening function took place and was presided over by Provost Peterkin. Beside him on the platform were first and foremost Princess Dolgorouki, smiling and radiant in most becoming attire, and by her side, Mrs Thorne, her cousin, Dimoonerg, Stotfield .....

.....Princess Dolgorouki, who was received with hearty applause said – “ I am very pleased that the very first thing I have been asked to do and have been able to accept, directly on my return from a long sojourn in my adopted country, should be in my own country – Scotland. So let us work hard and try and get a great deal of money to have a library worthy of Mr. Carnegie's handsome gift and with this hope I declare the bazaar open.” .....

*(extracts from a long article)*

*From the Internet :- [www.greatbuildings.com/buildings/Nashdom](http://www.greatbuildings.com/buildings/Nashdom)*

**New Home for Princess Alexis Dolgorouki : Architect Sir Edwin Lutyens :-**

**"Nashdom, Taplow, Buckinghamshire**, built 1905 – 1909 is a particularly good example of Lutyens's fulfilling of his client's needs. Princess Dolgorouki, the heiress, Miss Wilson, married a Russian Prince and was renowned for her love of entertaining. She wanted a house in the Thames Valley for weekend river parties and it had to provide a luxurious setting suitable for exiled royalty. Lutyens achieved this, not by the expenditure of vast sums of money, but by brilliant manipulation of space and levels. From the garden side, the elevation reflects the division of the house into the Prince's and Princess's suites, which can be transformed into a series of rooms over 100 feet long. The entrance loggia and court lead into a double staircase, one being the main stair, the other leading into the Big Room for grand parties. Nashdom is an effective classical villa and one that Nash would have envied.

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**The long letter appeared in The Tatler, No. 414, June 2, 1909.'The Searchlight in Society - Our Open Letter. No, LVI –**

The Princess Alexis Dolgorouki

Dear Princess, - Dr. Emit Reich is one of our present-day prophets, and he has it that "the science of success is the science of energy." This saying seems to be true and holds good with both men and women, and to my mind you are an apt example of social success carried to a science. Memories are short in our modern world, but even now a few of us can hark back to the middle eighties. Well, in those far-off days history has it that there appeared on the scene a certain Miss Fleetwood Wilson, only daughter of the late Mr. Fleetwood Wilson, a rich recluse who lived a restricted existence at 30, Portman Square, the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. George Keppel. Dwell, you were she, and there are still left a few of us that remember the time when, almost unknown and most plainly dressed, you walked with your dog in the square gardens, gave small and quiet dinners, and at rare intervals a crowded afternoon party, but even in those chrysalis days you thought and read, talked well, and as far as possible sought the society of the clever and cultivated. You endured the quiet existence and put faith in future possibilities.

Well, time passed, the late Mr. Fleetwood Wilson was gathered to his fathers, and after the days of mourning were passed you made a move onwards and by slow degrees took the stage as a society woman and a smart hostess. Now I believe that you own a good heart and have by no means kicked down the ladder, or ladders, by which you rose to eminence. So you will not mind my saying that you were assisted in these ambitious projects by two social godmothers of entirely different descriptions. One of these was Lady Julia Wombwell, an aunt of Lord Jersey and the wife of Sir George Wombwell of Newburgh Park, Yorkshire. She as it happens is a grand dame of the old school, an aristocrat born and bred, and a sponsor well able to introduce a novice to the guarded courts of the ancient aristocracy.

Then your other social godmother was Mrs. Cornwallis-West, in those days still a beautiful woman, and who is now the mother of a princess and a duchess - Princess Henry of Pless and the Duchess of Westminster. She, of course, represented the claims of smart society, in which set money talks, and your large income was doubtless of

great benefit. By the way, our standard of wealth is raised, for in the eighties we thought that a fine fortune whereas now a rich woman is expected to have an income of at least 40,000 pounds. However, you gave delightful dinners and a concert, and took a villa on the Riviera and a castle in Scotland. This went on for a few years, and then came the news that you were engaged to a Russian noble, Prince Alexis Dolgorouki.

Your marriage, which took place in 1898, made a nine-days wonder as owing to religious differences it needed three services, one of which was in the splendid ritual of the Greek Church. Many of us have never seen this imposing ceremony. Its most salient features are as follows: The bride and bridegroom enter the church together, and when standing in the centre of the building are each handed a lighted candle. The celebrant wears rich robes and a Russian head-dress, the responses are chanted in Russian, and the painted doors on the altar are swung aside, exposing to view some splendid ikons. Two wedding rings are used, one for the bride and the other for the bridegroom, and a silver cup containing wine is offered, and of this the bridal pair sip three times in turn as a symbol of their division of joy and sorrow, and the ceremony is brought to an end in an impressive manner. A length of rose-coloured carpet is spread on the floor, and on this stand the bride and bridegroom. Two golden crowns are then produced and handed to the best men, who hold them above the heads of the couple, and the bridal party walk three times round the rostrum. Then the newly-married pair kiss their crowns, give and receive mutual embrace and the elaborate ritual is ended. This brief sketch may contain mistakes in technical terms as it is but the impressions of a social onlooker at a recent Greek marriage.

Now, dear princess, I must return to your life and personality. Since those days you have moved much in our London world and in a charming circle, in which even if royalty is scarce social prominence is judiciously blended with the wit and originality of smart Bohemia. You own a house in Upper Grosvenor Street, where you give dinners and parties, and like several other society women often do much to further the interests of young and unknown singers and musicians. Needless to say you own some fine jewels, which you wear at discreet intervals. These include a splendid diamond tiara made in the Russian shape and similar in style to the diadem which was presented to then Alexandra on the occasion of her silver wedding by the ladies of England, and you also have some good pearls, emeralds, and sapphires. Then your Scotch home is Braemar Castle near Balmoral. This is an ancient place, with the thickest of walls, turreted towers, and a dungeon; in fact, it is one of the oldest inhabited houses in Scotland. It has been unoccupied for a hundred years, but its owner, Mr. Farquharson of Invercauld, renews and restores it in a reverent but efficient manner, and it is now often the scene of much hospitality. Mixed marriages are apt to be a mistake, but your union seems most peaceful, and you and the prince spend much time together and have now acquired a country place in Berkshire near Cliveden that has been christened "Nashdom," Russian for "our home," and which you have made into a charming week-end residence. There you will entertain in the coming summer, and there your prince will do his literary work as a translator of classical poetry and also indulge his rural taste for flowers and gardening.

You have no children, but some years ago adopted a little Russian girl called Sacha, whom you treat in the kindest way and dress in the daintiest garments. At one time this small person could be seen in Hyde Park in her own pony carriage attended by a smart groom and decked out in fairylike fashion, and you used to give children's parties for her benefit. By the way, adopted children have from time to time played their part in London society.

In the dark ages a certain Miss Marie Fox, afterwards Princess Lichtenstein, was adopted by Lady Holland and had her home at Holland House; Madame Deschamps now a widow, was the adopted daughter of the late Lady Mount Temple and now lives on the Continent; Baroness Eckhardstein is said to have adopted a child; and at one time Lady Anglesey had taken a pretty little girls under

her charge, but this arrangement is now said to have been terminated. Then it is an open secret that Mr. Frank Hird is the adopted son of Lord Ronald Sutherland Gower.

Your Russian marriage reminds me that in this you made a somewhat new departure, for not many Russians have been chosen as husbands by Englishwomen. The only one that comes to mind while writing is the case of Miss Evelyn Green, daughter of the late Captain Philip Green and of the late Lady Camden and who married a Mr. Paul Levkovitsch.

Now I come to think of it I have not as yet said a word as to your personal appearance. You are petite and have good eyes, dark hair, and decidedly handsome features, and there is also much that is attractive and interesting in your face, voice, and manner, also it is pretty to see the way in which you have identified yourself with the country, people, and interests of your husband, Prince Alexis Dolgorouki. You have visited his estates in southern Russia, made friends with his tenants, and spent time and thought on schemes for their welfare. You and he have been received with honour at the Court of St. Petersburg.

I remain, dear princess, your obedient servant,

Candida

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*Banffshire Journal Sept 2, 1919: -*

**Late Princess Alexis Dolgorouki.**

At Hatcham Church, near Taplow, on Saturday there took place the funeral of Princess Alexis Dolgorouki, who died at Baronne, on August 23. She was the only child of the late Mr Fleetwood Wilson, of Wappenham Manor, Northamptonshire, and of 30 Portman Square, London a gentleman who was well known in the North of Scotland. He resided for some years in Portsoy and Banff, at Knockando House on Speyside, and at least on one occasion at Eden, on Deveronside. He presented the Jubilee clock in the church tower of Portsoy and was a director of the Union Bank of London, the old Oriental Bank, and other important undertakings. On July 11, 1898. Miss Frances Wilson was married to Prince Alexis Dolgorouki, a member of a well-known Russian family, who and on that occasion he was entertained at a banquet and publicly thanked by a large body of the leading inhabitants.

While in Brazil Mr. Fleetwood Pellew Wilson married Miss Fanny Stoddart. They had two children, a boy and a girl. The former died early. The latter inherited her father's fortune and property, and as Princess Alexis Dolgorouki, died at Bayonne on 23<sup>rd</sup>. ult. Mr. Fleetwood Wilson was survived by one sister, who was married to Rev. Peter Murray, minister of the Parish Church at Portsoy. and on that occasion he was entertained at a banquet and publicly thanked by a large body of the leading inhabitants.

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*Banffshire Journal, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1919*

**Princess Alexis Dolgorouki's Banffshire Connections.**

There was reported in the last issue, the death of Princess Alexis Dolgorouski. Her father was Mr. Fleetwood Pellew Wilson, who died in April 1888, aged 79. He was a native of Portsoy. His father, Mr Alexander Wilson had been an officer in the navy, and spent the latter part of his life in Portsoy. While in the navy he held the post of secretary to Lord Exmouth, Admiral of the Fleet. The kindly relation in which he stood to the Admiral, as well as high admiration of his qualities, led Mr Wilson to name his sons after members of the family of Pellew, of which Lord Exmouth was the head.

The two brothers, Edward and Fleetwood Pellew Wilson, sons of Mr Alexander Wilson, were educated at the school of Portsoy, Edward Pellew Wilson at an early age went to Brazil, and there became successful as a merchant. Taking a leading part in many matters of public interest, he was rewarded with the honour of knighthood from the Emperor of Brazil. Sir Edward Pellew Wilson continued to reside in Bahia and died there in November 1887.

His brother, Fleetwood Pellew Wilson, was born in June 1814. As soon as he was able to engage in business, he went from Portsoy to join his brother in Brazil. There he remained for about twenty years. Returning to this country, he took up his residence permanently in London for the purpose of carrying on the business there in connection with the Brazilian trade, other enterprises also sharing his time and attention. He owned a residence in Portman Square, London, and he acquired the fine property of Wappenham Manor in Northamptonshire. For many a year he rented shootings and fishing in the north of Scotland. For about twenty years he was lessee of Knockando House on Speyside, with fishings in the river and shootings over a stretch of moors on its left bank. Subsequently he spent the autumn for some years on Deeside, and later he occupied Eden, on the Deveron, near Banff. Every season he paid a visit to his native town. For seven and twenty successive years he sent a present of five guineas to provide a Christmas dinner for poor people in Portsoy. He made the town a gift also of the public clock and chime of bells in the tower of the Parish Church at Portsoy, and on that occasion he was entertained at a banquet and publicly thanked by a large body of the leading inhabitants. While in Brazil Mr Fleetwood Wilson married Miss Fanny Stoddart, They had two children, a boy and a girl. The former died early. The latter inherited her father's fortune and property, and as Princess Alexis Dolgorouki, died at Bayonne on 23rd ult. Mr. Fleetwood Wilson was survived by one sister, who was married to Rev. Peter Murray, minister of the Parish Church at Portsoy,

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*Northern Scot. Elgin, August 30 1919 :-*

**Death of Princess Dolgorouki** - There passed away at Bayonne last Saturday after an illness of several months, Princess Alexis Dolgorouki at one time well known in Elgin and Knockando.

Princess Dolgorouki was the only daughter of the late Fleetwood Pellew Wilson, Wappenham Manor, Northants. She was married in 1898 to Prince Alexis Dolgorouki, who died in 1915, and was a cousin of the late Mrs Nicol, Highfield, Elgin. Her father leased Knockando House and shootings for many years.

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The Wilson Family of Portsoy

*Who Was Who, 1916- 1928*

**Dolgorouki, Princess Alexis (Frances) died 23 Aug 1919** : Widow of the late Prince Alexis Dolgorouki (died 1915). and heir of Fleetwood Pellew Wilson of Wappenham Manor, Northants. *Address* : - 46 Upper Grosvenor Street London ; Nashdom, Taplow, Bucks. : Wappenham Manor, Northant : Braemar Castle.

## **EMMA WILSON (Mrs. Emma Stronach)**

**1815 – 1870**

Parents : - Lieut. Alexander Wilson R.M. and Jean Grey

Born Portsoy 03.02.1815. Died Portsoy 19.08.1870

Married John Stronach., Factor to the Earl of Fife. General Clerk and J.P. Rothiemay on the 21<sup>st</sup> April 1835 at Grange

John Stronach and Emma Wilson had a daughter baptised on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1836 and named “Jane.”.

She married a Mr. Nicol

John Stronach and Emma Wilson had a son born 1838 named “James Duff” He died at Portsoy on 29<sup>th</sup> May 1904 aged 66

John Stronach and Emma Wilson had a son born 1840 named “John.”

*The “Banffshire Journal” June 26, 1889 :-*

**MR. ANDREW NICOL, LATE OF CEYLON** - We have this morning to announce the death of Mr. Andrew Nicol, formerly of Ceylon, which took place in the residence of Mr James Allan, banker, Braelossie, his son-in-law, on Sunday last. Mr. Nicol, it was understood, had come to Elgin to enjoy the rest which its fair and genial climate can give and his death, which was caused by a severe and painful disease, excited some surprise and no little regret in the community. Mr. Nicol was a native of Banff, and was born there in 1819. He was the eldest son by the second marriage of the late Mr. James Nicol, collector of customs, Banff. Educated at Banff Academy, he was sent direct from school to Hamburg to receive a Continental training in business. From thence, and while still young he went to Malta, where he engaged in the business of mercantile life. Thereafter he proceeded to Bombay and joined his elder brother William, son of his father's first marriage, then head of the firm of William Nicol & Co. merchants. It will be remembered by many in the North that William Nicol sat as Member of Parliament for Dover. Leaving Bombay, Andrew Nicol proceeded to Ceylon, where he became a planter on his own account, and was not only the most successful, but at the same time one of the oldest coffee raisers in Ceylon. In 1854 he came back to this country, and became tenant of Auchintoul House, where he resided for a few years. In 1856 he married Miss Jane Stronach, daughter of the late Mr John Stronach, factor for the Earl of Fife, in the upper district of the county of Banff. Mr Nicol went back to Ceylon in 1858 and returned to this country in 1864, when he resided for some time at St Ann's, Banff, afterwards going to Elgin. Before returning to Ceylon, Mr. Nicol travelled a good deal visiting Jersey, Germany, and many other places on the Continent. He made several journeys between his native country and Ceylon after that. He last returned to Ceylon in 1886. About three months ago he came back to this country in ill health, and it is only five weeks ago since he went to Braelossie. It was evident to all his friends that his life was drawing to a close, and, as we have mentioned, he passed peacefully away on Sunday afternoon. Like all Ceylon planters, he had many trials during the past few years, but recently matters in that country have improved, and good hopes are entertained that Ceylon will soon be again in a flourishing condition. Mr. Nicol was always able to hold his own through the bad times, and now his estates will benefit by the favourable turn. The deceased gentleman has left a widow and five daughters and many relatives and friend to mourn his loss, and his death severs another tie from the old families once well known in Banff. In Elgin, where he was well liked and highly respected, his form and figure as well as his bluff and hearty manner are still well remembered by many of the inhabitants.

**From Eduardo Pellew Wilson, Brazil : -**

“*Scottish Notes and Queries - Vol. XII page 63*” : -

**1173. THE ANCESTRY OF THE PRINCESS ALEXIS DOLGOROUKI (nee Miss FLEETWOOD WILSON) (XII., 29).** -From a privately-printed account of this family, I learn the following facts :- .

**Pedigree of Bean of Portsoy (QZ/P99)**

(Held in City of Edinburgh District Libraries. Central Library. George IV Bridge. Edinburgh EH1 1EG)

JOHN BEAN, born about 1685, had property in the parish of Diskped (Deskford ?), Banffshire, and also near Inverness. He married Janet, sister or cousin of Sir Ludovic Grant of Grant (her brother, Captain John Grant, being known as the Scotch Giant). They had : -

*John Bean* (1717-1787), married Barbara, daughter of Dr. William Lorinier, founder of bursaries at Aberdeen University. They had : -

*Alexander Bean* (1736-1790), who had two sons and a daughter : -

*James Bean* (b. 1737), Secretary to Governor Dawsonne Drake of Madras. He married, 1768, Cornelia Barlow, of Accombe Hall, York, the Governor's niece, and a direct descendant of the great admiral. They had two daughters,

*Jean Bean*, married (i) - Grey, shipowner, Portsoy, and (2) - Cruickshank. By her first husband she had : -

*Barbara Grey*, married John Wilson, ship-owner, Banff (died 1859).

*Jean Grey*, married Alexander Wilson, a Lieutenant, Royal Marines, Secretary to Admiral Lord Exmouth. He died in 1820. They had four daughters and three sons, among them: -

*Edward Pellew Wilson* (born 1803), married Maria Constanca da Silva Freire, of Bahia, and had issue.

*Fleetwood Pellew Wilson*, born June 3<sup>rd</sup> 1809 at Portsoy. He married Frances, a daughter of Samuel Stoddart, by Elizabeth, widow of Charles Meynell. Mr. Wilson died on April 24<sup>th</sup> 1888 ; his wife died 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1857, aged 26. They had : -

*Frances Fleetwood Wilson*, Princess Alexis Dolgorouki, tenant of Braemar Castle. In view of this it is a rather curious fact that one of her husband's ancestors was implicated in a Jacobite plot (1716-39) for a Russian invasion of Scotland. Two articles on the subject appeared in the Aberdeen *Free Press* of Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, 1898.

## ***Talk: Jus sanguinis***

My name is **Eduardo Pellew Wilson**. I was born in Brazil and am a Brazilian citizen. My paternal ancestral line, however, is British as I will show below. I should like to discuss the notion of JUS SANGUINIS, which means that a paternal line will bear a specific family name forever. In addition, how can it be explained that, although living outside Britain, we, who are of British descent, still speak English, remember our ancestors and British traditions and, what is more significant, we pass on all our family history to our children! Lex sanguinis is all about that and cannot become so weak, to the point of making Lex soli so powerful and it is today. These are two very distinct laws and change one's whole conception of the world, from a cultural standpoint.

Let me show my paternal ancestral line: -

- 1. Alexander Wilson (1774-1817)**, head of the family; British subject, 1st Lieutenant Royal Marines and secretary to Lord Exmouth; married Portsoy, Scotland, 1799, Jean Gray (1775-1847) (Pedigree of Bean of Portsoy, circa 1895, mentioned in Scottish Family Histories, by Ms Ferguson, 1986) and had:
- 2. Edward Pellew Wilson (1803-1887)**, head of the family; born Portsoy, British subject, merchant, shipowner, etc., knight of the Imperial Order of the Rose, of the Brazilian Empire, by decree 1866; married Salvador City, Bahia, Brazil, 1830, Maria Constansa da Silva Freire (1815-1877), of a Portuguese family, and had:
- 3. Edward Pellew Wilson Junior (1832-1899)**, head of the family; born Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, British subject and Brazilian citizen, created Count de Wilson in the Portuguese nobility by decree 08-10-1891 (N.B. He was an important member of the British community in Brazil); engineer, shipowner, banker, landowner, honorary consul of Italy in Pernambuco and Rio de Janeiro, knight, commander, officer, etc.; married Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil, 1856, Felisbella Ernestina Cintra da Silva (1840-1912), Countess de Wilson by marriage, and had:
- 4. Edward Pellew Wilson (1858-1934)**, head of the family; born Recife, Pernambuco, Brazil; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1890, Georgeanna de Sd (1866-1935) and had:
- 5. Eduardo Wilson Junior (1892-1955)**, head of the family; born Petropolis, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; British subject and Brazilian citizen; lawyer and federal civil servant (federal inspector of the Revenue); married Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1923, Maria Borges Monteiro (1892-1959) and had:
- 6. Eduardo Wilson Neto (1932-1998)**, head of the family; born Rio de Janeiro City; Brazilian citizen; lawyer and state civil servant (attorney of the Rio de Janeiro State); married Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro, 1963, Zilda Catarina Sica (1931-2002) and had married Rio de Janeiro City, 1995, Maria Augusta de Araujo Jobim.

**7. Eduardo Pellew Wilson (1964-),** head of the family; born Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro; Brazilian citizen; Ba Philosophy, post-graduation course on International Relations, Ba Law; polyglot (including English), translator (including English), knight of the Order of Malta (Malta), of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (the Holy See) and Saints Mauritius and Lazarus (of the House of Savoy), Count de Wilson by authorisation of the Nobility Council of Portugal (2002), member of the board of directors of the Brasilia and Northern Brazil. Association of the Knights of the Order of Malta, etc.; married Rio de Janeiro City, 1995, Maria Augusta de Araujo Jobim.

As head of my Wilson family I have been passed on the history of my family, which is BRITISH from my paternal ancestral line. If Lex sanguinis is supposed to work, for it shows values from generations and generations, apart from any noble blood which I have, I find it only natural that I should be able to acquire the British citizenship, even if my father was not a British citizen, as can be seen above. Lex sanguinis cannot and does not exclude those who did not look for a nationality by descent, IF HE OR SHE DID NOT DENY THEIR RIGHT TO NATIONALITY BY DESCENT. This is the case in my family. No ancestor of mine ever denied his British citizenship, much on the contrary. If I cannot be a British citizen today, as was explained at the Consulate General of Rio de Janeiro by means of a letter a few years ago, just because my father was not a British citizen, then Lex sanguinis is not so sanguinis as such word makes us think and a whole neurosis connected to being forbidden from becoming a British citizen will invariably be developed in my mind. I have written this because I should like everyone to read it and think how can a family cultivate their history without being supported legally.

I remember that when the Prime Minister Tony Blair came to Sao Paulo in 2001 for not only an official visit to this country but also a visit to the British community in Brazil, which, it should be noted, has never been a British colony, I lent my family portraits to be photographed and the history of my family to be a little told at the exhibition held at Cultura Inglesa in Sao Paulo. This is not only about the PAST! I am here, I am alive and I live in the PRESENT, with my family history behind me.

Next October a Meeting of British Communities for Latin America and Mexico will take place in Punta del Este, Uruguay, and I was invited to participate. I would very much like to participate in it as a British citizen. I want to acquire the British citizenship and that is why I am writing these lines to you.

Thank you all.

**Eduardo Pellew Wilson, Count de Wilson**

*(I am greatly indebted to Eduardo Pellew Wilson of Brazil and Ron McGregor of Elgin in obtaining information for this project - Findlay Pirie, Portsoy)*

## Christmas Wishes from the Counts de Wilson

Date :- 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2005  
From :- Eduardo Pellew Wilson, Brazil  
To :- Findlay and Pat Pirie

Dear Findlay and Pat,

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. With kindest regards, in Christ.  
Maria Augusta and Eduardo



**Eduardo Pellew Wilson** - Head of the family, Brazilian Citizen : BA Philosophy : Post Graduation Course on International Relations ; BA Law :Poliglot (including English) : Translator : Knight of the Order of Malta of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (the Holy See) and Saints Mauritius and Lazarus ( of the House of Savoy ) Count de Wilson by Authorisation of the Nobility Council of Portugal (2002) : Member of the Board of Directors of the Brazilia and Northern Brazil : association of the Knights of the Order of Malta etc

Eduardo Pellew Wilson is a Great/Gt/Gt Grandson of Lieut. Alexander Wilson, Royal Marines, born 1774 Portsoy, and buried in the oldest section of Portsoy Cemetery in 1817