

David Clark

*Dominie (headmaster) of Gatehouse Free Church School
and Anwoth Parish School for 45 years.*

F.E.I.S. (Fellow of the Educational Institute of Scotland)



David Clark was born in Montrose, Forfarshire (now Angus) on 15th May 1841. His father was William Clark, a clerk in the flax factory. His mother was Margaret Hutchison.

(details from David's marriage certificate).

In 1851 the family were living in Montrose. Father William was a flax manufacturer's clerk, aged 54. He was probably a widower, as no wife is mentioned in any subsequent census. David was aged 10 and had 2 older sisters and an older brother (Mary, Margaret and John). Mary Ann Duncan was a 1-month old grandchild who lived with the family.

By the 1861 census, David had moved to Edinburgh where he was lodging at a house in Newington. He was a student at the *Free Church Normal School*, aged 19.

(Should this read student teacher?)

By the time of the 1871 census, David had moved to Gatehouse of Fleet. He was living in the Free Church Schoolmaster's house, on Dromore Road, with his sister Mary who was acting as his housekeeper. He was unmarried and was the teacher at the Free Church School.

The 1872 Education Act for Scotland resulted in the closure of Free Church Schools. As a result the school building became known as Fleetside, the Anwoth Parish School, which until then had been located at Anwoth Clachan. David Clark became the headmaster of this parish school (now under the control of the Education Board).

In 1881 both David and his sister Mary were still living at Fleetside School and both were still single. David was a teacher at the 'Board School'.

On 15th July 1886 David Clark married Jane Duncan at Killygowan Farm, Anwoth. David was 45 and Jane, a teacher at the 'public school', was 24.

In 1891 the family were in the same house (entered in the census simply as Dromore Road). David and his wife Jane had two children, Mary Jane, aged 1 and David William, aged under 1 month. Mary Clark was still living with the family as was a nurse (Elizabeth Houston). David's occupation is 'teacher of Fleetside School.'

David & Jane had a 3rd son, Wilfred Thomas, in 1894, and he sadly died aged 6 months. *(ex Anwoth Kirkyard grave).*

In 1901 the family were still living at Fleetside School House, and David was a 'teacher in a public school'. David and Jane's family had expanded (Mary Jane 11, David William 9, John James 8, Edwin 2 and Cecil 7 months. David's sister, Mary Clark, was still living with the family.

At some time between 1901 and 1911, David Clark left Fleetside School and George Salmond became headmaster. In 1911 the family were living in Edinburgh. David (69), Jane (48), John J. (18), David W. (19), Edwin (12) and Cecil (10).

(Scotlands People Index, Edinburgh, Morningside 685/517/15.)

David Clark died on 28th February 1918 at 29 Spottiswoode Street, Edinburgh.

A month later his son-in-law Lt William Park, Durham.Light.Infantry, was killed in France. He had married Mary Jane (known as Mollie), who was living with her parents at Spottiswood Street while her husband was serving in the war.

David's wife Jane died in 1944, aged 82.

Several of Jane's children predeceased her - Cecil died in 1916, John J. in 1940, and David W. in 1943. Although they all died in Edinburgh, they and the rest of the family are remembered on a gravestone in Anwoth Kirkyard.



Anwoth Kirkyard - Grave 267

In memory of David Clark, F.E.I.S. for 45 years teacher in Fleetside School, Gatehouse who died 29 Spottiswoode Street, Edinburgh 8th Feby 1918 aged 76 years. Wilfrid Thomas his third son who died at Fleetside Schoolhouse 9th Dec 1894 aged 6 months. Cecil his youngest son who died at 29 Spottiswoode, Edinburgh 20th April 1916 aged 16 years. Mary sister of the above David Clark who died at Montrose 6th Feby 1915 aged 85 years. Also in memory of Lieut. William Park, D.L.I. son-in-law of the above David Clark who was killed at Epehy in France 21st March 1918 aged 32 years. Also Jane Duncan wife of David Clark who died at Edinburgh 7th Aug 1944 aged 82 years. John J. Clark their second son died at Edinburgh 20th Jany 1940 aged 47 years. David W. Clark their eldest son died at Edinburgh 25th Aug 1943 aged 52. Mollie their daughter, wife of 2nd Lieut. W. Park died 27th March 1969 aged 79. Gratefully remembered.

John Andrew Veitch at Fleetside School.



Dominie Clark is at right.

This photo came from the Veitch family of Girthon Kirk. On the back it stated that John Andrew Veitch (born 1879) was in this class, so the photo may have been taken about 1890.



On the wall to the left of the building is a plaque dated 1866. This commemorates the Bland Female School which may have been the Free Church School for Girls.



**THE
BLAND
FEMALE SCHOOL
ERECTED
1866**

*This plaque is now on a wall beside the
Community Centre.
The origins of the school are unknown.*