

Trades House of Glasgow

John McAslan's Biography



By

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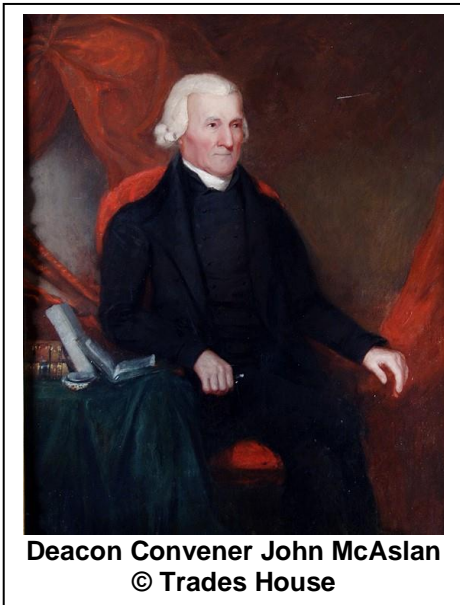
Deacon Convener John McAslan Incorporation of Gardeners

Burgess and Guild Brother 8 September 1746

Deacon of Gardeners: 1763

Deacon Convener: 1789-90

John McAslan's father was called Duncan McAulsan and he received his Burgess ticket on 11th September 1718 and his membership of the Incorporation of Gardeners on the 25th of September 1718 as a gardener due to him marrying Mary Munroe, daughter to Thomas Munroe (G.B., by purchase, 5 Sept. 1732). Duncan and Mary were married on 26th of January 1716 in Glasgow.



John McAusland was the youngest born of Duncan and Mary and he was baptised on 12th March 1730 in Glasgow. The witnesses at the christening of John were John Logan and Duncan McAusland. John had the following siblings:

William McAusland 31st August 1718
Margaret McAusland 16th October 1720. Married James Burnside 08th January 1749
Janet McAusland 23rd August 1722
Anne McAusland 20th May 1725

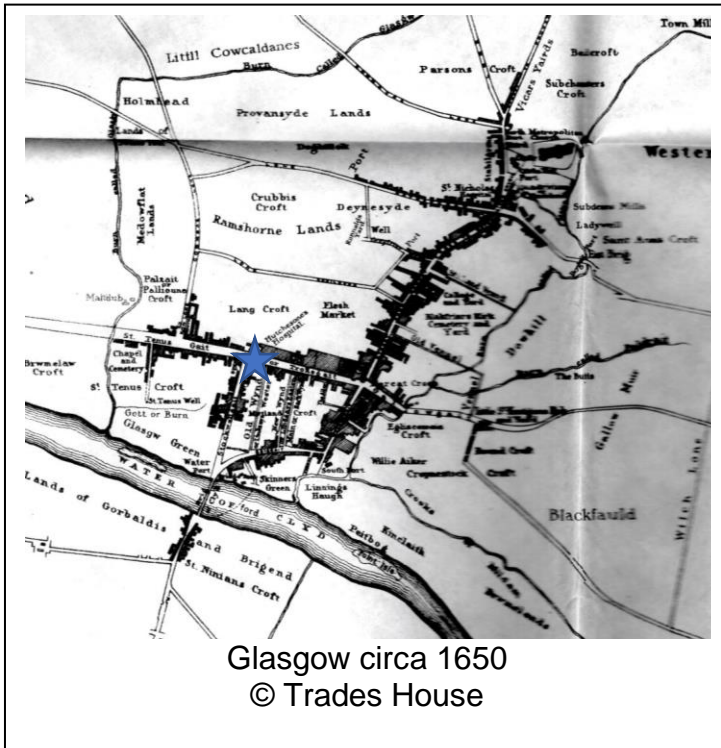
John's father was buried in the North West Churchyard in Glasgow on 29th of October 1741 when John was about 11 years of age.

On the 8th of September 1746, John McCashlan, gardener was made a Burgess and Guild Brother as the eldest son to the deceased Duncan McCashlan. Two days later, on the 10th of September 1746 John McAuslan became a member of the Incorporation of Gardeners as the son of deceased Duncan McAuslan. John would have been aged about 16 years at this time.

It is important to note that the spelling of surnames was rather fluid at this period, hence the different spelling of McAslan over the years.

McAslan Nursery

The nursery business was started by John McAslan in 1717, when he rented ground behind the old Hutcheson Hospital on Trongate. John McAslan was joined by his brother Duncan, and he was succeeded by his wife after his death in 1741, and then



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Duncan's son, another John McAslan who later became the Deacon Convener of the Trades' House of Glasgow in 1789. In 1788 John McAslan, gave up his lease at Deanside and ceased renting the garden Hutcheson's Hospital and moved the nursery to his own property called "The Hill" where he built a mansion. This was the first house built in this part the city.

John McAslan was Trades Councillor, Trades Baillie 1782, Treasurer of the City 1796, Treasurer of the

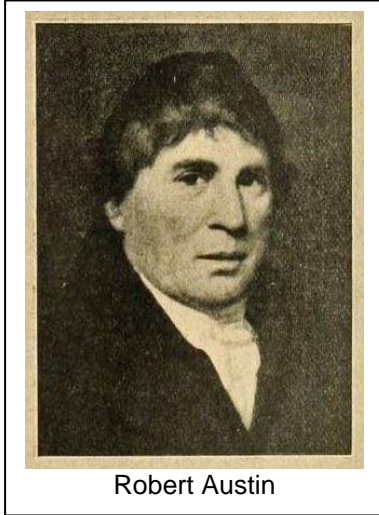
Buchanan Society for 30 years and later President of the Society. During his time in office as Deacon Convener, that portion of the Lands of Gorbals belonging to the Trades House and Incorporations was laid out for feuing and became known as Tradeston. Deacon-Convener McAslan did much public work for the city. During his time, he was Treasurer of the Town Hospital, Director of the Highland Society. His daughter, Agnes, married David Graham, and their son John Graham, later known as John Graham Gilbert, became a famous painter and a member of the Royal Scottish Academy. The painting in the Trades Hall of Glasgow of Deacon Convener John McAslan was painted by his grandson John Graham Gilbert R.S.A.

John McAslan laid the foundation stone of the Trades Hall in 1791 and was a member of the Trades House in 1794 when the new hall was opened..

John McAslan died in 1815 at the age of 85 years and was buried in the same lair as his father, either in the Cathedral Burying grounds or in Glasgow Necropolis. He was buried on 17th April 1815.

Deacon Convener Robert Austin 1805-06 Deacon of the Incorporation of Gardeners

The foreman Robert Austin, of Milngavie, who joined the Incorporation of Gardeners as a Far Hand on the 7th September 1785, he trained in London, became a partner in 1782, and married Margaret McAslan, daughter of John McAslan on 3rd December 1786. Robert Austin and his father-in-law John were both listed as Seedsmen in the marriage ceremony. Robert later became a Deacon Convener in the Trades' House of Glasgow in 1805.



Robert Austin and Margaret McAslan had the following children:

Margaret Austin 1st September 1787 in Glasgow.

John Austin 19th February 1789 in Glasgow.

Elizabeth Austin 28th May 1790 in Glasgow.

Hugh Austin 16th January 1792 in Glasgow.

Mary Austin 26th August 1793 in Glasgow.

Robert Austin 26th July 1795 in Glasgow.

Janet Austin 7th August 1797 in Glasgow.

John Austin 14th March 1801 in Gorbals.

Elizabeth Austin 21st March 1803 in Gorbals.

Alexander Austin 31st March 1807 in Gorbals.

The nursery moved to Little Govan in 1798 to ground belonging to Mr Rae and lying between Rutherglen Road and the Clyde and opposite Fleshers Haugh and Glasgow Green.