

Maxwellton House

Copy

July 25. 1894.

Moniaive

Dumfriesshire.

My dear Mr. McMillan.

I see that your husband's mother must have been of the same generation as my own Mother. Mr. McMillan was Great Great Granddaughter of Annie Laurie, & my Mother was Great Great Granddaughter of Sir Walter, Annie Laurie's Brother, the common ancestor having been the 1st Sir Robt., who was Father of Annie & Walter. Your husband & I must then be 5th cousins, which in Scotland is I believe considered a near relationship. I have had (& still have if living) some rather disreputable 1st Cousins. I am glad to think that in more remote cousinhood there is so much excellence of which I may be proud.

A word for Miss Annie's blood thirsty tendencies. No doubt the persecuting taint entered the family through the Errierson marriage of Annie's grandfather, John Laurie. But as Annie was born 16th Dec. 1682 & the last of the Covenanting martyrs, Remick, was executed in 1688 she must have been a very precocious young lady to have urged on her Father as suggested and could certainly not have done so on her wedding day. An Aunt might have done so & the story have been given to Annie as the best known. The Fergussons of that era were moreover strongly Anti Jacobite so that Annie would have found herself in hot water. However we cannot rule the past: it is quite enough to keep the straight path ourselves.

We had a pleasant

drive home in 2 h. + 33 min from door to door.
Very glad to have seen your Mountain refuge
+ to have enjoyed so much generous and
warm hearted Scottish hospitality.

With very kind remembrance

I am, also yrs sincerely

(signed) E. Lawrie