

John LESSELS and Mary HENDERSON

Chart 16-17

(Weblink LS Lessels Henderson 1829 Scotland)

(Weblink to John's parents LS Lessels Murray 1804 Scotland chart 32-33)

(Weblink to Mary's parents LS Henderson Kilgour 1802 Scotland chart 34-35)

(Weblink to Lessels Gallery of Painting by John Lessels)

John LESSELS

B 07 January 1809 Abbotshall Fife Scotland

D 12 November 1883 Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland

1st M 24 May 1829 Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland (8 issue)

2nd M 14 March 1873 Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland (No issue)

Mary HENDERSON

B 28 June 1807 Abbotshall Fife Scotland

D 02 January 1858 Roslin Lasswade Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland

M 24 May 1829 Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland (8 issue)

Gertrude Ann Huberdina NEFKENS

B about 1844 Baardwyk North Berbant Holland Netherlands

D 13 May 1884 Duffel Belgium

M 14 March 1873 Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland (No issue)

Children:

1. Margaret LESSELS born about 1832 Scotland
2. **John LESSELS** born 22 December 1833 Drumelzier Scotland
3. Elizabeth Hamilton Murray LESSELS born 02 August 1835 Drumelzier Scotland
4. Robert LESSELS born 23 August 1837 Newlands Pebble Scotland
5. James LESSELS born 16 July 1840 Ediam Berwick Scotland
6. Mary LESSELS born 15 June 1842 Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland
7. William LESSELS born 02 February 1845 Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland
8. Isabella LESSELS born 15 July 1846 Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland

The family history of John LESSELS and Mary HENDERSON

LESSELS - **John** lawful son of John LESSELS and Elizabeth Hamilton MURRAY his spouse was born 07 January 1809 and baptised 15th same month.

(Reference FHC microfilm 1040142 item 2-4 Abbotshall Fife Scotland Old Parish Registers 1650-1860)

The above John Lessels's eldest son, also called John was born at Heather Lodge on the Estate of Raith 9th January 1809 and was educated successively by Edward Irving, afterwards the founder of the Irvingite Church in London, and by the famed writer Thomas Carlyle, who was then about 25 years of age when he came to Kirkcaldy.

After leaving school he worked as a carpenter under his father's supervision, who gave him thoroughly practical knowledge of building operations. But his aim was to be an artist which both his father and Mr Ferguson disapproved of and advised him to become an architect instead which after much persuasion he was induced to do, accepting a position in the office of Messrs Burns & Bryce, the well known Architects in Edinburgh who stood first in the profession. Mr Burns soon after recognising the thoroughly practical knowledge of building operations he possessed made him one of their chief clerks of works.

(Reference Source The Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland, National Monuments Records of Scotland in Edinburgh 'Architects' file for John LESSELS "A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

HENDERSON Register of Baptisms

Mary lawful daughter to Robert HENDERSON and Margaret KILGOUR born 28 June and baptised 12 July 1807

(Reference FHC microfilm 1040142 Abbotshall Fife Scotland 1807 Old Parish Registers Births page 66)

also

HENDERSON

Mary lawful daughter to Robert HENDERSON and Margaret KILGOUR born 28 June and baptised 13 July 1807

(Reference FHC microfilm 1040142 Abbotshall Fife Scotland 1807 Old Parish Registers Births year 1807)

Edinburgh, 18 May 1829 (proclaimed the 17) - 25 May 1829 (proclaimed the 24)
LESSELS - John LESSELS Joiner in Rose Street St George Parish and Mary HENDERSON in same place and Parish 3 Procla the objections.

(Reference FHC LDS microfilm 1066694 Edinburgh Parish Midlothian Scotland Old Parish Registers 1595-1860 page 83)

John LESSELS married Mary HENDERSON on 24 May 1829 in Edinburgh.

SEARCH (Reference source FHC LDS film for additional information about marriage)

About this time John LESSELS married the eldest daughter of Robert HENDERSON and Margaret KILGOUR his wife, Manufacturer of linen ticking and bleacher residing at the Plash Mill, West Bridge Kirkcaldy. In 1833 he was engaged building a house for Sir John Naesmith called Dawick, when his eldest son John was born. Up till 1846 he was engaged building large houses for the gentry in the South East of Scotland.

(Reference Source The Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland, National Monuments Records of Scotland in Edinburgh 'Architects' file for John LESSELS "A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

John and Mary had a daughter **Margaret** LESSELS who was born about 1832 in Kilconquhar Scotland

SEARCH (Reference source FHC LDS film? OPR Scotland)

John son of John LESSELS Clerk of Works at Dawick house and Mary HENDERSON his wife was born the 22 December 1833 and baptised the 2 April 1834 by the Rev James SOMMERVILLE.

(Reference FHC LDS microfilm 1067905 Drumelzier Peebleshire Scotland [1833] Old Parish Registers)

Dawick mansion and old parish in Peebleshire. The mansion stands on the Tweed about 7 miles south west of Peebles and is the seat of Sir James Nasmyth Bart. The parish was suppressed in 1742 and divided between Drummelzier and Stobo.

(Reference FHC LDS microfiche 6026374/3 Gazetteer)

Elisabeth Murray daughter of John LESSELS Clerk of Works Dawick House and Mary HENDERSON his wife was born the 2 August (1835) and baptised the 1 October 1835 by the Rev Jas SOMERVILLE

(Reference FHC microfilm 1067905 Drumelzier Peebleshire Scotland [1835] Old Parish Registers)

1837 **Robert** son of John LESSELS and Mary HENDERSON his spouse born at Macbiehill [sic] 23 August (1837)

(Reference FHC LDS microfilm 1067919Newlands Pebble Scotland birth death marriages Old Parish Registers)

1837 Directories Edinburgh & Leith = No LESSELS

LESSELS **James** son of John LESSELS presently residing in Allanton and of Mary HENDERSON his wife was born on the 16th July 1840 and baptised on the 27th August

following by the Rev Alex CUTHBERTSON Minister of the Parish before several Witnesses.

(Reference FHC LDS microfilm 1067896 Edian Berwick Scotland births deaths marriages Old Parish Registers)

1841 Census Allanton Scotland – Allanton

- John LESSELS age 32 occupation Inspector of Works Buildings born Scotland
- Mary LESSELS age 34 born Scotland
- Margaret LESSELS age 9 born Scotland
- John LESSELS age 7 born Scotland
- Elizabeth LESSELS age 4 born Scotland
- Robert LESSELS age 3 born Scotland
- James LESSELS age 1 born Scotland
- **CHECK William LESSELS** age? born Scotland

(Reference RGO 1841 Census Allanton Scotland RD 738/00 ED 004/000)

1842-43 Directories Edinburgh & Leith = No LESSELS

Register of births and baptisms for 1842 - 30th June 1842 - LESSELS

John LESSELS Architect, Residing in No 3 St Bernard's Row Stockbridge [sic] and Mary HENDERSON his spouse had a daughter born to them on the Fifteenth day of June current named **Mary**.

(Reference FHC LDS microfilm 1040214 Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland Old Parish Registers St Cuthberts 602)

Register of Births and Baptisms for 1845 - 11 November 1845 - 12th - LESSELS

John LESSELS Architect Residing at No 3 St Bernard's Row and Mary HENDERSON his spouse had a son born on Second day of February last Named **William**.

(Reference FHC LDS microfilm 1066762 Old Parish Registers 1845 page 166)

In 1846 he commenced business on his own account as an architect and many years had not passed before he attained the first rank as an Architect and Arbitrator, which latter he found to be very lucrative, as his charge was \$20 per day, and was much employed by Corporate bodies because his decision were invariably just and fair.

(Reference Source The Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland, National Monuments Records of Scotland in Edinburgh 'Architects' file for John LESSELS "A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

Register of births and baptisms for 1846 - 11 September 1846 - 15th - LESSELS

John LESSELS Architect, Residing at No 7 Vincent Street Edinburgh and Mary HENDERSON his spouse had a daughter born on Fifteenth day of July last Named **Isabella**

(Reference FHC LDS microfilm 1066762 Old Parish Registers 1846 page 211)

1851 Census – 7 St Vincent Street No 4299

Edinburgh Scotland The New Town

- John LESSELS head married age 42 Architect born Abbotshall Fife Scotland
- Mary LESSELS wife married age 42 born Abbotshall Fife Scotland
- Margaret LESSELS daughter unmarried age 19 born Kilconquhar Fife Scotland
- John LESSELS son unmarried age 17 Architectural Student born Drumelzier Peebleshire Scotland
- Elizabeth LESSELS daughter age 15 Scholar born Drumelzier Peebleshire Scotland
- Robert LESSELS son age 13 Scholar born Newlands Peebleshire Scotland
- James LESSELS son age 10 Scholar born Edrom Berwickshire Scotland
- Mary LESSELS daughter age 8 Scholar born Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland
- William LESSELS son age 6 Scholar born Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland
- Isabella LESSELS daughter age 4 born Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland

(Reference National Library Wellington Booklet of 1851 Census Edinburgh Scotland The New Town Volume 3 Part 1 RD685/01 ED137/000)

On the passing of the Edinburgh Improvement Act he and David Cousins were appointed joint Architects to the Trust and as such were called upon to take an important part in improving the Architectural and sanitary conditions of the old town.

In carrying out there improvements he designed Jeffrey Street, which forms a prominent feature in the view from the North Bridge and is much admired.

By the Improvement Trust his opinion on any matter under discussion was always received with the greatest deference, as the members had the greatest confidence in the soundness of his decision, which they knew was dictated by most upright motives.

Amongst other works he designed and carried out was St Leonards House, a fine specimen of Scottish Baronial Architecture, Messrs Nelson Printing works at Parkside and in Patemorter Row, London (where all the mechanics employed were Scotsmen) the pressing plan for the lands of Drumsheugh, the Smith Institute Stirling, the Palace Hotel, Princes Street Edinburgh, the handsome Pillared Hope Park, Charter Hall, Blackadder House, the model village at Foulden, besides other buildings in Scotland England and Sweden testify to his good taste and skill.

He was one of the architects chosen to furnish designs off St Mary's Cathedral Edinburgh and it is said that his designs was within one vote of being accepted. The design of Sir Gilbert Scott was chosen.

In his leisure time he continued throughout life to cultivate water colour painting and from time to time he exhibited at the Royal Scottish Academy water colour paintings of street views and interiors and exteriors of Churches on the Continent, painted on the spot.

He was some years President of the Edinburgh Photographic Society and his full plate views of the beautiful ceilings in Windsor House were highly commended.

He was also vice-president of the Scottish Society of Arts, besides being an Honorary member of various Societies in Belgium, which he frequently visited during the summer holidays, as well as Venice where he was well known.

He was an elder, trustee and useful member of St Bernard's Presbyterian Church, which he had attended regularly since 1846, when he was in Edinburgh.

(Reference Source The Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland, National Monuments Records of Scotland in Edinburgh 'Architects' file for John LESSELS "A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

1851 – 52 Directory Edinburgh & Leith = LESSELS John architect 21 Heriot Row

Mary LESSELS married aged 50 years died on 2 January 1858 7 hours 50 minutes am at Roslin. Her parents were Margaret formerly KILGOUR deceased and Robert HENDERSON Linen Manufacturer deceased. Cause of death Dyspepsia with enlargement of the liver and vomiting of all sorts of food indicating a diseased state of the lining membranes of the stomach for a long period as certified by John HAMILTON Surgeon Rosslyn who saw deceased last 1st January. Burial place was Abbots Hale burying ground Kirkcaldy as certified by John TAYLOR 109 Princess Street Edinburgh. The informant was John LESSELS husband. The death was registered on 7th January 1858 at Lasswade and signed by Edward M LARDY [sic] assistant registrar.

(Reference RGO Scotland death registration 1858 Lasswade Entry number 8 RD 691/00)

1858 Jan 6 - John LESLES wife Mary HENDERSON was buried in the north grave of his Father East property 6 feet deep age 50 from Edinburgh. (Burial place is in Fife)
(Reference FHC microfilm 1040143 Abbotshall Fife Scotland Old Parish Registers Burials Item 5 1851/60)

1858-59 Post Office Edinburgh & Leith Directory

- LESSELS John architect 21 Heriot Row
- 1861 – 62 Directory Edinburgh & Leith
- LESSELS John architect 24 Heriot Row

1861 Census - No 22 & 21 Heriot Row St Stephen Edinburgh Scotland

- John LESSELS head widower age 51 Architect born Kinghorn Fife
- Mary LESSELS daughter unmarried age 18 born Edinburgh
- William LESSELS son unmarried age 16 Civil Surveyor apprentice born Edinburgh
- Isabella LESSELS daughter unmarried age 14 Scholar born Edinburgh
- Elizabeth H.M. CALDER daughter married age 25 born Drumelzier Pebbleshire
- Mary CALDER granddaughter age 3 born Edinburgh
- John LESSELS [perhaps CALDER] grandson age 1 born Edinburgh
- Margaret PAY servant unmarried age 29 Domestic servant born Aikemp Wils [sic]

(Reference FHC LDS microfilm 0103876 Census 1861 St Andrew Edinburgh Emnu.Dis.48 RD685/02 ED048/000 page 7 & 8 household 26)

Transactions of the Architectural Institute of Scotland Session 1859-60

No IV

AN INQUIRY

as to the

TRUE PRINCIPLES FOR OUR GUIDANCE

in the

RESTORATION OF OLD BUILDINGS.

By

JOHN LESSELS. ESQ., F.A.L.S.

[Read at a Meeting of the Institute, held at Edinburgh on 8th April 1861]

MR CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN, - The subject which I have the honour to bring before you this evening is one of so much importance in itself, that I need not make any apology for its introduction. It will recommend itself to your notice by its own merits: and, although what I have got to say regarding it is sufficiently well known to my professional brethren, yet, as our convictions may not prove alike. I hope that my remarks may lead to such discussion as will elicit your opinions individually, and prove the means of strengthening each other's hands when our aid is required in the execution of such work. Trusting, therefore, that you will find in these motives an excuse for my shortcomings otherwise, I will proceed without further preface.

It may appear, on first glance at the question before us, that nothing could be more easily answered. It might be thought that if a building has fallen into decay, from the wasting effects of time, or been overthrown by some of those eventful chances in our history, which have laid so many of our finest edifices in ruins, it should be a simple matter to rebuild it as it formerly stood, the foundations, in most cases, being extant, for although we might not be in possession of such facts as would furnish sufficient data to regulate the details of any single building requiring restoration, there may be other buildings of the same class still in existence which will afford a sufficient clue for our guidance. On closer examination, however, it will be found that the varied conditions under which every building has originally been constructed, are so many and complex, that it is a very difficult matter to bring them again into action in its reconstruction; and, consequently, that any restoration must fail, in so far as it may not be in our power to comply with all the conditions originally brought to bear on it.

In an inquiry of this kind, it may therefore not be out of place to take a hasty glance at the past history of Architecture, referring only, however, to those styles, which have affected to a greater or less degree the Architecture of our own country. In doing so, we shall find that men in early ages built merely to shelter themselves from the inclemency of the weather, and to find protection from those hostile to their interests—that as they congregated more and more together, and wealth increased, walls and towers were raised for the defence of the community, and temples for the worship of their gods—and that, from the smallest and rudest beginnings, Architecture rose and progressed in its course, until culminated among the Greeks, four hundred years before the Christian era, in such perfection of arts, as the Parthenon at Athens: a work which, for simple and majestic grandeur, has never been surpassed, and even in its decay, has called forth the admiration of each succeeding age—an admiration well embodied in those expressive lines of the poet:

*'Alas! Thou perfect form of grace
Once deem'd of gods meet dwelling place!
Thou master-work of Phidias hands.-
Thou boast and marved of all lands!
Perish'd thou art; yet fairer so
Than all that later art can show*

Constructed of the? _____ Transcription from page 49 to page 66 to be completed

(Reference pages 47-66 document sent to me by researcher Living WILSON Scotland)

1871 Census - 21 Heriot Row St Stephen Edinburgh

St Andrew Parish Edinburgh Scotland record number 82 Civil Parish of St Stephen

- John LESSELS head widower age 62 Architect born Fifeshire Kinghorn
 - Elizabeth CALDER daughter married age 34 born Pebbleshire Drumelzier
 - Mary CALDER granddaughter age 13 Scholar born Midlothian Edinburgh
 - John CALDER grandson age 11 Scholar born Midlothian Edinburgh
 - Anne CALDER granddaughter age 7 Scholar born Midlothian Scotland
 - George CALDER grandson age 5 born Midlothian Edinburgh
 - Adolphis CALDER grandson age 2 born Midlothian Edinburgh
 - Margaret MERCER servant age 24 Domestic servant born Shropshire Falkirk
- (Reference FHC LDS microfilm 0104050 Census 1871 St Andrew Edinburgh Emnu.Dis.49 page 18 household 82)

On the 14th March 1873 at St Bernards Church West Claremont Street Edinburgh after Banns according to the Forms of the Church of Scotland (signed) John LESSELS occupation Architect (widower) aged 64 years married (signed) Anne Huberdina NEFKENS (spinster) aged 38 years. Their usual residence was, for John LESSELS No 21 Heriot Row Edinburgh and Anne NEFKENS Baardwyk, North Brabant Holland. John's parents were John LESSELS Builder (Master) (deceased) and Elizabeth LESSELS maiden surname MURRAY (deceased). Anna's parents were Antonie-Johannes NEFKENS Ship Owner (deceased) and Audriana NEFKENS maiden surname VAN DRUNEN (deceased). The minister was (signed) John McMURTRIE Minister of St Bernard's Parish Edinburgh. The witnesses were (signed) John TURNBULL and Evaline NELSON. The marriage was registered on 17th March 1873 at Edinburgh and was signed by the assistant registrar Robert DICK.

(Reference FHC LDS microfilm 300287 RGO Scotland marriages 1873 St George Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland RD 685/01 page 49 line 97)

Gertrude Ann Huberdina NEFKEN / NEFKENS [NAUFKINS] the 2nd wife of John LESSELS was born about 1844 in Baardwyk North Berbant Holland Netherlands. There were no children from this marriage.

He married his second wife Gertrude Anna Ruberdina NEFKEN of Baardwyk, North Berbant, Holland who died at Duffel Belgium, 13th May 1884, leaving no children. By his first wife Mary HENDERSON he had 4 sons and 4 daughters.

In his youth he was a good athlete, and like his father a good marksman with guns made himself, he was also fond of both sea fishing and fishing for trout and salmon, all his rods and tackle including flies being of his own make.

He made telescopes, bound his own books, and was a turner in both wood and metal the lathe being made by himself.

He belonged to the Old Kilwinning Lodge of Freemasons.

(Reference Source The Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland, National Monuments Records of Scotland in Edinburgh 'Architects' file for John LESSELS "A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

1875-76 Post Office Edinburgh & Leith Directory

- LESSELS John architect 50 George Street house 24 Heriot Row
- LESSELS D Postal Telegraph Superintendent 23 Lothian Road
- LESSELS James 50 George Street

John LESSELS was an amateur photographer and became present of the Edinburgh Photographic Society from 1876 to his death in 1883. He gave lectures in 1876 (a short Tour with the Camera in Belgium) and 1880 (A Communication regarding the Ghent Photographic exhibition).

1881 Census – 2 Heriot Row St Stephens Parish Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland

- John LESSELS head married age 72 Architect born Fife Kinghorn
- Frank A ST OGGER son-in-law married age 33 Architect born Austria Hungary G
- Isabella L ST OGGER daughter age 34 born Edinburgh
- Mary H.L. CALDER granddaughter age 23 Teacher born Edinburgh
- John L CALDER grandson age 21 Architectural Edinburgh
- Ann Campbell L CALDER granddaughter age 17 Photographic born Roslin Edinburgh
- Infant St OGGER grandson age 15 days born Edinburgh
- Isabella BLAIR (Mrs) servant widow age 50 nurse born Edinburgh Newton
- Margaret LAING servant unmarried age 24 Domestic servant born Fife Lochgelly Auchdea

(Reference FHC LDS microfilm 0223997 Scotland Midlothian Edinburgh St Step+ volume number 685-2 Enum Dist 62 page 7)

1881 Census Morningside Asylum Hospital St Cuthberts Parish Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland

- Anna Haberdina LESSELS or MCKINS [sic] patient married age 37 born Netherlands
(Reference FHC LDS microfilm 0224012 Scotland Midlothian Edinburgh St Cuth volume 685-5 Enum Dist 119 page 6)

He was 37 years old before practising as an Architect and practised 37 years afterwards, his father serving 37 years also with the Fergusons of Raith whilst the Architect's son John was employed under H.M. Office of Works for 37 years a strange coincidence of dates.

Several of his pupils in his early career as an Architect afterwards became distinguished Architects. His first pupil David McGibben was for some years President of the Edinburgh Architectural Association.

Robert LAWSON after leaving Mr LESSELS emigrated to New Zealand and was Architect of most of the Churches, Schools etc. in that Colony. Another pupil Sir Rowand ANDERSON designed the University Buildings and other important works.

(Reference Source The Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland, National Monuments Records of Scotland in Edinburgh 'Architects' file for John LESSELS "A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

Some buildings designed by Robert LAWSON in New Zealand were Lanark Castle and Scots Church in Dunedin. Robert designed many other buildings and Churches here in New Zealand and in Australia.

When Count Ferdinand de LESSEPS the Engineer of the Suez, and Panama Canal was in Edinburgh, as the guest of the University, during their Tercentenary Celebrations, he stated he was proud of having Scotch blood in his veins as the founder of his family went to France from Priestleys in Fifeshire to join the Garde Ecossais.

The Count afterwards called upon John LESSELS, Architect there, and claimed distant kinship, explaining that the name had been corrupted into LESSELS in France. He was born at Versailles 19th November 1805 and died 8th December 1894. He stated that his father, mother, grandmother and great grandfather (Martin de LESSEPS) lived to great ages.

Martin de LESSEPS was a consul of Louis XV to Russia and was acquainted with Catherine II of Russia intimately. Count Ferdinand de LESSEPS was the bosom friend of Napoleon III, as well as a kinsman of the Empress Eugenie, and her guide and companion at the opening of the Suez Canal and was with her at the Tulleries and aided the Empress to escape from the mob, who attacked her there.

(Reference Source The Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland, National Monuments Records of Scotland in Edinburgh 'Architects' file for John LESSELS "A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

John LESSELS Architect aged 74 years died on 12 November 1883 at 5 hours 15 minutes am at 21 Heriot Row Edinburgh. He was 1st married to Mary HENDERSON and 2nd Ann NEUFKINO. His parents were John LESSELS Clerk of Works deceased and Elizabeth Hamilton formerly MURRAY deceased. Cause of death Cancer of Liver acute for 8 months as certified by James A SIDEY MP. The informant was J Lessels CALDER grandson who was present at the death. The death was registered on 13 November 1883 at Edinburgh and was signed by J M BANKS the assistant registrar.

(Reference RGO Scotland death registration 1883 St Andrew in the Burgh of Edinburgh Entry number 623 RD685/02)

The President of the Edinburgh Architectural Association in his long speech after the death of John LESSELS alluded to the great loss the Association had sustained in the recent death of John LESSELS who was one of the oldest and esteemed members to whom they were greatly indebted for much valuable advice which his long experience enabled him to give them, and his death would create a blank not only in the Association, but also in the profession, as well as in the City, for he was most cordially esteemed by all who knew him not only as an eminent Architect, but as a true and upright citizen.

Mention of the death of John LESSELS was published in several Scotch, English, and Belgium Newspapers, in one of the latter called "Le Preunseur" it is stated that he was an Architect of just merit, a distinguished water colour artist, and Director of the Works for the Restoration and Embellishment of the City of Edinburgh. This talented man was also a good man in every sense of the word. He counted many friends in Belgium, which he visited frequently, and nobody knew our country better than he did. He had travelled throughout Europe, and knew Venice as well as Bruges, Saltsbourg, as well as Upres or Louvain, the

Hanseatic towns of the north as well as Anvers, and Belgium was the centre of his preference

"In an account of him in St Bernard's Parish Magazine it was stated that he was a liberal supporter its unpaid architect, and the better he was known the more was his life seen to be a beautiful one".

(Reference Source The Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland, National Monuments Records of Scotland in Edinburgh 'Architects' file for John LESSELS "A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

THE LATE JOHN LESSELS, ARCHITECT

Death

This widely-known and highly-respected citizen died yesterday morning, after an illness that had lasted off and on for about six months.

Education

Mr Lessels who was born at Kirkcaldy in January 1809, attended the school of his native place and the time when it was successively taught by Edward Irving and Thomas Carlyle. His early ambition was to be an artist and a marked fondness for drawing was one of his early characteristics. His father however, on the recommendation of Mr Ferguson of Raith, sent him to Edinburgh to be trained as an Architect.

Employment

The first office he entered was that of Mr Burns, where by-and-by, he became inspector of works, and in that capacity was employed in various parts of the of the country. In 1846 he began business on his own account and in course of time attained to the [missing line] which he was held in high regard.

Edinburgh Improvements Act

On the passing of the Edinburgh Improvement Act he and the late Mr Cousin were appointed architects to the Trust and as such were called upon to take an important part in the carrying out of the scheme that had been devised for ameliorating the sanitary conditions of the old Town. In the work of reconstruction undertaken by the Trustees Mr Lessels has opportunities of leaving his mark on the architecture of the city, among the streets which he specially designed being Jeffrey Street, whose effective elevation now forms so prominent a feature in the eastward view from the North Bridge. By the Improvements Trust his opinion on any matter under discussion was always received with the greatest deference, the members of that body having the highest confidence in the soundness of his judgment, which they knew, was never influenced by other than the most upright motives.

Other Architecture

Among other works accomplished by Mr Lessels should be mentioned the laying out of the feuing plan for the lands of Drumsheugh and the designing of St Leonards House, Edinburgh – considered a fine specimen of Scottish baronial architecture. Messrs Nelson's works at Parkside, the Smith Institute, Stirling, the Palace Hotel, Princess' Street; the handsome pillars at Hope park and Charter Hall and Blackadder House, Berwickshire, may also be specified as testifying to his professional taste and skill. He was one of a number of leading architects selected to furnish competitive designs for St Mary's Cathedral and it was said that his drawings were within one vote of being accepted.

Painting

In leisure hours Mr Lessels continued through life to cultivate painting, and he from time to time exhibited water-colour drawings of church interiors or street views that has attracted his attention in holiday rambles on the Continent. As a critic of works of art he showed excellent discernment.

Photography

Mr Lessels was for some years president of the Edinburgh Photographic Society, and office, which he only resigned quite recently on account of failing health. He

also took a leading part in promoting the very successful exhibition held some time since under the auspices of the Society.

Architecture Association

As a member of the Architectural Association, Mr Lessels did yeoman services in connection with the exhibition, which that Society was instrumental in organising in Edinburgh about a year ago.

Scottish Society of Arts

He was vice-president of the Scottish Society of Arts and an hon. member of various societies in Belgium with which he became connected in early life in the course of visits to that country.

Shop Fronts

As a practical architect, Mr Lessels is said to have been among the first, if not the very first, to introduce open iron fronts into Edinburgh shops – a change which, whatever may be and of it from an aesthetic point of view, was no doubt the results of an honest effort to meet modern business requirements.

Friends

By a large circle of friends Mr Lessels was held in high esteem for his many excellent business and social qualities, not the least noteworthy of which were sterling uprightness of purpose, an equable, balance of mind, and a quiet, unassuming manner which rendered intercourse with him easy and pleasant. To an inner circle he could on occasion disclose a vein of general humour, and he had ever at command a fund of anecdote, chiefly derived from his own shrewd observation of men and manners.

Church

Mr Lessels was an elder and trustee in St Bernard's Church, of which he was a useful member. He was twice married, and is survived by a widow and family.

(Reference "The Scotsman's" Newspaper 13 November 1883 page 5 article information from Anne & John LESSELS Edinburgh Scotland)

St Bernard's Parish Magazine – December 1883

The late Mr Lessels.

With no ordinary regret we record the death of John Lessels esq. Architect, Senior Elder of St Bernard's who died on Monday morning, 12th November, in his 75th year. He was remembered in the prayers of the Church on the proceeding day, being then very ill. Mr Lessels was ordained an Elder in St Bernard's Church by Dr (Then Mr) Boyd on 10th January 1864, and was appointed a Trustee on the 28th February 1865.

The funeral was on Thursday, 15th November, the interment being in the Dean Cemetery. The Elders of St Bernard's attended, several public bodies formed a long procession, and his attached and venerable Lady Ruthven of Winton Castle was represented at the funeral, and sent a wreath of white flowers which was laid on the grave.

A funeral Service was held in Church on the morning of Sunday the 18th, with appropriate hymns and music, and every customary token of respect. Mr McMurtrie preached from Acts vii 60, "He fell asleep." He spoke (1) of the public life of Mr. Lessels, his valuable services to the community, and the esteem in which he was held; (2) what Mr. Lessels was to St Bernard's Church, its steadfast and liberal supporter its unpaid architect in any structural improvement of Church or Mission Hall, always painstaking and thorough; (3) what he was to the Elders and the Minister – "You get to value more and more," said the preacher, "as life goes on, a true friend, on whose unvarying goodness and kindness you can rely. If the business of life separates you for a time from such a friend, when you come back you find him unchanged, always showing the same simple affection, the same ready trust; (4) what he was to those nearest to him and to God. A theme too sacred to enlarge upon in public. The better he was known, the more was his life seen to be a beautiful life. His end was peace,

Humble, but confident, with a heart sprinkled with the blood of Jesus, a man of faith and prayer to the last, he fell asleep.

We add for preservation, and without change, the excellent article which appeared in the "Scotsman" on the morning after his death. We do not know who wrote it.

Complete quote as last article above. – *"This widely-known and highly-respected citizen died yesterday morning, etc. ending He was twice married, and is survived by a widow and family.*

LESSELS John - Value of Estate, \$2,901, 12s, 6d.

28 MAY. - Confirmation of John LESSELS, Architect, Edinburgh, who died 12 November 1883, at Edinburgh, testate, granted at Edinburgh, to John Turnbull of Abbey Street Bathans, W.S., Edinburgh, Executor nominated in Will or Deed, dated 5 June 1883, and recorded in Court Books of Commissariat of Edinburgh, 27 May 1884.

(Reference FHC microfilm 0990448 Calendar of Confirmations and Inventories Scotland)

JOHN LESSELS Stamp £8l [sic] Testate 27 May 1884

At Edinburgh the twenty seventh day of May Eighteen hundred & eighty four, the following Inventory of the personal estate of the deceased was presented John LESSELS & deed relative to the disposal thereof were presented by Mr John TURNBULL W.S.

Inventory of the Personal Estate wheresoever situated of John LESSELS Architect Edinburgh who died at Edinburgh on the Twelfth day of November 1883.

Scotland

Cash in the House \$17.00.0
Furniture & other effects in the deceased's House 21 Heriot Row and office 50 George Street Edinburgh sold off conform to Priced sale

Lists:

Furniture	246.02.6
Pictures	1439.02.6
Books	242.07.0
Miscellaneous Articles	5.00.0
	\$1932.12.0

Less. Account incurred to Bomar & Carfrae for reguilding and preparing pictures for sale \$104.13.0

Expenses of removal & Sale retained by Auctioneer
 $\underline{\$200.16.5} = \underline{\$305.9.5}$
 \$1627.02.7

Interest thereon to date of oath to Inventory
 \$10.14.0 \$1637.16.7

Book Debts due to the deceased by the following parties:

W J Little Gilmour Esq of Craigmillar	\$15771
The Directors Edinburgh Infirmary Lawiston	81810
Edinburgh Suburban Railway Company, Fee for Reference	63
Dr Cossar of East Craigs	3314
R A Macfie Esquire of Dreghorn	30146
A F Imlach Esq. Castle Terrace	22182
Professor Flint, D D Edinburgh University	2114
Sir John Grant Rothiemurcus	1919
Henry J Montgomery Esq. of Hattunburn House Milnathort	1717
George Cossar Esq. 3 Frederick Street Edinburgh	5
Messrs R & A Walker East Craigs Farm, Corstorphirce	33
John Knox Crawford SSC	22

Forbes Register House Edinburgh	\$62.8.11½
Less Paid to a/c <u>60---</u>	2811
William Nelson	968
J L More Nisbet Esq The Drum Gilmerton <u>33---</u>	473162
225 Shares of the Standard Property Investment Coy Limited <u>@25/-</u>	\$2815
Dividend payable on 28 th March 1884 <u>2210---</u>	30315
Policy of Assurance on life of deceased with the Standard Life Assurance Coy for	\$200
Bonus additions to date <u>2268---</u>	4268
The City Improvement Trust Edinburgh for quarter to 11 November 1883	3710
Sum contained in cheque on the British Linen Coy Bank Edinburgh by David Milne Home Esq. in favour of Deceased dated 23 January 1884	55
Total amount of Personal Estate in the United Kingdom	\$2901.10.9

Schedule of Debts due and owing from the deceased at the time of his death to persons resident in the United Kingdom & Funeral Expenses.

I Debts

Wm. Beattie & Sons Builders	\$4511
Wm. Brown Fruitier	212
J M Bryson Optician	26
Burn & Baillie Plumbers	1158
Burn & Baillie Plumbers	16
Cowan & Co Papermakers	28
Deans & Moore Coal Merchants	637
Dickson & Walker Glass Merchants	63
Doig & McKechine Carvers & Gilders	726
Douglas & Foulis Librarians	22
Gardner & Ainslie Chemists	4187R
Grant & Son Booksellers	14
Gray & Co for Camera Slides	10
Wm. Gray Ironmonger	16
Keith & Coy Advertising Agents	262
Gilbert Macdonald Bookbinders	47
James Milne & Son Engineers	11
William Moffat Baker	145
E U Murisit Teacher of French	5
Messrs Poore & Co. Stationers	24
M Porter Bookseller	66
James Renwick Coachhiner	196
Henry Robinson Bookseller	116
Colin Sinclair Stationer	116
Colin Sinclair Stationer	116
Frederick Stephenson Chemist	511
John Taylor & Son Upholsterers	1664
J W Turnbull Dealer in Photographic Apparatus	3179
George Waterston & Sons Stationers	317
P Western (sic) Goldsmith	9
James LESSELS Balance of his salary as Draughtsman	3415
E Bremnes Stationers	36
Gas Account for 50 George St	1108
Gas Account for 21 Heriot Row	1710
Proportion of Income Tax for year ending 5 April 1884	8187
Feuduty for Cottage at Roslin due Martinmas 1883	342
Interest on Bond for \$25 over 21 Heriot Row for half year to Martinmas	41711

1883 @ 4% \$5 less Tax 2/1d	
Rent of Office to Martinmas 1883 Less rent of part \$55 premises sublet 20=	35
Proportion of County Assessments for year ending 15 May 1884	38
Proportion of Poor & School Rates 50 George Street	159
Property Tax for year to 5 th April 1884 Do~	148
Inhabited House Duty for year to Whitsunday 1884 DO~	126
Land Tax year 1183:4 Do~	31
Police Assessment for 21 Heriot Row payable 12 th November 1883 \$6 less \$1.11.3 payable by Landlord	\$4.8.9
Proportion for Do~	244
Do~ 50 George Street Do~ \$6.8/- less \$1.13.4 Do~	\$4.14.8
Proportion of Do~	274
Premium of Insurance	193
Dr Sidey for medical attendance on deceased	5210
Fee to Nurse for attendance on deceased	7
Servants Wages	610
	\$240.11.10

II Funeral Expenses

John Croall & Son Undertakers \$26.11.6	
Cemetery Fees 9.5.0	35.16.6
Total amount of Debts and Funeral Expenses	\$27684

Abstract

Total amount of Personal Estate as per foregoing Inventory	\$2,901,109
Amount of Debts & Funeral expenses as per Schedule	27,684
Nett value of Personal Estate Chargeable with Duty	\$262,525

Signed; John Turnbull
Signed; James Forman JP

At Edinburgh the twenty sixth day of May One thousand eight hundred and eighty four. In presence of James FORMAN Esquire Justice of the Peace for the County of Midlothian Appeared John TURNBULL Writer to the Signet Edinburgh Executor of the deceased John LESSELS Architect Edinburgh who being solemnly sworn and examined deposes that the said **John LESSELS** died at Edinburgh domiciled in Scotland upon the Twelfth day of November eighteen hundred and eighty three and **left a widow and lawful issue surviving**. That the deponent has entered upon the possession and management of the deceased's estate as Executor nominated by him along with Robert CARFRAE Painter number seventy seven George Street Edinburgh and the now deceased Charles HENDERSON Solicitor Supreme Courts of Scotland Edinburgh both of whom declined to accept in a Trust Disposition and Settlement executed by him upon the fifth day of June Eighteen hundred and eighty three registered in the Books of Council and Session on the twenty second day of January Eighteen hundred and eighty four as Extract whereof is now exhibited and signed by the deponent and the said Justice of the Peace of this date as relative herets. That the deponent does not know of any testamentary settlement or writing relative to the disposal of the deceased's personal estate or effects, or any part thereof other than the said Trust Disposition and Settlement. That the foregoing Inventory signed by the deponent and the said Justice of the Peace as relative herets is a full and complete Inventory of the personal estate and effects of the said deceased John LESSELS wheresover situated and belonging or due to him beneficially at the time of his death in so far as the same has come to the deponent does not know of any money or property belonging to the deceased secured by Scottish Bonds or other Instruments excluding Executors: That the said deceased John LESSELS was due and owing at the time of his death to persons resident in the United Kingdom the debts enumerated in the foregoing Schedule. That these debts are payable by law out of the estate and effects comprised in the foregoing Inventory, are not nor any

of them voluntary debts made payable on the death of the deceased or voluntary debts payable under some Instrument delivered to the donee thereof within three months before the death of the deceased or debts which are primarily payable out of any real estate belonging to the deceased or debts in respect whereof a reimbursement is capable of being reclaimed from any real estate of the deceased or from any other estate or person whatsoever; that these debts with the funeral expenses of the said deceased as also shown in the said Schedule amount to Two Hundred and seventy six pounds eight shillings and four pence.

That the nett value at this date of the said personal estate and effects situated in Scotland including the proceeds accrued thereon down to this date and after deducting the amount of the said debts and Funeral Expenses is Twenty six hundred pounds sterling and does not exceed Twenty seven hundred sterling. That confirmation of the said personal estate is required in favour of the deponent: All which is true as the deponent shall answer to God.

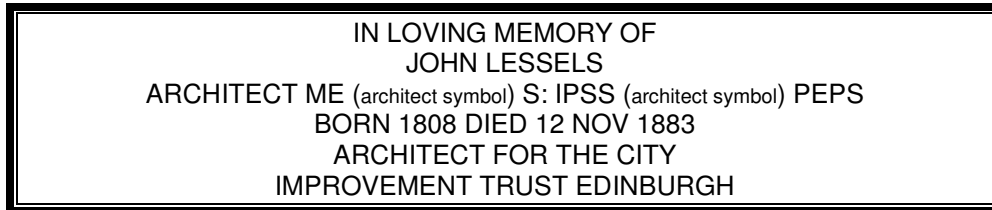
Signed John TURNBULL

Signed James FORMAN F.P. of the County of Midlothian

For Deed see Testy: Record Vol Gy P 805

(Reference Scottish Public Records Office Edinburgh SC 70/1/232 pp 600-612)

John LESSELS was buried at the Deans Cemetery in Edinburgh Scotland. The tombstone memorial stands about 6 feet in height with inscriptions to John LESSELS and also includes some of his descendants. The memorial originally had glazed tile portrait of John situated at the bottom of the inscription but over the years it has disappeared from the tombstone and all that remains is a blank roundshape where it was once situated.



After World War Two a New Zealand LESSELS (THORN) descendant while on holiday in Edinburgh took a photograph of John's headstone. In this photograph it shows the glazed tile portrait of John LESSELS, which was originally on his memorial headstone in Deans Cemetery Edinburgh. I was also given copies of some other photographs.

- John LESSELS headstone at Deans Cemetery Edinburgh. There are other family members recorded on headstone.
- Deans Church Edinburgh
- Front door and the building at 7 St Vincent Street where John and his first wife Mary LESSELS lived in Edinburgh.
- 50 George Street Edinburgh where John LESSELS ran his Architecture Business

John's second wife Gertrude Ann Huberdina/Haberdina LESSELS formerly NEFKEN / NEFKENS / NAUFKINS died on the 13 May 1884 in Duffel Belgium. This was only six months after the death of her late husband. There were no children from the marriage of Gertrude and John LESSELS.

(Reference from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland 'Architects' File for John LESSELS regarding Dean Cemetery, Edinburgh)

SEARCH (Reference RGO Belgium death registration 1884)

Dictionary of Scottish Architects - Architect Biography Report

Name	John LESSELS	Designation	Architect
Born	09 January 1809	Died	12 November 1883

Bio Notes - **John LESSELS** was born in Kirkcaldy on 9 January 1809 (his gravestone wrongly gives his date of birth as 1808) and was the son of John LESSELS (1784-1865) clerk of works on the Raith Estate, and his wife Elizabeth Hamilton Murray. His grandfather, also John LESSELS, had been not only an architect-builder but a millwright and these practice skills were passed down the family. He was educated in Kirkcaldy, being taught by the Reverend Edward IRVING and Thomas CARLYLE. After leaving school he first worked as a carpenter for his father, but sought leave to become an architect. This proposal was discouraged but at the suggestion of William BURN, achieving the position of inspector of works. He was in charge of BURN's work at Charleton, Fife in 1832. This enabled him to marry Mary, daughter of Robert HENDERSON, a Kirkcaldy bleacher, and from 1833 the LESSELS family was in the Borders, first at Dawyck Peeblesshire where their eldest son John was born, and then at Allanton Berwickshire from which LESSELS supervised the building of other burn houses.

By 1843 LESSELS had settled in Edinburgh with a house at 3 St Bernard Row and began exhibiting at the Royal Scottish Academy, initially purely as a watercolourist. In 1846 he set up practice on his own account in a flat at 7 St Vincent Street. His past experience with BURN in the Borders had made useful connections, and with BURN's departure for London in 1844 it became possible to seek clients there, the earliest being the MONGOMERYS of Stobo and Kinross. By the mid-1850s he had also secured the business of the WALKER Estate which gave him architectural control over a large part of the Western Town, and in 1856 or 1857 he formed a partnership with his son John who was in charge of a branch office at 19 Princess Street in Perth, but this closed c1859 as a result of a local fee-cutting war. By the early 1860s, LESSELS had gained the patronage of NELSONS the publishers, and his friendship with the city architect David COUSIN, then in failing health, resulted in his appointment as joint architect to the City Improvement Trust on 23 May 1866, their proposals for St Mary Street being presented in June.

LESSELS'S improved circumstances were reflected in his move from St Vincent Street to 21 Heriot Row, which was both house and office, but in that year his first wife died, having four sons and four daughters. He would appear to have gone into semi-retirement at the age of seventy in 1879 when the office was moved to 50 George Street. His eldest son John having entered the service of the Crown as Surveyor of Windsor in 1860, the practice was now carried on by his second son James; a third brother Frank ST OGGER LESSELS, died on 21 December 1882 but it is not known if he was in the practice.

LESSELS'S first pupil was David MACGIBBON who wrote of him that 'his ability, together with his perfect and fearless impartiality, had gradually raised him, in spite of many adverse circumstances, to a high position among his fellow citizens....his modesty prevented his full merits as an architect from being recognised and appreciated'. Of LESSELS's other pupils the most important were Robert Rowand ANDERSON and Robert LAWSON who emigrated to Australia, then moved to New Zealand.

By the time of Lessels's retirement he had married a second time to Gertrude Anna Huberbina NOFKEN (anglicised NAUFKINS) of Baardwyk, North Brabant, and was spending much of his time on the continent, particularly in Belgium, Salzburg and Venice. These continental connections seem to have commenced earlier and strongly influenced his competition designs. His German Gothic design submitted in the limited competition for St Mary's Cathedral in 1873 was placed last by the assessor Ewan CHRISTIAN whose report was published. This may have discredited him with the Walker Trustees, but the loss of the Walker Estate connection had began slightly earlier in 1872 because Peddie and Kinear and Companies controlled by them were the largest feuars.

LESSELS'S acquaintance with Venice similarly influenced the Venetian Gothic design he and David COUSIN submitted in the Edinburgh New Buildings competition of 1874 but this was no more successful, Rowand ANDERSON's North Italian Renaissance design being selected. John LESSELS died of cancer of the liver on 12 November 1883 and was buried in Dean Cemetery, commemorated by a very curious sundial monument, which formerly bore a photographic glazed tile portrait. It also bears the tools of the mason trade, probably a reference to his Masonic interests: he was a member of the Old Kilwinning Lodge. His second wife survived him by only a few months, dying at Duffel, Belgium on 12 May 1884. There were no children of the second marriage.

Of LESSELS's personal life we know a little from his son John's memoir: 'In his youth he was a good athlete, and his father a good marksman with guns made by himself, he was also fond of both sea-fishing and fishing for trout and salmon, all his rods and tackle including flies being of his own make. He made telescopes, bound his own books and was a turner in both wood and metal, the lathe being made by himself. The sale catalogue of his effects (Dowell, 16 February 1884) shows that he owned two Kinnear cameras, a Meagher folding camera, a pantascopic and several other specialised cameras and numerous Dallmeyer, Steinheil and Voigtlander lenses, together with much other photographic equipment. He was for several years President of the Edinburgh Photographic Society. He also had a signification picture collection, and frequently exhibited oil paintings of topographical and architectural subjects at the Royal Scottish Academy.

Private and Business Addresses

- 3 St Bernard Row, Edinburgh, Private 1843
- 7 St Vincent Street Edinburgh Business 1846 – 1858
- 21 Heriot Row Edinburgh Private 1858
- 50 George Street Edinburgh Business 1879 – 1883

Employment and Training

- William BURN from before 1832 to c 1846 Inspector of Works
- John LESSELS & Son from c1857 to 1883 Senior Partner

Employee and Pupils

- Robert Rowand ANDERSON from 1852 to 1857
- George CRAIG from after 1871 to before 1880 Assistant
- Alexander Cunningham FORRESTER from 1872 to 1877 Apprentice
- Robert Arthur LAWSON from before 1854 to July 1854 Assistant
- John LESSELS (junior) from c1848 to 1851
- David MACGIBBON from 1849 to 1851 Apprentice
- Thomas MCMAHON from 1863* to? Apprentice
- David ROBERTSON from after 1855 to 1865 Chief Assistant

Bibliographic References

- Veronica FRASER 2004 Records of Vernacular Buildings made by John LESSELS Architect (1809-83) Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group Vernacular Building 28, pp42-8
- W T JOHNSTON 2003 Artist of Scotland Official publications CD-ROM
- John LESSELS II A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of Lessels in Fifeshire Carbon copy of original typescript in possession of Jane Lessels - copy in NMRS
- Post Office Directories RSA 1843 517 – Interior view of Melrose Abbey
- Post Office Directories RSA 1844 502 View of Dunkeld

Periodical References

- Builder 1883 V45 p 648
- Scotsman 13 November 1883 p5 – obituary
- Scotsman 16 November 1883 Obituary by David Mac GIBBON

Buildings and Designs

	Holy Trinity Parish Church St Andrews Fife Unexpected designs for internal restoration date unknown
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1832	Charleton House Colinsburgh Fife Extensions Lessels acting as clerk of works for Burn and prepared the sketches
1845	Stobo Castle Peeblesshire
1847	Roslin Chapel Roslin/Rosslyn Midlothian Interior view (also exhibited views 1861, 1863, 1865 and 1866) May have been associated with Burn & Bryce's work on the Chapel from 1837 into the 1840s
1849	Manse Coldingham Berwickshire Remodelling and additions
1849	Stobo Castle Peeblesshire Alterations and porte-cochere
1850	Foulden Village Foulden Berwickshire Improvements to houses in village probably responsible (Building of Scotland)
c1850	The Woll Ashkirk Selkirkshire
1851	Canongate Free Edinburgh
1852	Charterhall Fogo Duns Berwickshire
1852	Kersfield Berwickshire Alterations
1852	Milne Graden House Ladykirk Berwickshire
1852	Ninewells House North Lodge Chirnside Berwickshire
C1852	Blackadder House Allanton Berwickshire Remodelling and extension
1853	Turtleton House Duns Berwickshire Additions
1854	Allanton School and Schoolmistress's House
1854	Kinross House Kinross-shire Ground staircase probably repairs related to the general conservation of the building at that time
1855	103 Melville Crescent 45 Melville Street and 20 Walker Street Edinburgh Completed Robert BROWN's scheme
1855	7, 9 Melville Crescent Edinburgh Revised Robert BROWN's overall scheme in 1855: Peddie & Kinnear responsible for 7-9 Melville Crescent
1855	Melville Crescent (Nos' 5, 6, 10, 11, 12) Edinburgh Revised Brown's plans and built Nos' 5, 6, 10, 11, 12
1856	4, 6 Melville Crescent Edinburgh Completion of Robert BROWN's scheme
1856	Free Tolbooth Church Edinburgh Unsuccessful competition entry
1856	Manse Kirkurd Peeblesshire Extension
1856	The Haga Church Gothenburg Sweden Thought to have been involved with construction in Edinburgh
1857	George Watson's Hospital Edinburgh Extensive additions (east classrooms, library, reading room, workshops, playroom, governors apartments, dining hall, lodge, etc) now incorporated in Royal Infirmary
1857	George WATSON'S Hospital, Lodge and gates Edinburgh
1857	Summerfield Peebles Peeblesshire
1858	Donavoured House Pitlochry Perthshire Additions
1859	Edinburgh City Chambers Edinburgh Doorpiece on south end of east range
1860	Corn Exchange Peebles Peeblesshire
C1860	Canongate Churchyard, Monument to Hugh William WILLIAMS Edinburgh
1861	Victoria School Newhaven Edinburgh
1862	Chester Street Edinburgh
1863	Speddoch House Dumfries Dumfriesshire
1863	Stobo Church Stobo Peeblesshire Repairs
1864	1-7 Coates Place, 2 Manor Place and 1 Palmerston Place Edinburgh
1864	15-32 West Maitland Street Edinburgh
1865	Charterhall Fogo/Duns Berwickshire South Lodge and Stables
1865	Charterhall South Lodge Fogo/Duns Berwickshire
1865	Hawthornden (Castle?) Midlothian
1865	School and Schoolmaster's House Foulden Berwickshire
1866	Houses, Manor Place Edinburgh
1866	Rosslyn Chapel Edinburgh Two Views
1866	Salisbury Green Mansion House Salisbury Green Edinburgh Additions reconstruction and gate lodge

1867	Mordington Church Mordington Berwickshire Third church on site built
C1867	Chamber Street Edinburgh Formation and general scheme of elevations
1869	10-11 Abbotshall Crescent St Andrews Fife
1869	2 and 4 St Mary Street and Canongate Edinburgh With David COUSIN
1869	Palace Hotel Edinburgh Original building
1869	St Leonard's Hall Edinburgh
1869	St Mary Street upper part Edinburgh Upper part with David COUSIN
1869	Tenement, 48, 50 High Street Edinburgh
C1869	St Leonard's Works Parkside Edinburgh Front building
1870	11-15 Blackfriars Street Edinburgh Design 3-21 Palmerston Place
1870	Edinburgh
1870	5-9 Blackfriars Street Edinburgh Original design with COUSIN executed by Robert MOTHAM
1870	56-60 High Street and 1-3 Blackfriars Street Edinburgh Original design with COUSIN executed by Robert MORHAM
C1870	Cleish Castle Kinross-shire Additions, largely removed
1871	Longnewton Place Roxburghshire Alterations and additions
1871	Trinity Church Edinburgh Rebuilding of mediaeval choir and apse as a hall
C1871	Tenement, 52, 54 High Street Edinburgh Design
C1871	St Mary Street Lower Part Edinburgh David COUSIN also involved according to List entry
C1872	Drumsheugh Gardens Edinburgh Site plan and elevations
1873	Chambers Street and South Bridge corner Edinburgh With John PATERSON
1873	Commercial Street elevations Consulted on elevational design by William MACKSION
1873	St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral Edinburgh Competition design
1873?	Tenement block with shops at ground floor Edinburgh Presumably consulted on design, as architect to the City Improvement Trust
1873?	Tenement block Canongate, Jeffrey Street and Cranston Street Edinburgh Presumably consulted on design, as architect to the City Improvement Trust
1873?	Tenements and shops, 7, 9, 11 Edinburgh Presumably consulted on design, as architect to the City Improvement Trust
1874	Smith Institute Stirling
1874	St Mary's Church Edinburgh Minor internal alterations
1874	St Paul's Episcopal Church Kinross Kinross-shire
C1874	Pebbles Parish Church Peebles Peebleshire Unexecuted proposals
1875	39-41 George Street Edinburgh Additions of bay windows
1875	Ladykirk Manse Ladykirk Berwickshire
1875	Tenement and shop Grassmarket Old Town Edinburgh with MacGIBBON and ROSS
1875	Tweedsmuir Parish Church Tweedsmuir Peebleshire
1876	Manse Hutton Berwickshire Further work?
1877	Jeffrey Street Edinburgh
1877	The Doune Rothiemurchus Inverness-shire New drawing room, stairhall French roof
1878	Denbrae House Fife Alterations
C1878	St Leonard's Established Church Edinburgh
1879	East Saltoun Parish Church East Saltoun East Lothian Plans for recasting interior, probably executed
1879	Villa At Clermiston Edinburgh
1880	Drumsheugh Place Edinburgh Probably provided elevations for Walker estate
1881	Lady Lawson Street Edinburgh
1881	Nelson Pillars, Meadows Park East Edinburgh

1881	Royal Crescent Edinburgh Revised design
1882	Bellevue Crescent Northern Half Edinburgh Revised COUSIN's design for execution
Mid 1800s	Charterhall Stable courtyard Fogo/Duns Berwickshire with Balfour Balsille, mason architect

(Reference Source email www.codexgeo.co.uk/dsa/architect)

I have obtained copies of some building designs of John LESSELS from the Royal Commission on the Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland – National Monuments Records of Scotland. The copies are listed below:

- The Palace Hotel 113-117 Princess Street Edinburgh Scotland (copy of photograph 324811)
- 3-7- Coats Place Edinburgh Scotland (copy of photograph A 37608)
- 4-8b St Vincent Street Edinburgh Scotland (copy of photograph EME/26 Print No ED/10082)
- St Vincent Street & Howe Street Edinburgh Scotland (copy of photograph ED 4317)
- 30-68 St Mary's Street Edinburgh Scotland (copy of photograph ED/5186)
- Melville Crescent No 1,2,3, & 7,8,9 Edinburgh Scotland (copy of photograph _4890/_4891/_4893)
- Dalkeith Road St Leonards Edinburgh Scotland (copy of photograph B2072)
- Dalkeith Road Park Street Nelson's Printing Works (copy of photograph ED/7808, ED7809, ED7810)
- 1-19 Heriot Row Edinburgh Scotland (copy of photograph no reference)
- 21 Heriot Row knob handle with lifter slot Edinburgh Scotland (copy of photograph _/4788 frame 16)
- Turtleton House (Farm) Berwickshire Scotland (copy of elevations & floor drawings 0/91/3)
- Lady Lawson Street Edinburgh Scotland John LESSELS 1881 & Warrant dated 04 April 1891 (copy of front elevation drawings 568/1)
- West Maitland Street corner of Palmerston Place Edinburgh Scotland Walker Trust drawings Elevation John Lessels 1864 (copy of drawings/633/1)
- Melville Crescent Edinburgh Scotland Walker Trust Drawings (copy of drawings EDD/152/21)
- 29 Drumsheugh Gardens Edinburgh Scotland home for Andrew WYNE 1875 (copy of drawings _/621/2)
- 29 Drumsheugh Gardens Edinburgh Scotland home for Andrew WYNE 1875 (copy of drawings _/621/1)

BLACKADDER HOUSE

On this website there is an image of Blackadder House painted by John LESSELS in 1858. I photographed the original painting owned by a descendant in New Zealand and this image is located on the website under 'Image Gallery'.

Blackadder House was a country House situated in Allanton Berwickshire Scotland. The design was exhibited in 1846 (view with conservatory). The remodelling and extension was undertaken around 1852 by Architect John LESSELS and was commissioned by Sir George A F H BOSWELL. Information about Blackadder House can be found in the publications [1] RSA 1846 page 490 and [2] Borders and Berwick: An Illustrated Architectural Guild by Charles Alexander STRANG page 39. Sadly Blackadder House was demolished around 1925.

(Reference http://www.codexgeo.co.uk/dsa/building_full.php?id=M003076 Dictionary of Scottish Architects DSA Buildings/Design Report 10 May 2006)

Victoria University Architect Library New Zealand = 4 publications

- [1] The Architecture of Scottish Cities – Essays in Honour of David Walker
Edited by Deborah MAYS - Forward by Sir Howard COLVIN - Page 60

“Further west still, Melville Street (1820-26), designed by Robert Brown in 1814, had its formal centrepiece too, though this negative intrusion of open space by John Lessels in 1855-56 replaced Brown’s original positive emphasis of opposed porticos”.

- [2] The Buildings of Scotland - Editor-in-Chief: Nikolaus Pevsner - Joint Editors: Colin McWilliam and Judy Nairn - LOTHIAN – Except Edinburgh Colin McWilliam page 200

“EAST SALTOUN – Parish Church – Burial Plot in Churchyard - The interior was glumly recast, without galleries, in 1885. The architect was probably John Lessels, who presented plans for the work in 1879”.

“PENICUIK – The conversion of the stable court as the new house (following the failure of the insurance claim for the full repair of the old one) was carried out by Lessels & Taylor and completed in 1902 to the wishes of Aymee Lady Clerk.

“CLEISH CASTLE - Kinross-shire – But about forty-five years ago Mr Young had it renovated and converted into his mansion-house under the direction of the late Mr John Lessels architect. (Footnote) The plans (Fig 517) are made from measurement and the original thickness of the walls was obtained from Plans in the possession of James Lessels Esq. architect, Edinburgh, which he kindly placed at our disposal”.

- [3] An Illustrated Architectural Guide Edinburgh Third Edition – Colin McWilliam

101 – HERIOT WATT UNIVERSITY – Chamber Street – John Chesser 1886-88 incorporating earlier buildings by David Cousin and John Lessels 1873-77.

128 – DEBENHAMS (including image) – Princess Street – 1882 (and later) Wallis’s is French renaissance in style by John Lessels 1869 with a cast iron galleried shop interior.

205 – DRUMSHEUGH GARDENS, (including image) ROTHESAY PLACE AND TERRACE, PALMERSTON PLACE, GROSVENOR STREET, LANSDOWNE CRESCENT, GROSVENOR CRESCENT, GLENCAIRN CRESCENT AND EGLINTON CRESCENT – Victorian terraced houses and corner tenements in the grand style, with great variety in bay window details and rhythms, by John Lessels (greater part of Drumsheugh Gardens, s.e. section Palmerston Place) Peddie & Kinnear (s.w. side Drumsheugh Gardens, Rothesay Place, Palmerston Place Church, Robert Matheson etc.

206 – **Melville Street** (including image) – The circus (called the Crescent) in the middle is by John Lessels, 1855/06, omitting Brown’s proposed engaged porticos and probably humanising the composition accordingly

275 – SALISBURY GREEN HOUSE – Pollock Halls Dalkeith Road John Lessels 1860 to 1867 – Baronial mansion grafted on to an earlier house. Good interior work – particularly the neo-classical pendentived drawing room painted by Charles Frechou of Paris. Note also St Leonard’s Hall also by Lessels 1869 including stencils by Thomas Bonnar.

- [4] The Buildings of Scotland – Edinburgh by John Gifford, Colin McWilliam & David Walker - Index of artists

- Lessels John (1808-1883) pages 58, 72, 151, 171, 177, 208, 220, 223, 227, 233, 240, 260, 301, 312, 337, 341, 353, 362, 363n, 370, 372, 374, 375, 376, 382, 603 & 637
- Lessels James pages 228, 229 & 353
- Lessels & Taylor (James Lessels & Harry Ramsay Taylor) pages 226, 250 & 404

Page 58 – INTRODUCTION – Romantic composition and an abundance of Scottish detail combined with large bay-widows characterize the next generation of the baronial movement exemplified by two houses, Salisbury Green of 1860 and St Leonard's of 1869 both designed for members of the Nelson family by John Lessels.

Page 72 – INTRODUCTION – Behind John Lessels's frontage at No 110 Princess Street is perhaps the oldest (1869) example of an even more spectacular type – the galleried saloon.

Page 151 – E division of the churchyard. In the w wall Hugh William Williams + 1829 by John Lessels c 1860. Large aedicule with paired pilasters.

Page 171 – CHURCHES – Rebuilding on the present site between the High street and Jeffrey Street began only in 1872, by which time many stones had been pilfered: this was given as the reason for recreating no more than the main body of the choir without aisles or transepts. John Lessels used it as the cross bar of a T-plan church with the stalk on the n side (demolished in 1964).

Page 177 – PUBLIC BUILDINGS – (City Chambers) A segmental pedimented door piece (by John Lessels, 1859) at the s end of the e range became the motif for the e wing.

Page 208 – OLD TOWN – At the e corner of Blackfriars Street, No 60 High Street and Nos 1-3 Blackfriars Street by Robert MORHAM 1873 adapting a design by David Cousin and John Lessels.

Page 220 – BLACKFRIARS STREET – On the e side Nos 5-9 after the corner block to High Street is a four-storey and attic interpretation of Gladstone's Land 1873 by Robert Morham adapting a Cousin and Lessels design. Then Nos 11-15 by David Clunas, again from a Cousin and Lessels design.

Page 223 – OTHER STREETS – At the corner of south Bridge a large block by John Lessels and John Paterson 1873 now shorn of ornamental dormers. Then three bays of unmodified Cousin elevation (executed by Lessels 1885) punchy detail with a broken segmental pediment at the dormer head to Chamber Street.

Page 227 – OTHER STREETS – Nos 63-85 were built as tenements in 1875 to John Lessels design a mixture of Georgian survival at the lower floors and thin baronial at the top with crow stepped gablets and chimneys (now truncated) climbing up the wallface.

Page 233 – ST MARY'S – E side all of 1869 by David Cousin and John Lessels predictably baronial. It began well at the Canongate corner with No 2 five storeys with a canted corner corbelled out to a crow stepped gable with a two storey oriel.

Page 240 – CHURCH OF CHRIST (originally Church of Scotland) St Leonards by John Lessels 1880. Flat Scots Gothic front pretending that there is an aisled nave behind. Tower with a corbelled parapet and small spire on the l. Of the

gable on its r a parapet. Inside a wagon roof with hammer beam trusses. U-shaped gallery on cast iron columns.

Page 260 – SOUTH WEST – Stone piers separate the n side from Lauriston Place. Low Italianate LODGE by John Lessels in front of the central block which had a symmetrically corbelled entrance tower and a 41 m slated spire. Inscription over the door copied in 1885 from those at the old Infirmary.

Page 301 – HANOVER STREET to FREDERICK STREET – No 41 has a first floor bay window of 1875 by John Lessels and in 1881 Hippolyte F Blanc remodelled and extended the ground floor for William Johnstone & Co. in his rare Italian Renaissance manner.

Page 312 – FIRST NEW TOWN – A welcome variation on the Panel formula at No 107 by Ian Burke Association 1971 and then another hotel building the former Palace at Nos 108-110 by John Lessels 1869 with his favourite barley-sugar shafts framing the centrepiece.

Page 337 – ST MARY – The layout shows the influence of Elliot's Broughton Place Church (see Gayfield). Here only minor alterations have been made – by John Lessels in 1874 (platform added precentor's box removed pulpit slightly lowered) and Sydney Mitchell in 1897 (new seating on the floor of the church and redecoration which probably included the late Gothic enrichment of the panels round the gallery). Present decoration by W G Dey 1974 – Pulpit on the unobstructed end wall. Drum shaped. Two freestanding Corinthian columns carry a sounding board with a reeded dome and cresting antefixae. Base and double stair altered by Lessels.

Page 341 – BELLEVUE CRESCENT and MANSFIELD PLACE – In 1869 David Cousin modified the design and in 1882-4 it was finally built under John Lessels direction.

Page 353 – ROYAL CRESCENT – In 1881 John Lessels as architect to the City Improvement Trust began to revive interest in the long dormant project. His plans involving the completion of the crescent with flats throughout were carried out by his son James Lessels in 1884-8.

Page 362 – WESTERN NEW TOWN – shared between him and the Heriot Trust surveyor John Chesser through the n side of West Maitland Street on an odd section of Walker property, was by the Walker architect John Lessels.

Page 363 – ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL – Drawings were submitted in 1872 and although Alexander Ross's three spired design was much favoured the final decision was for one of the three sent in by Scott – variations on the theme of a large central tower and spire. #

Page 363n - Narrative – #In Scotland the other two competitors were Lessels (a crazy late Gothos scheme with a crown spire) and Peddie & Kinnear

Page 370 – CHESTER STREET – A highly successful Victoria Georgian compromise by John Lessels built mainly in 1862-70. Brown type pavilions the houses between them with segment headed first floor windows (plus consoled cornices on the grander w block facing the cathedral) alternately punctuated with rosettes. Good Victorian versions of the Walker Estate three bay balcony.

Page 372 – WESTERN NEW TOWN – Drumsheugh Place and Drumsheugh Gardens – Drumsheugh Gardens proper consists of tall grand houses enclosing a triangle of mature trees. The w side built mainly in 1878 was designed in 1874

by Peddie & Kinnear following Lessels's four storey scale but translating it into their best Graeco Italian with a mastery of scale and details unrivalled in the Western New Town. _ _ The other houses are by John Lessels built by Watherston 1874-82. All have canted bays on the two lower storeys those on the hypotenuse of the triangle (Nos 19-37 more successfully handles).

Page 374 – LYNEDOCH PLACE – On the corner of Drumsheugh Gardens Nos 1-2 built by John Watherston & Sons possibly on a Lessels design in 1876-7.

Page 375 – MANOR PLACE – When the w side was undertaken in 1864 John Lessels was in charge. Victorian splay to the Coates Place corner at the s end quite unrelated to Brown's pavilion opposite. At Nos 4-24 Lessels follows Brown's design but introduces round headed doorways and (for the first time) a regular procession of dormers along the skyline.

The n part mainly 1870-74 but not finished till 1892 is again by Lessels. Slightly elaborated Brown type pavilions at Chester Street then houses with arched door pieces and triple first floor windows centrally pedimented – pleasant enough details but change in rhythm from floor to floor makes nonsense of the attempted overall symmetry.

Page 376 – WESTERN NEW TOWN – Melville Street – Nos 10-12 by Lessels himself with coffer vaulted entrance halls. The novel arrangement in No 12 of an L-plan service stair to the drawing room reappears in houses of the 1870s and 1880s in Drumsheugh Gardens.

PALMERSTON PLACE – is an eventful street with two important churches St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral and the twin domes Palmerston Place Church (see above). A funny start at the se corner where Lessels had come along COATES PLACE (1864) with a four storey block of flats and rounded the bend with two pairs of incredibly meagre pilasters.

On the e side Nos 3-21 with advances centre but not quite symmetrical show Lessels at his best.

Page 382 – WESTERN NEW TOWN – At William Street the corners are marked with three story houses slightly advanced but the main junctions have full dress corner pavilions. John Lessels's two pavilions at the far n end are curiously inconsistent the w side one (1862) simplified the e one (1874) taller to match Drumsheugh Gardens.

Page 603 – VICTORIA PRIMARY SCHOOL – Newhaven Main Street Gothic by George Craig 1896 on the basis of the school by John Lessels 1861 which had already been enlarged in 1875 and 1884.

Page 637 – PUBLIC BUILDINGS – Of the three mansions ABDEN HOUSE is spiritless Jacobean by Thomas Davies 1855 the others bold baronial by John Lessels for the sons of printer and publisher Thomas Nelson (Nelson Parkside Works also by Lessels stood on the site of the Scottish Widows Fund adjoining Dalkeith Road. _ _

To the s a single story wing of c 1820 and a careful extension by Gordon, Duncan, Somerville 1979 on the site of Lessels's conservatory. _ _

ST LEONARD'S to the N (1869-70 for Thomas Nelson Jun.) is Lessels from the start fiercest hammer dressed baronial on a more compact plan with basement officers.

Page 228 – OLD TOWN - Late C19 blocks with crow stepped gables and an oriel at the GRASSMARKET MISSION HALL (by James Lessels 1890) lead to the corner of West Bow.

Page 229 – JEFFERY STREET – A beefy baronial villa by James Lessels 1886 at No 39 is better. Broad crow stepped gable with a canted oriel at the r nudged by an ample conical roofed turret.

Page 353 – ROYAL CRESCENT – In 1881 John Lessels as architect to the City Improvement Trust began to revive interest in the long dormant project. His plans involving the completion of the crescent with flats throughout were carried out by his son James Lessels in 1884-8.

Page 226 – BANK OD SCOTLAND – by Lessels & Taylor 1906 agreeable mid Victorian Renaissance with a quadrant corner under a Frenchy domical roof only the smaller details hint at its real date.

Page 250 – SOUTH SIDE – Nos 76-78 Boroghloch Land leads to the old Boroghloch Brewery by Lessels & Taylor 1897.

Page 404 – STOCKBRIDGE LIBRARY – Hamilton Place One of Thomas Nelson's recreation and library buildings. Early Renaissance by H Ramsay Taylor of Lessels & Taylor 1898-1900. Single storey of red sandstone with a good plastered door piece a perfunctory row of three stepped gables to the e and a two storey crenellated octagon at the w corner. Inside open timber roofs over arcades on spindly coupled columns.

LESSELS Buildings and Architecture designs

'Architects' Index records from 'The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland' = RCAHMS - Index under **LESSELS**

- **John LESSELS** - RSA (Student) - ARCHITECTURAL DRAUGHTSMAN, age 17, son of John LESSELS, 7 St. Vincent Street. Recommended to Trustees Academy by Charles McGIBBON, Entered 2nd April 1851; left 12th July 1851.
NOTE – John was the oldest son of Mary & John LESSELS chart 16-17
- **James LESSELS** - 50 George Street Edinburgh (1884) - Royal Crescent Edinburgh – (188 images) – Original drawings in City - Complete scheme started in 1823 – (4 images) - Architect's Dept. Copies in NMRS
NOTE – James was the third son of Mary & John LESSELS chart 16-17
- **John LESSELS** B. 1809 D. 1883 - Lived at 7 St Vincent Street Edinburgh 1835 - 50 George Street Edinburgh 1879 - 21 Heriot Row Edinburgh 1883/4
RCAHMS Reference source
 1. Scotsman November 13th 1883. "John LESSELS born Kirkcaldy January 1809. Taught by Edward IRVING and Thomas CARLYLE. Entered office of Mr BURNS became Inspector of Works. In 1846 began business on his own. Designed Jeffrey Street. Amongst other works are the laying out of feuing plans for Drumsheugh, St Leonards House, Nelson's Works, Parkside, Smith Inst. Stirling, Palace Hotel, Princes St, Edinburgh, Pillars at Hope Park, Edinburgh, Charterhagg (sic) House & Blackadder House both in Berwickshire.
 2. Register House - Register of Deaths: John LESSELS, architect. Married 1st Mary HENDERSON. 2nd Ann NEUFKINS. Died November 12th 1883 at 21 Heriot Row, Edinburgh aged 74 years. The son of John LESSELS, clerk of Works and Elizabeth Hamilton MURRAY. Registered St Andrews Parish.
 3. Dean Cemetery, Edinburgh - Memorial tombstone with tools of trade and sundial - John LESSELS, Architect b. 1808 D. November 12th 1883, architect for the City Improvements Trust. His 2nd wife Gertrude A H NAUFKINS d. May 12th 1884 and Frank ST OGGER D. Dec. 21st 1882. His 1st wife Mary HENDERSON d. 1858.

A portrait plaque has been mounted into the stone with a photograph of LESSELS on tile & glazed.

4. DOWELL'S LIST 1184.p 391. 8 March The Collection of Valuable Pictures belonging to the Late John LESSELS
5. Information per David WALKER from Jane LESSELS, Springfield, Polton Lasswade, EH18 1EB
6. Part copy of sale catalogue Antique and Art Furniture & Photographic Apparatus, Dowells, Edinburgh, Saturday 16th February 1884 (includes plaster bust of David BRYCE)
7. Note of sale of The Library of JL Monday 18th February at Dowells includes copy of Chippendale
8. Typescript copy of 'A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of Lessels in Fifeshire'.
9. Photocopies of all of these and covering letter from David WALKER of 11-2-1992 in NMRS Library

RCAHMS reference source [4]

Saturday, 8th March, at One o'clock,
Within Dowell's Fine Art Gallery, No 18 George Street.
The Collection of Valuable Pictures belonging to
The late John LESSELS, Esq., Architect,
Including "The Bridge of Sighs, Venice;" "Berwick-on-Tweed," and "A View in Warwickshire;" exquisite gems in water-colour by J.M.W. TURNER, R.A.; a number of very fine works in water-colour by Grecian WILLIAMS, including "Edinburgh from Dunearn Grounds," a really grad example; "The Parthenon, Athens;" "St Peter's and the Vatican, Rome;" "Lake Avernus, near Naples;" "The Tower of Aquapendente, near Sienna;" "San Giovanni del Sannes;" "The Falls of Tummel," "Kenmore on Loch Tay," "View on the Clyde near Kilpatrick," "Elgin," "The Graves of the Clan," and several other examples of Scottish landscape scenery, all choice and important works; "Clovelly, Devonshire," "On the Thames," "Scene in North Wales," and "On the Devonshire Coast," all charming works by T.M. RICHARDSON; "Castel-a-Mare," and "English Cottages," by T.L. TOWBOTHAM; "Murano on the Gulf of Venice, with prospect of the Frill Mountains," and exquisite and highly finished example by W.L. LEITCH, R.A.; "Amalfi" and "Mountain Scenery" (the latter oil), by CLARKSON STANFIELD, R.A.; "Ruins of Cicero's Villa near Tivoli," by SWINBURNE; "Mountain Scenery," by DE WINT; "Architectural Subject," by SAM PROUT; "Cathedral Interior," by JAMES HOLLAND; "View in Northumberland," by W BENNETT; a number of historical subjects by G CATTERMOLE; several choice examples by E.T. CRAWFORD, R.S.A.; others by ROBERT GIBB, R.S.A.; J.O. WINTOUR, R.S.A.; L.J. WOOD. Etc.

Also

A Number of Fine Architectural Works, in water-colour, by Mr LESSELS, including, "A View on the Grand Canal, Venice, with the Church of St Maria del Salute;" "Church of St Geomari, Lierre, Belgium, during the fete of the Saint;" "The Church of St Jacques, Antwerp;" "View near Lugano," "Lago Maggiore (sic)," and other Italian lake scenes; "Hawthornden," "The Prentice Pillar," "Entrance to the Crypt," and other interesting studies of Rosslyn Chapel before and after its restoration; "View of Windsor Castle from the Brocas," "Landscape with fine old ruins of an Abbey," "Ruthven Castle," "On the Severn near Salop," "The Gate Towers at Carisbrook Castle, Isle of Wight;" "Interior of the Chancel and North Transept, Melrose Abbey," etc.

And

A Large Collection of Drawings, Prints and Photographs in Portfolio.
Catalogues on an early date. Will be forwarded on application.

[Hand written on copy "DOWELLS ' 1884 Lists page 391"]

(Reference from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland 'Architects' File for John LESSELS)

RCAHMS Reference source [7]

Monday 18th February at Twelve o'clock
 At Dowell's No. 13 George Street,
THE LIBRARY of the Late JOHN LESSELS,
 Esq., Architect, including Ruskin's Modern Painters, 5 vols., Seven Lamps of Architecture, and Notes on Prout and Hut, Robert's Holy Land, with descriptions by Croly, 2vols; Waring and Macquoid's Architectural Art in Italy and Spain, Nash's Manslo of England in the Olden Times, 99 plates, 4 portfolios; canir Edifizi Antichi Dei Contorni di Rema, 6 vols.; Richardson Ornamental Design and other Works; Harding's Picturesque Selections, Sketches at Home and Abroad, and the Par and the Forest; Penley's English School of Painting in water-colours; Wickes's Spires and Towers of Mediaeval Churches; vols.; Bowman and Crowther's Churches of the Middle Ages, 2 vols. in 1; Johnson's Specimens of Early French Architecture; Haghe's Sketches in Belgium and Germany, three series; Muller's Sketches of the Age of Francis I; Stuart and Bevet's Antiquities of Athens, 4 vols. Coney's Ancient Cathedrals; Cuitt's Wanderings and Pencilling amongst Ruins of the Olden Times; Wyatt's metal Work; Potter's Remains of Ancient Monastic Architecture in England; Cotman's Architectural Antiquities of Normandy, 2 vols.; Chippendale's Gentleman and Cabinetmaker's Director, third edition; Le Moyen Age Monumental e's Archeologique, par Chapuy, Ramee, &c., 4 vols.; Racinet's Costume Historique (in French) in 12 portfolios, and Polychromatic Ornament; Dafforne's Modern Art 2 vols.; Williams's Select Views in Greece, 2 vols.; the Portfolio from January 1876 to November 1883, 7 vols. And 11 parts; the Art Journal from 1846 to 1882 (wanting '77),36 vols.; and many other valuable British and foreign works on architecture and art.

(Reference from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland 'Architects' File for John LESSELS)

John LESSELS a list of his buildings and architectural designs

Domestic:		
<i>Buildings</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Details</i>
Jeffrey Street Edinburgh		Scotsman Obituary 13/11/1883
Charterhall House Berwickshire		Scotsman Obituary 13/11/1883
Longnewton Place REXBURGHSHIRE		NMRS drawings of proposed alterations original drawings in City Architect' Department copies in NMRS"
St Mary Street Edinburgh (lower part)		"Grant"
Blackadder House		Scotsman Obituary 13/11/1883
Stobo Castle Peeblesshire-porte-cochere dated	1849	Also adds drawings dated 1845 c1849 on pr drawings at Stobo Castle RCHM
As above also alts drawings dated	1845	or Pr drawings at Stobo Castle
Milne Graden Berwickshire altered chimneys, raised roof, railings in front of portico and other alterations	1852-53	"Correspondence at Milne Graden"
Turtleton House, Berwickshire additions	1853	"Original drawings in possession of owner, Copies in NMRS"
1-12 Melville Crescent Edinburgh	1855-63	copies of drawings in NMRS
Donavoured House Perthshire adds to earlier house	1858-59	Original drawings in NMRS
Chester Street Edinburgh	1862-70	Watherston (written faintly) copies of drawings in NMRS
1-7 Coates Place Edinburgh	1864	"Walker Trust"
West Maitland Street Edinburgh	1864	copies of drawing in NMRS

St Leonards Newington	1869-70	"Grant"
Cleish Castle (restoration)	C1870	E.A.A.
Arthurslie, ie St Leonards Heriot Mount	C1870	'Builder 1870'
1-37 Drumsheugh Gardens Edinburgh	1874-80	copies of drawings in NMRS
Villa at Clermiston	1879	Watherston drawings
Lady Lawson Street, Edinburgh	1881	"Original plan in Dean of Guild, Edinburgh copy in NMRS"
Royal Crescent Edinburgh	1881-83	Later feuing plan & tenements
Monuments		
Pillars at Hope Park Edinburgh		Scotsman Obituary 13/11/1883
Unexecuted Work		
Holy Trinity Parish Church, St Andrews, Fife designs for internal restoration of the Church		The Parish Church of Holy Trinity. 1920 page 13
Design for St Mary's Cathedral Edinburgh	1873	Copies of plans hanging in Bellringers Room in the Cathedral
Ecclesiastic		
Trinity College Church Jeffrey Street Edinburgh (rebuilt with stones of Old Church	1871	O & N Edin. "Grant".
Parkside Place Est. Church Edinburgh	1878	'Builder 1878'
Public		
Palace Hotel, Princess Street Edinburgh		Obituary Scotsman 13/11/1883
Nelson's Works Parkside Edinburgh		Obituary Scotsman 13/11/1883
Upper Commercial Street, Dundee, Angus (called in to advise on Mackison's design they then considered a joint design)		D.M.W
School at Foulden, Berwickshire (sic)	c1864-69	
Edinburgh Improvement plan (with David Cousin) for City Improvement Trust, Jeffrey Street	1866	"Original layout plans in D of G Edinburgh Copies in NMRS"
Smith Institute Stirling	1874	C.L. August 28 th 1969

(Reference from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland 'Architects' File for John LESSELS)

Note: I have obtained a few photocopies of the building plans and photographs of John Lessels designs and they are listed below.

Photographs

- The Palace Hotel 113-117 Princess Street Edinburgh
- 3-7 Coates Place Edinburgh
- 4-8b St Vincent Street Edinburgh
- St Vincent Street and Howe Street Edinburgh
- 30-68 St Mary's Street Edinburgh
- Melville Crescent No 1,2,3, & 7,8,9 Edinburgh
- St Leonard's Arthur's Geat from Dalkeith Road Edinburgh
- Nelson's Printing Works Dalkeith Road Parkside Edinburgh
- 1-19 Heriot Row Edinburgh
- 21 Heriot Row [front door] Edinburgh

Plans

- Turtleton House (Farm) Berwickshire [John LESSELS 1853]
- Dean Guild Lady Lawson Street Edinburgh [John LESSELS 1881]

- West Maitland Street (West Davison) Corner of Palmerston Place Edinburgh [elevation John LESSELS 1864]
- Melville Crescent Edinburgh
- 29 Drumsheugh Gardens Edinburgh [house for Andrew WYNE 1875]

A letter received from the NMRS Assistant Curator dated 7th March 1994 reads: "The NMRS use to be housed in 6-7 Coates place and we occupied it very happily until we outgrew it and had to move a couple of years ago. The Smith Institute in Stirling is still going and is a fine building while St Leonard's is now part of the University of Edinburgh halls of Residence. The poor old Palace Hotel was burned down a few years ago; there is still a gap on Edinburgh's main thoroughfare where it once stood."

An article written 2006 and illustrated by J Brian Crosland appeared in "The Edinburgh Tatler" headed DAVID LESSELS but it should have read JOHN LESSELS.

The article was about the reinstallation of the Monumental columns at the East end of Melville Drive in Hope Park originally designed by John Lessels. Mr Crosland made drawings of the columns and also the late 19th century mansion house of St Leonards also designed by John Lessels. Please note that not all articles appearing in newspapers are correct and this is a good example.

(Reference a copy of article was located in a filing cabinet in Edinburgh in 2006)

John LESSELS is said to have been (Scotsman November 13, 1883) born at Kirkcaldy in January 1809 (his gravestone gives date of birth as 1808), son of John LESELS, a clerk of works, and Elizabeth Hamilton MURRAY, ad was brought up there, being taught by Edward IRVING and Thomas CARLYLE. He entered the office of William BURN, achieving the position of inspector of works and setting up house in a flat at No 7 St Vincent Street, Edinburgh, before commencing practice on his own account in 1845. His earliest important clients were the Montgomery's of Stobo and Kinross. He rapidly gained landed clients throughout the Borders in the early 1850's and by the mid 1850's he had secured the business of the Walker estate which gave him architectural control over a sizeable area of the Western New Town. The early 1860's brought the patronage of the Nelsons and public recognition came when, in 1866 he had David Cousin, with whom he had already had some informal association, prepared the Edinburgh Improvement plan for the City Improvement Trust, a scheme which embraced the improvement of Market Street, Jeffrey Street, St Mary Street, Blackfriars Street Chambers Street and other proposals.

(Reference source sent to me by a researcher Living WILSON Scotland from the Historic Building Div of the Scottish Development Dept.)

LESSELS'S first wife, Mary HENDERSON, died in 1858, and at about that date he moved to 21 Heriot Row which remained house and office until about 1879 when the latter was transferred to 50 George Street, a move probably marking semi retirement at seventy years of age. He appears to have had at least three sons, John architect who attended the Trustees Academy on the recommendation of Charles MacGIBBON David's father - The MacGibbons and the Lessels families appear to have been friends) from 2 April to 12 July 1851, James, who continued the business, and Frank ST OGGER who died 21 December 1882. John LESSELS himself died a year later on 12 December 1883, and was buried in Dean Cemetery, commemorated by a very curious sundial monument with the tools of the trade, which bore until a few years ago a small photographic glazed title portrait. His second wife Gertrude Anna H HAUFKINS survived him by only a few months, dying on May 12 1884.

Of LESSELS's personal life we as yet know little. David MacGIBBON, to whom his Montgomery of Stobo and Blackwood & Smith connections passed in the mid 1870's spoke of him as follows (Scotsman 16 November 1883): 'his ability, together with his perfect honesty and fearless impartiality, had gradually raised him, in spite of many adverse circumstances, to a high position among his fellow citizens.... his modesty prevented his full merits as an architect from being recognised and appreciated'.

(Reference source sent to me by a researcher Living WILSON Scotland from the Historic Building Div of the Scottish Development Dept.)

Victoria University Architect Library New Zealand publications with reference to John LESSELS

- NA 981 E2 G458 E = The Buildings of Scotland Lothian - Index Ref: - LESSELS John - LESSELS/TAYLOR
- DA 890 E3 L748 G 1973
- AS741 VUW A16 SG59 R = Lawson -Petre by S J Smith
- GIF 720 94134 = By John Gifford, Colin McWilliam & David Walker - The Building of Scotland – Edinburgh - Ref: - LESSELS James - LESSELS John (1808-83) - LESSELS & TAYLOR (James LESSELS)
- NA 890 E3 C755 = The Conservation of Georgian Edinburgh - Search for other publications at the Victoria University Architect Library
- Architects C.P.L Biob 233 A Guide to Biographical Sources Cindy Campbell
- Service Alastair The Architects of London & their Buildings from 1066 to present day London Architecture Press
- Colvin H M A Biographical dictionary of English Architects 1660-1840 London: Murray 1954 50420
- Gray A Stuart Edwardian Architecture A Biographical Dictionary London Duckworth 1985 179336

John LESSELS list of buildings and architectural designs

1845	Stobo Castle, Peeblesshire, alterations for Sir G MONTGOMERY
1849	Stobo Castle, Peeblesshire, Porte cochere
1851	Canongate Free Church (demolished), RSA 1857
1852	Charterhall, Berwickshire, for Richard TROTTER (demolished), RSA 1852
1852c	Blackadder, Berwickshire, for Sir George A F H BOSWELL (remodelling, demolished)
1852-53	Milne Graden, Berwickshire, alterations for David Milne, correspondence NHRS
1853	Turtleton House, Berwickshire additions, adds original drawings in possession of owner copies in NMRS
1854	Kinross House, Staircase, for Sir G MONTGOMERY (probably not executed), RSA 1854
1854	Allanton School, Berwickshire, Building Chronicle: May 10 1854
1855-63	Melville Crescent, Edinburgh revised Brown's design, Walker Trust plans, built Nos 5,5, 6 and 10, 11, 12.
1857-8	George Watson's Hospital; Edinburgh: Building Chronicle: June 1857 extensive additions, east classrooms, Building News October 1858. Library, reading room, workshops. Playroom, governors apartments, dining hall, lodge etc., now incorporated in Royal Infirmary
1858-59	Donavoured House, Perthshire, additions. Drawings, NHRS
1862-70	Chester Street, Edinburgh, Walker Trust, plans
1863	Speddoch House, Dumfries, RSA 1863
1863	Stobo Church, repairs, Builder September 12, 1863
1864	1-7 Coates Place, Edinburgh, Walker Trust
1864	15-30, 31, 32 West Maitland Street, Edinburgh, Walker Trust
1866-74	47-61, 4-24, 48-58 Manor Place, Edinburgh, Walker Trust
1866	Salisbury Green House, Edinburgh, reconstruction and additions for Wm Nelson, RSA 1866
1869	St Mary Street (upper part with D Cousin)
1869-70	St Leonard's Hall, Edinburgh, for Thomas Nelson, Builder, December 17 1870 (as Arthursley)
1869c	St Leonard's Works, Parkside, Edinburgh (front building) for Thos Nelson &

	Son
1869	109-110 Princess Street, Edinburgh for John Taylor & Sons, Building News March 26 1869
1870c	Cleish Castle, Kinross-shire, alterations (since largely removed) EAA
1870-76	3-21 Palmerston Place, Edinburgh, Walker Trust
1871	Trinity College Church, Jeffrey Street, Edinburgh (dem) including the rebuilding of mediaeval apse as a hall
1871c	St Mary Street, Edinburgh, lower part
1871	Longnewton Place, Roxburghshire, alterations and additions. Plans NMRS
1873	Consulted on elevations design of Commercial Street, Dundee
1873	Competition design for St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral
1874c	Proposals for Pebbles Parish Church, not executed, Plans SRO ex Blackwood & Smi.
1874	Smith Institute, Stirling
1874	Site plan and elevations, 1-37 Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh, Walker Trust
1875	63-85 Grassmarket, Edinburgh, partly built by MacGibbon & Ross
1877c	Jeffrey Street
1877-78	The Doune. Rothiemurchus, new drawing room, stairhall, French roof for Grant of Rothiemurchus (since demolished)
1878c	St Leonard's Established Church, Parkside Place, British Architect, July 7 18.
1878	Denbrae House, Fife alterations
1879	Villa at Clermiston Watherston drawings NMRS
1880-81	Drumsheugh Place, probably provided elevations for Walker Estate, built by John Watherston & Son. Newspapers cuttings. Edinburgh Room Edinburgh Central Library
1881	Lady Lawson Street, Edinburgh, Original plan in Dean of Guild Edinburgh Copy in NMRS
1881-83	Royal Crescent. Edinburgh, revised design, executed James Lessels, 1884-88
1881	Meadows Park East, Edinburgh, Nelson pillars
1882-83	Bellevue Crescent, northern half, revised design for execution, based on previous revised scheme by David Cousin, 1869
Undated	Holy Trinity Parish Church, St Andrews designs for internal restoration not executed. The Parish Church of Holy Trinity, St Andrews 1920, p13

James LESSELS

1887c	86-90 Grassmarket, Edinburgh
1890	Grassmarket Mission Building, 96, 96a Grassmarket, Edinburgh, Dean of Guild plans.

(Reference information sent to me by researcher Living WILSON Scotland)

John & Mary LESSELS their children: and descendants

<p>1-Margaret LESSELS born about 1831-32 Kilconquhar Scotland died 27 March 1899 Hawthorne Victoria Australia married 27 August 1856 Roslin Lasswade Midlothian Scotland Robert COCHRANE refer chart 16-17 -1</p>

<p>2-John LESSELS born 22 December 1833 Dawick Pebbleshire Scotland died 25 September 1914 St Peter Port Guernsey Channel Island married 01 August 1855 Kensington Middlesex England Margaret GILLIES refer chart 8-9</p>

- 3- Elizabeth Hamilton Murray LESSELS** born 02 August 1835 Drumelzier Pebbles Scotland married 24 November 1856 Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland Adolphus Ross CALDER born about 1836 died 1874
- 3-1- **Mary Henderson Lessels** CALDER born about 1858 Edinburgh
- 3-2- **John Lessels** CALDER born about 1860 Edinburgh
- 3-3- **Anne Campbell Lessels** CALDER born about 1864 Roslin Edinburgh Married John M BAIRD born about 1863 Winyns [sic] Fife
- 3-3-1- Elizabeth L BAIRD born about 1895 Lasswade Midlothian Scotland
- 3-4- **George** CALDER born 1866 Roslin Edinburgh
- 3-5- **Adolphus Ross** CALDER born about 1869 Roslin Edinburgh
- 3-6- **William H B** CALDER born about 1872 Roslin Edinburgh

Elisabeth Murray daughter of John LESSELS Clerk of Works Dawick House and Mary HENDERSON his wife was born the 2 August and baptised the 1 October 1835 by the Rev Jas SOMERVILLE

(Reference FHC microfilm 1067905 Drumelzier Peebleshire Scotland [1835] Old Parish Registers)

1841 Census Allanton Scotland – Allanton

- Elizabeth LESSELS age 4 born Scotland

(Reference RGO 1841 Census Allanton Scotland RD 738/00 ED 004/000)

1851 Census – 7 St Vincent Street No 4299 - Edinburgh Scotland The New Town

- Elizabeth LESSELS daughter age 15 Scholar born Drumelzier Peebleshire Scotland
- (Reference National Library Wellington Booklet of 1851 Census Edinburgh Scotland The New Town Volume 3 Part 1 RD685/01 ED137/000)*

Elizabeth Hamilton Murray LESSELS age 21 spinster resident at 21 Heriot Row married Adolphus Ross CALDER age 20 Carpenter bachelor resident 13 Pitt Street on the 24 November 1856 at Rev William ROBERTS 2 Claremount [sic] Street Marriage taken Banns was solemnised between us recontuny to the banns of the Established Church of Scotland. Elizabeth's parents were Mary formerly HENDERSON and John LESSELS Architect. Adolphus's parents were Ann Campbell formerly SINCLAIR deceased and Gus CALDER JJC [sic]. The witnesses were John CALDER, Peter SCOTT and Minister of St Bernard's William ROBERTSON.

(Reference RGO Scotland 1856 Marriage Heriot and Warriston Edinburgh RD 685/07)

John and Mary had a daughter **Mary Henderson Lessels** CALDER who was born about 1858 Edinburgh

SEARCH (Reference RGO Scotland birth registration 1858)

John and Mary had a son **John Lessels** CALDER who was born about 1860 Edinburgh

SEARCH (Reference RGO Scotland birth registration 1860)

1861 Census - No 22 Heriot Row of St Stephen Edinburgh Scotland

- John LESSELS head widower age 51 Architect born Kinghorn Fife
- Mary LESSELS daughter unmarried age 18 born Edinburgh
- William LESSELS son unmarried age 16 Civil Engineer apprentice born Edinburgh
- Isabella LESSELS daughter unmarried age 14 Scholar born Edinburgh
- **Elizabeth H.M. CALDER** daughter married age 25 born Drumelzier Peebleshire
- **Mary CALDER** granddaughter age 3 born Edinburgh
- **John Lessels CALDER** grandson age 1 born Edinburgh
- Margaret PAY servant unmarried age 29 Domestic servant born Aikemp Wils [sic]

(Reference FHC microfilm 0103876 Census 1861 St Andrew Edinburgh Emnu.Dis.48 RD685/02 ED048/000)

John and Mary had a daughter **Anne Campbell Lessels** CALDER who was born about 1864 Roslin Edinburgh

SEARCH (Reference RGO Scotland birth registration 1864)

John and Mary had a son **George** CALDER who was born 1866 Roslin Edinburgh

SEARCH (Reference RGO Scotland birth registration 1866)

John and Mary had a son **Adolphus Ross** CALDER who was born about 1869 Roslin Edinburgh

SEARCH (Reference RGO Scotland birth registration 1869)

1871 Census - 21 Heriot Row St Andrew Parish Edinburgh Civil Parish of St Stephen

- John LESSELS head widower age 62 Architect born Fifeshire Kinghorn
- **Elizabeth CALDER** daughter married age 34 born Pebbleshire Drumelzier
- **Mary CALDER** granddaughter age 13 Scholar born Midlothian Edinburgh
- **John CALDER** grandson age 11 Scholar born Midlothian Edinburgh
- **Anne CALDER** granddaughter age 7 Scholar born Midlothian Scotland
- **George CALDER** grandson age 5 born Midlothian Edinburgh
- **Adolphis CALDER** grandson age 2 born Midlothian Edinburgh
- Margaret MERCER servant age 24 Domestic servant born Sterlingshire Falkirk
(Reference FHC microfilm 0104050 Census 1871 St Andrew Edinburgh Emnu.Dis.49)

John and Mary had a son **William H B CALDER** who was born about 1872 Roslin Edinburgh

SEARCH (Reference RGO Scotland birth registration 1872)

1881 Census – 2 Heriot Row Census place St Stephens Parish Edinburgh Midlothian

- John LESSELS Head age 72 Architect born Fife Kinghorn
- Frank A ST OGGER son-in-law married age 33 Architect born Austria Hungary G
- Isabella L ST OGGER daughter age 34 born Edinburgh
- **Mary H.L. CALDER** granddaughter age 23 Teacher born Edinburgh
- **John L CALDER** grandson age 21 Architectural Edinburgh
- **Ann Campbell L CALDER** granddaughter age 17 Photographic born Roslin Edinburgh
- Infant St OGGER grandson age 15 days or months born Edinburgh
- Isabella BLAIR (Mrs) servant widow age 50 nurse born Edinburgh Newton
- Margaret LAING servant unmarried age 24 Domestic servant born Fife Lochgelly Auchdea

(Reference FHC Microfilm 0223997 Scotland Midlothian Edinburgh St Step+ Enum Dist 62 page 7 have not sighted film only index film and CD at FHC)

1891 Census Coulhall [sic] Cottage Lasswade Roslin Scotland

- **Elizabeth CALDER** head (**SEARCH check**) **widow/married** age 54 House keeper born Pebbleshire Machbie Hill
- Adolphas CALDER son unmarried age 21 Shale Miner born Midlothian Roslin
- Wm H.B. CALDER son unmarried age 19 Coal Miner unemployed born Midlothian Roslin
- Frank ST OGGER nephew age 8 Scholar born Midlothian Edinburgh
- James LESSELS brother (**SEARCH check**) **unmarried/widower** age 50 Architect born Bewick Allanton
- Florence LESSELS niece unmarried age 27 Staff district nurse born England
- James CANIE visitor unmarried age 25 Registered General Practitioner born Roxburghshire Mountbatten

(Reference RGO Scotland 1891 Census Lasswade Roslin Scotland RD 691/00 ED 014/000)

1901 Census "Creel Ha" cottage Lasswade Roslin Scotland

- Elizabeth CALDER head widow age 65 born Pebbleshire Machbieill
- James M BAIRD son-in-law married age 38 Mining Engineer born Fife Winys
- Anne BAIRD daughter married age 36 wife of above born Midlothian Lasswade
- Elizabeth L BAIRD granddaughter age 6 Scholar born Midlothian Lasswade
- Frank ST OGGER nephew single age 18 In Training for S. Af. Cousthy [sic] born Edinburgh City

(Reference RGO Scotland 1901 Census Lasswade Roslin Scotland RD 691/00 ED 013/000)

SEARCH Census 1901 and death registration

4- Robert Henderson LESSELS born 23 August 1837 Pebble Scotland 1856 (Architect Clerk) married 1856 Margaret JOHNSTON born about 1838

4-1- **Mary Liddel Henderson LESSELS** born about 1858 Windsor Berkshire England

4-2- **Alice Elizabeth LESSELS** was born 1862 Windsor Berkshire England

4-3- **Robert Edwin LESSELS** born 1863 Windsor Berkshire England died 1873 Madeley Shropshire England

4-4- **Margaret J LESSELS** born 1866 Salop Proseby England

4-5- **Frances LESSELS** born 1868 Salop Proseby England

4-6- **Louisa Jane LESSELS** born 1871 Salop Proseby England

4-7- **Emily Ida LESSELS** born 1874 Salop Proseby England

1837 **Robert** son of John LESSELS and Mary HENDERSON his spouse born at Macbiehill (sic) 23 August [1837]

(Reference FHC LDS microfilm 1067919 Newlands Pebble Scotland birth death marriage Old Parish Registers)

1841 Census Allanton Scotland

- Robert LESSELS age 3 born Scotland

(Reference RGO 1841 Census Allanton Scotland RD 738/00 ED 004/000)

1851 Census – 7 St Vincent Street No 4299 Edinburgh Scotland The New Town

- Robert LESSELS son age 13 Scholar born Newlands Peebleshire Scotland

(Reference National Library Wellington Booklet of 1851 Census Edinburgh Scotland The New Town Volume 3 Part 1 RD685/01 ED137/000)

Mary Liddel Henderson LESSELS was born 1858 in Windsor

ORDER (Reference source RGO Birth 1858 December quarter registration district Windsor Volume 2c page 354)

R H (Robert Henderson) LESSELS aged 19 Architect Clerk resident at 21 Heriot Row Edinburgh married Margaret JOHNSON age 20 resident at 2 Glonville Place Edinburgh on the 20 Day of August 1856 at Roslin according to the forms of the Established Church of Scotland marriage after banns was solomings between. Robert's parents were Mary formerly HENDERSON and John LESSELS Architect. Margaret's parents were Mary formerly LIDDEL and James JOHNSTON deceased. The witnesses were Jno LESSELS Jnr (brother), Robert COCHRANE (brother-in-law) and Minister Arch. STIRLING.

(Reference RGO Lasswade Edinburgh Scotland 1856 Marriage RD 691/00)

Robert and Margaret had a daughter **Mary LESSELS** who was born about 1859 Windsor Berkshire England

SEARCH (Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry RGO UK birth registration 1859)

1861 Census No 16 Bexley Street Clewer St Andrews Berkshire Windsor England Windsor - Indexed LESSELLS

- Robert LESSELLS head married age 23 Architects draughtsman born Scotland

- Margaret LESSELLS Margaret wife married age 24 born Scotland
- Mary LESSELLS daughter unmarried age 2 born Berks Windsor
(Reference National Library NZ ancestry & 1861 Census Society of Genealogists London Ancestry)

Robert and Margaret had a daughter **Alice Elizabeth** LESSELLS who was born 1861 in Windsor Berkshire England

ORDER (Reference source RGO 1861 June quarter district Windsor Volume 2c page 388)

Robert and Margaret had a son **Robert Edwin** LESSELLS was born 1863 in Windsor Berkshire England

ORDER (Reference source RGO 1863 September quarter district Windsor Volume 2c page 373)

Robert and Margaret had a daughter **Margaret** LISSILS who was born 1866 Shropshire Broseley England

SEARCH (Reference source RGO UK 1866)

Robert and Margaret had a daughter **Frances** LESSELLS who was born 1868 Shropshire Broseley England

ORDER (Reference source RGO UK 1868 March quarter Madeley Shropshire Volume 6a page 627)

Robert and Margaret had a daughter **Louisa Jane** LESSELLS who was born 1870 Shropshire Broseley England

ORDER (Reference source RGO UK 1870 June quarter Madeley Shropshire volume 6a page 651)

1871 Census High Street Wenlock Broseley Shropshire Madeley England - Indexed JERRELLS original spelt LESSELLS

- Robert H LESSELLS head married age 33 Designer at the? born Scotland
- Margaret F LESSELLS wife married age 34 born Scotland
- Mary L H LESSELLS daughter unmarried age 12 born Berkshire Windsor
- Alice E LESSELLS daughter unmarried age 9 born Berkshire Windsor
- Robert E LESSELLS son unmarried age 7 born Berkshire Windsor
- Margaret L LESSELLS daughter unmarried age 5 No occupation born Salop Broseley
- Frances LESSELLS daughter unmarried age 3 No occupation born Salop Broseley
- Louise L LESSELLS daughter age 11 months Salop Broseley
(Reference National Library of NZ ancestry 1871 Census Brosley Shropshire)

Robert and Margaret had a daughter **Emily Ida** LESSELLS who was born 1873 Shropshire Broseley

ORDER (Reference source RGO UK 1873 June quarter Madeley Shropshire Volume 6a page 659)

Robert and Margaret's son **Robert Edwin** LESSELLS died in 1873 Madeley Shropshire

ORDER (Reference RGO UK 1873 December quarter age 10 Madeley Shropshire volume 6a page 429)

1881 Census High Street Broseley Wenlock Shropshire Madeley Broseley
Everything was spelt LISSILS should be LESSELLS

- Robert LESSELLS head married age 43 Designer unemployed born Scotland Pebbles
- Margaret I LESSELLS wife married age 44 born Scotland Edinburgh
- Mary L H LESSELLS daughter unmarried age 22 Organist born Berks Windsor
- Alice E LESSELLS daughter unmarried age 19 no occupation born Berks Windsor

- Margaret J LESSELS daughter age 15 No occupation born Salop Broseley
 - Frances LESSELS daughter age 13 No occupation born Salop Broseley
 - Louisa J LESSELS daughter age 10 Scholar born Salop Broseley
 - Emily Ida LESSELS daughter age 7 Scholar born Salop Broseley
- (Reference National Library NZ ancestry & 1881 Census Madeley Broseley Society of Genealogists London Ancestry)*

1891 Census 8 Felixstone Road Willesden St John Middlesex England

- Robert H LESSELS head married age 53 Decorative designer born Scotland
 - Margaret LESSELS wife married age 53 born Scotland
 - Mary LESSELS daughter single age 32 Music teacher born Berks Windsor
 - Alice LESSELS daughter single age 29 born Berks Windsor
 - Margaret LESSELS daughter single age 25 Music teacher born Shropshire Broseley
 - Frances LESSELS daughter single age 23 Millers assistant born Shropshire Broseley
 - Louisa LESSELS daughter single age 21 Millers apprentice born Shropshire Broseley
 - Emily LESSELS daughter single age 17 born Shropshire Broseley
- (Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry 1891 Census Hendon Willesden Middlesex England)*

1901 Census 8 Felixstone St Willesden St John Kensal Green Harrow Middlesex England

- Robert LESSELS head married age 63 Encaster designer at home own account born Scotland
 - Margaret LESSELS wife married age 63 born Scotland
 - Mary L H LESSELS daughter single age 42 piano teacher own account at home born Berks Windsor England
 - Alice E LESSELS daughter single age 39 dressmaker own account at home born Berks Windsor England
 - Margaret L LESSELS daughter single age 35 Piano folk teacher own account at home born Shropshire Broseley England
 - Frances LESSELS daughter single age 33 Cap Millers hats worker born Shropshire Broseley England
 - Louisa L LESSELS daughter single age 30 born Millers assistant worker Shropshire Broseley England
 - Emily L LESSELS daughter single age 27 born Shropshire Broseley England
- (Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry 1901 Census Hendon Willesden Kensal Rise St John Middlesex England)*

Robert LESSELS died 1910 West Derby Lancashire England age 72 (born about 1838)
ORDER (Reference RGO UK death registration 1910 December quarter West Derby Lancashire volume 8b page 34)

SEARCH 1911 Census for the daughters of Robert LESSELS

5-James LESSELS born 16 July 1840 Berwick Scotland died perhaps 1905 1st married
16 December 1862 St Mary's Islington England Emma JACKSON born unknown died
unknown

4-1- **Florence** LESSELS born about 1863/4 London Middlesex England

4-2- **Maud** LESSELS born about 1866 London Middlesex England

4-3- **Herbert** LESSELS born about 1867 London Middlesex England

4-4- **Sydney** LESSELS born 12 February 1869 Newington Edinburgh Scotland

- 4-5- **James Fraser** LESSELS born 01 December 1878 Aberden Scotland died Belfast Ireland (Edinburgh professional photographer) married (cousin) Faith DUNCAN born 1885 Edinburgh died
#James's studios Aberdeen 1902-1911, Edinburgh 1906-1908 & Angus 19091-1911
- 4-5-1- Maurice LESSELS he was a Professional Photographer in Lisburn Co Antrim
4-5-2- Marie LESSELS born about 1916
4-5-3- LESSELS
4-5-4- LESSELS
4-5-5- LESSELS
4-5-6- LESSELS
4-5-7- LESSELS
4-5-8- LESSELS
- 4-6- Margaret Joseph LESSELS born 1883 Aberdeen Scotland died 1909 Aberdeen Scotland (Photographer)

LESSELS **James** son of John LESSELS presently residing in Allanton and of Mary HENDERSON his wife was born on the 16th July 1840 and baptised on the 27th August following by the Rev Alex CUTHBERTSON Minister of the Parish before several Witnesses.

(Reference FHC microfilm 1067896 Edian Berwick Scotland birth deaths marriages Old Parish Registers)

1841 Census Allanton Scotland

- James LESSELS age 1 born Scotland
(Reference RGO 1841 Census Allanton Scotland RD 738/00 ED 004/000)

1851 Census – 7 St Vincent Street No 4299 - Edinburgh Scotland The New Town

- James LESSELS son age 10 Scholar born Edrom Berwickshire Scotland
(Reference National Library Wellington Booklet of 1851 Census Edinburgh Scotland The New Town Volume 3 Part 1 RD685/01 ED137/000)

1861 Census Parish Islington Municipal Ward Highbury –17 Hawthorne Street

- **James LESSELS** brother unmarried age 20 Clerk to the District Surveyor of road office Officer of Works born Allanton Berwickshire Scotland
James was living with his older brother John and his wife Margaret LESSELS
(Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry 1861 Census Parish Islington Municipal Ward Highbury 17 Hawthorne Street schedule 244)

Emma JACKSON was born details unknown

SEARCH (Reference birth

James LESSELS married Emma JACKSON on 16 December 1862 at St Mary's Islington England. The details were recorded on their son's birth registration.

ORDER (Reference RGO England marriage 1862 December quarter Islington Volume 1B page 405)

James and Emma had a daughter **Florence** LESSELS who was born 1863 in Islington England

ORDER (Reference Source RGO UK Birth 1863 September quarter Islington Vol 1B page 273)

James and Emma had a daughter **Maud** LESSELS who was born 1865 in Islington England

ORDER (Reference source RGO UK Birth 1865 June quarter district Islington Volume 1B page 303)

James and Emma had a son **Herbert** LESSELS who was born about 1867 in London Middlesex England

SEARCH (Reference RGO UK Birth 1867)

James and Emma had a son **Sydney** LESSELS who was born on 12 February 1869 12Hr 30 M AM at No 26 E Weston Street Edinburgh. His parents details were recorded as Emma formerly JACKSON and James LESSELS occupation Architect who were married on 16 December 1862 St Mary's Islington England. The birth was registered on 06 March 1869 at Edburgh by father James LESSELS.

(Reference RGO Scotland 1869 Newington City of Edinburgh RD 685/05)

SEARCH 1871 Census Scotland or England

James and Emma had a son **James Fraser** LESSELS who was born about 1878 Aberden Scotland

SEARCH (Reference RGO Scotland 1878 Aberden Scotland)

SEARCH 1881 Census Scotland and England

SEARCH death registration Emma LESSELS formerly JACKSON between 1878 -1891

1891 Census Coulhall [sic] Cottage Lasswade Roslin Scotland

- Elizabeth CALDER head widow/married age 54 House keeper born Peebleshire Machbie Hill
- Adolphas CALDER son unmarried age 21 Shale Miner born Midlothian Roslin
- Wm H.B. CALDER son unmarried age 19 Coal Miner unemployed born Midlothian Roslin
- Frank ST OGGER nephew age 8 Scholar born Midlothian Edinburgh
- **James LESSELS** brother unmarried/widower age 50 Architect born Bewick Allanton
- **Florence LESSELS** niece unmarried age 27 Staff district nurse born England
- James CANIE visitor unmarried age 25 Registered General Practitioner born Roxburghshire Mountbatten

(Reference RGO Scotland 1891 Census Lasswade Roslin Scotland RD 691/00 ED 014/000)

1891 Census Midlothian Scotland

Herbert LESSELS age 24 Enum/Dist685/3 20 page 3 Canongate Edinburgh district
Sydney J LESSELS age 22 Enum/Dist 685/3 20 page 3 Canongate Edinburgh district

SEARCH for film above information from Census CD Rom etc

SEARCH 1901 census for James LESSELS

SEARCH death registration 1905 of James LESSELS

Dictionary of Scottish Architects Biography Report

Name	James LESSELS	Designation	Architect
Born	c1834	Died	c1905

Bio Notes James LESSELS (born c1834) was the younger son and partner of John LESSELS senior, the elder brother John having gone into government service. He inherited his father's interest in the practice and his appointment as architect to the City Improvement Trust when his father died in 1883 and worked in a very similar Scots Jacobethan style. He remained sole practitioner at 50 George Street, Edinburgh until 1890 when he took Harry Ramsay Taylor into partnership, the office subsequently moving to 7a Young Street by 1901.

Much of the work of the practice depended on the connection with Nelsons the publishers, which had been established by John LESSELS. When James LESSELS retired or died c1905 Taylor merged the practice with that of William Ormiston of Cousin & Ormiston as Cousin, Ormiston & Taylor.

Private and business addresses

- 50 George Street Edinburgh Business 1879 before 1902
- 7a Young Street Edinburgh Business before 1901-1905

Employment and Training

- John Lessels & Son from 1860 to 1890 Position Partner
- James Lessels & Harry Ramsay Taylor from 1890 to c1905 Partner

Employees or Pupils

- Harry Ramsay Taylor from 1884 to 1890 Assistant

Bibliographic references

- Post Office Directories

Archives References

- Edinburgh City Archives City Improvement Trust Minutes

Buildings and Designs

1869	10-11 Abbotsford St Andrews Crescent Fife	
1884	Royal Crescent Edinburgh completed scheme started in 1823 completed 1884	Executed design completed to modified design by John Lessels original drawings in City Architect's Department copies in NMRS
1886	39 Jeffrey Street Edinburgh	
1887	Block of buildings on the corner of Chambers Street & Guthrie Street Edinburgh	Following David Cousin's City Improvement Act designs
1887	86-90 Grassmarket Old Town Edinburgh	
1888	3-37 Jeffrey Street Edinburgh	
1890	Grassmarket Mission Hall Old Town Edinburgh	
C1890	Craigpark Ratho Midlothian	Alterations and additions
C1890	Fosswell Auchterarder Perthshire	Alterations and additions
C1890	Hawkshaw Peeblesshire	
C1890	Parsonage Haddington East Lothian	
C1890	Ballantyne Hanson & Co	Additions
C1890	St Leonard's works Parkside Edinburgh	Additions
C1890	Stonefield house Argyll	Alterations and additions
C1890	The Lodge Ratho Midlothian	Alterations and additions
1891	Design for Free Library Edinburgh	Design exhibited perhaps 1887 competitions design for Edinburgh Central Library
1891	Tenement, 4-18 Jeffrey Street and 3-9 Cranston Street Edinburgh	
1897	Boroughloch Brewery Edinburgh	
1897	Warehouse for John Crabbie & Co Leith Edinburgh	Front warehouse
1898	Nelson Hall Stockbridge Edinburgh	
1900	Biscuit Factory Slateford Road Edinburgh	19
1900	Falkirk Public Library Falkirk Stirlingshire	Second premiated competition design (£25 premium)
1900	Penicuik House Penicuik Midlothian	Conversion of stables to new house
1901	Stirling Public Library Stirlingshire	Won in competition
1903	Maryhill Public Library Maryhill Glasgow	Competition design by Lessels and Taylor
1904	Cloan House Auchterarder Perthshire	Reconstruction
1904	Nelson Hall and Library Edinburgh	

C1906	Ferro-concrete factory Edinburgh	
C1906	Murdostoun Newmains Lanarkshire	Additions
C1906	Nelson Hall and Branch Library Edinburgh	

(Reference source website www.codexgeo.co.uk/dsa/architect)

6-Mary LESSELS born 15 June 1842 St Cuthberts Parish Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland died 03 August 1888 Inverness Scotland married 28 January 1868 Edinburgh William Henry BALDERSTON born about 1838 died 2 December 1900 Portobello (no Issue)

Register of Births and Baptisms for 1842 - LESSELS 30th June 1842
John LESSELS Architect, Residing in No 3 St Bernard's Row Stockbridge (sic) and Mary HENDERSON his spouse had a daughter born to them on the Fifteenth day of June current named **Mary**.

(Reference FHC microfilm 1040214 Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland Old Parish Registers St Cuthberts Births)

1851 Census – 7 St Vincent Street No 4299 - Edinburgh Scotland The New Town

- Mary LESSELS daughter age 8 Scholar born Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland
(Reference National Library Wellington Booklet of 1851 Census Edinburgh Scotland The New Town Volume 3 Part 1 RD685/01 ED137/000)

1861 Census - No 22 Heriot Row of St Stephen Edinburgh Scotland

- Mary LESSELS daughter unmarried age 18 born Edinburgh
(Reference FHC microfilm 0103876 Census 1861 St Andrew Edinburgh Emnu.Dis.48 RD685/02 ED048/000)

William Henry BALDERSTON was born about 1838. His parents were John BALDERSTON and Janet HENDERSON.

SEARCH (Reference birth registration)

Mary LESSELS age 23 spinster residence No 21 Heriot Row Edinburgh married (relationship noted as Cousin German) Wm H BALDERSTON age 30 bachelor Surveyor of Taxes residence Dalgleish House Stirling on the 28 day of January 1868 at No 21 Heriot Row Edinburgh after Banns according to the forma of the Church of Scotland. Mary's parents were Mary formerly HENDERSON deceased and John LESSELS Architect. Wm. Parents were Jane formerly HENDERSON and John BALDERSTON Accountant. The witnesses were Ebenezer MORRISON, Wilhelmina BROWN and the Minister of St Bernard's John MCMATHIE.

(Reference RGO Scotland Marriage 1868 St Andrew Edinburgh RD 685/02)

William's mother Jane/Janet HENDERSON and Mary's mother Mary HENDERSON were sisters. So William and his bride Mary were first cousins.

1871 Census 82 George Street Oban Scotland 6 rooms

- W H BALDERSTON head married age 34 Surveyor of Stamps [sic] born Fife Kirkcaldy
- Mary BALDERSTON wife married age 27 wife of above born Edinburgh
- Emily LIVINGSTON servant unmarried age 23 Domestic servant born Argyle Hul Bridge [sic]

(Reference RGO Scotland 1871 Census Oban Scotland RD 523/00 ED 005/000)

1881 Census Scotland - 34 Hill Terrace Inverness Scotland

- Mary L BALDERSTON age 37 born Edinburgh Scotland
- William H BALDERSTON William H age 44 born Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland

SEARCH (Reference film 203420 above information from Census CD Rom disc 1)

Mary BALDERSTON age 46 married to William Henry BALDERSTON Surveyor of Taxes died on 3 August 1888 4 h 30m PM at 1 Palesfield Bank Inverness. Her parents were Mary formerly HENDERSON deceased and John LESSELS Architect deceased. Cause of death was heart disease several months as cert by D McFADYEB L R C S E. The informant was W H BALDERSTON widower. The death was registered on 13 August 188 in Inverness.

(Reference RGO Scotland Death 1888 Inverness RD 098/00)

SEARCH 1891 Census for William Henry BALDERSTON

William Henry BALDERSTON age 63 years Surveyor of Taxes & Lands Valuator retired widower of Mary LESSELS died 2 December 1900 8h 15m AM at No 13 Lee Crescent Portobello Edinburgh. His parents were Jane formerly HENDERSON deceased and John BLADERSTON Baker & Confectionest deceased. Cause of death was apoplesey as certified by John H BALFOUR MD & C M. The informant was sister Margaret DUNCAN from 5 Lee Crescent was present at the death. The death was registered on 3 December 1900.

(Reference RGO Scotland Death 1900 Portobello Edinburgh RD 685/06)

7- William LESSELS born 02 February 1845 St Cuthberts Parish Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland died 15 July 1874 New York United States of America

Register of Births and Baptisms for 1845 - 11 November 1845 LESSELS - ~12th~
John LESSELS Architect Residing at No 3 St Bernard's Row and Mary HENDERSON his spouse had a son born on Second day of February last Named **William**.

(Reference FHC microfilm 1066762 Old Parish Registers)

1851 Census – 7 St Vincent Street No 4299 Edinburgh Scotland The New Town

- William LESSELS son age 6 Scholar born Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland
(Reference National Library Wellington Booklet of 1851 Census Edinburgh Scotland The New Town Volume 3 Part 1 RD685/01 ED137/000)

1861 Census - No 22 Heriot Row
of St Stephen Edinburgh Scotland

- **William LESSELS** son unmarried age 16 Civil Engineer apprentice born Edinburgh
(Reference FHC microfilm 0103876 Census 1861 St Andrew Edinburgh Emnu.Dis.48 RD685/02 ED048/000)

SEARCH 1871 (age 26) **Census** and death registration

William's death was recorded on his father grave at Deans Cemetery Edinburgh but I cannot read the date.

SEARCH (Reference Source RGO Scotland or USA death registration)

William LESSELS younger son of John LESSELS 21 Herriot Place Edinburgh died in NY (New York) on 15 July 1874 [EC#28027]

(Reference web search Scots in the Mid-Atlantic States 1783-1883 Ancestry)

SEARCH (Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry)

8-Isabella McGlashan LESSELS born 15 July 1846 St Cuthberts Parish Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland died 3 November 1884 Edinburgh married 20 April 1880 Islington Middlesex Frank A ST OGGER [Anton Franz STUMPFODGER] born about 1816/1848 Austria Hungary (married & divorced before marring Isabella) died 21 December 1882 Edinburgh

8-1- **John Anthony Frank Luke** (Frank) ST OGGER born 18 March 1881 Heriot Row Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland died details unknown

Register of births and baptisms for 1846 - 11 September 1846 - ~15th~ - LESSELS John LESSELS Architect, Residing at No 7 Vincent Street Edinburgh and Mary HENDERSON his spouse had a daughter born on Fifteenth day of July last Named **Isabella**

(Reference FHC microfilm 1066762 Old Parish Registers)

1851 Census – 7 St Vincent Street No 4299 - Edinburgh Scotland The New Town

- Isabella LESSELS daughter age 4 born Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland

(Reference National Library Wellington Booklet of 1851 Census Edinburgh Scotland The New Town Volume 3 Part 1 RD685/01 ED137/000)

1861 Census - No 22 Heriot Row of St Stephen Edinburgh Scotland

- Isabella LESSELS daughter unmarried age 14 Scholar born Edinburgh

(Reference FHC microfilm 0103876 Census 1861 St Andrew Edinburgh Emnu.Dis.48 RD685/02 ED048/000)

SEARCH 1871 census of Scotland or England for Isabella LESSELS

Isabella LESSELS full age spinster married Frank St Ogger STUMPF OGGER full age bachelor occupation Engineer on 20 April 1880 at Parish church Islington Middlesex. Isabella's father was John LESSELS occupation Architect. Frank's father was Frank St Ogger STUMPF OGGER occupation Engineer. Isabella's residence at time of marriage was 9 Milne Street and Frank's was 21 High Street New Cross Kent. The witnesses were Henry BILBY and Henry SMITH. The curate was Ernest Henry FOTHERGILL.

(Reference Marriage 1880 England Islington Middlesex London England)

St Mary parish records Parish of Islington in the County of Middlesex England 1880 Marriage solemnized at the parish church in the parish of Islington in the County of Middlesex number 478 20 April 1880 Frank St Ogger Stumpf OGGER of full age bachelor occupation Engineer residence 9 Milner Street and Isabella LESSELS of full age spinster residence 21 High Street New Cross Kent married in the Parish church according to the rites and ceremonies of the Established Church by licence by me Ernest Henry FOTHERGILL curator. Frank's father was Frank St Ogger Stumpf OGGER occupation Engineer. Isabella's father was John LESSELS Architect. The witnesses were Henry BILBY and Harvey SMITH.

(Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry St Mary parish records Parish of Islington in the County of Middlesex England page 239 line478)

Isabella and Frank had a son John Anthony Frank Luke ST OGGER (later known as Frank) who was born on 18 March 1881 at 21 Heriot Row Edinburgh. His parents were Isabella McGlachan [sic] Henderson formerly LESSELS and Frank ST OGGER Architect and were married on 20 April 1880 Islington London. The father Frank ST OGGER registered the birth on 7 April 1881 in Edinburgh.

(Reference RGO Scotland Birth 1881 St Andrew Edinburgh RD 685/02)

1881 Census – 2 Heriot Row St Stephens Parish Edinburgh Midlothian Scotland

- John LESSELS Head age 72 Architect born Fife Kinghorn
- **Frank A ST OGGER** son-in-law married age 33 Architect born Austria Hungary G
- **Isabella L ST OGGER** daughter age 34 born Edinburgh
- Mary H.L. CALDER granddaughter age 23 Teacher born Edinburgh
- John L CALDER grandson age 21 Architectural Edinburgh
- Ann Campbell L CALDER granddaughter age 17 Photographic born Roslin Edinburgh
- **Infant St OGGER** grandson age 15 days or months born Edinburgh
- Isabella BLAIR (Mrs) servant widow age 50 nurse born Edinburgh Newton

- Margaret LAING servant unmarried age 24 Domestic servant born Fife Lochgelly Auchdea

(Reference FHC Microfilm 0223997 Scotland Midlothian Edinburgh St Step+ Enum Dist 62 page 7 have not sighted film only index film and CD at FHC)

Anton Franz STUMPSOGER commonly known as Frank Anthony ST OGGER Architect Divorced from Bydin SGAB [sic] and married to Isb LESSELS died aged 66 years on 21 December 1882 12 moon at 21 Heriot Row Edinburgh usual residence St Which Corsterpheur [sic] aged 34 years. His parents were Magdalena formerly NEUBAUER deceased and Hnton STAMPSOGER builder. Cause of death was Phthisis 2 years as certified by James H SIDNEY MD. The informant was brother Otto STUMPS OGGER of 5 Hampton ? Edinburgh was present at the death. The death was registered on 26 December 1882.

(Reference RGO Scotland 1882 Death St Andrew Edinburgh registration RD 685/02)

Isabella McGlashan ST OGGER age 38 years widow of Frank ST OGGER Architect died on 3 November 1884 2 Hr 20m PM at Marchmont Terrace Edinburgh. Her parents were Mary formerly HENDERSON deceased and John LESSELS architect deceased. Cause of death was Phthisis 6 months as cert by James A SIDNEY M D. The information was J Lessels CALDER nephew from 5 Gradeners Crescent who was present at the death. The death was registered on 4 November 1884.

(Reference RGO Scotland Death 1884 Newington Edinburgh RD 685/05)

After the death of Isabella her son Frank ST OGGER went to live with his Aunt Elizabeth CALDER who was also an older sister of Isabella ST OGGER formerly LESSELS.

1891 Census Coulhall [sic] Cottage - Lasswade Roslin Scotland

- Elizabeth CALDER head widow/married age 54 House keeper born Pebbleshire Machbie Hill
- Adolphas CALDER son unmarried age 21 Shale Miner born Midlothian Roslin
- Wm H.B. CALDER son unmarried age 19 Coal Miner unemployed born Midlothian Roslin
- **Frank ST OGGER** nephew age 8 Scholar born Midlothian Edinburgh
- James LESSELS brother unmarried/widower age 50 Architect born Bewick Allanton
- Florence LESSELS niece unmarried age 27 Staff district nurse born England
- James CANIE visitor unmarried age 25 Registered General Practitioner born Roxburghshire Mountbatten

(Reference RGO Scotland 1891 Census Lasswade Roslin Scotland RD 691/00 ED 014/000)

1901 Census "Crel Ha" cottage - Lasswade Roslin Scotland

- Elizabeth CALDER head widow age 65 born Pebbleshire Machbieill
- James M BAIRD son-in-law married age 38 Mining Engineer born Fife Winys
- Anne BAIRD daughter married age 36 wife of above born Midlothian Lasswade
- Elizabeth L BAIRD granddaughter age 6 Scholar born Midlothian Lasswade
- **Frank ST OGGER** nephew single age 18 In Training for S. Af. Cousthyby [sic] (perhaps South Africa Constabulary) born Edinburgh City

(Reference RGO Scotland 1901 Census Lasswade Roslin Scotland RD 691/00 ED 013/000)

SEARCH Military records South Africa for **Frank ST OGGER**

LESSELS miscellaneous information

1837 Directories = No LESSELS

1842-43 Directories = No LESSELS

1851 – 52 Directory Edinburgh & Leith

- LESSELS John architect 21 Heriot Row
1858-59 Post Office Edinburgh & Leith Directory
- LESSELS John architect 21 Heriot Row
1861 – 62 Directory Edinburgh & Leith
- LESSELS John architect 24 Heriot Row
1875-76 Post Office Edinburgh & Leith Directory
- LESSELS D Postal Telegraph Superintendent 23 Lothian Road
- LESSELS James 50 George Street
- LESSELS John architect 50 George Street house 24 Heriot Row
1884-85 Post Office Edinburgh & Leith Directory
- LESSEL Mrs 6 Nelson Street
- LESSELS James 1 Roseneath Terrace
- LESSELS James architect 50 George Street house 1 Roseneath Terrace
- LESSELS John Baker 51 Canongate house 24 Montrose Terrace
- LESSELS Joseph 24 Colville place Glenogle road
1904-05 Post Office Directory Edinburgh & Leith
- LESSELLS William 47 McDonald Yard
- LESSELS & TAYLOR architects 7a Young Street
- LESSELS John Baker and Confectioner 30 London Road house 2 Comely Green Crescent
- LESSELS John writer 12 St Vincent Street
- LESSELS Sydney J Surveyor 11 Sylvan Place
- LESSELS Thomas 8 Waverley Place Leith
1915 Directory of Scotland Private residents and traders
- LESSELLS Geo 124 Dewar Street Dunfermline
- LESSELLS William Low Terry Newmills Dunfermline
- LESSELS Gilbt H Heriot gardens Burntisland

LESSELS John birth registration district Newport England Volume 6A page 723 Birth December quarter 1858

LESSELS Allen Henderson district W Derby Volume 8b page 358 Birth June quarter 1862

LESSELS Beatrice May district W Derby Volume 8B page 327 September quarter 1864

SEARCH details on a website that recorded 1 Burial Abney Park Cemetery London for LESSELS

1891 Census Midlothian Scotland for LESSELS

Name	Age	Enum/Dist	Page	Census district
David	43	697 002	2	Penicuik
Helen	48	697 002	2	Penicuik
Lizzie	14	697 002	2	Penicuik
David	10	697 002	2	Penicuik
Helen	5	697 002	2	Penicuik
Elizabeth	23	692/2 002	7	Leith South
Robert	30	693 006	30	Liberton Midlothian
John	42	685/3 008	7	Canongate Edinburgh
Agnes C	38	685/3 008	7	Canongate Edinburgh
Jessie L	10	685/3 008	7	Canongate Edinburgh
Jessie Clark	74	685/3 008	8	Canongate Edinburgh
Agnes F	4	685/3 008	8	Canongate Edinburgh
Henry	7	685/3 008	8	Canongate Edinburgh
John	0	685/3 008	8	Canongate Edinburgh
James	50	691 014	2	Lasswade * 16-17

Florence	27	691	014	2	Lasswade * 16-17
Elizabeth	16	685/2	016	5	Canongate Edinburgh
Helen	47	685/3	016	5	Canongate Edinburgh
Helen	20	685/3	016	5	Canongate Edinburgh
William	50	685/3	016	5	Canongate Edinburgh
Williamia	14	685/3	016	5	Canongate Edinburgh
Herbert	24	685/3	020	3	Canongate Edinburgh * 16-17
Sydney J	22	685/3	020	3	Canongate Edinburgh * 16-17
Katherina	21	685/3	020	3	Canongate Edinburgh
Catherine G	0	685/3	020	3	Canongate Edinburgh
Alexander	23	692/2	025	55	Leith South
Jane	52	692/2	025	55	Leith South
John	49	692/2	025	55	Leith South
David	15	692/2	025	55	Leith South
William	19	685/3	026	5	Canongate Edinburgh
Thomas	57	685/2	026	22	St Andrew Edinburgh
Jane	48	685/4	040	11	St George Edinburgh
James	50	685/4	040	11	St Giles Edinburgh
Helen	85	685/2	052	23	St Andrew Edinburgh
James	44	685/1	066	2	St George Edinburgh
Margaret	42	685/1	066	2	St George Edinburgh
James	15	685/1	066	2	St George Edinburgh
John F	12	685/1	066	2	St George Edinburgh
Margaret J	7	685/1	066	2	St George Edinburgh
Henry	67	685/2	079	11	St Andrew Edinburgh
John	32	685/2	092	11	St Andrews Edinburgh *8-9
Barbara W	25	685/2	092	11	St Andrews Edinburgh *8-9