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MERCHANT COUNTERMARKED DOLLARS
More Information regarding the Parish and Village of Fintry.

Tom Ward & Eric C Hodge

Harry Manville's opus on the above subject[1] covers Fintry, Stirlingshire, Scotland, (which is about seventeen miles due north of Glasgow) on pages 65 to 68. He mentions three issuers of countermarked dollars as 'Culcreuch Mill' (Fig. 1), 'Robert McNee' (Fig. 2) and 'J. Stewart' (Fig. 3) all at value five shillings (5/).



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.

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Ref. 1996-10-1-17. Ref. 1996-10-1-17. Ref. 1996-10-1-17.

Also listed on coppers, halfpenny coins and tokens is 'PAYABLE AT CULCREUCH MILL *' surrounding 'THOS. WHYTE' in the centre (Fig. 4) and 'P. BY ROBERT McNEE FINTRY *' (Fig. 5).
Manville writes that Thos. Whyte & Son were listed under Glasgow 'Brokers, Factors, Merchants, &c. (cotton)' at 28 Glassford-street. However he could find no record of a Robert McNee in Fintry.
In addition to the above J. Gavin Scott[2] states under his heading 'Fintry' '83.5 Culcreuch Mill' 'There is no mention of Thomas Whyte, and it is unclear whether he was manager of the works or in charge of the local truck shop.'
Under his heading '83.6 McNee' he acknowledges that 'The trader has not been identified'.



Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.

[1] Manville, H.E., 2001. Tokens of the Industrial Revolution – foreign silver coins countermarked for use in Great Britain, c.1787–1828, BNS Special Publication 3 (London). (Manville.)
[2] Scott J. Gavin, British Countermarks on Copper and Bronze Coins, Spink & Son Ltd., London, 1975, page 103.

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Recent research in the Old Parish Registers on 'Scotland's People'[3] seems to have identified both and has uncovered some interesting facts regarding the above, not least that, if not related, they shared close families ties.

Thomas Whyte is listed as 'Manager of the Cotton Miln of Culcreuch', husband of Jean Forsyth and father of Peter Spiers Whyte on his baptism on 10th April 1796 in the Fintry Parish register, (Fig. 6) which reads in full as:-

'*One male child called Peter Spiers lawfully procreated betwixt Mr. Thomas Whyte Manager of the Cotton Miln of Culcreuch and Jean Forsyth his spouse was born the 12th March and Baptised the 10th April 1796 on this occasion were present these witnesses John Cook and John Dougal.'*

Interestingly the son's name is taken after the Culcreuch Mill owner Peter Spiers as mentioned in Manville on page 65.

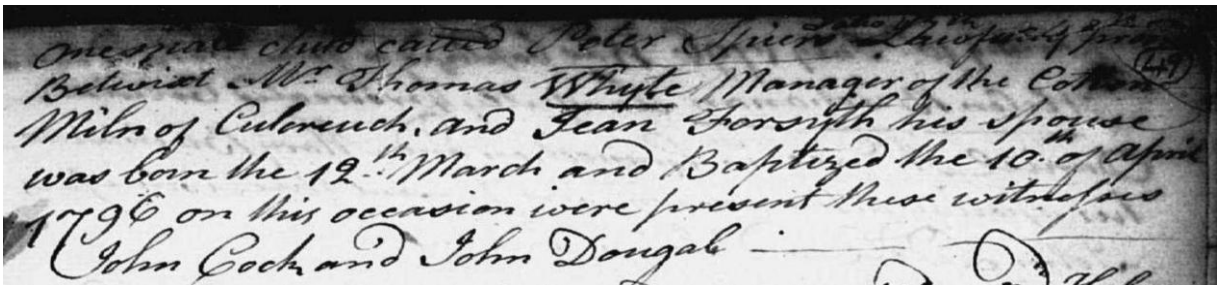


Fig. 6. © Crown copyright, National Records of Scotland. Image generated 19th February 2026.

Further down the same page, on May 18th 1796, a William Whyte 'at Cotton Miln' (possibly a brother to the above Thomas) is listed as the father of another Thomas Whyte who was also being baptised (Fig. 7) and I quote:-

'May 18th 1796 was baptized a male child called Thomas lawfully procreated betwixt William Whyte at Cotton Miln and Isbal Archibald his spouse, were present these witnesses James Ure and Andrew Morison.'

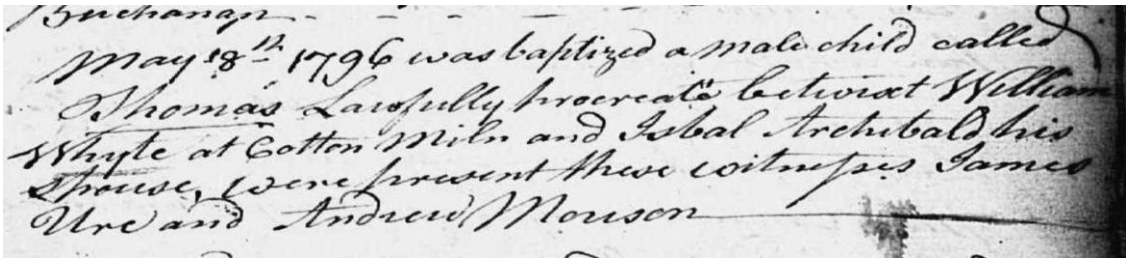


Fig. 7. © Crown copyright, National Records of Scotland. Image generated 19th February 2026.

In the Fintry register there is a 21st June 1778 baptism record for Robert McNee, son of Daniel McNee 'in Croftinstilly' (Fig. 8) and which reads in full as:-

[3] Scotlandspeople.gov.uk

'June 21st was baptised a male child called Robert lawfully procreated betwixt Daniel McNee in Croftinstilly and Janet Cowan his spouse. On this occasion were present these witnesses John Ewing & Andrew Dean.'

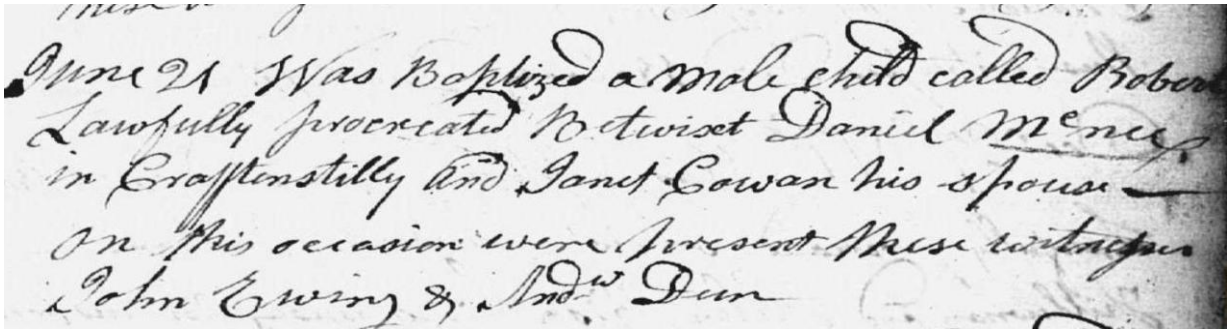


Fig. 8. © Crown copyright, National Records of Scotland. Image generated 20th February 2026.

Croftinstilly (Fig. 9) is now a large dwelling (former farmhouse?) just outside the old village of Fintry but back in the day would likely have been a steading with several smaller workers houses as well.



Fig. 9. Croftinstilly.

The Fintry register also has a banns/marriage entry dated 7th December 1805 for Robert McNee and Ann Gardiner, 'both in this Parish' (Fig. 10) and which reads in full as:-

'7th Decr 1805 Robt McNee and Ann Gardiner gave in their names for proclamation in order to marriage 1 day both in this parish.

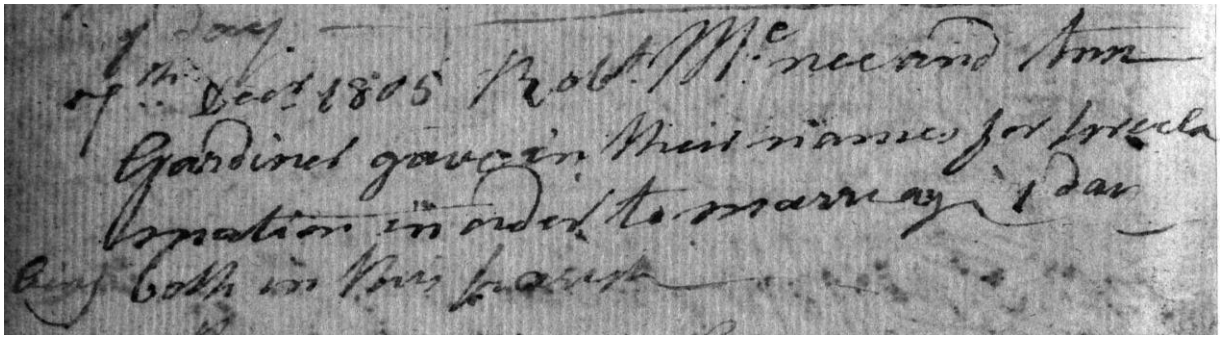


Fig. 10. © Crown copyright, National Records of Scotland. Image generated 19th February 2026.

Further research of the Fintry register found that Croftinstilly was the childhood home of Sir Daniel Macnee (1806-1882) a renowned Scottish painter and it turns out he was the son of our Robert McNee and Ann Garner (sic), (Fig. 11) and one of the witnesses at his baptism appears to be none other than John Stewart (issuer of c/m dollars) as mentioned above. The notice reads in full as:-

'was born the 4th of and Baptized on the 15th of June 1806 a male child called Daniel lawfully procreated betwixt Robert McNee Merchant in New Town, and Ann Garner his spouse, were present these witnesses John Stewart and William Baird.'

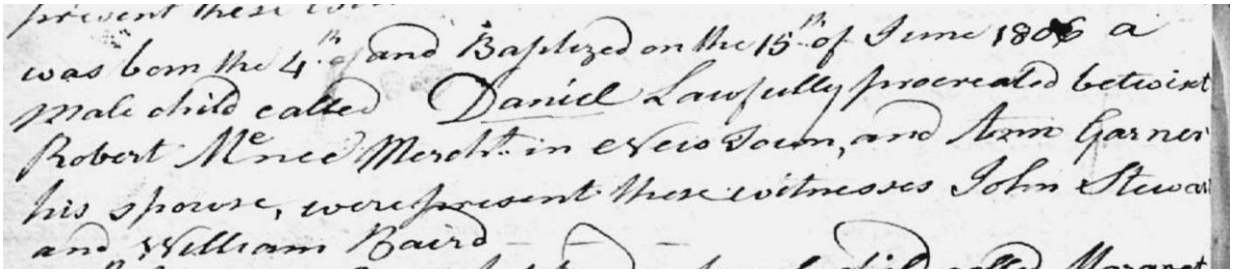


Fig. 11. © Crown copyright, National Records of Scotland. Image generated 17th October 2026.

'New Town' refers to the main village of Fintry which sprang up around the mill as opposed to the old Clachan of Fintry (Fig. 12) which was little more than a few houses (including Croftinstilly) clustered around the church.

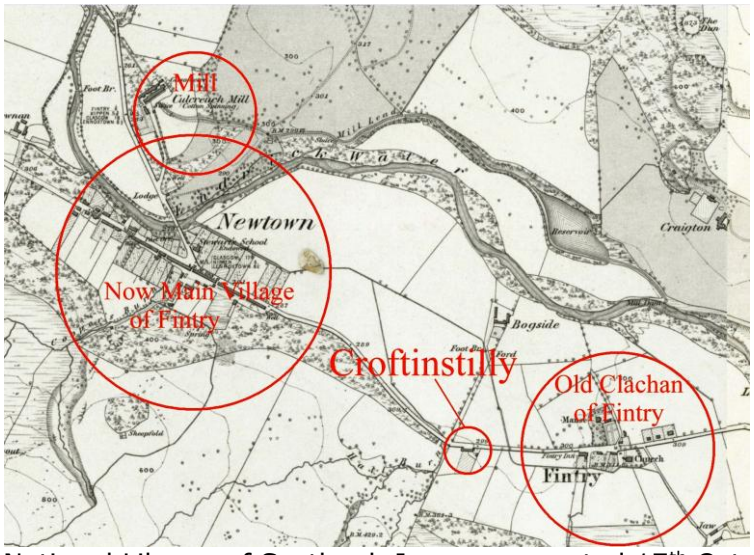


Fig. 12 © National Library of Scotland. Image generated 17th October 2026.

It would appear, therefore, that Thomas Whyte, Robert McNee and even J. Stewart can all be found to have lived and prospered in the business environment of Fintry during this interesting period of small change scarcity and the production of the countermarked dollars (1780-1830).