

Half-marathon tribute to Neil

Runners take to road in memory of tragic officer

By DEBORAH ANDERSON

HUNDREDS of runners will take part in a memorial race to pay tribute to a police officer who died after a bike accident.

Superintendent Neil Mc-Cover, 55, died after his bike collided with a car in East Renfrewshire last October.

Now, almost 12 months on, friends are preparing to run the Neil McCover Half-Marathon in memory of the keen cyclist and runner, a former chairman of Kirkintilloch Olympians running club.

Coach Neil was described as an inspiration and fellow runners at the club want to pay a lasting tribute to him.

His widow Margaret, 57, and daughter Lauren, 23, have been asked to start the race and present the prizes on Sunday, October 9, at Woodhead Park, Kirkintilloch.

It is hoped it will attract more than 1500 runners for the event that has a total prize fund of £2000.

Race director Robert Rogerson said: "Neil is sorely missed by everyone at the club. He was an inspiration and had such enthusiasm for running. He coached the juniors section and the youngsters feel his loss even more so. He was someone who really knew how to motivate people.

"We wanted to remember Neil and before he died we had talked about resurrection a half-marathon in Kirkintilloch. There hasn't been one for around 20 years and we thought this would a fitting tribute."

Robert added: "I think it will be an emotional race for many of us, just a day after the first anniversary of Neil's death.

"We have had great sup-

port from his former colleagues. We also wanted Neil's family to be very much part of the day and we have asked them along to get it under way. In addition, £1 from every entry will be donated to Brake, the road safety charity."

Neil was based at the police training and recruitment centre in Jackton, East Kilbride.

Strathclyde Chief Constable Steve House said he was a "popular, valued and highly respected officer".

Neil had competed in marathons, duathlons and triathlons including international races and European Ironman.

Mrs McCover, 57, said: "It is very touching that a race is being held in Neil's memory. I am sure he would have been very proud."

For more information visit www.kirkintillocholympians.co.uk or enter online at www.entrycentral.com/index.php?raceID=101212



Popular Superintendent Neil McCover died last year

My nephew, Douglas David McFadzean, born 1971, East Kilbride, is a serving police officer on the Isle of Islay (posted there by choice). He had attended the training school, met Neil, but was unaware of the connection until ofter his death.

Susan McLean - M - andrew McCover, Ireland, weaver. Laggan, Isle of Islay, 1786 to 1865, Kilmarnock. Margaret Mc Kean. (dec. before 1851) andrew McCover archibald McCover, bonnet (1)Margaret McCover 1818 Stewarton to 1813 Skeland to 1816 Stewarton to dresser. 1868, Kilmarnock 1895 Kilmarnock, 1892 Greenock. 1842 Stewarton, ayrshire. ayrshire alex. Brown Jean Brown Martha anderson 1812 Stew. to 1883 Kilm. printer archibald compositor, 1850 Kilm. to 1892 Dungries. andrew Martha alexander, bonnet dresser. agnes Thomson, 1843 Stew. +01895 Qyr. 1844 Stew, to 1847 to 1879 Kilm. 1867 Kilm 1877 Kilm. John Murchland 1840 Kilmilla (-M-15T John Murchland. McCover 1871 71. Jas. Millar _ Jane Wyllie, -Margaret Millar 1848 Kilmito 1848 Kilm to Eaton. 1925 Glasgow. CUNNINGham. 1925 Glw. 1815-1887. Kilmarnock Jane archi. 1866-1866 1867-1867 Kilm. Kilm. Martha 1870 Kilmto 1931 Glw. alexander John 1873-75 Kilm. 1872 Kilmto 1920 glw. Janet mcFarland archibald Millar McCover. 1889 TradestonGlw. TOUN W. Harrison 1881 Kilmarnock to 1973 Glw. Jane 1870 to 1938 1876 Kilm. "Harrison" 1898 Glw. David McGowan (canada 1906) Roberta andrew alice ann 1892 Greenock John WM. 1885-1885 91w. Margaret Adil. 1896 Greenock 1902 to 1982 glw. greenock 401967 E.K. 1922 Glw. Margaret McCover 1920 Gorbals 1887 to 1966 GIW. Jas. Rowland Mgt. Jeanie M'Cover Tohnston 1872-1939. Thomas Watson NaN. 1892-1957 glw 1906 Greenock 1910 Glw. Frederick Wilson Davidson to 1988 Bast Matthew Mackie DAVID kilbride. 1886 Glw.+0 John Martha 1921 McCover gorbals. 1927 1927 GLW. ESTER 28.5.1919 at Ballah NR. Kantara, Egypt, after Jas. Rowland JEAN Charlotte S. 1925 GLW. Bridgeton. armistice, 1914-18 war. 1909 Greenock Benjamin John 1894 Greenock. to 1983 GIW. Martha Bertha 1898 Greenock to 1935 glw 1922 glw. Edmond C. McIndoe.

Neil McLean

1898-1974 Glw.



Maggie Millar McCover Hannah.

1848 - 1925

and her children archi. Inr.

and Margaret.

Margaret (Maggie) Millar, bonnet knitter, 1848 Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, Scotland, to 1925 Glasgow (no birth record found to substantiate "Millar" - her mother was Jane Wyllie, Eaton, Cunningham. She married David Cunningham, widower, a bonnet dresser in 1864), was married, age 17, to Alexander McCover age 21, bonnet dresser, in 1866 Kilmarnock. She gave birth to her 1st child Jane in 1866, who died from convulsions after 7 days. Her 2nd child Archibald was born prematurely in 1867 and survived for 2 hrs. Martha arrived in 1870 and married John Harrison, a brass finisher, in 1889, Glasgow. They moved to Greenock, where her 7 children were born and after the 1914/18 war returned to Glasgow. Her 4th child Alexander, 1872 Kilmarnock to 1920 Glasgow, became a coppersmith and married, but had no children. No 5 was John 1873-1875, he died from whooping cough at 15 months. No 6 Jane, 1876 Kilm. To 1963, Canada, was a machinist sewing shirts, age 14 on the 1891 census. Her father died in 1877, age 32 and her mother was co-habiting with his brother Archibald, a printer compositor. She gave birth to Archibald Jnr. in Kilmarnock in 1881. He remained unmarried until his death in 1973, Glasgow (a much loved "uncle Archi."). They moved to Glasgow where twin boys, Robert and Andrew were born in 1885. They died, age 21 days, of whooping cough. In 1887 (the year of Queen Victoria's Jubilee) my gran, Margaret McCover was born. She married Frederick W. Davidson in 1910 and lost him in the 1914/18 war. In August 1921 she sailed to Quebec under the post-war resettlement programme, with her 3 children. Her brother Archi. had preceded her in March. They stayed with sister Jane and David McGowan in Galahad, but returned to Glasgow the following year. In 1922 the McCovers, Davidsons, Harrisons and Maggie (now Hannah, as she married Duncan Hannah 1846-1915, a widower and Swiss embroiderer, in 1897) were all living in Tradeston, Glasgow, a very close-knit family. After Maggie's death in 1925 Archi. moved in with my gran and they lived together for the rest of her life. Margaret and Archi's father Archibald died in 1892, Dumfries, when she was 5 years old. Their illegitimacy was kept a secret and only disclosed to my mother after Archi's death in 1973 (it was not possible for a widow to marry her husband's brother in the 1800's). I have inherited a few keepsakes from my gran and the one I cherish most is her wedding ring.

30/03/1851 MCCOVER, ARCHIBALD (Census 1851 616/00 008/00 004)

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07/04/1861 MCOVER, ARCHIBALD (Census 1861 597/00 005/00 028)

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07/04/1861 EATON, JANE (Census 1861 597/00 005/00 029)

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Margaret McCover, 1887





The Davidson Family. (posthumous background insert of Frederick.)

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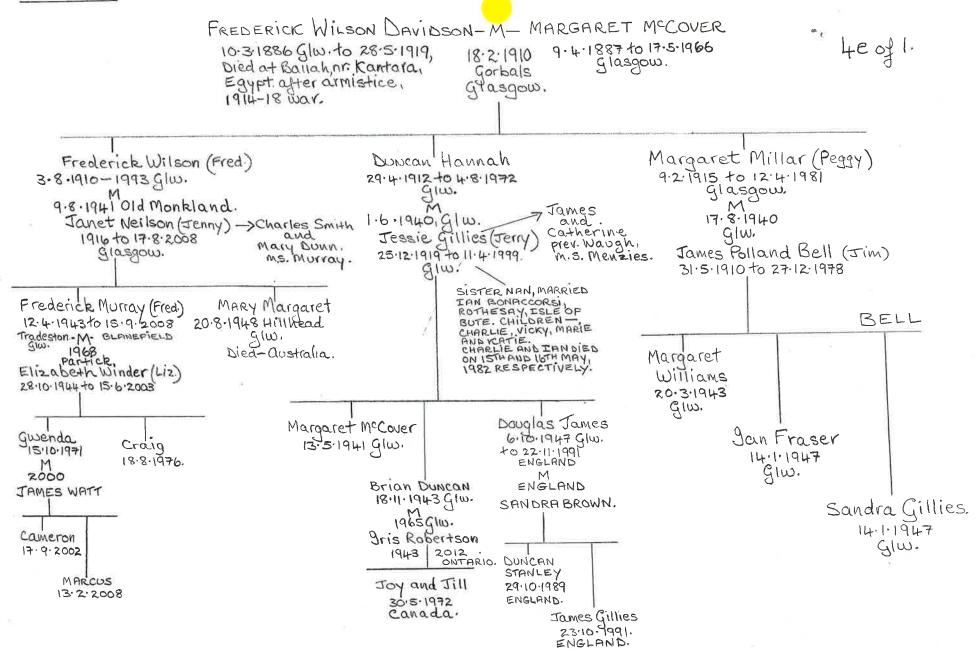




I discovered the above photos inside (L) my gran's locket, one behind the other. The young man was obviously someone close to her heart, perhaps her father Archibald. Her husband Fred's photos were in the other side. As you can see on the previous page, she wore this locket as a young woman and passed it on to her daughter. I had removed the photos to have the locket repaired and after copying, replaced them in the locket. I am sure they had not been disturbed in my mother's lifetime.

I also don't know who the girl is seated in the photo with my gran – do you know if this is her sister Jane? I suspect it may be. In this photo, as in the one above, my gran is wearing a Jubilee Coin Brooch dated 1887, which is still in the family. Have you any old photos of David and Jane?

I am a Nursing Auxiliary and have worked in my local hospital for 38 years. My granddaughter Heather is a clerical officer in the same hospital. My husband Neil is a retired Police Sergeant and our son Gordon is an I.T. officer and made this PDF possible.





Margaret Millar Davidson (Peggy)
9.2.1915 to 12.4.1981.
M-17.8.1940 Glasgow.

James Polland Bell (Jim)
31.5.1910 to 27.12.1978.

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Front Row Lto R — 1965. —

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Back Row Lto R Jan Bell Neil Mitchell 1947. 1932.

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Lto R. — 2006. Heather Mitchell Margaret Mitchell Jacqueline Morrison. Gordon Mitchell



Jacqueline a Gordon's wedding, 2014

East Kilbride,
Lanarkshire.

Their children,

James and Eve.

