

# **PART 2: THE PATERNAL ANCESTORS OF JAMES REID**

## **CHAPTER 3: GRANDPARENTS**

### **JAMES McWHAN 1776-1865**

### **AGNES McKEAN 1784-1862**

Matthew McWhan (1824), the father of James Reid, was born to James McWhan (1776) and Agnes McKean Whan (1784).

The grandparents of James Reid were James McWhan<sup>1</sup> and Agnes McKean<sup>2</sup>. They are found at Balhassie, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland in the Census of 1840.

#### **The Age Problem**

Records on Ancestry.com state that this James McWhan was born in 1776. If we follow the census records, there is an age problem, yet it appears this is the same family. In 1841 James reported he was 60 making his birth in 1781. He is listed with his wife Agnes who is 50 (born in 1791). Then the same family in 1851 Census reports the age with a 4-year difference for James and Agnes, but the children are the correct age. It is likely this is the same family and the question as to why James and Agnes would under report their age in 1841 is suspicious. However, it is well-known that people understated their names as adults because they wanted the statistics to show they were younger. Perhaps by the time they were in their 70's they did not care, and they decided to state their real age. So, if the Census of 1851 and 1861 are more accurate than the Census of 1841, his birth year was 1776.

#### **Birth James McWhan (1776)**

James McWhan was born June 24, 1776 at Gatehouse, Girthon, Kincardineshire, Scotland. His baptism date is the same date which probably means he was born where his parents were living and the minister was called to come over that day. This was common because many babies died upon arrival and the Church promoted infant baptism. The father is listed as John McWhan and the mother is Jean Clerk.



Gatehouse at Girthon

## Wife

James McWhan's wife was Agnes McKean MCWHAN who was born January 6, 1784, in Creetown, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland. She was born on Balhassie Properties. Her family belonged to the Scottish Presbyterian Church.

James McWhan married Agnes McKean in 1815 in Kirkcudbright, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland.

## Children

They had several children in Scotland:

 <b>Alexander Whan</b> 1815-1873	 <b>Matthew McWhan</b> 1824-1900
 <b>James Whan</b> 1818-1890	 <b>Andrew Whan</b> 1826-1913
 <b>John Whan</b> 1820-1873	 <b>Samuel Whan</b> 1829-1901
 <b>Martha Mcwhan</b> 1822-	

Agnes McKean McWhan died July 7, 1862, in Creetown, Dumfriesshire, Scotland. James McWhan died on January 7, 1865, on Harbour St, Creetown, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland.

## Census of 1841

James was living at the Balhassie Land in Creeton, Kirkmabreck with his wife and four sons. One daughter had been born in 1820 but was not listed with them.

<b>Name</b>	James Whan	
<b>Age</b>	60	
<b>Estimated Birth Year</b>	1781	
<b>Gender</b>	Male	
<b>Where born</b>	Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland	
<b>Civil parish</b>	Kirkmabreck	
<b>County</b>	Kirkcudbrightshire	
<b>Address</b>	Balhassie	
<b>Occupation</b>	Farmer	
<b>Parish Number</b>	873	
<b>Household members</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>
	James Whan	60
	Agnes Whan	50
	Alexander Whan	25
	James Whan	20
	Andrew Whan	12
	Samuel Whan	10

Son, Matthew, 18, was living with another family nearby.  
 Son John, 21, was married living elsewhere.

## Census of 1851

James was living at Balhassie and had control over 20 acres. His wife and two children were still with him.

<b>Name</b>	James Whan										
<b>Age</b>	74										
<b>Estimated Birth Year</b>	1777										
<b>Relationship</b>	Head										
<b>Spouse</b>	Agnes Whan										
<b>Gender</b>	Male										
<b>Where born</b>	Girthon, Kirkcudbright										
<b>Parish Number</b>	873										
<b>Civil parish</b>	Kirkmabreck										
<b>County</b>	Kirkcudbrightshire										
<b>Address</b>	Dram Of Balhagie										
<b>Occupation</b>	Farmer (of 20 Acresardble)										
<b>ED</b>	1										
<b>Page</b>	2										
<b>Household schedule number</b>	4										
<b>Line</b>	1										
<b>Roll</b>	CSSCT1851_213										
<b>Household members</b>	<table><thead><tr><th>Name</th><th>Age</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>James Whan</td><td>74</td></tr><tr><td>Agnes Whan</td><td>64</td></tr><tr><td>Andrew Whan</td><td>23</td></tr><tr><td>Samuel Whan</td><td>21</td></tr></tbody></table>	Name	Age	James Whan	74	Agnes Whan	64	Andrew Whan	23	Samuel Whan	21
Name	Age										
James Whan	74										
Agnes Whan	64										
Andrew Whan	23										
Samuel Whan	21										

Son, Matthew, 26, was living nearby with his wife and children and they were in the same parish.

## Census of 1861

James and Agnes were still alive and living on Harbour St in Creetown.

<b>Age</b>	85						
<b>Estimated Birth Year</b>	1776						
<b>Relationship</b>	Head						
<b>Spouse's Name</b>	Agnes Whan						
<b>Gender</b>	Male						
<b>Where born</b>	Anwoth, kirkcudt						
<b>Registration Number</b>	873						
<b>Registration district</b>	Kirkmabreck						
<b>Civil parish</b>	Kirkmabreck						
<b>Town</b>	Creetown						
<b>County</b>	Kirkcudbrightshire						
<b>Address</b>	Harbour St						
<b>Occupation</b>	Formerly Cinlder						
<b>ED</b>	6						
<b>Household schedule number</b>	55						
<b>Line</b>	10						
<b>Roll</b>	CSSCT1861_147						
<b>Household members</b>	<table><thead><tr><th>Name</th><th>Age</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>James Whan</td><td>85</td></tr><tr><td>Agnes Whan</td><td>75</td></tr></tbody></table>	Name	Age	James Whan	85	Agnes Whan	75
Name	Age						
James Whan	85						
Agnes Whan	75						

Son, Matthew, 36, was living nearby with his wife and children. They had crossed over into Wigtonshire but were very close to his parents.

## Family



**James Mcwhan**

1776–1865 • LV92-V4T

Marriage: about 1815

Kirkcudbright, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland, United Kingdom



**Agnes Mckean**

1784–1862 • LLWZ-M87

### ^ Children (7)



**Alexander WHAN**

1815–Deceased • LV92-VDP



**James Whan**

1818–1890 • LLWZ-M5J



**John Whan**

1820–1873 • LLWZ-MT6



**Martha Mcwhan**

1822–Deceased • MGF4-SQL



**Matthew Whan**

1824–1900 • 9X3Y-9LQ



**Andrew Whan**

1826–1913 • LLWC-TTV



**Samuel Whan**

1829–1901 • LLWZ-9H3

<sup>1</sup> Information on James McWhan of 1776 from Family Search # LV92-V4T

<sup>2</sup> Information on Agnes McKean from Family Search # LLWZ-M87.