

# The Sharkey Story



Thomas Sharkey and Doreen Pickering

**Thomas SHARKEY**

Born 5 Sep 1921  
2 Marne Street, Kirkconnel  
Died 27 Sep 1993  
41 Newington Road, Annan

**John SMITH**

Born 1845  
Alton, Dundonald, Ayrshire  
Marr 31 Dec 1868  
Linwood, Kilbarchan  
Died  
between 1905 & 1958

**Elizabeth Wilson SMITH**

Born 17 Apr 1881  
Benstoun Limekilns, Renf  
Died 1 Jul 1958  
23 Queensway, Annan

**Elizabeth ORR**

Born 1849  
Ireland  
Died  
between 1905 & 1958

**Andrew SMITH**

Born  
before 1827  
Married  
before 1845  
Died  
after 1869

**Janet MCLAUCHLAN**

Born  
bef 1827  
Died  
aft 1869

**William ORR**

Born 1810  
Ireland  
Died 4 Sep 1882  
Blackstoun, Kilbarchan

**Martha JOHNSTONE**

Born 1828  
Ireland  
Died 21 Jan 1887  
Blackstoun, Linwood

**David Orr**

Born  
before 1804  
Died

**Robert Johnstone**

Born  
before 1810  
Marr

**Martha Johnstone**

Born  
before 1810

## Thomas Sharkey

Thomas Sharkey was born on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September 1921 at 2 Marne Street, Kirkconnel which is in Dumfriesshire. His mother was Elizabeth Wilson Smith. By the time Thomas was born Elizabeth had already been married once to William Paterson. They married on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 1900 but sadly he died on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 1917. Elizabeth went on to marry Simon Sharkey but we do not believe this to be Thomas's father: so here is our first mystery!

Thomas Sharkey went on to marry Doreen Pickering of Leeds, they settled in Annan and have five children, Susan, Linda, Thomas, Elaine and James. So far Thomas and Doreen would have 11 Grandchildren and 7 Great Grandchildren.

As Thomas has taken the name from Simon Sharkey we will first look at this family first.

Simon Sharkey was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of July 1902 at 35 Butts Street, Annan. He seems to have remained in Annan all his life.

Simon's Father was Patrick Sharkey, he was born in Annan in 1857. Patrick married Margaret Jane Mcqade on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 1885 in St. Columba's Chapel, Annan.

Patrick's Father was Michael Sharkey born about 1811 in Ireland as you can see from the 1851 census entry below.

Annan Parish, Book 4, Page 3  
Toot Hills, Annan

Name	Relationship	Condition	Age	Occupation	Birthplace
Michael Sharky	Head	Married	40	Agg. Labourer	Ireland
Catherane Sharky	Wife	Married	40		Ireland
Margret Sharky	Daughter	Unmarried	13		Ireland
Edward Sharky	Son	Unmarried	10		Ireland
Michael Sharky	Son	Unmarried	7		Ireland
Oney Sharky	Daughter	Unmarried	5		Ireland
Catherine Sharky	Daughter	Unmarried	9 M.		Dumfries, Annan
Peter Edwint	Lodger	Married	41	Vagrant	Ireland
Mary Edwint	Wife	Married	30	Vagrant's wife	Lanark, Hamilton
Mary Edwint	Daughter	Unmarried	8	Vagrant's daur	Lanark, Hamilton
Christphor Edwint	Daughter	Unmarried	6	Vagrant's daur.	Lanark, Hamilton

This entry shows the entire family, we learn from this that they have been in Annan more than 9 Months but less than 5 years. It is difficult to say exactly why they moved from Ireland but it was most likely to search out a better life for their children during the potato famine. Unfortunately Irish records from this time are either lost or un-indexed. I hope in the future to be able to add to this family line.

**Patrick SHARKEY**

Born 1857  
Annan  
Marr 18 Dec 1885  
St Columba's Chapel, Dumf  
Died  
after 1902

**Michael SHARKEY**

Born  
before 1840  
Married  
before 1858  
Died  
before 1881

**Elizabeth QUEEN**

Born 1847  
Annan  
Died  
after 1885

**Simon SHARKEY**

Born 10 Jul 1902  
35 Butts Street, Annan

**Arthur MCQUADE**

Born  
before 1847  
Marr 15 Apr 1865  
Annan  
Died  
after 1885

**Margaret Jane MCQUADE**

Born 18 Jun 1869  
Annan  
Died  
after 1902

**Margaret MCFARLANE**

Born 1845  
England  
Died  
after 1885

## Elizabeth Wilson Smith

Elizabeth (Thomas Sharkey's Mother) was born on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 1881 to John Smith and Elizabeth Orr in Benstoun Limekilns, Renfrewshire. She died on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 1958 in Annan. Her Father John is proving to be a bit of an elusive character.

We know John was born about 1845 however have been unable as yet to find a recorded birth. This could be for various reasons. First of all JOHN SMITH! Not the most uncommon name in the world. Official registration of Births, marriages and deaths did not begin in Scotland until 1855 and many church records have been lost or remain un-indexed. Finally there seems to be a slight discrepancy between census records. We think he was born in Dundonald, Ayrshire however these records are not 100% accurate. John married Elizabeth Orr on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1868 in Linwood, Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire. They proceeded to have at least 9 children: Andrew, William, John, Martha, David, Elizabeth, Archibald, Janet and Rachel.

On John and Elizabeth's Marriage certificate in 1868 John's parents are given as Andrew Smith and Janet McLauchlan. Sadly we have been unable to find out much information about this pair. We have various speculations in this regard; I personally think these are false names, despite official registration by the time of the marriage no birth certificates had to be produced to prove identity or age. It is possible these are his grandparents or perhaps an aunt and uncle, it is not very clear but we will keep searching and hopefully one day something will show up.

On John and Elizabeth's Marriage certificate in 1868 Elizabeth Orr's parents are given as William Orr and Martha Johnstone. Unfortunately Elizabeth was born in Ireland so no birth however his parents died in Scotland after 1855 so we know William's father's name was David, and Martha's parents were Robert Johnston and Martha Johnston.

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