

The Fairgrievies of Scotland

The name Fairgrieve is of Lowland Scots origin, and began in the River Tweed region in the 17th century. It is not a very common name. Most of the Fairgrieve families in the 19th century are found in the areas around Edinburgh, including Edinburghshire (now Midlothian) and Peeblesshire. "*The Surnames of Scotland*", an 800-page book on the origin of Scottish names doesn't provide much insight: "*Fairgrieve - Thomas Fairgrieve appears in Bentmylne, 1658, and Gideon Fairgrieve in Melrose, 1685 (RRM, I, pl. 175, III, p. 106.). Feirgreive 1659. See Forgrave.*" The reference is the selections from the papers of the Earl of Haddington. The cross-reference to the name Forgrave only states: "*Variant of Fairgrieve.*" George Fairgrieve gives this possible explanation: "*As far as a can find out there is no definitive derivation for the name, however in Scotland, 'Grieve' is the name given to the foreman or overseer of the farm hands. A bit like the farmers right hand man. Therefore it could be that one of our forebearers was a 'reasonable grieve'. However, fair may also refer to the complexion or hair as many of the Fairgrievies, myself included had blue eyes and fair hair. This may be through a Viking descendancy. I doubt we will ever know the truth. The first derivation, I think, is the most likely as the original surnames for the common people were given by the land owner of the land on which they lived.*"

[Margaret Fairgrieve](#) was the daughter of James Fairgrieve, a farmer, and Margaret Murdison or Morrison. The LDS Glasgow Branch records (FHS# 104152) show that Margaret was born 14 April 1818 in Fallhills, [Peebles](#) parish, Edinburgh County. A search of the Peebles parish register shows no christening record for Margaret, or her brother Andrew, and sisters, Christina (Ann), and Maria (Marion). Fallhills is actually a townland in the parish of [Penicuik](#), a parish just to the north of Peebles. No Fairgrieve christening records are found in the Penicuik parish register. Temple record books kept by Margaret's daughter, Catherine (FHS# 218887), and son James (FHS# 673267 and 673268) show Margaret's father as James Fairgrieve, with no mother's name listed. James A. Cameron's temple record book gives the following information about Margaret's family:

James Fairgrave of Edinburgh, Edin. Scot
Mrs. James Fairgrave of Edinburgh, Edin, Scot
Children:
Margaret Fairgrave Edinburgh, Edin. Scotd. died 1852
Andrew of Carder Bank, Lanark, Scot
Ann of Edinburgh, Edin, Scot
Marion of Edin, Edin Scot

Andrew Gardiner of Carder Bank, Lanark, Scot
Ann Fairgrave

Will Angus Patterson of Passaic Co. N.J.
Marian Fairgrave of Edinburgh, Edin, Scot

Margaret Fairgrieve's parentage has been established by information in James A. Cameron's temple record book, Catherine Cameron Southam's temple record book, letters to Margaret in the possession of her descendants, Christian Fairgrieve's marriage record, and death certificates for Andrew Fairgrieve and Christina Fairgrieve Gardner. The death certificates for both Andrew and Christina list their parents as James Fairgrieve, farmer and Margaret Fairgrieve, maiden name Morrison.

	Andrew	1873	M. 68	James Fairgrieve	Apprentice	James Angus	1873
	Fairgrieve	April	Years	Farmer	---	Daughter	April 11th
60	11th. 15m.			deceased		Present	at
	Gas Manufacturer	P. No.		Margaret Fairgrieve	Robert Anderson		Canongate
	Partners	Fairgrieve and		deceased	son		Andrew Baird
	Widower	Edinburgh			M. D.		Registrar

Andrew Fairgrieve's death certificate

	Christina	1872	F. 42	James Fairgrieve	Apprentice	Ann Gardner	1872
	Gardner	December	age	Farmer	her parents	William Gardner	December 17th
	Edinburgh			deceased	Married about		at Edinburgh
014	Married to Andrew	24 years ago		Margaret Fairgrieve	Robert Anderson		Edinburgh
	Armstrong Gardner	B. 11		Wife of	deceased		at Edinburgh
	Superintendent of Police	Edinburgh					Registrar
	Edinburgh						M. D.

Christina Fairgrieve Gardner's death certificate

The St. Cuthbert parish register shows a marriage for Christina Fairgrieve and Andrew Armstrong Gardener, 13 July 1837 in St. Cuthberts, Edinburgh. The banns were also read for Christian Fairgrieve and Andrew Armstrong Gardner 8 July 1837 in Canongate, Edinburgh. The marriage record for Christina is as follows:

July 13 1837

Andrew Armstrong Gardener of the Edinburgh Gas Light Company, residing in No. 17 St. Patrick Square in this parish, and Christina Fairgrieve, residing in No. 19 St. John's Street of the parish of Canongate, daughter of the late James Fairgrieve, sometime Farmer at Fallhills in the parish of Penicuik, have been three several times duly and regularly proclaimed in order to marriage, in the parish church of St. Cuthberts, and no objections offered.

Married on the Thirteenth day of July current by the Reverend Alexander Crawford one of the Ministers of the Synod of Ulster at Randalstown Ireland.

(Source: FHL# 1066765)

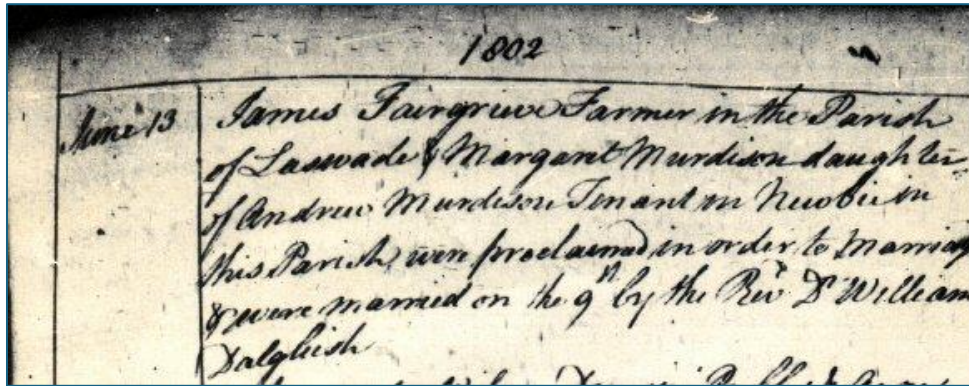
Banns were also read in Canongate for Andrew Gardner and Christian Fairgrieve. Letters to Margaret Fairgrieve, from her sister Christina of 17 St. Patrick Square, prove that Ann and Christina or Christian are the same person. They also show that Margaret and Christina's father was James Fairgrieve, a farmer of Fallhills, Penicuik, and that he was deceased by July of 1837.

Other letters link Maria Angus, the wife of Will Angus of Patterson, New Jersey, to Margaret. Researcher Dorothy Hein has also found Maria, wife of Will Patterson, in the 1860 Eastward Patterson, Passaic, New Jersey census. In the census, Maria is listed at 50 years old, making a birthdate of 1810. Maria and Marion are the same person.

The complete text of the marriage of James Fairgrieve and Margaret Murdison is found in the Peebles parish register:

13 June 1802

James Fairgrieve, farmer in the parish of Lasswade and Margaret Murdison, daughter of Andrew Murdison, tenant in Newbie in this parish were proclaimed in order to marriage, and were married on the 9th by the Rev. Dr. William Dalgliesh.



Marriage record for James Fairgrieve and Margaret Murdison in Peebles

The marriage banns for James and Margaret were also proclaimed in [Lasswade](#):

12 June 1802

James Feargrives in this parish and Margaret Murderson in the parish of Peebles have published and proclaimed in order to marriage.

(Lasswade parish register FHS #1067764)

James is listed as being a farmer of Lasswade in his marriage record. Lasswade is a parish in Midlothian (Edinburghshire) to the northeast of Peebles. “The town stands on the left bank of the North Esk, but includes the suburb of Westmill in Cockpen parish, with which it is connected by a substantial stone bridge. Lasswade parish is bounded N by Colinton, Liberton, and Newton, W by Glencorse, S by Penicuik and Carrington, and E by Cockpen, Newbattle, Dalkeith. A projecting wing at the NW extremity is occupied by the E end of the Pentland Hills, presenting partly heath and partly good pasture; and in the S, a district of bleak and unsheltered moorland, including some of the northern declivities of the Moorfoot Hills, stretches for about 2 miles into the interior. The surface on the whole declines rapidly from the border towards the SE, and consists of rich and well-cultivated plain, finely wooded, and of picturesquely diversified scenery.” *(Extract from Groomes Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland c.1895)*

The following James Fairgrievs are christened in the time period of 1770-1784:

27 March 1772 James, son of William Feargrieve, farmer in Rosewell Dea, and Marion Hunter in Lasswade. (This christening record is found in the Lasswade parish register on the page for the year 1797.)

8 December 1776 James, son of John Fairgrieve and Elizabeth Cathe in Newton.

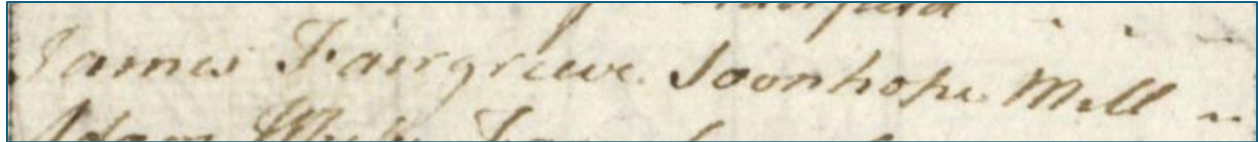
1 November 1778 James, son of James Fairgrieve and Marion Brymer in Dalkeith.

14 January 1782 James, son of Thomas Fairgrieve and Janet Skirving in St. Cuthberts, Edinburgh.

1 June 1782 James, son of Andrew Fairgrieve, weaver in Whitebaugh, and Martha Baillie in Carrington.

18 May 1783 James, son of James Fairgrieve and Margaret Johnston in Liberton.

The James Fairgrieve who was born in Lasswade is the most probable. Lasswade is listed as James Fairgrieve's parish at the time of his marriage. This is the only James Fairgrieve born in that parish. He would have been 30 years old at the time of his marriage to Margaret Murdison, and could have been an established farmer of Lasswade. His mother's name was Marion, and our James Fairgrieve named one of his older daughters Marion or Maria. This follows the Scottish naming tradition.



James Fairgrieve is listed on a horse tax list of 1797 near Andrew, James, and William Murdison:

<i>Masters/Mistresses Names</i>	<i>Number of Horses</i>	<i>Duty</i>
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<i>James Fairgrieve Soonup Mill</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0.4.0</i>
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(shown as Soonhope Mill on another tax list)

Farm Horse Tax Rolls 1797-1798 on ScotlandsPlaces.gov.uk, Volume 4

The County of Peebles, 1794				
9	William Newbie	4	1	8
	John Stewart	1	1	8
	James Thomson	1		8
	John Ramsay	1	2	8
	Robert Symonson	5		10
	William Murray	3	2	6
8	James Murdison	1		2
	William Murdison	1		2
	Andrew Murdison	1		2
	John Day	1		8
	John Ballantyne	7	2	15
	William Stewart	1		8
	John Stewart	1		8
	Robert Stewart	2	2	1
	Charles Braden	2	1	1
	James Murray	1	2	8
	William Stewart	3	5	10
	John Stewart	3		6
	James Stewart	1	2	8
	John Stewart	1	1	1
	William Stewart	2		1
	James Stewart	2		1
	Adam Stewart	2		1

Horse tax roll showing the Murdisons (James, William and Andrew of Newbie) at the top and James Fairgrieve of Soonup Mill at the bottom.



Soonhope Mill

James Fairgrieve of Peebles appears in court records of the Procurator Fiscal of the Sheriff Court of Peebles:

On 17 January 1831, James Fairgrieve was fined 2 l., and John Robertson 10 s., applied in defraying expenses of the proceedings.

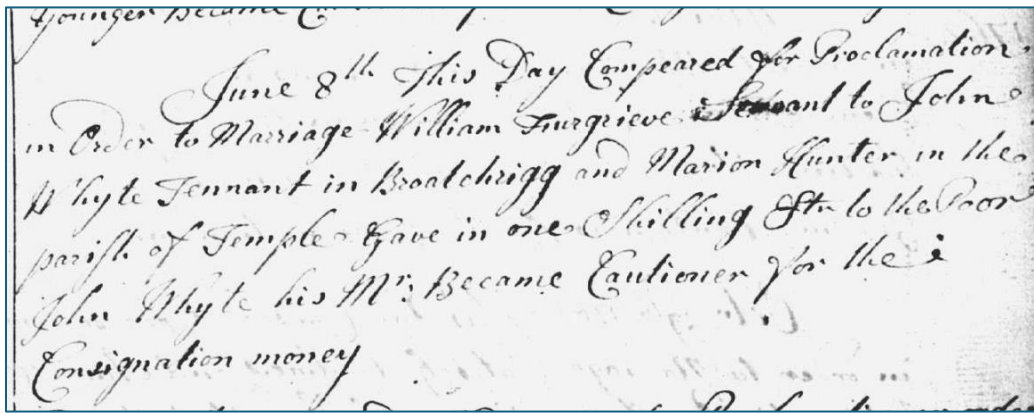
On 24 February 1832, James Fairgrieve was fined 1 l. 10 s., which was applied in the same manner:

(*Emoluments of Procurators Fiscal, Scotland in Parliamentary Papers, 1780-1849, vol. 48, page 74.*)

James' parents, William Fairgrieve and Marion Hunter were married on 8 June 1759 in [Carrington](#). William is listed in the IGI as being born in about 1734, of Boatchrigg, Carrington. Additional research gives us William's parentage, listed below.

FAMILY GROUP RECORD OF WILLIAM FAIRGRIEVE AND MARION HUNTER

William Fairgrieve was christened 19 March 1732 in Lasswade, the son of Henry Fairgrieve and Jean McMillan. He married Marion Hunter 8 June 1759 in Carrington, Midlothian, Scotland. Marion was the daughter of James Hunter and Marion Anderson of Temple parish, Midlothian.



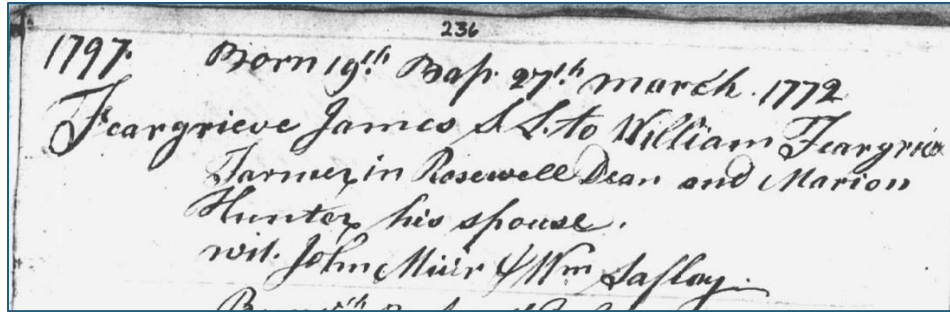
Marriage record for William Fairgrieve and Marion Hunter in Carrington:

"June 8th This day compeared for proclamation in order to marriage William Feargrieve servant to John Whyte tennant in Boatchrigg and Marion Hunter in the parish of Temple gave in one shilling str: to the poor John Whyte his Mr became cautioner for the consignation money"

Henry and Marion had the following children:

1. **Christian**, (female) christened 22 July 1760 in Lasswade; married John Draver or Drover 24 June 1792 in Lasswade, banns also read 23 June 1792 in Cockpen.

*2. **James**, born 19 March 1772 in Lasswade; christened 27 March 1772 in Lasswade; christening recorded on Lasswade parish register in 1797; married Margaret Murdison 13 June 1802 in Peebles.

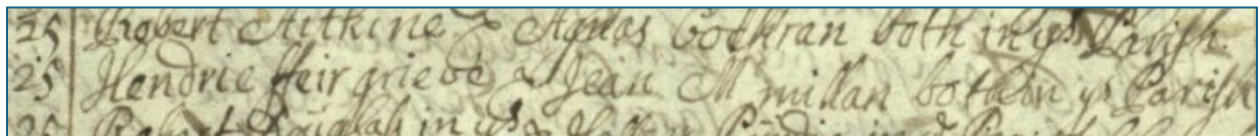


Baptism for James Fairgrieve in Lasswade: "Born 19th bap. 27th March 1772. Feargrieve James S.L. to William Feargrive farmer is Rosewell Dean and Marion Hunter his spouse. Wit. John Muir & Wm Saflay"

SOURCE: Scottish Church Records CD; IGI; Lasswade parish registers; Peebles parish registers; George Fairgrieve historic database.

FAMILY GROUP RECORD OF HENRY FAIRGRIEVE AND JEAN MCMILLAN

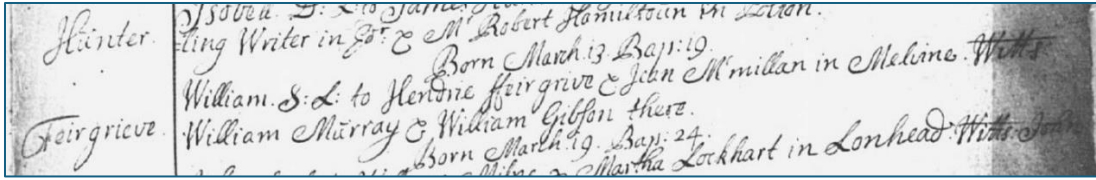
Henry Fairgrieve was christened 12 January 1701 in Liberton, Midlothian, Scotland, the son of William Fairgrieve and Margaret Smith. He is sometimes called Harie or Hendrie in the records. He married Jean McMillan 21 May 1725 in Lasswade, Midlothian, Scotland. Jean was christened 6 September 1701 in Dalkeith, Midlothian, the daughter of Andrew Mcmillan and Elizabeth Henderson.



Marriage record for Henry Fairgrieve and Jean McMillan in Lasswade Kirk Session Record:
"Hendrie Feirgrieve & Jean Mcmillan both in this parish"

Henry and Jean had the following children:

1. **James**, christened 20 August 1721 in Lasswade.
2. **Margaret**, christened 19 December 1729 in Lasswade.
- *3. **William**, christened 19 March 1732 in Lasswade; married Marion Hunter 8 June 1759 in Carrington, Midlothian, Scotland.



Baptism record for William Fairgrieve in Lasswade: "Born March 13 Bap: 19 William S: L: to Hendrie Feirgrive & Jean Mcmillan in Meline. Witnesses William Murray & William Gibson there."

4. **Andrew**, christened 31 May 1732 in Cockpen, Midlothian, Scotland.
5. **Jean**, born 2 June 1739 in Carrington; christened 4 June 1739 in Carrington.
6. **Janet**, born 12 October 1741 in Carrington; christened 18 October 1741 in Carrington.

Jean must have died, and then Henry married her younger sister, Bessie Mcmillan.

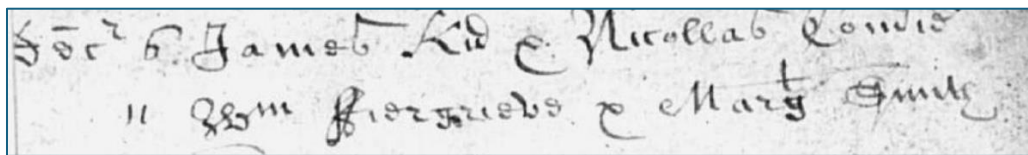
Henry and Bessie had the following child:

7. **Bessie**, born 10 August 1743 in Carrington; christened 14 August 1743 in Carrington.

SOURCE: Scottish Church Records CD; IGI; Lasswade parish registers; Carrington parish register; James Alexander Cameron Temple Book; George Fairgrieve historic database; Lasswade Kirk Session records, NRS catalogue ref. CH2/471/10 p169, www.scotlandspeople.co.uk.

FAMILY GROUP RECORD OF WILLIAM FAIRGRIEVE AND MARGARET SMITH

William Fairgrieve was born in about 1660. He married Margaret Smith 11 December 1685 in Newton, Midlothian, Scotland. Margaret was christened 15 May 1667 in Newton, the daughter of William Smith and Jennit Spence.



*Marriage record for William Fairgrieve and Margaret Smith in Newton:
"Dec 6 Wm Fiergrieve & Margt Smith"*

William died before April of 1703, as he was deceased at the time of his son Robert's baptism.

William and Margaret had the following children:

1. **Jenet**, christened 5 May 1687 in Newton.

2. **Thomas**, christened 9 May 1698 in Newton.

*3. **Henry**, christened 12 January 1701 in Liberton, Midlothian, Scotland; married Jean McMillan 21 May 1725 in Lasswade.

January 12th
William Brookis in Burdeaux and Gils And.
of his spouse had a daughter baptizd (born the 5th) Brookis
named Bessie witnesses George Watson & W^m Anderson.
William Fairgrief in Todhills and Margt Smith Fairgrief
his spouse had a son baptizd (born the 7th) named Henry
witnesses Henry Lowry & W^m Hunter.

Baptism record for William Fairgrieve in Liberton: "William Fairgrief in Todhills and Margt Smith his spouse had a son baptized (born the 7th) names Henry. Witnesses Henry Lowry & Wm Hunter"

4. **Robert**, christened 13 April 1703 in Dalkeith, Midlothian, Scotland; married Jean McMillan 2 December 1726 in Dalkeith.

At the same time
Baptizd the same day
Robert Fairgrieve
parents Wm Fairgrieve Mar
garet Smith witnesses Henry
Lanzie and James Gibson in
the paroch of Liberton and
Robert Smith in the paroch of
Newtown who presented the child
the father being dead.

Baptism record for Robert Fairgrieve in Dalkeith: "Robert Fairgrieve baptized the same day parents Wm Fairgrieve Margaret Smith Witnesses Henry Lanzie and James Gibson in the paroch of Liberton and Robert Smith in the paroch of Newtown who presented the child the father being dead"

SOURCE: Scottish Church Records CD; IGI; George Fairgrieve historic database.

Earlier Fairgrievs

William Fairgrieve was born in about 1660. No christening record has been found for a William Fairgrieve, but several Fairgrieve families are found in Dalkeith parish, and the parish of Newbattle, just one mile from Dalkeith in the right time period.



Midlothian parishes

Dalkeith

John Fairgrieve and Jannet Anderson

Maryon, born 1667 in Dalkeith

John, born 1679 in Dalkeith

Newbattle

Robert Fairgrieve

Alexander, born 1653 in Newbattle

Jenot, born 1654 in Newbattle

Bessie, born 1656 in Newbattle

Hillin, born 1657 in Newbattle

Margaret, born 1658 in Newbattle

Patrick Fairgrieve and Bessie McConnel

Marion Issobell, born 1662 in Newbattle

Elspeet, born 1664 in Newbattle

James, born 1669 in Newbattle

Suzanna, born 1671 in Newbattle

Anna, born 1673 in Newbattle

John Fairgrieve and Jenet Burne

Married 1659 in Newbattle

Anna, born 1660 in Newbattle

Jenot, born 1664 in Newbattle

Thomas, born 1666 in Newbattle

Agnas, born 1666 in Newbattle

Margaret, born 1668 in Newbattle

Bethea, born 1674 in Newbattle

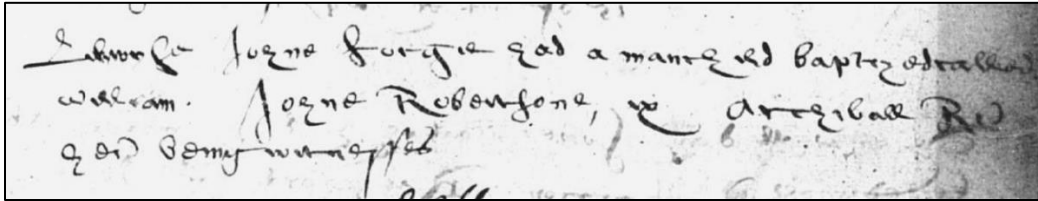
Robert Fairgrieve and Christian Berrie

Married 1668 in Newbattle

William Fairgrieve and Marjori Panton

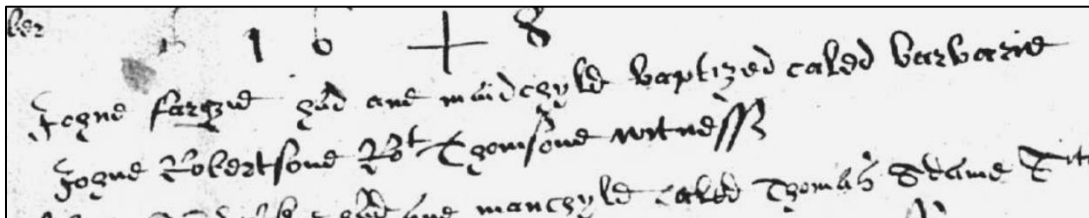
Married 1660 in New battle

There is a christening record for William Forgie, the son of Johne Forgie, christened 28 Feb 1647 in Newbattle. Could this be William Fairgrieve?



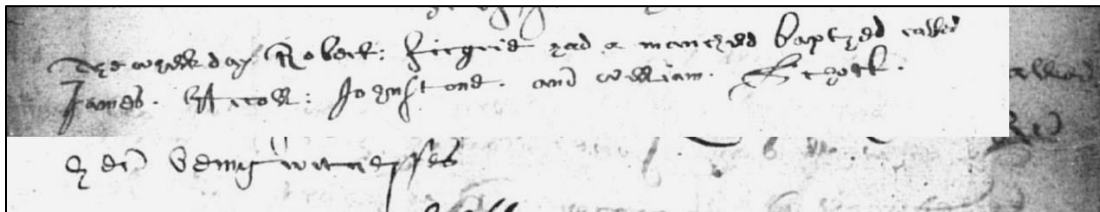
"Likewise Johne Forgie had a manchild baptized called William. Johne Robertone & Archiball Ruger being witnesses"

There is also a record for Barbarie (extracted as Fargyie), christened 12 November 1648 in Newbattle, the daughter of Johne Fargyie. The same name, Johne Robertone, was listed as a witness for Johne and Barbarie.



"Johne Fargre had ane maidchylde baptized caled Barbarie. Johne Robertone Robt Thomsone witnesses"

There was also a baptism record for James Firgrie, the son of Robert Firgrie, christened 31 January 1647 in Newbattle.



"The whilk day Robert Firgrie had a manchild baptized called James. Nicoll Johnstone and William Lirgockherd being witnesses"

There really aren't any Forgie/Fargyie/Firgrie families in Newbattle in the 1600s, so it is likely that these were Fairgrievs. Robert Fairgrieve did have children baptized in Newbattle in the 1650s, so James, christened in 1647 may be an older child for Robert. William and Barbarie, born less than two years apart,

are both the children of Johne, so may be the children of an earlier marriage for Johne Fairgrieve who married Jenet Burne in 1659.

FAMILY GROUP RECORD OF JOHNE FAIRGRIEVE

Johne was born in about 1620 of Newbattle, Midlothian. There were other Fairgrieves having children christened in Newbattle at the same time, Robert and Patrick. William Fairgrieve was married in Newbattle in 1660. Robert, Patrick and William may be Johne's brothers.



Newbattle

Johne and his wife had the following children:

- *1. **William**, christened 28 Feb 1647 in Newbattle; married Margaret Smith 11 December 1685 in Newton; died 1702-3 of Dalkeith.
2. **Barbarie**, christened 12 November 1648 in Newbattle.

SOURCE: Newbattle parish register; Newton parish register; www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk.