

**Edward Stirling 1805-1873**  
**Son of Archibald Stirling of Keir & Cadder 1769-1847**  
Jude Skurray 2007



Edward Stirling ©2007 Stirling Family  
*Edward Stirling*

The Stirlings of Keir and Cadder Scotland owned the sugar plantations of Frontier and Hampden in Jamaica. Their cousins the Stirlings of Kippendavie were of the nearby estates Kippendavie and Kippenross, Perthshire, Scotland and owned the estate of Content in St James, Jamaica, not far from Hampden, which was in the parish of Trelawny. The two families have shared much of their history as well as their ancestors.

Edward Stirling one of the two eldest sons of Archibald Stirling of Keir was born in about 1805 most likely at the family estate of Hampden, Jamaica. He later became one of the leading pioneer figures in South Australian history.

Archibald Stirling of Keir, Edward's father, lived in Jamaica for over twenty-five years; he married later in life aged forty-six once he had returned to Scotland. Archibald's father was William Stirling of Keir and his mother Helen Gray, daughter of Lord John Gray. Archibald was one of nine children, his father William was the second youngest son of James Stirling and Marion Stewart, who had twenty-two children, many of whom sought their fortunes on the family estates in Jamaica.

Archibald succeeded to Keir and Cadder on the death of his brother James, in 1831.



*Keir House, Perthshire, Scotland*



*Cadder/Cawder, Bishopbriggs: East Dunbartonshire, Scotland, now Cawder Golf Club*



*Hampden, Trelawny, Jamaica.  
Hampden was still producing sugar & rum up until 2002.*

Archibald had nine children: Family oral history states that Edward's mother was possibly called Jeanne, she was a Creole woman living in Jamaica as Archibald's Common Law Wife, we believe on the Hampden estate. The eldest two sons were both born in Jamaica, most likely to the same mother.

- William Stirling b. Jamaica*
- Edward Stirling b. 1805 Jamaica*

It is possible that Jeanne was also the mother of Archibald's younger children:

- Henry Stirling, the carpenter at Hampden, b Jamaica*
- Mary Stirling, who later married Mr Hynde a carpenter in St James, Jamaica. b. Jamaica*

Archibald had two daughters by a woman named Sarah Stirling:

- Ann Stirling who married John Hewan, the overseer at Hampden, b Jamaica*
- Helen Stirling, b. Jamaica*

In 1815 Archibald Stirling married Elizabeth Maxwell 1793-1822, they lived at Kenmure, Scotland not far from Cadder. Their three children were:

- Hannah Anne Stirling b. 1816 Scotland*
- Sir William Stirling Maxwell b. 1818 Scotland*
- Elizabeth Stirling born in 1822 Scotland*

Edward returned to Scotland, we imagine with his father, his brother William and their two cousins Charles and John Stirling. John was most likely the son of Archibald's younger brother Robert who had died in Jamaica in 1808. Charles was possibly the son of one of Archibald's brothers, most of whom had spent time in Jamaica, possibly either James, John, Robert or Charles. It is possible Charles could have been the son of one of their cousins the Stirling's of Kippendavie, living in Jamaica at the same time.

William and Edward Stirling were educated at the St Vigeans School, near Arbroath, Scotland, with their two cousins, John and Charles Stirling. There is a stained glass window in the St Vigeans Church, which Edward dedicated to his teacher, John Bowman.

Edward having finished his studies, worked as a merchant in Glasgow, with associates of his father, Dennistoun Brothers, the famous Glasgow merchants of whom the Glasgow suburb is named after.

In November 1838 Edward was planning to go to South Australia, he arranged with his father that he would be given his inheritance early which would assist in his ability to establish himself with land, housing and a large investment in livestock, once he arrived in the colony. In Jan 1839 aged 34 years, Edward Stirling left Scotland for South Australia, with his cousin Charles. Edward & Charles settled on land they called Hampden on a run of 800 acres on the River Angus, Strathalbyn. They purchased 2000 or so sheep but ran into difficulty due to disease in 1845 and lost the entire flock. In 1846, with his father's assistance, Edward and his cousin were able to re-establish their stock, this time the flock flourished.

Edward was a significant early pastoralist in the Strathalbyn area, a few hours horse-ride from Adelaide. He established several large stations throughout the colony, breeding Merino sheep, cattle and horses at Hampden, Highland Valley, and Nalpa aka Polmond/Pomona (on the edge of Lake Alexandrina).

In 1855-1861, Edward Stirling's partnership Elder, Stirling & Co, known today as Elders, financed the

Wallaroo and Moonta copper mines. Edward was also a politician; he was appointed to the Legislative Council in 1855. He helped frame the Constitution of the Colony of South Australia and was a member of the new council from 1856-65. Full adult male suffrage, including Aboriginal men, was granted for the first time in an Australian colony in South Australia in 1856, this may have been the first time this was granted anywhere in the world. It was however, many years before Aboriginal enfranchisement issues were fully resolved. We do not know if the introduction of the right to vote including aboriginal men was influenced by Edward Stirling. Although, one would imagine Edward would have felt strongly about the equality of all people, considering his own origins. Two South Australian towns bear his name, Stirling in Mt Lofty and Stirling North, east of Pt Augusta.

In 1847 in Adelaide, South Australia, Edward Stirling married Harriet Taylor 1821-1879, of Ryelands, Herefordshire. Charles witnessed Edward's marriage in 1847 but returned to the UK soon afterwards. Before his marriage, Edward purchased The Lodge, which became part of the Hampden estate, he later also leased Urrbrae in Adelaide as the family town house.

In 1864 the Stirling family returned to the UK living in London, the two eldest sons went to Cambridge and Edward became the Chairman of the London branch of the South Australian Banking Company.

Edward died at his home in Hyde Park, Bayswater, London, 2nd Feb 1873.

Edward and Harriet Stirling's children were:

-*Sir Edward Charles Stirling (1848-1919) of "St Vigeans", "Nalpa aka Polmond/Pomona" m. 1877, Jane Gilbert of "Pewsey Vale", Sth Australia.*

-*Sir John Lancelot Stirling of "The Lodge", "Highland Valley" (1849-1932) m. 1882, Florence Marion Milne of "Sunnyside", Sth Australia*

-*Mary Eliza Collingwood Stirling (1851-1925) m. 1874, Sir William James Ingram Bt. of the Illustrated London News.*

-*Harriet Hannah Stirling (1853-1939) m.1878, John William Dale of Sth Kensington, London*

-*James Archibald Stirling (1855-1904) m. 1877, Ida Julia Clarke of London*

-*Edith Ellen Stirling (1857-1935) m. 1879, Thomas Gemmell of "Hawksview", Surrey.*

-*Norman William Stirling (1861-1916) m.1885, Wilhelmina Barry of "Elgin", Armadale, Victoria, Australia*

-*Alice Dennistoun Stirling (1863-1892) m. 1885 James Hay of Adelaide, Sth Australia*

Edward Stirling's two eldest sons, Sir Edward Charles Stirling and Sir John Lancelot Stirling, having graduated at Cambridge, returned to South Australia to run the family estates, both were fundamental in shaping the early years of South Australia.



*Sir Edward Charles Stirling*



*Sir John Lancelot Stirling*

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e: [judeskurray@optusnet.com.au](mailto:judeskurray@optusnet.com.au)