

# SPEIRS

## *of* ELDERSLIE & CULCREUCH

**JOHN SPEIRS**, was a merchant in Edinburgh and was admitted to Burgess and Guild of that city on 29 June 1705.<sup>1</sup> He *m.* at Edinburgh, on 28 October 1708, to Isobel, daughter of John Tweedie, Provost of Peebles,<sup>2</sup> and was father of,

1. John Speirs, *b.* at Edinburgh, on 5 December 1712.
2. Alexander Speirs, 1<sup>st</sup> of Elderslie and Culcreuch, (*see below*).
3. James Speirs, *b.* at Edinburgh, on 6 April 1720, became a wright and was admitted to Burgess and Guild of Edinburgh in right of his father on 20 April 1743.<sup>3</sup> He *dsp* by 19 July 1763 when his brother, Alexander, was served heir general to him.<sup>4</sup>
4. Isobel Speirs, *bap.* at Edinburgh, on 23 October 1709.
5. Helen Speirs, *b.* at Edinburgh, on 15 July 1711.
6. Margaret Speirs, *bap.* at Edinburgh, on 12 February 1716.
7. Joanna Speirs, *b.* at Edinburgh, on 31 October 1718.

**ALEXANDER SPEIRS, 1<sup>ST</sup> OF ELDERSLIE AND CULCREUCH**, *b.* at Edinburgh, on 14 September 1714 and in his younger years he settled in Virginia where he had a plantation and traded as a merchant. Returning to Scotland about 1750, he set himself up in Glasgow and continued his tobacco business with such effectiveness that he was soon considered to be the richest of that trade in Europe. The fortune he amassed from that and his other various mercantile endeavours, including banking, was so considerable that he was able to invest in extensive estates including those of Elderslie, Houston and Culcreuch. He was served heir

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<sup>1</sup> SRS Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

<sup>2</sup> OPR – Edinburgh.

<sup>3</sup> SRS Edinburgh Burgess Roll.

<sup>4</sup> Services of Heirs.

to his mother, Isobel Tweedie, widow of John Speirs, Merchant in Edinburgh, on 11 April 1763 and then heir general to his brother, James, on 19 July following.<sup>1</sup>

He *d.* on 10 December 1782,<sup>2</sup> having *m.* firstly, to Sarah Casey, and secondly, on 2 March 1755, to Mary Buchanan,<sup>3</sup> (she survived him and *d.* at Kilbarchan, on 7 November 1787<sup>4</sup>), and was father of,

1. John Speirs, who *d.* at Glasgow, on 27 March 1773, when a student of moral philosophy at the University of Glasgow.<sup>5</sup>

2. Archibald Speirs, 2<sup>nd</sup> of Elderslie, (*see below*).

3. Alexander Speirs, *d.* at Glasgow, on 24 August 1772, when a student in the Humanity class at the University of Glasgow, aged 13.<sup>6</sup>

4. Peter Speirs, 1<sup>st</sup> of Culcreuch, *b.* on 12 May 1761 and succeeded to Culcreuch by virtue of an entail by his father in 1780. He *m.* at Gartmore House, on 8 April 1792, to Martha Harriot, youngest daughter of Robert Graham of Gartmore,<sup>7</sup> (she survived him and *d.* at Laurel Hill, Stirling, on 20 September 1841<sup>8</sup>), and *d.* in 1829 having had issue,

4a) Alexander Graham Speirs, 2<sup>nd</sup> of Culcreuch, *b.* on 11 February 1793 and succeeded his father in 1829. He *m.* at Polmont Park, on 6 March 1828, to Mary Buchanan, daughter of William Murray of Polmaise,<sup>9</sup> (she survived him and *dsp* at Polmont Park, on 2 December 1888<sup>10</sup>), and *dsp* at Culcreuch, on 23 July 1877.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Services of Heirs.

<sup>2</sup> Scots Magazine, 1<sup>st</sup> December 1782 edition.

<sup>3</sup> OPR – Glasgow.

<sup>4</sup> Scots Magazine, 1<sup>st</sup> November 1817 edition.

<sup>5</sup> Scots Magazine, 1<sup>st</sup> March 1773 edition.

<sup>6</sup> Scots Magazine, 1<sup>st</sup> August 1772 edition.

<sup>7</sup> OPR – Edinburgh. See also: Scots Magazine, 12<sup>th</sup> April 1792 edition.

<sup>8</sup> Perthshire Courier, 30<sup>th</sup> September 1841 edition.

<sup>9</sup> OPR – Fintry. See also: Edinburgh Evening Courant, 17<sup>th</sup> March 1828 edition.

<sup>10</sup> SC67/36/79.

<sup>11</sup> Statutory record. See also: SC67/36/69 for Trust Disposition and Settlement & London Evening Standard, 27<sup>th</sup> July 1877 edition.

4a) Robert Cunningham Grahame Speirs, *b.* on 15 June 1797 and was admitted to the Faculty of Advocates. He *m.* at Whitehouse, on 21 March 1832, to Ann, daughter of Francis Grant of Kilgraston,<sup>1</sup> *d.* at Granton House, near Edinburgh, on 24 December 1847<sup>2</sup> and was father of,

4b) Ann Oliphant Speirs, 3<sup>rd</sup> of Culcreuch, *b.* on 26 January 1833 and *m.* at Whitehouse, near Edinburgh, on 9 March 1858, to Sir George Home, Baronet of Blackadder,<sup>3</sup> (he *d.* on Saturday 30 July 1887<sup>4</sup>), who assumed the additional surname of Speirs upon her succession to the Culcreuch estate in 1877. She *d.* at Neville Street, London, on 26 June 1907,<sup>5</sup> having had issue.

4a) Archibald Speirs, *b.* on 10 June 1806 and served for a time in the H.E.I.C.S. He *m.* at Chupra, Bengal, on 26 March 1839, to Mary Anne, daughter of Alexander Pringle of Yair,<sup>6</sup> (she survived him and *d.* at Homburg, on 20 August 1864<sup>7</sup>), and *d.* at Wemyss Place, Edinburgh, on 8 March 1859.<sup>8</sup> He was father of,

4b) Peter Alexander Speirs, *b.* at Cawnpore, Bengal, on 28 September 1842 and training in law, he was called to the Scottish Bar in 1866 and was Sheriff-Substitute for Inverness-shire from 1877 until 1886, when he was appointed Sheriff-Substitute for Roxburghshire. He *m.* on 23 June 1880, to Florence, daughter of Richard Cooke, of Woodford, Essex,<sup>9</sup> *d.* at Bonjedward, on 26 May 1907<sup>1</sup> and was father of,

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<sup>1</sup> OPR – Edinburgh. See also: Caledonian Mercury, 24<sup>th</sup> March 1832 edition.

<sup>2</sup> SC70/4/5. See also: London Evening Standard, 28<sup>th</sup> December 1847 edition.

<sup>3</sup> Statutory record. See also: Caledonian Mercury, 11<sup>th</sup> March 1858 edition. She is then styled the only child.

<sup>4</sup> SC67/36/85. See also: London Evening Standard, 4<sup>th</sup> August 1887 edition.

<sup>5</sup> SC70/1/473.

<sup>6</sup> India Office record.

<sup>7</sup> Greenock Advertiser, 25<sup>th</sup> August 1864 edition.

<sup>8</sup> SC49/31/67. See also: Greenock Advertiser, 15<sup>th</sup> March 1859 edition.

<sup>9</sup> OPR – Durham.

- 4c} Archibald Douglas Speirs of Polmont Park, *b.* in 1882 and *m.* at Holy Trinity, Sloane Square, London, on 10 March 1915, to Marion, daughter of G. B. Sparkes, St. Aubyns, Hove.<sup>2</sup>
- 4c} Alexander Graham Speirs, settled at Meeria Cotta, Maskeliya, Ceylon, and *m.* there in 1912, to Rose Ireene, youngest daughter of Major Lowther Crofton, of Hasel Mount, Ryde, Isle of Wight.<sup>3</sup>
- 4c} Ronald Patrick Speirs, served as Second Lieutenant in the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders and was *k.* in action, on 23 April 1917, aged 20.<sup>4</sup>
- 4c} Helen Margaret Speirs, *b.* in 1887.
- 4b} Harriett Martha Speirs, *b.* at Cawnpore, on 27 September 1840 and *d.* unmarried, at Naples in 1905.<sup>5</sup>
- 4b} Anna Elizabeth Speirs, *b.* on 28 January 1845 and *d.* unmarried, at Laurel Hill, Stirling, on 9 January 1921.<sup>6</sup>
- 4a} Anna Maria Speirs, *b.* on 24 May 1794 and *d.* unmarried, at Laurel Hill, Stirling, on 25 December 1858.<sup>7</sup>
- 4a} Mary Buchanan Speirs, *b.* on 1 January 1796 and *d.* unmarried, at Laurel Hill, Stirling, on 25 August 1866.<sup>8</sup>
- 4a} Helen Speirs, *bap.* on 13 January 1800 and *d.* unmarried, at Laurel Hill, Stirling, on 15 November 1878.<sup>9</sup>
- 4a} Elizabeth Speirs, *b.* on 6 November 1801 and *d.* unmarried, at Laurel Hill, Stirling, on 14 January 1890.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Statutory record. See also: SC62/44/109.

<sup>2</sup> Globe, 10<sup>th</sup> March 1915 edition.

<sup>3</sup> Hampshire Telegraph, 16<sup>th</sup> August 1912 edition.

<sup>4</sup> SC70/4/503. See also: The Scotsman, 1<sup>st</sup> May 1917 edition.

<sup>5</sup> Edinburgh Evening News, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1905 edition.

<sup>6</sup> SC67/40/39.

<sup>7</sup> Statutory record. See also: Morning Post, 31<sup>st</sup> December 1858 edition.

<sup>8</sup> Statutory record. See also: Greenock Advertiser, 30<sup>th</sup> August 1866 edition.

<sup>9</sup> Statutory record. See also: London Evening Standard, 21<sup>st</sup> November 1878 edition.

- 4a) Grace Speirs, *b.* on 27 September 1803 and *d.* unmarried, at Laurel Hill, Stirling, on 21 August 1885.<sup>2</sup>
- 4a) Henrietta Matilda Speirs, *b.* on 25 April 1810 and *d.* unmarried, at Laurel Hill, Stirling, on 17 November 1882.<sup>3</sup>
5. Martha Speirs, *b.* on 10 February 1756 and *m.* George Crawford, one of the Bailies of Glasgow. She *d.* at Edinburgh, on 25 September 1789.<sup>4</sup>
6. Helen Speirs, *b.* on 3 July 1766.
7. Joanna Isabella Speirs, *b.* on 24 June 1772.
8. Grace Speirs, *b.* on 28 July 1770 and *m.* as a third wife, on 8 October 1805, to William Murray of Touchadam,<sup>5</sup> (he *d.* at Edinburgh, on 29 August 1814).
9. Mary Speirs, *d.* at Polmont Park, on 19 May 1849.<sup>6</sup>

**ARCHIBALD SPEIRS, 2<sup>ND</sup> OF ELDERSLIE**, *b.* on 10 February 1758 and succeeding his father, he was served heir to him on 27 January 1783.<sup>7</sup> He *m.* on 24 January 1794, to Margaret, daughter of Thomas, 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Dundas,<sup>8</sup> (she survived him and *d.* at Leamington, on 8 May 1852<sup>9</sup>), and *d.* at Elderslie House, on 2 November 1832.<sup>10</sup> He was father of,

1. Alexander Speirs, 3<sup>rd</sup> of Elderslie, (*see below*).
2. Thomas Dundas Speirs, *bap.* on 21 October 1805 and *d.* unmarried, at Southport, Lancashire, on 21 January 1892.<sup>11</sup>
3. Archibald William Speirs, *bap.* on 21 August 1807.

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<sup>1</sup> Statutory record. See also: Morning Post, 18<sup>th</sup> January 1890 edition.

<sup>2</sup> Statutory record. See also: Morning Post, 26<sup>th</sup> August 1885 edition.

<sup>3</sup> SC67/36/77.

<sup>4</sup> Scots Magazine, 1<sup>st</sup> September 1789 edition.

<sup>5</sup> OPR – Saint Ninians.

<sup>6</sup> SC67/36/35. See also: Perthshire Advertiser, 24<sup>th</sup> May 1849 edition.

<sup>7</sup> Services of Heirs.

<sup>8</sup> Scots Magazine, 1<sup>st</sup> January 1794 edition.

<sup>9</sup> SC70/1/77. See also: London Evening Standard, 20<sup>th</sup> May 1852 edition.

<sup>10</sup> Edinburgh Evening Courant, 12<sup>th</sup> November 1832 edition.

<sup>11</sup> SC6/44/54. See also: Glasgow Herald, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1892 edition.

4. Peter Charles Speirs, *b.* on 20 November 1811 and *d.* on 22 March 1822.<sup>1</sup>
5. Laurence Dundas Speirs, *bap.* on 27 December 1815.
6. Margaret Bruce Speirs, *b.* on 9 December 1794 and *d.* at Weisbaden, Germany, on 12 November 1858.<sup>2</sup>
7. Mary Speirs, *bap.* on 8 March 1796.
8. Charlotte Fitzwilliam Speirs, *bap.* on 23 August 1797 and *d.* at Elderslie House, on 8 June 1815.<sup>3</sup>
9. Anne Godolphin Speirs, *b.* on 7 February 1799 and *d.* unmarried, at Villa Lante, Leamington, on 23 June 1873.<sup>4</sup>
10. France Laura Speirs, *bap.* on 25 July 1800 and *m.* at Elderslie House, on 24 June 1824, to Robert Cunningham-Graham of Gartmore, (he *d.* at Mortlake, on 23 January 1863<sup>5</sup>). They had issue.
11. Helen Speirs, *bap.* on 6 November 1801 and *d.* unmarried, at Leamington, on 10 April 1887.<sup>6</sup>
12. Dorothy Dundas Speirs, *bap.* on 28 September 1804 and *d.* unmarried, at Elderslie House, on 29 December 1832.<sup>7</sup>
13. Harriet Isabel Speirs, *bap.* on 13 March 1810.
14. Matilda Isabella Grace Speirs, *bap.* on 1 September 1813.

**ALEXANDER SPEIRS, 3<sup>RD</sup> OF ELDESLIE**, *bap.* on 10 June 1803 and succeeded his father, to whom he was served heir on 23 March 1835.<sup>8</sup> He *m.* at Bantaskine, on 22 June 1836, to Eliza Stewart, eldest daughter of Thomas Campbell Hagart of Bantaskine,<sup>9</sup> (she survived him and *m.* secondly, at St. George's, Hanover Square,

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<sup>1</sup> Houghton Le Spring, St Michael & All Angels inscriptions.

<sup>2</sup> SC6/44/26. See also: Morning Post, 20<sup>th</sup> November 1858 edition.

<sup>3</sup> Caledonian Mercury, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1815 edition.

<sup>4</sup> SC6/46/9. See also: Greenock Advertiser, 26<sup>th</sup> June 1873 edition.

<sup>5</sup> Illustrated London News, 31<sup>st</sup> January 1863 edition.

<sup>6</sup> SC6/46/18. See also: London Evening Standard, 16<sup>th</sup> April 1887 edition.

<sup>7</sup> SC58/42/7. See also: London Courier, 10<sup>th</sup> January 1833 edition.

<sup>8</sup> Services of Heirs.

<sup>9</sup> Perthshire Courier, 30<sup>th</sup> June 1836 edition.

Square, London, on 24 September 1867, to Edward Ellice of Invergarry,<sup>1</sup> by whom she had no issue ; and *d.* at Eastbury Manor, Compton, Surrey, on 6 December 1910<sup>2</sup>), and *d.* at Roehampton, near London, on 5 October 1844.<sup>3</sup> He had issue,

1. Archibald Alexander Speirs, 4<sup>th</sup> of Elderslie, (*see below*).
2. Eliza Speirs, *m.* at St. George's Church, Hanover Square, London, on 12 February 1863, to Lieutenant-Colonel Claude Alexander, 1<sup>st</sup> Baronet of Ballochmyle,<sup>4</sup> (he *d.* at Old Queen Street, Westminster, London, on 23 May 1899<sup>5</sup>), and *d.* on 16 July 1927, having had issue.

**ARCHIBALD ALEXANDER SPEIRS, 4<sup>TH</sup> OF ELDERSLIE**, *b.* on 5 June 1840 and succeeded his father in 1844. He *m.* at Longford Castle, on 3 September 1867, to Anne Pleydell-Bouverie, eldest daughter of Viscount Folkstone,<sup>6</sup> (she survived him and *d.* at Neilston House, Neilston, on Saturday 18 September 1915<sup>7</sup>), and *d.* on 30 December 1868.<sup>8</sup> He was father of,

**ALEXANDER ARCHIBALD HAGART SPEIRS, 5<sup>TH</sup> OF ELDERSLIE**, *b.* posthumously at Eaton Place, London, on 3 June 1869 and succeeded his father. He *m.* in 1918, to Mary Elizabeth Henrietta Livingstone and *dsp* in 1959, when his estates passed to David Crichton Maitland.

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<sup>1</sup> Inverness Courier, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1867 edition.

<sup>2</sup> Clifton Society, 15<sup>th</sup> December 1910 edition.

<sup>3</sup> SC70/1/67. See also: Caledonian Mercury, 10<sup>th</sup> October 1844 edition.

<sup>4</sup> Greenock Advertiser, 17<sup>th</sup> February 1863 edition.

<sup>5</sup> SC6/44/62. See also: Dundee Evening Telegraph, 24<sup>th</sup> May 1899 edition.

<sup>6</sup> Morning Advertiser, 7<sup>th</sup> September 1867 edition.

<sup>7</sup> Statutory record. See also: SC58/42/83.

<sup>8</sup> Statutory record.