

PART 1: THE MATERNAL ANCESTORS OF JAMES REID

CHAPTER 6: MOTHER OF JAMES REID

Stigma

James was illegitimate. It must have been very difficult for the family to cope with the situation. The Scottish people at that time were not kind to illegitimate children. There was a distinction placed between lawful children and children born out of wedlock, both in how the families were treated and how the birth was registered. The fathers of illegitimate children were encouraged to give their name and part of their wage to the child. But James was not given the father's last name. Most women who became pregnant out of wedlock married the father. But James' father did not marry his mother.

Controversy

James Reid was born to one of Richard and Margaret's daughters on April 29, 1853. Since there is no birth certificate, the mother can't be identified by that record. At the time of his birth, Margaret was 22 and Mary was 29. According to James' autobiography, his mother left when James was 4 or 5 years old.

Ancestry.com consistently lists his mother as Margaret Reid. James' autobiography does not list his mother's name. Enid Reid's biography lists the mother's name as Mary. Enid Reid was James Reid's grand-daughter. The biography and her relationship are found in the Appendix.

Margaret Reid

Born in Glen Luce – Broom Park area in 1831, she moved to TorhouseMuir before she was 12 years old. Ancestry lists Margaret Reid as the mother of James but that would be very unlikely since Enid's biography lists Mary as the mother. Although James does not list his mother's name, he did dictate his story to Enid and hence, this should be taken as validation that his mother was Mary and not Margaret (as so many on ancestry have stated).

Mary Reid

Born in the Glen Luce - Broom Park area in 1824, her christening was registered at the Glen Luce Parish on May 3, 1825 in Old Luce. Her family moved to TorhouseMuir before she was 17 years old and lived as a crofting (farming) family in an Irish area. When she grew older, she became a seamstress.

In 1853, she gave birth to James who retained her maiden name. She was 29 years old. She left James when he was three¹ (1856) with her parents. She was pregnant at the time and married another man from the area.

Mary Reid Pike

February 26, 1856, Mary married Robert Pike in Wigtonshire.
May 14, 1856, Mary gave birth to their first child, Robert.

Their known children were:

Robert (1856–1881)

James (1859–1938)

Samuel (1859–)

David (1865–)

Mary (1865–1942)
 John Skimming (1848-) from Robert's previous marriage.

In 1861, Mary was living with her husband in District 1G, Egremont, Cleator, Cumberland. Mary was 35. Her husband, Robert Pike was 29 and an agricultural worker, also called a Crofter. Robert had been married previously and had a step son, John, who was living with them.

1861 England Census
 Cumberland > Cleator > Egremont > District 1g

Page 26] The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

Parish (or Township) of	City or Municipal Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Hamlet or Village, &c., of	Eccl[esiastical] District of			
<i>Cleator</i>									
No. of Schedule	Road, Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	HOUSES In- cluded or Excluded	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of	Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf and-Dumb
102	<i>Cleator Village</i>	1	<i>Land Goodfellow</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>31</i>	<i> Gardner</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	
	<i>Donk School</i>		<i>Agnes de</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>30</i>		<i>do</i>	
	<i>Parish Chapel</i>								
103		1	<i>James Martin</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>Ag. Lab</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	
			<i>John de</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>35</i>		<i>do</i>	
			<i>John de</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Un</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>Max Factory Worker</i>	<i>do</i>	
			<i>Joseph de</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>11</i>	<i>Schooler</i>	<i>do</i>	
			<i>Robert de</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>6</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>do</i>	
			<i>John de</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>4</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>Cum Scotland Chato</i>	
			<i>Mary de</i>	<i>Wife</i>		<i>1</i>		<i>do</i>	
			<i>J. R. de</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>3m</i>		<i>do</i>	
104		1	<i>John Jenkins</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>Miner agent</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	
			<i>Maria de</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>28</i>		<i>Cumberland Whitburn</i>	
			<i>James Christie de</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>2</i>		<i>do Cleator</i>	
			<i>Joseph de</i>	<i>Son</i>		<i>1</i>		<i>do do</i>	
105		1	<i>John Lambson</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>Warehouse Ch. R. Clerk</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	
			<i>Marian de</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>38</i>		<i>Lincolshire Ullestrey</i>	
			<i>William de</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>13</i>		<i>Cumberland Chato</i>	
			<i>John Dickenson</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>Plumber & Glazier</i>	<i>Yorkshire Wharfedale</i>	
			<i>Edward de</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>Lincolshire Louth</i>	
106		1	<i>Robert Pike</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>Ag. Lab</i>	<i>Scotland</i>	
			<i>Mary de</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Mar</i>	<i>35</i>		<i>do</i>	
			<i>John Skimming</i>	<i>Step-Son</i>	<i>Un</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>Ag. Lab</i>	<i>do</i>	
5	Total of Houses...	5				15			4

Eng. Sheet D.

In 1897 Robert died. Mary Reid Pike died in 1901.

Egremont

Egremont is a small village today and remains much the same as in the 12th century.



St Leonard's Church in Cleator where the Pike family is buried.



Egremont Castle

¹ James's autobiography states his age was 4-5 but the documents show he was 3.