

VITAL BITS ON LINE?
RETURN THIS TO ME PLEASE

Dear Michael.

James Aaron Roy Scottish Soldier and one time parishioner for St John the Evangelist Tralee.

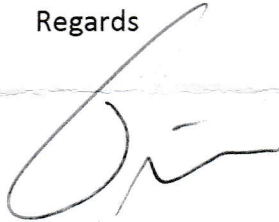
Some time ago I gave you a short history of James Roy who has a wall memorial in St John's. Since that time, I have done more online research on the life and times of James and if you like this is version 2 and I think the last. There is so much information out there online, which could be compared to searching a mountain for a rare moss growing upon a stone. How many stones do I need to search to find and map all the stones which carry the moss and eventually I do come to the conclusion that there is no more to be found and that I cannot find any more.

There are the usual birth/christening records, death records, Army service records, muster rolls, medal rolls, prisoner of war records, church records, burial records and Wikipedia, all of which might contain relevant information or not but has to be diligently searched.

As I think I told you before I had consulted Kay Caball with help in interpreting some 18 century copper plate handwriting and she also volunteered to help with those entries in French, after the initially saying that she would there has been "radio silence" so I decided not to press the point any further and obtained decided what information that I had from Wikipedia on the sailing brig The Monkey would do so that I could wrap this up and move on.

I hope you enjoy the read and find it interesting.

Regards



~~I don't need this back.~~

James Aaron Roy a Scottish Solider

X This is the life and times of James Aaron Roy a Scottish solider born in Keith Scotland who was a Captain in the 71st Regiment of Foot (71st Light Infantry) in his time he fought in the Peninsular Wars, was a prisoner of war, fought at Waterloo, came to Ireland to the post of Barrack Master and died in Tralee, Ireland in 1858 age 74 years.

This started off as a "lockdown" exercise and later combined with a wet summers I decided to see how much information I could gather from online and library sources. James is not an ancestor of mine but I have found his life was worthwhile researching, as I had to investigate new areas of genealogical search and learned about muster rolls, army lists, prisoner of war records and court petty sessions. This story is full of holes, brick walls, just don't knows and just the frustration of online searches for snippets of information about the life of James Roy which may or may not even be on record.

There is only scant information about James Roy and his life and service in the British Army, of all the army historical records that are available, the 71st Regiment has the least recorded and even that is just the bare minimum and this is just one of the brick walls I encountered along the way.

Birth records from Scotland's People website give a record of James's birth in Scotland. James Lawful son to James Roy late in Keith now gone to America, and Margaret Dean in Keith was born on the 7th of February 1784 and baptised this day. Witnesses Alexander Spence and Isobel Grant in Keith.

(Gone to America strongly suggests that James senior was in the army and had gone to America (or elsewhere overseas) to fight in the American War of Independence which had almost come to an end in 1783.

James senior returned from America and married Margaret Dean 25th January 1789. James Roy and Margaret Dean both in this Parish were contracted and proclaimed in marriage.

At some date James junior joined the 1st battalion of the 71st Regiment of Foot later to become the 71st Highland Light Infantry

At birth, his name is just James Roy but later he has added Aaron as a middle name and I can only presume that this was done to avoid confusion with the many other James Roy's who were in military service at this time.

X As I said previously records from various sources of his life are quite scant but in his time, medal roll records show that during his service with the 71st Regiment, he was awarded a medal for his service in the Peninsular War (1793-1814), was a prisoner of war, was promoted to the rank of Captain, fought at the Battle of Waterloo and latterly was posted to Ireland to be Barrack Master at Ballymullen Barracks Tralee Co. Kerry.

X French Prisoner of war records and other online information provided details of his captivity. During the Napoleonic Wars the British Navy were involved in the blockade of the port of Lorient in Brittany, James was among the crew of the brig The Monkey when the ship was wrecked on the island of Belle Isle in December 1810. A brig at that time was a 2 masted gun boat. James was fortunate to survive the shipwreck as the captain and 48 of the crew were drowned in the sinking. French Prisoner of War records show that James was formally taken into captivity on 5th May 1811.

At some point James was released in exchange for French prisoners. James must have been released by 1813 when he was promoted from the rank of lieutenant to captain. The Edinburgh muster rolls for the 71st Regiment December 1814 and March 1815 has James as the Adjutant of Aberdeen Recruiting Staff and also on 25th October to 24 November 1816.

In Scotland's People website there is an entry for James's marriage. April 4th 1815 sees James marrying Mary Bremner. Marriage by the reverend William Gordon minister of Elgin, captain James Roy 71st Regiment (1st Batt.) and Miss Mary Bremner before a competent number of parishioners.

June 8th 1815, is the date of the Battle of Waterloo. James fought in this battle as the 71st Regiment is listed among the regiments taking part. James Aaron Roy appears on the list of captains receiving a medal. The medal is known as the Waterloo Medal and is the first time that a medal has been awarded for a particular battle, all the soldiers taking part were issued with one, although in the awarding of the medal class discrimination was evident, gold for senior officers, bronze for other ranks.

For his service during the peninsular wars 1793-1814 James was awarded the Army Gold Medal, The Military General Service Medal, and a Long Service Medal.

There is no further evidence of James's army career until he moved to Tralee Ireland at an unknown date to take up the post of Barrack Master.

James and Mary had at least 4 children, 3 surviving into adulthood. John, Margaret Elmslie, Catherine McKenzie, and Mary Harriet, only the girls survived into adulthood. The only birth/baptism records that I could find was that of John and Mary Harriet.

1820. Baptism John Bremner Roy 5th June at St Mary on the Hill Chester. Mother Mary. The birth is recorded as 3rd May at the barracks. This might well have been at Chester Castle which served as a barracks at this time.

There is no further record of baby John in and is possible he died young.

Birth registered by mother Mary as James might have been serving elsewhere.

Mary Harriet Roy baptised on 6th June 1827 at Tamerton Foliot Devon. Tamerton Foliot is on the outskirts of Plymouth. By looking at the actual parish record this shows that James is captain in the 71st regiment.

The three girls or young woman moved to Ireland with their father in 1844 or 1845 the previous Barrack Master at Tralee Oliver Stokes died in 1844. There is no further record of his wife Mary and she may have died prior to the move to Ireland.

→ FAMILIN

The position of Barrack Master was usually given to non-commissioned officers who had reached an age where they would normally be discharged and might today would be regarded as a retirement post. The barrack master could be considered as something akin to the position of site manager responsible for barracks bricks and mortar. While regiments would come and go, the commanding officers of the regiment would be responsible for the behaviour and discipline of the men under their command.

The barrack master would have an important prestigious position and for James would be "quite a feather in his cap" and James would be able to regard himself as to having prestigious place in society in Tralee and around the county.

1853. 29th September. Marriage of Catherine Makenzie Roy of the Barrack House to Thomas Clark Brady of Tralee Barracks, assistant surgeon.

Catherine died in 1877 with her husband predeceasing her. Catherine Mackenzie Brady nee Roy relict(widow) of the late Thomas Clark Brady surgeon of the 8th Kings own Regiment, Knight of the Legion of Honour*.

Catherine died on 1st December 1877 at the residence of her brother-in-law WH Lawlor(er) 8 Day Place Tralee. Buried in Ballymacelligot Co. Kerry.

Catherine may have been only visiting at the time of her death or as a widow come to live with her sister, as a codicil to her will gives her address as 6 Hampshire Place Brighton.

*The Legion of Honour is a French honour which was bestowed to British Army and Navy combatants for service in the Crimea War. A similar honour was bestowed by Britain to French armed forces members.

1854. 3rd October. Elmsley(i.e.) Roy of Barrack House Tralee married William Hilliard Lawlor(Physician) on 3rd October 1854 at St Ann's Church Blennerville Tralee.

William Lawlor died on 30th August 1883 aged 68 and is buried in Ballymacelligot.

Margaret died on 29th January 1896 and is buried in Torquay.

Friday 26 June 1863 by Rev Richard Mensell rector of Castleisland assisted by the Rev Thomas Moriarty rector of Tralee. The Revered Arundel Hill incumbent of Fermoy second son of Arundel Hill JP of Craig Doneraille to Mary Harriet youngest daughter of the late James A Roy 71st Regiment HLI.

Mary's address is not given, her late father had died in 1858 and she would have had to move out of the Barrack House as a new Barrack Master would be taking up residence shortly after James's death.

James Roy's name in his position of Barrack Master appears on the Griffiths Valuation of Ireland (1847-1864)

The aim of the valuation was to produce a guide as to the value of land in Ireland in order to decide the liability for the Poor Rate for the support of the poor in each Poor Law Union.

James Aaron Roy's name appears in the Tralee Petty Sessions minute book of 1853

The Petty Sessions were the lowest courts and were mainly concerned about money, domestic disputes and public order offences and were heard from 1828-1912. The equivalent today of the Small Claims Court.

5th October 1853

James Aaron Roy Complainant

Denis Falvey of Tralee Defendant.

The Defendant unlawfully committed spoil and damage upon a Car, (At) Defendants property on 7th September last at Russel St Tralee by keeping a heap of stones and rubbish to the danger of persons passing and repassing. Dump and without costs.

12th October carries a similar entry.

It would appear the outcome was case dismissed.

The mention of the word car is not as we would refer to a car but in this case to any kind of vehicle, horse & car, carriage etc. Drivers of such vehicles always called "carmen" at that time.

James Aaron Roy died on 6th June 1858 age 74 and is buried in Ballyseedy Old Cemetery Tralee.

In the church of Saint John, the Evangelist Ashe Street there is a wall memorial dedicated to

James Aaron Roy

Formerly Captain

of the

71st Highland Light Infantry

Late Barrack-Master of Tralee

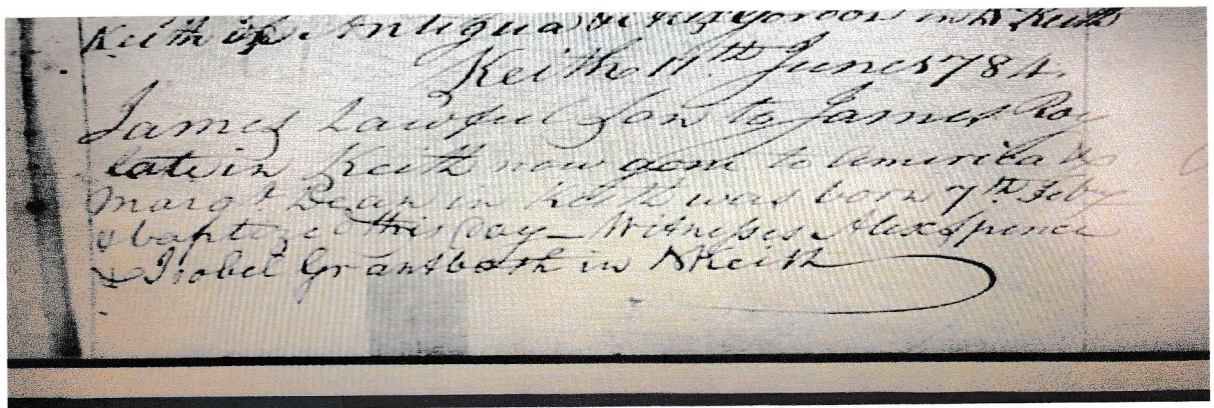
Died June 3rd 1858, Aged 74 Years

This tablet is placed by his children in testimony of their affection and respect for his memory.

Since by man came death by man also came the resurrection of the dead. 1 cor. XV-XX11.

Similarly, there is also a commemorative stained-glass window in St Johns depicting the parable of the Good Samaritan . Known as the Brady Window. *In memory of Mackenzie Catherine Brady, daughter of James Aaron Roy Captain in the 71st Regiment and Barrack Master at Ballymullen Barracks Tralee.*

Birth record of James Roy(junior) taken from Old Parish Records



Keith in the language of the records in the records
Keith 11th June 1784.
James Lawful son to James Roy
Captain Keith now gone to America by
marriage in which was born 7th July
at baptiz in the Ray. Witnesses Max Spence
Nichol Grant both in Keith

Marriage record of James Roy(junior) parents James Roy and Margaret Dean

pr_marriages/opt_records/9105477?search_token=681777632650c57e1c349/

Keith 25th Jun^y 1783
James Roy & Margaret Dean both in
this Parish well contracted & proclaimed
married by
Keith
Robert Stuart & Mary Campbell both
in this Parish well contracted & proclaimed
married by Keith 3rd Aug^r 1783
Mill^{rs} owners & Harri^{et} Keane both in

Marriage Record of James Aron Roy to Mary Bremner

Anno 1815
April 14th
Roy
Bremner
Here married here by the Rev. Mr. William Green Minister
of Elgin Catharine James Roy of the 71st Regiment
and Miss Mary Bremner in the Parish before a
competent number of witnesses
Nov 30th

Marriage record of James Roy(junior) parents James Roy and Margaret Dean

or_marriages/opt_records_9105477?search_token=68177632650-5761-391

Keith 25th Jan^y 1783
James Roy & Margaret Dean both in
this Parish were contracted & proclaimed
in marriage 13th Feb^r 1783
Keith
Robert & Stuart & Mary Campbell both
in this Parish were contracted & proclaimed
in marriage 13th Feb^r 1783
Keith
William Turner & Margaret Kemp both in

Marriage Record of James Aron Roy to Mary Bremner

Anno 1815
April 4th
Roy
Bremner
Were married here by the Rev. Mr. William Gordon Minister
of Elgin Captain James Roy of the 71st Regiment -
and Miss Mary Bremner in this Parish before a
competent number of witnesses
1815