

PART 2: THE PATERNAL ANCESTORS OF JAMES REID

CHAPTER 2: GREAT-GRANDPARENTS

James John McWhan 1752-unknown

Jean Clerk 1750-unknown

The great-great-grandparents of James Reid moved to Kirkcudbrightshire, to the east of Wigtonshire and resided in two of the parish areas: Kirkcudbright and Girthon.

It is known that James McWhan (1776) who was the grandfather of James Reid, was born to James McWhan (1752)¹ and Jean Clerk (1748)² according to the birth and baptismal records.

James John McWhan (1752)

James John McWhan was born March 15, 1752 in Kirkcudbright, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland. He married Jean Clerk circa 1775. Ancestry.com entries state the date that Jean married was August 18, 1783. There is no record from the parish to indicate the date of the marriage. It was common to have a child conceived out of wedlock but church rules at the time make marriage a "must" before the birth except when there was already a marriage. It is questionable if the Ancestry entry is a valid date.

Jean Clerk (1748)

Jean Clerk (Clark, Clerck) was born on March 28, 1748 in Girthon, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland, United Kingdom:

Name: Jean Clerck,

Baptism Date: 28 Mar 1748

Baptism Place: Girthon, Kirkcudbright, Scotland

Father: James Clerck³

Children

James McWhan, a son was born June 24, 1776.⁴ This was Matthew McWhan's grandfather.

James McWhan		Tools
Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950		
Name:	James McWhan	
Sex:	Male	
Christening Date:	24 Jun 1776	
Christening Place:	Girthon, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland	
Christening Place (Original):	Girthon, Kirkcudbright, Scotland	
Father's Name:	John McWhan	
Father's Sex:	Male	
Mother's Name:	Jean Clerk	
Mother's Sex:	Female	

Another son was born but unnamed on October 15, 1782 in Kells, Kirkcudbrightshire⁵. Kells is 30 miles from Girthon where the first son was born.

Name **Whan**
Sex **Male**
Christening Date **15 Oct 1782**
Christening Place **Kells, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland**
Christening Place (Original) **Kells, Kirkcudbright, Scotland**
Father's Name **John Whan**
Father's Sex **Male**
Mother's Name **Clark**
Mother's Sex **Female**

No other children are listed for the couple. Since no name is listed, it was possibly still-born.

Jean Boyd

There is a marriage record in Wigtown for a James McWhan that shows a marriage to Jean Boyd.

Name: James McWhan

Gender: Male

Marriage Date: 18 Aug 1783

Marriage Place: Stranraer, Wigtown, Scotland

Spouse: Jean Boyd⁶

Despite Ancestry and FamilySearch records that attempt to make Jean Clerk and Jean Boyd the same person, Jean Boyd was a second marriage for John McWhan. It is likely Jean Clerk died giving birth to the unnamed male child in 1782. It was 11 months later that John McWhan married Jean Boyd.

NAME: Jean Boyd
GENDER: Female
MARRIAGE DATE: 18 Aug 1783
MARRIAGE PLACE: Stranraer, Wigtown, Scotland
SPOUSE: James Mcwhan
FHL FILM NUMBER: 1068042

There is a Jean Boyd born January 18, 1743 in Drummore, Wigtonshire. Drummore is 20 miles from where James McWhan was married.

Janet Boyd		Tools
Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950		
Name:	Janet Boyd	
Sex:	Female	
Christening Date:	18 Jan 1743	
Christening Place:	Drummore, Wigtownshire, Scotland	
Christening Place (Original):	Kirkmaiden by Drummore, Wigtown, Scotland	
Father's Name:	Alexander Boyd	
Father's Sex:	Male	

Children

A daughter was born on February 12, 1786.⁷

Name:	Jean Mcwhan
Gender:	Female
Baptism Date:	12 Feb 1786
Baptism Place:	Stranraer, Wigtown, Scotland
Father:	James Mcwhan
Mother:	Jean Boyd

A son, James McWhan was born to parents with the name James McWhan, the mother's name is Jean Boyd. The record was misread when it was originally indexed. The record does not state the date or location.⁸

Name:	James Mechan
Gender:	Male
Spouse:	Jean Boyd
Child:	James Mechan

But a different record states a son James was born to a couple with the same names but the is Jan 8, 1855 with the child dying a few months later. Given the date, this is a different couple.

Name <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cite source		
<input type="text" value="James"/>	<input type="text" value="Mechan"/>	<input type="text" value="Suffix"/>
Birth <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cite source		
Date:	<input type="text" value="08 Jan 1855"/>	
Baptism <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cite source		
Date:	<input type="text" value="01 Jul 1855"/>	
Place:	<input type="text" value="St. John's Free, Dundee, Angus, Scotland"/>	

No other records are available to ascertain if there were any children from this marriage.

Death

One source states on Ancestry that this McWhan died on August 13, 1799 in Kirkkaldine. That is not likely because the location is far from his family.

The McWhan family ancestors have a lot of burials in Thistle Street, United Presbyterian Burial Ground, Stranraer, Wigton, Scotland. Currently, there is a Baptist Church there. Most of the graves are unmarked but there are several marked graves with the names of McWhan.



Kirkcudbrightshire

Kirkcudbrightshire is a civil parish to the east of Wigtonshire. It contains Girthon Parish which has the Gatehouse of Fleet.



Kircudbrightshire⁹

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- ¹ FamilySearch # 9S19-FX1
 - ² FamilySearch # GMXS-YM2
 - ³ FHL Film Number: 1067974 Reference ID:2:1651GJS
 - ⁴ Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950
 - ⁵ Scotland Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950
 - ⁶ FHL Film Number: 1068042
 - ⁷ FHL Film Number: 1068042
 - ⁸ Ancestry.com. Scotland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950
 - ⁹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kirkcudbrightshire>