

Work in progress; last edited July 2018

## Knabbygates farm, Rothiemay Parish, Banffshire, Scotland.

Latitude: 57.3667 N, Longitude: 2.8273 W.

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Aerial view of Knabbygates in 1961, when Fred Smith was owner; house, servants' quarters, barns and threshing shed; courtesy of George Duncan and Peter Ridloch.



Modern (ca. 2007) view of the front of the house, from [geograph.org.uk](http://geograph.org.uk): © Copyright [Anne Burgess](http://www.geograph.org.uk) and licensed for [reuse](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) under this [Creative Commons Licence](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

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<sup>1</sup> The William Lobban who signed the first lease on Knabbygates was my 6<sup>th</sup> great grandfather; the William Lobban who was the last Lobban tenant was my great grand uncle (great grandfather's brother).

## Beginnings, early 1700s.

Knabbygates, now administratively in the village of Knock, Huntly, Aberdeenshire, AB54 7LN, was apparently cleaved off from Ternemny, a larger farm to the north, and was sometimes referred to as South Ternemny. William Lobban (1680–) “sealed the first known deed to the Knabbygates tenancy with John Abernethy, 1704, and the house may have been recently built: there is no mention of it in any name, prior to that” (according to a note made by Alan Rudge; his transcription of the deed in the Appendix I).<sup>2</sup> It was described in the 1865 Ordnance Survey as “a small farm steading,” part of the Earl of Fife’s holdings. The current stone structure of the house is thought to be the original structure, though of course the inside has been renovated. The layout is typical of larger farms of the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, with a four-sided layout separating the house from the barns and servants’ quarters, rather than a longhouse with barn and byre attached to the home.<sup>3</sup>

William and his brothers seem to have been at Ternemny—one of several Lobban/Loban households in Rothiemay Parish at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. William was at Ternemny when he married Issobell Adam in 1701, then Alexander Lobban’s baptismal record (6 Nov 1702) states, “William Lobban in Ternemny had a son by his wife Issobell Adam baptised & called Alex before witnesses Alex Lobban, John Lobban, ... [illegible]... and James Taylor all in Ternemny.” The two Lobban witnesses were likely William’s brothers. There was also a Lobban family at Retanach farm at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, comprising John, married to Janet Horn, who had children Alexander (1693), John (1707) and Margaret (1710), and several other Lobbans for whom the residence was not recorded.

A saying in the family, “as old as the Lobbans of Drumnagorach” suggests that earlier ancestors may have lived in the crofter’s cottages that constitute Drumnagorach—only a few miles from Knabbygates but in what was then the parish of Grange, but written records from the 1600s do not specify the names of the farms, and as there were several Lobban households in Grange, this can be no more than speculation. Quite possibly it is just our family’s twist on an even older saying “as old as the Lobans of Drumderfit,” (quoted in several sources) with reference to the supposed origins of Loban/Logan from Clan MacLennan in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century; these Lobans in Inverness are not related to the Banffshire Lobans, according to Uncle Alan’s researches. (Indeed, according to Logan family DNA researchers, there is no evidence of any connection of either group to the MacLennans.)

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<sup>2</sup> “The gap in the Rothiemay parochial records from 1710 to 1748 disables the tracing as such. However, because they were at the one house of Knabbygates, it is virtually certain that Alexander born circa 1740 was the eldest son of Alexander born 6 Nov 1702, the firstborn of Willam Lobban and Isobel Adam, married 31 May 1701. This ancestor sealed the first known deed to the Knabbygates tenancy with John Abernethy, 1704, and the house may have been then recently built. There is no mention of it in any name prior to this.” -- From biography on MyHeritage website for LOBBAN 6Jan2014 at [https://www.myheritage.com/person-4000158\\_230514111\\_230514111/william-lobban#biography](https://www.myheritage.com/person-4000158_230514111_230514111/william-lobban#biography)

<sup>3</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_agriculture\\_in\\_Scotland#Early\\_modern\\_era](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_agriculture_in_Scotland#Early_modern_era)

### The middle generations: Alexander-1743 to Alexander-1809.

Alexander Lobban, who married Janet Dawson in 1765, is thought to have been born around 1740, in the period for which parish records are missing. We also do not know when either died, as deaths were rarely noted in parish records. He had at least one brother, John (~1737–1789), who married Isobel Neish (~1737–1777); deduced from other records. Presumably he and his father both had other siblings whose baptism records are also lost. This adds up to a lot of missing links, and we probably also do not know all the siblings in the previous generations, which leads me to conclude that all the Lobbans in Rothiemay were related. Rothiemay had by far the largest number of Lobban baptisms and marriages extant in the records, even with the 35-year gap, and likely the Lobbans in the surrounding parishes were also related. A few relationships within Rothiemay are hinted by the christening witnesses.<sup>4</sup> Yet, by the early 1800s there were only two or three Lobban families in the parish, making the Knabbygates Lobbans' ~200-year occupancy remarkable. The dispersal of the Lobbans was presumably part of the Lowland Clearances that took place during 1760–1830, when increasing rents and changes in agricultural practices forced many part-time laborers or subtenants to migrate within Lowland Scotland or to emigrate.<sup>5</sup>

Alexander & Janet had three children; Janet, Margaret and William. Janet married Alexander Watt, and their grandchild Margaret Watt (1846–1939) and her husband George Smith, became the tenants of Knabbygates after the Lobbans left (see below). William (1771–1851) married Isobel Reid (1781–1840); William lived long enough to be recorded on the first (1841) Scotland Census (see next section), but missed the 1851 Census by two months. William & Isobel had nine children. John and Jean died very young and at almost the same time (23 Mar / 1 Feb 1823), Jean being only 11 days old. Their deaths were ascribed to hypothermia; the *Aberdeen Journal*<sup>6</sup> described appalling conditions with temperatures down to 7°F and winds of unprecedented violence – “A like circumstance has not occurred within our recollection.” [There were also several smallpox epidemics sweeping Scotland in 1823–1831.<sup>7</sup>] William erected a memorial stone in Rothiemay kirkyard for these children, to which other deaths were added later. Their second-born was Alexander (1809–1872), who married Janet (Jessie) Wilson in May 1845. Their daughter Margaret (1807–1875) married James Cruickshank who took over Relashes farm. There is a memorial in Rothiemay churchyard erected by James for his son James who died aged 26. James' own death and Margaret's are also recorded there. Isobel Reid and her sister Anne were born at Rotnoddie farm. I have traced their brother Alexander's descendants to a living 5<sup>th</sup> cousin; our last common ancestors (4<sup>th</sup> great grandparents) were James Reid (1752–1828) and Helen Kelman (1743–1830), he from Rothiemay, she from Grange.

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<sup>4</sup> For instance, What relation was Alex Loban (Knabbygates) (presumably Alex-1702) to John Loban (Rotnoddie)?–

Janet LOBAN 1768 06 August 1768 Rotnoddie Rothiemay, BNF, SCT  
**Jn/Isobel Niesh (1766)** Alex Niesh (Cairnhill) [Isobel's father?]/ **Alex Loban (Knabbygates)**  
Jean LOBAN 1773 13 January 1773 Rotnoddie Rothiemay, BNF, SCT  
**Jn/Isobel Niesh (1766)** CHR witnesses: Alex Niesh (Cairnhill) / **Alex Loban (Knabbygates)**

<sup>5</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lowland\\_Clearances](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lowland_Clearances); see also

<https://www.history.ac.uk/ihr/Focus/Migration/articles/harper.html>

<sup>6</sup> 5, 12 and 19 Feb. 1823

<sup>7</sup> Kohn, G.C. (ed.) *Encyclopedia of Plague and Pestilence: From Ancient Times to the Present*, 3rd ed., p. 345. Facts on File Library of World History. “... infantile diseases were generally considered a fact of ordinary life and thus not especially worthy of mention [in records].”

This takes us into the Census years (next section).

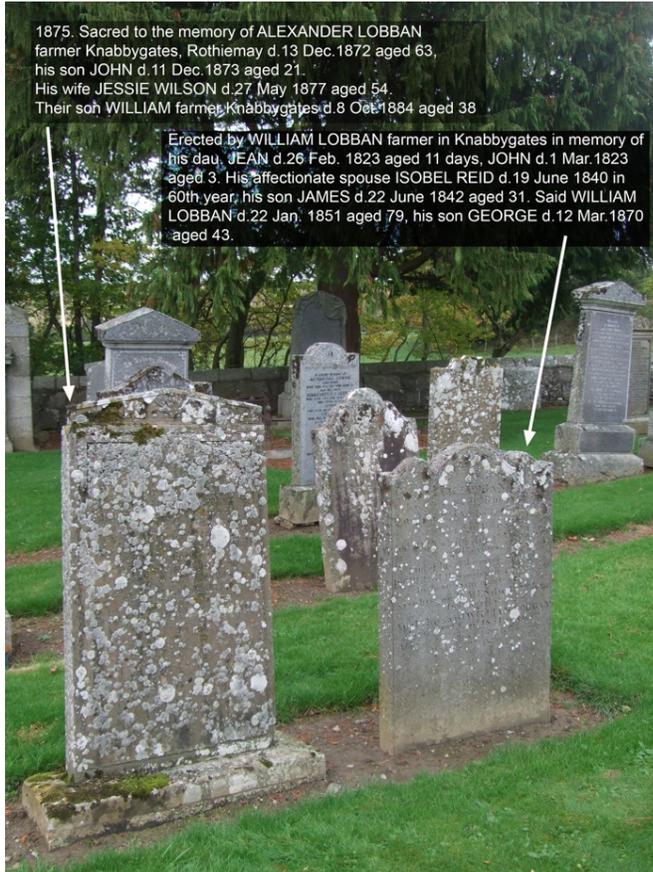


Photo by Jim Hendry transcription from ANESFHS.

There are glimpses in the parish records of other people associated with Knabbygates, or related to the family there:

- Alexander Lobban (b. ~1743) witnessed 13 Aug 1781 baptism of child born to John Murray & Elizabeth Smith at Knabbygates (presumably a farm hand).
- William Murray at Knabbygates witnessed the baptism of a child born to Alexander Reid and Isobel Lobban at Bruckles, 10 June 1773
- John Murray, mason at Knabbygates, and Margaret Alexander baptized their daughter Margaret on 5 Mar. 1826.

These show a history of association between the Murrays and the Lobbans over a 50-year period.

James Christie seems to have been a farm hand at Knabbygates during the years 1751–1755:

- He and his wife, Elspet Johnstown baptized a child 21 April 1751, witnessed by James Lobban in Ternemny, and another 2 May 1755, witnessed by John & James Lobban in Ternemny. The two children appear to be James and Margret, but I need to see records to know which was which.

These records raise the question of what relation were John & James in Ternemny to Alex in Knabbygates? Sons of the original trio of Lobans at Ternemny in the 1690s and therefore cousins? There were two Alexrs at Knabbygates in 1751–55, but this has to be Alex-1702, as the younger born ca 1740 was too young to be witnessing. And yet, why would these two be witnesses to this birth at Knabbygates, rather than Alex? They must have a closer

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relationship to the Christie family. Look for James Christie / Elsp. J's marriage record to see parents. ... No marriage turns up in general search through Ancestry.

Other children of James Christie born elsewhere before or after Knabbygates?

Alexander Begg and his wife Christian Baird had a daughter Helen born at Knabbygates, Feb 2. 1755, witnessed by George Loban of Milltown. They had other children in Rothiemay but I have not checked to see which others (if any) were born at Knabbygates.

The Milne family has a few connections:

- Robert Milne at Woodside married Isobel Loban in 1752. I have not yet found their parents, so the connection of Isobel to the other Lobbans is unknown, although I have traced some of their descendants, including to a living family historian in Australia, Trevor Balshaw. However, it appears that Isobel and her siblings were born in Inverness, so not a Banffshire Loban
- John Milne at Knabbygates witnessed the baptism of a child born to Robert Milne & Isobel Lobban, 15 Sep. 1771.
- Way later, another John Milne was a ploughman for George Smith, new tenant of Knabbygates in 1896, and had witnessed the 1894 marriage of Ann Weir (widow of William Lobban of Knabbygates) to James Horn(e), suggesting that he had worked for William &/or Ann back then.

#### Knabbygates residents during the Census years, 1841–1911

The 1851 and 1861 Censuses mention a size of 30 acres, and employing 3 laborers in addition to the Lobban family (only the husband and wife old enough to be farming at that time), but in 1871 it was 64 acres, run by Alex, his wife, 4 children and one unrelated farm laborer.

*Ternemny/Knabbygates 1841.* I viewed all the 1841 Scotland Census for Rothiemay but found no reference to Knabbygates or to any Lobbans other than the ones at Ternemny. In this, the first Census, which I browsed, the records for Ternemny are extensive. I have concluded that this family is our direct ancestors, bearing in mind the foibles of the 1841 Census,<sup>8</sup> and the possibility that Knabbygates was sometimes included under, or confused with Ternemny (e.g., note that William Lobban b. 1815 was said to have been born to William & Isobel at Ternemny.)

I have found christening records for both William (1771) and his son Alexander (1809), both specify Knabbygates). As noted above, William married Isobel Reid (d. 1840). Their son Alexander, my 2<sup>nd</sup>-GGF, married Janet (Jessie) Wilson but not until 1845.

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<sup>8</sup> Early Census problems!!—

... the Government's instructions to enumerators was, for this [first, 1841] Census, to round down people's ages to the nearest 5 or 10. Sometimes the enumerator obeyed this instruction, sometimes he rounded up! Thus someone who was, say 27 years old, could be either put down as age 25 or age 30. By 1851 the instructions had changed – please put down exact ages – as far as people know them. Of course, this was before Statutory birth, marriage and death registration had been introduced – along with the appropriate registration certificates. **So, more often than not, people in the UK did not always have a precise idea of their age or, indeed, their date of birth.** Often they would give their date of baptism as their birth date. If that had occurred on the day of their birth, as sometimes happened, then the birth date was correct; if not it may be up to, averagely, two weeks past the birth date. —

<http://www.rothi.co.uk/features.html>

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<a href="#">William Lobban</a>	70	Farmer
<a href="#">Alexr Lobban</a>	30	
<a href="#">Isobella Lobban</a>	25	
<a href="#">Helen Lobban</a>	20	
<a href="#">George Lobban</a>	14	
<a href="#">Christian Harper</a>	13	F.S. (Farm Servant)

*Ternemny, 1851*

This George is evidently the same as the 14-yr old in the 1841 Census, but now has his own place. He died at Ternemny in 1870, age 43.

<a href="#">George Lobban</a>	24	Farmer Of 11 Acres
<a href="#">Isobel Taylor</a>	16	House servant

*Knabbygates 1851*

<a href="#">Alexander Lobban</a>	41	Head / Farmer Of 30 Acres Employing 3 Labourers
<a href="#">Janet Lobban</a>	28	Wife
<a href="#">William Lobban</a>	5	Son / scholar
<a href="#">Alexander Lobban</a>	3	Son
<a href="#">Elspet Lobban</a>	2	Daughter
<a href="#">George Lobban</a>	2 Mo	Son
<a href="#">William Thompson</a>	18	Servant / Farm Labourer
<a href="#">Isabel Reburn</a>	30	House servant
<a href="#">Alexander Thompson</a>	11	Servant / Farm Labourer

*Knabbygates 1861*

<a href="#">Alexander Lobban</a>	51	Head / Farmer Of 30 Acres
<a href="#">Jessie Lobban</a>	38	Wife
<a href="#">William Lobban</a>	15	Farmer's son
<a href="#">Alexander Lobban</a>	13	Son / scholar
<a href="#">George Lobban</a>	10	Son / scholar

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<a href="#">John Lobban</a>	8	Son / scholar
<a href="#">James Lobban</a>	6	Son / scholar
<a href="#">Isabella Lobban</a>	5	Daughter/ scholar
<a href="#">Joseph Lobban</a>	3	Son
<a href="#">James Wilson</a>	29	Servant/Ploughman
<a href="#">Isabella Ogilvie</a>	20	Domestic servant

The 1861 Census for Eliza Watt [descendant of Alexander-1743's daughter Janet & Alexander Watt-1760] shows her as a servant at the Free Church Manse. This is interesting in light of the "Disruption" and the two churches, since my great grandfather grew up in Rothiemay about that time and became a Presbyterian minister (i.e., not Free Church) in Hebburn-on-Tyne.

#### *Knabbygates 1871*

<a href="#">Alexander Lobban</a>	61	Head / Farmer of 64 Acres of which <b>Clarck emp 7 One Labu</b> [online transcription; image not seen]
<a href="#">Jessie Lobban</a>	47	Wife
<a href="#">William Lobban</a>	25	Farm servant
<a href="#">Elsie Lobban</a>	22	Daughter/(Domestic) servant
<a href="#">Isabella Lobban</a>	15	Daughter/ Domestic servant
<a href="#">Joseph Lobban</a>	13	Son/Farm servant
<a href="#">James Taflour</a>	16	Farm servant

#### *Knabbygates 1881*

<a href="#">William Lobban</a>	35	Head
<a href="#">Ann Lobban</a>	26	Wife
<a href="#">John Lobban</a>	4 Mo.	Son
<a href="#">Joseph Lobban</a>	23	Brother/ farm servant
<a href="#">Isabella Gall</a>	16	Domestic servant
<a href="#">William Grant</a>	15	Farm servant

At the 1881 Census, a George Lobban, born ca. 1862 in Forgue, was a general servant for Ann's parents in Huntly. Relation between this Geo L and the Rothiemay Lobbans not yet known; this may be a coincidence.

#### *Knabbygates 1891*

<a href="#">Annie Lobban</a>	36	Head
<a href="#">John Lobban</a>	10	Son

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<a href="#">James Clark</a>	49	Farm servant
<a href="#">Maggie Reid</a>	16	Domestic servant
<a href="#">Alex Geddes</a>	23	Farm servant
<a href="#">George Laird</a>	14	Farm servant

### Last Lobbans at Knabbygates

Alexander Lobban 1809-1872 had five boys: William (1846–1884) took over the farm (1872, age 26); Alexander (1847-1903) and George had moved to Aberdeen by 1871; Alex attended U. Aberdeen, then became a Presbyterian missionary; George married and settled in Glasgow 1875; James moved out between 1861 and 1871; and Joseph still at home (age 14) in 1871, after that I don't know. He also had two daughters, Elspet and Isabella: Elspet married John Davidson and I am I have met their grandson, my 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin. Isabella married William Howatt and emigrated to Minnesota, where one of their grandsons is the fourth generation to farm the same land.

William married late (1877, age 31), had one son in 1880, and died young (1884, age 38). In 1885 the tenant of Knabbygates listed in the Valuation Records was “Wm Lobban Heir, ” i.e., 5-yr-old John and his mother Annie. They were still there at the 1891 Census, managing the farm with 4 resident servants (3 male farm hands and one female domestic servant), listed on the Census, but his mother remarried in 1894 and then (if not sooner) moved out. By 1895 there was a new tenant at Knabbygates (next section). In 1901 John was living with his mother, stepfather James Horn(e) and the stepfather's sister-in-law, in Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, and John (now 20) was working as a bank clerk. John emigrated to South Africa, where in 1911 he married Annabella Davidson, his first cousin from his aunt Elsie.

### After the Lobbans

Knabbygates' next tenants were the Smith family (1895 to about 1918), who raised Clydesdale horses on the farm—they were Lobban cousins.

#### *Knabbygates 1901*

<a href="#">John Smith</a>	24	Farm Servant In Charge Of Horses
<a href="#">Margaret Smith</a>	23	
<a href="#">John W Smith</a>	2	born @ Knabbygates
<a href="#">Eliza Smith</a>	2 Mo	born @ Knabbygates

AND

<a href="#">George Smith</a>	57	
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<a href="#">Margaret Smith</a>	54
<a href="#">Isabella Smith</a>	16
<a href="#">Caroline Smith</a>	15
<a href="#">Jessie A Smith</a>	13
<a href="#">Mary Smith</a>	11
<a href="#">Jemima C Smith</a>	9

The tenant and occupier listed in the 1895–96 Valuation was George Smith, with John Milne mentioned as ploughman<sup>9</sup>. This George Smith (1843–1915) was the husband of Margaret Watt (1846–1939), my 2nd cousin 3x removed, the granddaughter of my 4th great aunt Janet Lobban (sister of my 3rd great-grandfather William) and Alexander Watt. The Watt family lived at Claymires during these generations and was there at 1891 Census. The 1901 Census has two listings for Knabbygates (see above), one for George, Margaret and the younger children, and one for his son John Watt Smith (1878–1948) and his wife and children. 1911 Census shows only daughter Mary still living with George and Margaret. George died in 1915 but his widow was listed as the tenant and proprietor of Knabbygates on the 1920 Valuation. The laird of Fife (by this time a duke and married to Queen Victoria’s daughter Alexandra) sold off the estate by 1910’s; the 1920 occupier would have been a freeholder.

John Watt Smith lived and worked at Knabbygates from 1899 to at least 1918. He was born and raised at Claymires farm, Rothiemay. He was a police constable in Edinburgh at the time of his marriage in June 1899 to Londoner Maggie Barclay. By the birth of their first child, ill-fated John Watt Smith [Jr.], he had joined his parents at Knabbygates, but was head of his own household and the 1901 Census shows him as Farm Servant in Charge of Horses. His second child Eliza (1901–1983) was born at Knabbygates but his last son, Barclay was born nearby at Marnoch (but the family was evidently still at Knabbygates). Their firstborn son snuck into the army at age 15 (probably said he was 17) at the start of World War I, but died of scarlet fever before he had a chance to go to the front. “10 January 1915: Pte John W. Smith, 2/6<sup>th</sup> Gordon Highlanders established in Keith in October 1914, died at Bedford Military Hospital. Aged only 15 years 3 months, he was born at Knabbygates, Knock and later lived at Glenbarry.” [http://kadhg.org.uk/ww1/ww1-january-1915/]. John (Sr.)’s father George died a month later, 14 Feb. 1915. John was divorced from Maggie in 1918; he was still living at Knabbygates then, and is listed as a member of The Royal Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland (joined 1918, still member, still at Knabbygates, in 1923). One of his horses got an honorable mention in the Society records. He died in Sunnybrae, Banffshire in Dec 1948.

CLASS 57. FILLY, foaled in 1918.—Premiums, £12, £9, £6, and £4.			
1st	No. 459	James Gray, Birkenwood, Gargunnoch, “Peace.”	
2nd	No. 462	J. E. Kerr of Harviestoun, Dollar, “Harviestoun Felecia.”	
3rd	No. 460	David Hastie & Sons, Eddlewood Farm, Hamilton, “Eddlewood Ideal.”	
4th	No. 471	F. L. Wallace, Balcairn, Old Meldrum, “Dunure Maud.”	
V	No. 468	Alexander B. Rennie, Tifty, Fyvie, “Sheila.”	
H	No. 470	John W. Smith, Knabbygates, Knock, Keith, “Lady Victor.”	
C	No. 458	William S. Dean, Jointurelands, Urquhart, Elgin, “Jewel.”	

<sup>9</sup> John Milne was a witness to the marriage of widow Ann Lobban to James Horn(e) in 1894

John Watt Smith's sister Eliza Jane Smith married Peter Dawson at Knabbygates in 1898, although she was not living with her family there at the time. Their first child was born in Elgin in 1900, and their 3<sup>rd</sup> child in Aberdeen in 1907. However, their daughter Lizzie was born at Knabbygates in July 1902; Lizzie emigrated to Canada when she was 21, assisted by the Ontario Government to be a domestic servant. Three of Lizzie's aunts—John and Eliza's sisters—also emigrated to Canada; of these, Jessie met and married another Scot, George Rae Gammie in Calgary, where living generations are my 5<sup>th</sup> cousins.

Knabbygates was farmed by the Mersons until 1939 and later by the John Smith family (until 1965). More recently, the agricultural land was consolidated into a larger farm and the buildings and lot sold off.

William and Jessie (Hendry) Merson, both born around Huntly, Aberdeenshire, died at Knabbygates—Jessie on 25 May 1927 and William on 14 May 1939. According to George Duncan, who worked at Knabbygates from 1952–1964, the Mersons owned the farm during the years they were there, but I have found nothing more about them. Apparently John William Smith (1888–1953) and his wife Jeannie Gordon bought Knabbygates from the Mersons. There appears to be no relationship between this Smith family and the Smiths who farmed Knabbygates at the turn of the century. John Smith also had a second farm in Rothiemay, Burnfield (just south of river between Woodside and Milltown). John's son Fred (1923–1964) inherited the farm but died young (41) and the family sold Knabbygates in 1965. The agricultural land around is now owned and farmed by Roger Paulson and his wife, who live in Knock. They bought the land to add to their acreage, but sold the steading about 1990. The buildings were used as a smithy for about 10 years before Peter Riddoch bought it for a garage, about 2007.

### Acknowledgements

This account is based on the genealogical research of my uncle, Alan Rudge, supplemented by my own research, the latter including a visit to Rothiemay, where Peter Riddoch, Roger Paulsen, Colin Smith, and George Duncan provided valuable information on the recent history of Knabbygates.

APPENDICES

I

78

BOND, WILLIAM LOBAN TO JOHN ABERNETHIE OF MEYAN, 1704:

"The Sixth Bond is thus: William Loban in Knabiegates in Ternemney Be this deed Grants me to be justlie resting owing to Jehn Abernethie of Meyan All and haill, the somme of ane hundred pounds Scots money whilk somme of ane hundred pounds money forsaied. The said William Loban binds and obligies me, my airs Exers & Intremitters with any goods and gear Ratsomever to pay and Delyver to the said John Abernethie, his airs exers and Assignies att the feast and terme of Lambas nixt to come seventeen hundred and four years togither with the soums of Thretty pounds money of ersd. of Liqt. Expences.

In caice of failzie to gither allse with the ordmar anent thereof from the date of this deed to the terme of payment anon conforms to Act of parliatt and sicklyke yearly termly and proportionally in tyme comeing ay and so long as the sd. somme or any part thereof shall happin to remain unpaid, consenting for the more security this deed be Insert and Regnat in any books compitent within this Kingdome and to have the strength of ane Decreet that Lives and Exells needfull on ten days only may pass thereon; and constituts James Cook Town Clerk of Banff my Lawful proxy.

In witnes whereof I have subt. this deed Be William Murray with my hand att Meyan the Nynth day off May seventeen hundred and four years, before these witnesses Mr. Alex. Smart schoolmaster att Rothiemay and John Loban in Ternemnie. (Witnessing affirmed in Latin.)

Here followeth the tenor of the Seventh and Last Band: William Loban in Knabiegates in Ternemnie Be this deed Grants me to be justlie resting owing to Jehn Abernethie of Meyan All and haill, the somme of ffifty merks Scots money whilk somme of ffifty merks money forsaied the said William Loban binds and obligies me, my airs Exers Intremitters with my Goods and gear Ratsomever to pay and delyver to the said Jehn Abernethie, his airs and exers or assignies at the feast and terme of St. Saris day being the Last day of June nixt to come seventeen hundred and four years togither with the somme of Sixteen merks money forsaied of Liqt. Expences.

In caice of failzie to gither allse with the ordmar anent thereof from the date of this deed to the terme of payment anon conforms to Act of parliament and suklyke yearly termly and proportionally in tyme comeing during not payment thereof, consenting for the more security this deed Be Insert and Regnat in any books compitent within this Kingdome And to have aye strength of ane Decreet that Lives and Exells needfull on ten days may pass hereon and constitut James Cook Town Clerk of Banff my Lawful proxy.

In witnes whereof", etc.

Abernethie owned the Knabbygates/Ternemnie estate; thus William here is certain as an ancestor of the Lobbans at Knabbygates, as himself being evidently the tacksman of this place at or from the date given as 9 May 1704. Is the previous tacksman his brother Jehn? It seems likely.

Note: Scottish Quarter Days are as follows: Candlemas Day 2nd. February; Whitsunday 15th. May; Lammas Day 1st. August; and Martinmas 11th. November.

*One shilling the merk.*

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## II.

Knabbygates on the list from Stephanie Logan, derived from searches of Scotland's People (includes 4th ggf (Aalexander 1743), 3rd ggf (William 11771) and 2nd ggf (Alexander 1809):

CHRISTIE	1751	21 April 1751	Knabbygates	Rothiemay, BNF, SCT	Parents: Jms
Christie/Elspt Johnstown		CHR witnesses	<b>Jms Loban / Geo Scott in Ternemy</b>		
BEGG	1755	2 February 1755	Knabbygates	Rothiemay, BNF, SCT	Alex Begg/Christian
Baird		<b>George Loban / ___ Baird in Milntown</b>			
CHRISTIE	1755	2 May 1755	Knabbygates	Rothiemay, BNF, SCT	Jms
Christie/Elspt Johnstown		<b>John &amp; James Loban in Ternemy</b>			
Joseph LOBAN	1766	11 November 1766	Knabbygates	Rothiemay, BNF, SCT	Wm/Mgt
Reburn (1755)		Geo Hutchison in Mayen / <b>Jn Loban in Retanach</b>			
<b>Margaret LOBAN Dawson (1765)</b>	<b>1768</b>	<b>16 August 1768</b>	<b>Knabbygates</b>	<b>Rothiemay, BNF, SCT</b>	<b>Alex/Jnt</b>
		<b>Alex Begg/ Wm Dawson (there)</b>			
Janet LOBAN	1768	06 August 1768	Rotnoddie	Rothiemay, BNF, SCT	
		<b>Jn/Isobel Niesh (1766)</b>	Alex Niesh (Cairnhill) [Isobel's father?]/ <b>Alex Loban (Knabbygates)</b>		
<b>William LOBAN Dawson (1765)</b>	<b>1771</b>	<b>12 May 1771</b>	<b>Knabbygates</b>	<b>Rothiemay, BNF, SCT</b>	<b>Alex/Jnt</b>
		<b>Wm Allen in Ternemy / Wm Deason in Parrock / Els Deason in Parrock</b>			
MILNE	1771	15 September 1771	Woodside	Rothiemay, BNF, SCT	Rbt Milne/Iso
<b>Loban (1752- I found their marriage cert but no clues)</b>			Jn Milne (Knabbygates) / Jn Reid (Bearfold)		
<i>Who were the Milnes — John, living at Knabbygates; Robert, m. Isobel Loban 1752; And John Reid, relative of Isabella Reid?</i>					
REID	1773	10 June 1773	Bruckels	Rothiemay, BNF, SCT	Alex Reid/ <b>Iso Loban (1764)</b> Wm
Murray (Knabbygates) / Jn McHattie (Ternemy)					
Jean LOBAN	1773	13 January 1773	Rotnoddie	Rothiemay, BNF, SCT	
		<b>Jn/Isobel Niesh (1766)</b>	Alex Niesh (Cairnhill) / <b>Alex Loban (Knabbygates)</b>		
MURRAY	1781	13 August 1781	Knabbygates	Rothiemay, BNF, SCT	Jn Murray/Eliz
Smith		Alexander Loban (Knabbygates) / Jn (or Jms) Cowie (Ternemy)			
<b>Margaret LOBAN</b>	<b>1807</b>	<b>26 October 1807</b>	<b>Knabbygates "farmer"</b>	<b>Rothiemay, BNF, SCT</b>	
<b>Wm/Isobel Reid</b>		<b>Alex Loban (Knobbygates) / Jms Reid (Poolside)</b>			
<b>Alexander LOBAN</b>	<b>1809</b>	<b>14 May 1809</b>	<b>Knabbygates "farmer"</b>	<b>Rothiemay, BNF, SCT</b>	
<b>Wm/Isobel Reid</b>		<b>before the congregation</b>			
<b>James LOBAN</b>	<b>1811</b>	<b>21 April 1811</b>	<b>Knabbygates "farmer"</b>	<b>Rothiemay, BNF, SCT</b>	
<b>Wm/Isobel Reid</b>		<b>before the congregation</b>			
<b>Isobel LOBAN</b>	<b>1813</b>	<b>20 June 1813</b>	<b>Knabbygates "farmer"</b>	<b>Rothiemay, BNF, SCT</b>	
<b>Wm/Isobel Reid</b>		<b>before the congregation</b>			
<b>Helen LOBAN</b>	<b>1817</b>	<b>11 August 1817</b>	<b>Knabbygates "farmer"</b>	<b>Rothiemay, BNF, SCT</b>	
<b>Wm/Isobel Reid</b>		<b>before the congregation</b>			

Work in progress; last edited July 2018

John LOBAN 1819 03 June 1819 Knabbygates "farmer" Rothiemay, BNF, SCT  
Wm/Isobel Reid Wm Taylor (Barrymoss) / Wm Cruickshank (Shank of Barry)

### III

<http://genegenie-scotland.blogspot.com/2013/11/fife-estate-farms.html>

#### Fife Estate Farms

##### FARMS TO LET

*In the EARL of FIFE's Estates in the Counties of Aberdeen and Banff.*

THERE will be LET at DUFF HOUSE, in December next, for Leases of such endurance as may be agreed upon, the following POSSESSIONS, viz. -

*Parish of Rothiemay.*

**CLAYMIRES**, occupied by Alexander Gray, James Clunes, George Cormick, Alexr. Watt, Wm. Cruickshank, John Smith, and James Skinner.

**ROTNODDIE**, occupied by William Wilson, Peter Duncan, James Reid, and **John Lobban**.

**BRUCKLES**, occupied by **Alexander Reid**.

**PARRACK**, occupied by James Mensel and **William Dawson**.

LOCKART WARDS, occupied by John Riddoch, Alexander McKay, James Wilson, William Dawson, and James Scot.

SHIEL, occupied by William Webster, William Taylor, and John Henderson.

COLDHAME, occupied by James Begg, James Stronach, James Lemmon, Charles Smith, and Alexander Riddoch.

WAULKMILL, occupied by John Thom and J. Down.

CLOVENSTONE, occupied by John Watt.

**KNABBYGATES**, occupied by **Alexander Lobban**.

**TERNEMNAY**, occupied by **James Cowie and John Murray**.

FOREST, occupied by William Lorimer.

KNA[U]CKLAND, occupied by William Sharp, John Hewit, **John Cruickshank**, and John Brown.

BARNHILL, occupied by James Brown and James Robb.

**RETTANACH**, occupied by **James Taylor, James Allan, John Bruce, and Isobel Guthrie**.

HILLBRAE, occupied by Alexander Pirie.

MOSS-SIDE, occupied by Robert Monro, John McIntosh, and Charles Monro.

MANNOCH-HILL, occupied by James Sharp.

**CORSKELLY**, occupied by **William Smith and James Fraser**; and

WOODFOLD, occupied by Robert Scott.

Entry to part of the above at Whitsunday first, and to the remainder at Whitsunday, 1815 and 1816.