

John LESSELS & Christian GRAY
Chart 128-129

John LESSELS

B baptised 30 September 1733 Abbotshall Fife Scotland
D 15 April 1804 Abbotshall Fife Scotland
M 29 August 1760 Abbotshall/Auchterderran Fife Scotland

Christian GRAY

B baptised 15 August 1736 Dysart Fife Scotland
D 12 July 1826 Abbotshall Fife Scotland

Children:

1. **John LESSELS** born 14 July 1761 Forbone Abbotshall Fife Scotland
2. Thomas LESSELS born 14 April 1763 Forbone Abbotshall Fife Scotland
3. Alexander LESSELS born 10 June 1765 Forbone Abbotshall Fife Scotland
4. Euphan LESSELS born 13 October 1768 Forbone Abbotshall Fife Scotland
5. Margaret LESSELS born 15 June 1771 Forbone Abbotshall Fife Scotland
6. Jannett Watt LESSELS born 04 September 1775 Forbone Abbotshall Fife Scotland
7. Jean Berry LESSELS born 11 July 1777 Forbone Abbotshall Fife Scotland

1733 September 30

John loving son to John LESSLES and Margaret WAT was baptised before the Congregation.

(Reference Kirkcaldy Library Fife Scotland and FHC Index film 6900188 Abbotshall Fife OPR Scotland)

By using the Scottish naming pattern for John's parents it would confirm that his parent's would have been John LESSELS and Margaret formerly WATT or BERRY. So the above baptism is correct.

Please note that a researcher stated that John LESSELS first married Isabel ARNOT and after her death John married Christian GRAY. Please refer to the information and research at the end of this document so you can judge for yourself.

1736 August 15 - Christian GRAY

Thomas GRAY and Euphan MOYES had a daughter baptised called Christian
Witnesses John GRAY and James MOYES

(Reference FHCLDS microfilm 1040109 Dysart Fife Scotland OPR baptism records year 1736 page 4-5)

By using the Scottish naming pattern for Christian's parents it would confirm that her parent's would have been Thomas and Euphan GRAY. So the above baptism matches.

A researcher in England received information from a researcher in Australia who said Christian's parents were Robert GRAY and Christian BERRY and she was christened in Kilconquhar on the 15 August 1736. I do not think these are the parents.

John LESSELS – Christ. GRAY

John LESSELS in Abbotshall and Christian GRAY here were 1st proclaimed for marriage
10 August 1760 (Auchterderran)

(Reference: FHC microfilm 1040148 Auchterderran Fife Scotland Old Parish Registers 1664-1854)

1760 John LESSLES in this parish and Christian GRAY in the parish of Auchterderran
contracted 7th August and married 29 August (Abbotshall)

(Reference: FHC microfilm 1040142 Abbotshall Fife Scotland Old Parish Registers 1650-1860)

Information received from another researcher recorded the marriage banns in Abbotshall dated 20 June 1760 for John LESSELS and Christian GRAY but I have been unable to confirm these details.

1761 LESSELLS

John LESSELLS and Christian GRAY in Torbane had a son born the 14th and baptised the 19th July 1761 named John

Witnesses Thomas GRAY and James HEPBURN

(Reference: FHC microfilm 1040142 Abbotshall Fife Scotland [1765] Old Parish Registers 1650-1860)

1763 LESSELLS

John LESSELLS and Christian GRAY in Torbane had a son born the 14th and baptised the 19th of April 1763 named Thomas

Witnesses Thomas GRAY and James HEPBURN (sic).

(Reference: FHC microfilm 1040142 Abbotshall Fife Scotland [1765] Old Parish Registers 1650-1860)

1765 LESSELLS

John LESSELLS and Christian GRAY in Torbane had a son born the 10th and baptised on the 14th June [1765] named Alexander

Witnesses Thomas GRAY and James HEPBURN (sic).

(Reference: FHC microfilm 1040142 Abbotshall Fife Scotland Old Parish Registers 1650-1860)

1768 LESSELLS

John LESSELLS and Christian GRAY in Torbane had a daughter born the 13th and baptised the 18th October 1768 named Euphan.

Witnesses Alex MAULE and Jas HEPBURN.

(Reference: FHC microfilm 1040142 Abbotshall Fife Scotland [1769] Old Parish Registers 1650-1860)

"In 1770 a John LESSELLS appears as the owner of this property Priestleys where he carried on a business as an Architect, Builder, Engineer, and agricultural implement maker, which is a combination of businesses that was common in the rural districts of Scotland last century, and had a good business."

(Reference RCAHMS Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland 'Architects' File for John LESSELLS "A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELLS in Fifeshire)

I have a copy of "A survey plan of Raith, Ballbarton, Ballwiery and Garden as presently set out & possest by Tennants the property of Robert FERGUSSON surveyed June 1757. Marked towards the bottom right hand side of the plan next to Ballwiery Miln is the land named Priestlaw [where the priest lies] and where John LESSELLS and his family dwelled.

(Reference National Archives of Scotland plan RHP 1710/1 of Raith, Ballbarton, Ballwiery & Garden)

1771 LESSELLS

John LESSELLS and Christian GRAY in Torbane had a daughter born the 15th and baptised the 23 of June named Margaret

Witnesses George WYLLIE and Alexander MAULE.

(Reference: FHC microfilm 1040142 Abbotshall Fife Scotland Old Parish Registers 1650-1860)

I was informed that a LESSELLS child was buried 17 June 1771 in Abbotshall Fife

(Reference FHC LDS microfilm Abbotshall Fife Scotland OPR burials)

1775 LESSELLS

John LESSELLS and Christian GRAY of Torbane had a daughter born the 04th and baptised the 10th of September [1775] named Jannet Watt.

Witnesses John CHALMERS and James GRUB/GREIG (sic).

(Reference: FHC microfilm 1040142 Abbotshall Fife Scotland Old Parish Registers 1650-1860)

1777 LESSELLS

John LESSELLS and Christian GRAY in Torbane had a Daughter born the 11th baptised the 20th July [1777] named Jean Berry

Witnesses John KER and James GRUB (sic).

(Reference: FHC microfilm 1040142 Abbotshall Fife Scotland Old Parish Registers 1650-1860)

“In the course of time he took his eldest son John into partnership but finding the cares of this business too heavy for him he relinquished the business entirely to his son in 1783, and accepted from Robert Ferguson of Raith the position of Master of Wright or Clerk of Works on Raith Estate as this work was less laborious merely entailing the duty of superintending the workman in the Estate. He died at an advanced age.”

(Reference RCAHMS Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland ‘Architects’ File for John LESSELS “A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

John LESSELS passed away on 15 April 1804 aged 73 years at Abbotshall Fife Scotland.

(Reference RCAHMS Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland ‘Architects’ File for John LESSELS “A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

Christian LESSELS passed away on 12 July 1826 aged 90 years in Abbotshall Fife Scotland.

(Reference RCAHMS Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland ‘Architects’ File for John LESSELS “A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

On a tombstone on Abbotshall Churchyard appears the following inscription which is slightly different to the information below.

“To the memory of John LESSELS Priestlies
who died April 15th 1804 aged 73 years.
Also his wife Christian Gray
who died 12th July 1826, aged 90 years”

(Reference RCAHMS Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland ‘Architects’ File for John LESSELS “A Brief Account of the Ancient Family of LESSELS in Fifeshire)

Kirkcaldy Abbotshall Churchyard Fife Scotland
Corner Abbotshall Road (West) Brycedale Avenue (North) Railway Line (East)
(on top – east side)

J L ♥ (heart) C G

(on top – east side)

John LESSELS Priestlies 13.4.1804 aged 72
Wife Christian GRAY 12-12-1826 aged 90

(on top - west side)

1810 J L ♥ (heart) M C

(east side)

I L ♥ (heart) M W

(Reference National Library Wellington Monumental Inscriptions Index for Abbotshall Churchyard Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland page 109 item 171 & photo from document on the website address top left corner and saved as “LSAncientLesselsStory&PhotosbyJohnWright”)

Comment – Initials transcriptions from the headstone above are:

The initial I L would have originally read J L for John Lessels

On the top of the tombstone are the letters J.L. ♥ C.G. [John Lessels ♥ Christian Gray]

Mary CAIRNIE has the initials M.C and is referred to chart 64-65

Christian GRAY has the initials C.G and is referred to chart 128-129

Margaret WATT has the initials M W and is referred to chart 256-257

John & Christian LESSELS their children and descendants

- 1- **John LESSELS** born 14 July 1761 Forbone Abbotshall Fife Scotland died 12 August 1826 Fife Scotland married 24 May 1783 Dysart Fife Scotland **Mary CAIRNIE** refer chart 64-65
- 2- **Thomas LESSELS** born 14 April 1763 Forbone Abbotshall Fife Scotland
#1763 LESSELLS - John LESSELLS and Christian GRAY in Forbone had a son born the 14th and baptised the 19th of April 1763 named Thomas Witnesses Thomas GRAY and James HEPBURN (sic) reference: FHC microfilm 1040142 Abbotshall Fife Scotland [1765] Old Parish Registers 1650-1860
- 3- **Alexander LESSELS** born 10 June 1765 Forbone Abbotshall Fife Scotland dies Fife Scotland married 16 August 1791 Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland Janet HUNTER born Fife Scotland died Fife Scotland
- 3-1- Ann LESSELS born 7 September 1792 Linktown Abbotshall Fife
- 3-2- John LESSELS born 7 April 1794 Linktown Abbotshall Fife
#1765 LESSELLS - John LESSELLS and Christian GRAY in Forbone had a son born the 10th and baptised on the 14th June [1765] named Alexander Witnesses Thomas GRAY and James HEPBURN (sic) reference: FHC microfilm 1040142 Abbotshall Fife Scotland Old Parish Registers 1650-1860
#Alexander LESSELS and Janet HUNTER married 16 August 1791 Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland reference LDS FHC microfilm Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland OPR marriage banns
#1792 Alexander LESSLIE and Janet HUNTER in Linktown had a child born September 7th baptised the 16th name Ann reference Kirkcaldy Library Fife Scotland
#1794 Alexander LESSELS and Janet HUNTER in Linktown had a child born April 7th baptised the 13th name John reference Kirkcaldy Library Fife Scotland
- 4- **Euphan LESSELS** born 13 October 1768 Forbone Abbotshall Fife Scotland died Fife Scotland married 29 June 1797 Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland George SAMSON born Fife Scotland died Fife Scotland
#1768 LESSELLS - John LESSELLS and Christian GRAY in Forbone had a daughter born the 13th and baptised the 18th October 1768 named Euphan Witnesses Alex MAULLE (sic) and Jas HEPBURN reference: FHC microfilm 1040142 Abbotshall Fife Scotland [1769] Old Parish Registers 1650-1860
#Euphan LESSELS and George SAMSON married 29 June 1797 reference LDS FHC microfilm Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland OPR marriage banns
- 5- **Margaret LESSELS** born 15 June 1771 Forbone Abbotshall Fife Scotland died 25 June 1828 Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland
#1771 LESSELLS - John LESSELLS and Christian GRAY in Forbone had a daughter born the 15th and baptised the 23 of June named Margaret Witnesses George GYLLIE/ALYLLIE (sic) and Alexander MAULE reference: FHC microfilm 1040142 Abbotshall Fife Scotland Old Parish Registers 1650-1860
#Margaret died 25 June 1828. Information given to me by another researcher reference LDS FHC microfilm Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland OPR burials
- 6- **Jannett Watt LESSELS** born 04 September 1775 Forbone Abbotshall Fife Scotland died Fife Scotland married 09 July 1795 Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland James CHRISTIE born Fife Scotland died Fife Scotland
#1775 LESSELLS - John LESSELLS and Christian GRAY of Forbone had a daughter born the 04th and baptised the 10th of September [1775] named Jannet Watt Witnesses John CHALMERS and James GRUBS/GREIG (sic) reference: FHC microfilm 1040142 Abbotshall Fife Scotland Old Parish Registers 1650-1860
#Jannett Watt LESSELS and James CHRISTIE married 09 July 1795 Scotland reference LDS FHC microfilm Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland OPR marriage banns
- 7- **Jean Berry LESSELS** born 11 July 1777 Forbone Abbotshall Fife Scotland
#1777 LESSELLS - John LESSELLS and Christian GRAY in Forbone had a daughter born the 11th baptised the 20th July [1777] named Jean Berry Witnesses John KER and James GOUBS (sic) reference FHC microfilm 1040142 Abbotshall Fife Scotland Old Parish Registers 1650-1860

John LESSELS and Isobel ARNOT

Perhaps this is John's first wife

John LESSELS

B Fife Scotland

D Fife Scotland

M 21 September 1746 Auchterderran Fife Scotland

Isabel ARNOTT

B Fife Scotland

D 19 March 1756 or 1758 Fife Scotland

Children:

1-Janet LESSELS born and baptised 16 February 1753 Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland

2-James LESSELS born and baptised 25 April 1755 Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland

3-Henry LESSELS (twin) born and baptised 01 November 1757 Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland

4-Arnot LESSELS (twin) born and baptised 01 November 1757 Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland

Some researchers state that John LESSELS 1st married Isabel ARNOT and when Isabel died John married Christian GRAY. The Scottish naming pattern for this John does not match as the first male born was named James not John.

The twins Henry and Arnot were born and baptised in 1757. The 2 dates I was given for Isabel's death was 1756 and 1758 which is between the birth dates of the twins. Our John LESSELS married Christian GRAY in 1760, which was actually after the death date of Isabel. It was common for widowers to marry soon after the death of a wife so perhaps the story is correct but then the Scottish naming pattern does not match. Further research will have to be undertaken to prove or disprove the story.

John LESSELS and Isabel ARNOT married 21 September 1746 Auchterderran Fife Scotland.

(Reference Kirkcaldy Library Fife Scotland records)

1753 Janet loving daughter to John LESSELS and Isabell ARNOTT his spouse was born February 16th 1753 and baptised the 25th said month before the Congregation by Mr Gib

(Reference Kirkcaldy Library Fife Scotland records)

1755 John LESSELS and Isobel ARNOT his wife had their son James born April Monday 21st and baptised SABB thereafter

(Reference Kirkcaldy Library Fife Scotland records)

1757 John LESSELS and Isobel ARNOT had twins born 1st November baptised 6th Henry and Arnot.

(Reference Kirkcaldy Library Fife Scotland records)

Isabel died 19 March 1756/58

(Reference FHC LDS microfilm Scottish OPR burial records)

John and Isabel LESSELS their children and descendants

1-Janet LESSELS born and baptised 16 February 1753 Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland

#1753 Janet loving daughter to John LESSELS and Isabell ARNOTT his spouse was born February 16th 1753 and baptised the 25th said month before the Congregation by Mr Gib reference Kirkcaldy Library Fife Scotland records

2- James LESSELS born and baptised 25 April 1755 Fife

- #1755 John LESSELS and Isobel ARNOT his wife had their son James born April Monday 21st and baptised SABB thereafter reference Kirkcaldy Library Fife Scotland records
- 3- Henry LESSELS** (twin) born about 01 November 1757 Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland died Fife Scotland married 01 April 1785 Fife Scotland Jean DUNCAN born Scotland died Scotland
- #1757 John LESSLES and Isobel ARNOT had twins born 1st November baptised 6th Henry and Arnot reference Kirkcaldy Library Fife Scotland records
- #Henry LESSELS and Jean DUNCAN married 01 April 1785 Fife Scotland reference FHC LDS microfilm Scottish OPR marriage banns records
- #Henry LESSELS and Jean DUNCAN issue to be confirmed [1] John LESSELS born 15 January 1786 Abbotshall Fife Scotland [2] Robert LESSELS born 07 October 1787 Abbotshall Fife Scotland reference FHC LDS microfilm Scottish OPR baptism records
- #1789 Henry LESSELS and Jean DUNCAN in Chaple had a child born June 14 baptised the 21st named Janet. Witnesses reference FHC LDS microfilm Scottish OPR baptism records
- #1791 Henry LESELS and Jean DUNCAN in Chapel had a child born February 3rd baptised the 13th name John reference FHC LDS microfilm Scottish OPR baptism records
- #1792 Henry LESSELS and Jean DUNCAN in Chapple had a child born November 7th baptised 11th named Henry reference FHC LDS microfilm Scottish OPR baptism records
- #1794 Henry LESSLIE and Jean DUNCAN in Chaple had a child born July 20th baptised the 27th name Isobel reference FHC LDS microfilm Scottish OPR baptism records
- #1796 Henry LESSLY and Jean DUNCAN in Chaple had a child born June 10th baptised the 19th name Jean reference FHC LDS microfilm Scottish OPR baptism records
- #Henry LESSELS and Jean DUNCAN issue to be confirmed [1] Agnes LESSELS born 31 December 1802 Abbotshall Fife Scotland [2] Katherine Mudie [sic] LESSELS born 26 May 1805 or 09 June 1805 Abbotshall Fife Scotland [3] Margaret Mudie [sic] LESSELS born 23 November 1806 Abbotshall Fife Scotland reference FHC LDS microfilm Scottish OPR baptism records
- #Henry and Jean LESSELS died Fife Scotland
- 3-1- John LESSELS born and baptised 15 January 1786 Abbotshall Fife Scotland
- 3-2- Robert LESSELS born and baptised 07 October 1787 Abbotshall Fife Scotland
- 3-3- Janet LESSELS born 14 June 1789 Chapel Abbotshall Kirkcaldy
- 3-4- John LESSELS born 3 February 1791 Chapel Abbotshall Kirkcaldy
- 3-5- Henry LESSELS born 7 November 1792 Chapel Abbotshall Kirkcaldy
- 3-6- Isobel LESSELS born 20 July 1794 Chapel Abbotshall Kirkcaldy
- 3-7- Jean LESSELS born 10 June 1796 Chapel Abbotshall Kirkcaldy
- 3-8- Agnes LESSELS born/baptised 31 December 1802 Abbotshall Fife Scotland
- 3-9- Katherine Mudie [sic] LESSELS born/baptised 09 June 1805 Abbotshall Fife Scotland
- 3-10- Margaret Mudie [sic] LESSELS born/baptised 23 November 1806 Abbotshall Fife Scotland
- 4- Arnot LESSELS** (twin) born 01 November 1757 Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland died Fife Scotland married Fife Scotland Helen MILLION/MULLIONS
- #1757 John LESSLES and Isobel ARNOT had twins born 1st November baptised 6th Henry and Arnot reference Kirkcaldy Library Fife Scotland records
- #Arnot LESSELS married Fife Scotland Helen (Nelly) MILLION / MULLIONS reference FHC LDS microfilm Scottish OPR marriage banns records

LESSELS miscellaneous information

Search for additional details about the John & Christian's LESSELS seven children in the 1841 census for Abbotshall Fife Scotland and Scottish OPR records.

Christian LESSELS married Robert CARSTAIRS born about 1773 Scotland.
 (Reference National Library of NZ Ancestry.com family tree link to researcher)

The Tenth book beginning the eight December 1752-1752

Sasines John LESSLY and Spouse = 125

#No LESSELS recorded

(Reference FHC microfilm 298516 Index of sasines Kirkcaldy 1595-1763 (spr 678 Sasines))

<i>FHC Microfiche</i>	<i>Place and years indexed</i>	<i>Index to Films for</i>
6900188	Abbotshall Fife Scotland 1692-1750	Birth & Christenings
6900684	Abbotshall Fife Scotland 1650-1855	Marriages
6900784	Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland 1614-1854	Birth & Christenings
6901904	Kirkcaldy Fife Scotland 1615-1867	Marriages
6900568	Kinghorn Fife Scotland 1577-1855	Birth & Christenings
6900569	Kinghorn Fife Scotland 1689-1854	Marriages

Please note that I have sets of the above microfiche but I am still copying and transcribing the relative information with the surname LESSELS.

LESSELS researchers genealogy

Name	Address	Relationship
Living POWER	Canada	John
1- Andrew LESSELS married Elizabeth MOORHEAD 14 November 1676 Abbotshall Fife Scotland		
1-1- John LESSELS born 1688 Abbotshall Fife Scotland married Geils HENDERSON born 1688 Kinglassie Fife Scotland		
1-1-1- John LESSELS born 1704 Fife Scotland married Margaret WATT born 1714 Fife Scotland		
1-1-1-1- John LESSELS born 1733 Abbotshall Fife Scotland married Christian GRAY born 1736 Dysart Fife Scotland		
1-1-1-1-1- John LESSELS born 1761 Abbotshall Fife Scotland married Mary CAIRNIE born 1758 Marckinch Fife Scotland		
1-1-1-1-1-1- John LESSELS born 1784 Abbotshall Fife Scotland married Elizabeth HUBBACK born Monkwearmouth Co Durham England		
Error in this tree as John LESSELS married Elizabeth Hamilton MURRAY		
1-1-1-1-1-1-1- Robert MACKEY born 1810 South Shields Co Durham England married Mary LASCELLS born 1812 Sunderland Co Durham England		
1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1- Robert B MACKEY born 1844 South Shields Co Durham England married Catherine O'DONOHUE born 1848 Co Kerry Ireland		
1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1- Robert A MACKEY born 1878 Valentia Co Kerry Ireland married Teresa GATT born 1877 Malta		
1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1- Robert A MACKEY born 1906 Yap married Blanche O'SHEA born 1913 New York USA		
1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1- Living POWER Canada		
1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1-1- Living POWER Canada		