We’re a’ Jock Tamson’s Bairns

Author believed to be Dr Joseph Roy (born in Glasgow in 1841)
Chosen by Gordon Dawson (see below)

Jock Tamson was a merry auld soul, Who lived beside the Dee.

He was a farmer rich and gweed, And money a farm had he, And

money a servant man and maid, Wham he met twice a year

And at the head o’ the table he sat While they sang wi’ richt, gweed cheer.

O! We’re a’ Jock Tamson’s Bairns, We’re a’ Jock Tamson’s Bairns, There’ll

never be peace in the world again, Till a-bodies singing wi’ richt and wi’ main, We’re

a’ Jock Tamson’s Bairns.
We're a' Jock Tamson's Bairns:

1. Jock Tamson was a merry auld soul,
   Who lived beside the Dee;
   He was a farmer rich and gweed'
   And mony a farm had he,
   And mony a servant man and maid,
   Wham he met twice a year
   And at the head o' the table he sat
   While they sang wi' richt gweed cheer.

Chorus

O! we're a' Jock Tamson's bairns,
We're a' Jock Tamson's bairns;
There'll never will be peace in the world again
Till abodies singing wi' richt and wi' main,
We're a' Jock Tamson's bairns.

2. When Adam sett fae Edens Bower
   And sent things sara je
   There's aye a weakness tae look ower
   Aye and follies tae forgae
   So let us do what good we can
   Though the best are files tae blame
   In spite o' riches rank and land
   God says were a' the same. Chorus

3. So here's to you and those gone ahead
   Long life guid health and glee
   And if ye be weel as I wish ye a'
   Wi faith ye'll happy be
   So let's do what good we can
   Though the best are whiles tae blame
   In spite o' riches rank or land
   God says were a' the same. Chorus

4. John Tamson sat at the table heid,
   And supped his soup with glee
   And drank success to the honest and gweed,
   And heaven when they wad a' dee.
   But the tyrant loon, the ne'er-dae-heel,
   The lee'ar, the rake and the knave,
   The sooner they a' were hame wi' the devil,
   The better for a' the lave. Chorus

5. Since Adam fell frae Eden's bow'r
   And sent things sara je
   There's aye a weakness to look owre
   Aye and follies tae forgae.
   And John wad sit and chat sae prood,
   And just before he'd gang,
   He'd gie advice and blessings gweed,
   Till roof and rafters rang Chorus

"We're a' Jock Tamson's Bairns" – we are all God’s children.

Why I chose this song: This old Scottish song, should enable everyone to feel they are part of our family and ok yes for example my name Dawson the family was originally from Osonvilla, near Dieppe, Normandy, first mentioned 1066 at the Battle of Hastings; see House of names.com for many name origins.

So yes I believe we are all related, Jock Tamson Bairns is a good & kind way of saying this & "The idea that all men are equal is often expressed in Scotland by the phrase "We're a' John (or Jock) Tamson's Bairns" - we are all God’s children. That philosophy comes through in the original song by Dr Joseph Roy (born in Glasgow in 1841), although the John Tamson here is supposedly from Aberdeenshire!.

Another few words why I chose this song Jock Tamsons Bairns could include some of my back ground ties to the Aberdeenshire Country my Grandfather William Dawson a Crofter at Springfield Croft at the back of Foggie Loan at Aberchirder, who also worked at Ordiequill Quarry which he walked to and from daily; having had 11 children & of which 9 lived, he also served in the Black Watch Regiment I don't know where he served.

On mum's side Wisely & Barclay my Great Grandmother Farmed at Shands Cross Croft near Turrif, Sandy (Alexander) Wisely my Moms cousin was the Doctor at Fraserburgh now deceased Famous for his work within the Drugs Community etc in the area. My Grand Father Hector McKenzie Royal Navy and Wood Cutter Married my Grandmother Annabella Wisely.

So being a first generation Toonser, I remember when we had visitors at the Croft when I was very young, it seemed like every visitor had their story to tell and a song to sing, and I believe that as well.