John Sangster Allan Sutherland was born 24 July 1845\(^1\) at Cortiecram in the parish of Lonmay, Aberdeen, Scotland. He was the oldest child of George Sutherland and Elizabeth Hepburn who were married 5 January 1845\(^2\) in the parish of Lonmay. John’s christening record in the parish registers reads: *George Sutherland & his wife Elizabeth Hepburn, Cortiecram, Kininmonth, had a son, John S. A. Sutherland born 24th July 1845 and baptized by Mr. Gibbon.*\(^3\) At this time, it was uncommon for children to be given middle names. We don’t know the origin of John’s middle names; however, Sangster and Allan were fairly common surnames in the area. Several of John’s siblings were also given a middle name of either Sangster or Allan. It may be coincidence but Elizabeth Hepburn’s sister, Helen, had married James Sangster in 1841.

Cortiecram was the name of a farm in the parish of Lonmay and at the time of John’s birth, George Sutherland was working as a farm servant there. Kininmonth was an area in Aberdeen which was a civil or governmental, rather than church, parish. Kininmonth contained part of the following five church parishes: Crimond, Longside, Lonmay, Strichen and Old Deer.

On the 1851 census\(^4\), five-year-old John along with his parents and two younger siblings were still living at Cortiecram. Sometime before 1861\(^5\), however, George Sutherland acquired his own croft, or leased farm, of 18 acres at Boggie Nook in Lonmay. This was not a large farm but a good-sized croft for those days.

Teenagers both male and female worked out of the household early in those times, and by 1861, 15-year-old John was working as a ploughman at the farm of Crooked Dyke in the neighbouring parish of Old Deer.\(^6\)

On 6 November 1864, John married Ann Finnie, daughter of George Finnie and Mary Mackie, at Lonmay Parish Church. They were married by the same minister, Charles Gibbon, who had baptized John. Their marriage record reads in part, *1864, On the sixth day of November at the church of Lonmay, after banns, according to the Forms of the Church of Scotland.*\(^7\) At the time of their marriage, John was a farm servant in Lonmay and Ann was living at North Lodge, Aden, Old Deer, the home of her parents, and working as a domestic servant on the Aden estate [see Historical Background].

Ann Finnie was born 8 November 1844\(^8\) in the parish of Old Deer, Aberdeen. Her christening record in the parish registers reads: *George Finnie, labourer in the Village of Deer, by his wife, Mary Mackie, had a daughter born 8th November 1844, baptised thereafter and named Ann.*\(^9\) George Finnie and Mary Mackie had been married 20 January 1836\(^10\) in Old Deer, and Ann was their fifth child and second daughter.

Ruin of North Lodge, Aden Estate, Old Deer, Aberdeen, Scotland where Ann Finnie was born and raised.

John and Ann’s first child, Mary Ann, was born two months before their marriage, on 3 September 1864.\(^11\) Births before wedlock or marriages after pregnancy were very common in Scotland in the 18\(^{th}\) and 19\(^{th}\) centuries, often for a very practical reason. Sons and daughters to help with work around the croft were essential, and many men wanted to make sure a woman could bear children before marrying her. John and Ann were to have thirteen more children over the next twenty-three years, nine daughters and five sons in total. Two daughters, both named Elizabeth, died in infancy.\(^12\)
At the time of his daughter Elizabeth’s death in 1866, John was working as a labourer at the Lumbs Brick Works in the parish of Lonmay. By the time of their second daughter Elizabeth’s death in 1870, John and Ann had their own croft of 9 acres at Aikey Brae in the parish of Old Deer. Their family was growing and Ann employed a 15-year-old girl to help around the house and with the children.\(^{13}\)

Around 1878,\(^{14}\) John and Ann moved to a croft of 40 acres at Cortiecram in the parish of Lonmay, the farm where John had been born and where his father had worked as a farm servant. All their younger children, beginning with Christina, were born at Cortiecram.

On 12 November 1889, tragedy struck the family when their oldest son, John, went missing. At the time, 22-year-old John was working as a farm servant at Kirkton in the parish of St. Fergus. The family had to wait in agony for over a month, not knowing what had happened, until December 20\(^{\text{th}}\) when John’s body was discovered in the Ugie River at Bridgend in the parish of Longside. His death record gives the cause of death as drowning and reads, Went amissing on 12\(^{\text{th}}\) Nov. and body found in River Ugie at Bridgend, Longside on 20\(^{\text{th}}\) December 1889.\(^{15}\) No other details surrounding his death are known.

John and Ann lost two more sons over the next decade. On 24 March 1897,\(^{16}\) their youngest son, Alexander Giles, died at the young age of 9 years of “inflammation of the bowel” at Cortiecram. Two years later, on 19 April 1899,\(^{17}\) their second-oldest son, George, died of kidney disease at the age of 25 years in the district of Canongate in Edinburgh. The cause of death on his death record reads, “chronic nephritis, ursemia.”

George had married Elsie Gammie Pirie on 16 June 1894\(^{18}\) at New Pitsligo, Aberdeen. At the time of his death, he was working as a stoker at the Gas Works in Edinburgh. Besides his widow, he left two little children, Annie and Alexander John Sutherland. A year later, Elsie remarried to George Park. The Park family was living at 66 Kyle Street in Glasgow on the 1901 census, and Annie and Alexander’s last name is given as Park.\(^{19}\)

On the 1901 census,\(^{20}\) John and Ann are shown at North Cortiecram in Lonmay with their three youngest surviving children, James, Lizzie and Margaret. Their three-year-old grandson, Alexander Milne, son of daughter Christina, was also living with them.

Opportunities were limited in Scotland and at this time, the Canadian West was booming. An extensive advertising campaign was carried out by the Canadian government, looking for immigrants to settle the Prairie provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. John and Ann’s son, James, was the first of their family to emigrate. In early 1905, James travelled from his native Aberdeen in Scotland to Liverpool, England where he booked passage on the ship, Tunisian. He arrived 23 April 1905 at Halifax, Nova Scotia from where he headed west by train to Manitoba. The passenger list from the Tunisian reads "J. Sutherland, 22, single, farm labourer, born Scotland, Aberdeen, destination Pilot Mound."\(^{21}\) His sister, Margaret, joined him a year later.

Around this time, John and Ann moved to the city of Aberdeen where their daughter Catherine was working. On 6 December 1907,\(^{22}\) John died at 18 Canal Street in the district of St. Nicholas in Aberdeen at the age of 62 years. His cause of death is given as “natural causes” and the informant was his daughter, Catherine, who was living at 1 Rubislan Terrace.

In 1910, another son, William, emigrated to Canada and settled near James and Margaret, who were both married that year, in the Crystal City district of Manitoba. Daughter Janet had earlier sailed from Scotland with a wealthy family as maid to South Africa. She later married Andrew Cronje, a Boer who was a major in the South African army.\(^{23}\)

On 6 April 1912,\(^{24}\) the widowed Ann, along with her daughter, Catherine, or Kate as she was called, left the port of Glasgow bound for Canada. They travelled on the Donaldson Steamship Line aboard the ship Saturnia and landed at Saint John, New Brunswick. Ann was leaving behind four married daughters, Mary Ann, Jane, Christina and Elizabeth, but would be joining her only two surviving sons, William and James, as well as two daughters, Margaret.
and Kate. Just imagine how difficult it must be for a woman of 67 years to leave behind everything she has known, all her community and friends and familiar places, to start life over in a new country.

In Canada, Ann lived with her youngest daughter, Margaret, who had married Andrew Gordon Fyfe on 16 March 1910. They lived in a beautiful new brick 2½-storey house on the north half of section 4-1-11W south of Crystal City in the Rural Municipality of Louise, Manitoba. Gordon Fyfe also owned and farmed section 9-1-11W. The family is shown in the RM Louise on the 1916 census, with Annie Sutherland, age 71, mother-in-law.

In April 1919, Gordon and Margaret Fyfe decided to move their growing family right into the village of Crystal City where it would be easier for the children to receive a high school education. They had purchased the former home of Dr. Riddell which was located on Machray Avenue next to the home of Thomas Greenway, one of the founders of Crystal City and the former Premier of Manitoba. Gordon Fyfe continued to farm and every summer during the school holidays, the whole family would move back out to the house on the farm.

Ten months later, on 10 February 1920, Ann Sutherland died at the Fyfe home in Crystal City. She was 75 years old. The cause of her death was pneumonia, brought on by “epidemic influenza.” This was the Spanish flu epidemic which had been brought to Canada by soldiers returning home from the First World War, and which quickly spread causing many deaths between 1918 and 1920.

Ann’s obituary appeared in The Courier at Crystal City on Thursday, 19 February 1920:

Mrs. Sutherland

The funeral of Mrs. Anne Sutherland took place on February 12th, 1920, from the residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Fyfe. The funeral service was conducted in the Presbyterian Church at 2:30 p.m. by the pastor, the Rev. J. S. Miller, M.A. Touching reference was made to the quiet and unostentatious life of service of the deceased who was a lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church. An appropriate selection was sung by Mrs. J. E. Parr and Mrs. Dr. Armitage. Miss Smith presided at the organ on this occasion.

After the service, interment was made in the Crystal City cemetery, a number of neighbours from the South district being among the concourse that followed the remains to their last resting place.

The pallbearers were Messrs. R. J. Sharpe, George Stewart, John Geddes, W. H. Simpson, W. H. Brownlee and T. G. McKitrick. Funeral Director R. Gorrell was in charge of the funeral.

The late Mrs. Sutherland was born at Aden, Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1844. Her marriage to the late John Sutherland took place in 1863. Her husband died in 1908. In 1912 Mrs. Sutherland came to Canada and had since resided with her daughter, Mrs. A. G. Fyfe. Of a family of fourteen, three sons and two daughters predeceased her. Those remaining to mourn her loss are Mrs. Charles, Mrs. Coule, Mrs. Dickie, Mrs. Donald, and 27 grandchildren and great-grandchildren in Scotland; Mrs. Cronje in South Africa; William, James and Mrs. Fyfe and 14 grandchildren in Crystal City and district; and Mrs. Mills of Pipestone, Manitoba.

Ann (Finnie) Sutherland was buried 14 February 1920 in Crystal City Cemetery. Her gravestone of white marble reads:

At Rest
In loving memory of
our beloved mother
Anne Finnie
Born 1844
Died 1920
Sutherland

1 Old Parish Registers, Lonmay Parish, Aberdeen, Scotland, 1687-1854; photocopy of original in possession of author
2 Old Parish Registers, Lonmay Parish; photocopy of original in possession of author
3 Old Parish Registers, Lonmay Parish
4 1851 Scotland census, Lonmay Parish, Aberdeen
5 1861 Scotland census, Lonmay Parish, Aberdeen
6 1861 Scotland census, Old Deer Parish, Aberdeen
7 Civil marriage record of Ann Finnie & John Sutherland, 06 Nov 1864, Lonmay Parish, Aberdeen, Scotland; photocopy of original in possession of author
8 a) Old Parish Registers, Old Deer Parish, Aberdeen, Scotland; 1734-1854; photocopy of original in possession of author, b) Gravestone of Anne Finnie Sutherland, b 1844 d 1920, Crystal City Cemetery, Manitoba, c) Obituary of Ann Sutherland, The Courier, Crystal City, Manitoba, issue of 19 Feb 1920
9 Old Parish Registers, Old Deer Parish
10 Old Parish Registers, Old Deer Parish; photocopy of original in possession of author
11 International Genealogical Index [IGI], Family History Library, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints [LDS]
12 Civil death record of Elizabeth Sutherland, d 6 Aug 1866, age 4 mos, Lumbs, Lonmay Parish; civil death record of Elizabeth Sutherland, d 31 Aug 1870, age 1 yr; Aikey Brae, Old Deer Parish; photocopies of original in possession of author
13 1871 Scotland Census, Old Deer Parish, Aberdeen
14 Son William was born in Old Deer parish in 1877 while daughter Christina was born at North Cortiecram Farm, Lonmay parish in 1879.
15 Civil death record of John Sutherland, d 12 Nov 1889, Longside Parish, Aberdeen, Scotland; photocopy of original in possession of author
16 Civil death record of Alexander Giles Sutherland, d 24 Mar 1897, District of Kininmonth, Aberdeen, Scotland; photocopy of original in possession of author
17 Civil death record of George Sutherland, d 19 Apr 1899, District of Canongate, Edinburgh, Scotland; photocopy of original in possession of author
18 Civil marriage record of Elsie Gammie Pirie & George Sutherland, m 16 Jun 1894, District of New Pitsligo, Aberdeen, Scotland; photocopy of original in possession of author
19 1901 Scotland Census, Barony, Glasgow, Lanark
20 1901 Scotland Census, Lonmay Parish, Aberdeen
22 Civil death record of John Sutherland, d 6 Dec 1907, District of St Nicholas, City of Aberdeen, Scotland; photocopy of original in possession of author
23 Family story
25 a) Marriage Registers, Presbyterian Church, Crystal City, Manitoba, United Church Archives, University of Winnipeg, Manitoba, b) On-line index, Manitoba Vital Statistics, c) Wedding announcement, The Courier, Crystal City, Manitoba, issue of 17 Mar 1910
26 1916 census, RM Louise, District of Lisgar, Manitoba, Canada
27 Civil death record of Ann Sutherland, d 10 Feb 1920, Crystal City, Manitoba; deceased had lived “10 months at place of death”
28 a) Civil death record of Ann Sutherland, d 10 Feb 1920, Crystal City, Manitoba; photocopy of original in possession of author, b) Obituary of Ann Sutherland, c) Gravestone of Anne Finnie Sutherland
29 Obituary of Ann Sutherland, The Courier, Crystal City, Manitoba, issue of 19 Feb 1920
30 Gravestone of Anne Finnie Sutherland, Crystal City Cemetery, Manitoba