

PART 2: THE PATERNAL ANCESTORS OF JAMES REID

CHAPTER 4: FATHER

Matthew McLaughlin

According to the ancestral files, James' father was Matthew McLaughlin, age 26 years, born circa 1827 in Wigtonshire. There were a few families in Cumberland Parishes with the surname of McLaughlin, however, the name Matthew is not mentioned in the Parish records or Census records in the Cumberland area. There is no McLaughlin family or individual in the TorhouseMuir community in the census records. There is no parish record of the birth or christening of James Reid which might have specified the father's name. The name Matthew McLaughlin is found only in the Ancestral File and no source documents are available to support that name.

Matthew McWhan (Whan)

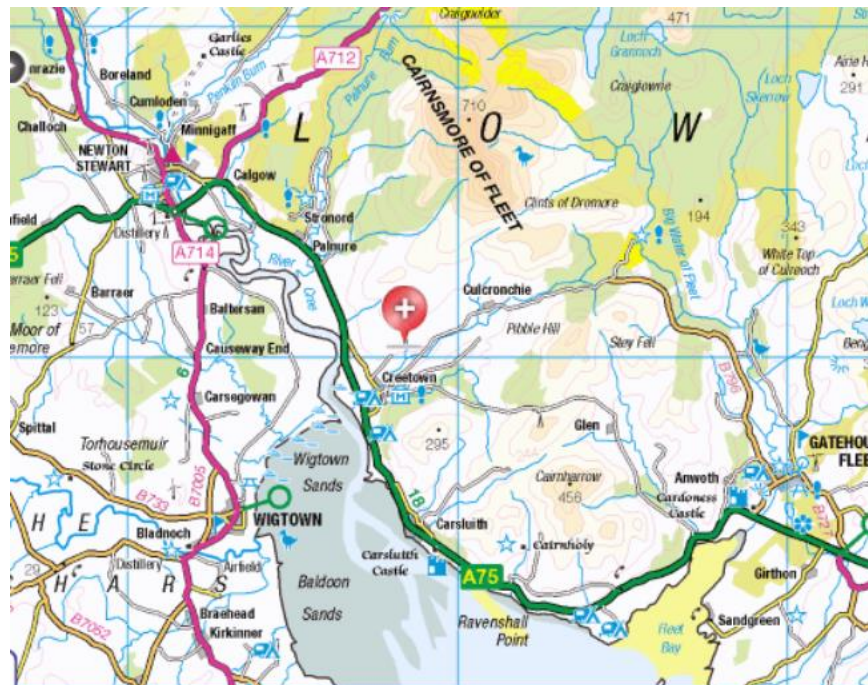
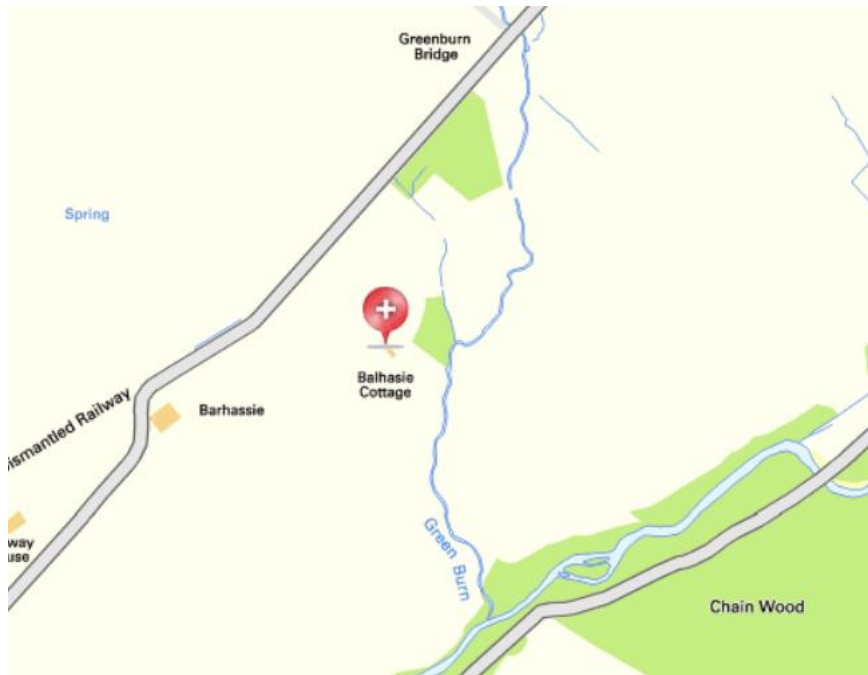
The father of James Reid was in fact, Matthew McWhan (Whan) and proven by DNA as seen later.

Matthew McWhan was born September 29, 1824.

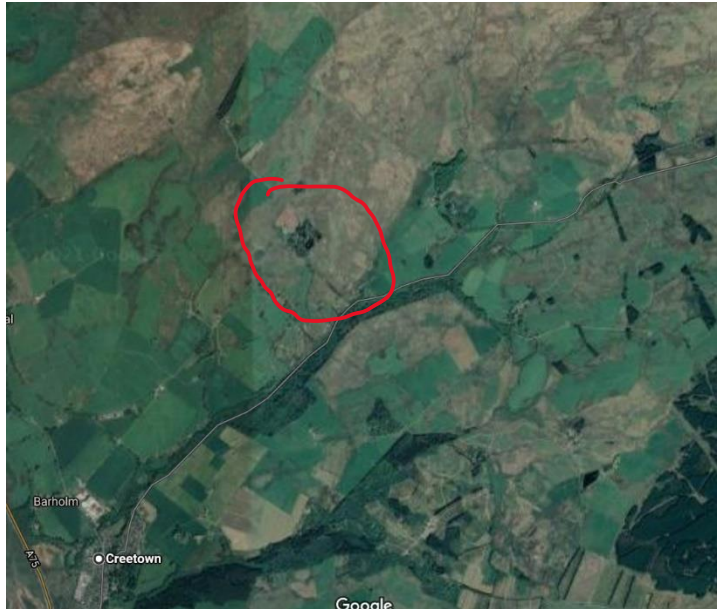
Name: Matthew Mcwhan
Gender: Male
Birth Date: 29 Sep 1824
Birth Place: Kirkmabreck, Kirkcudbright, Scotland
Baptism Place: Kirkmabreck, Kirkcudbright, Scotland
Father: James Mcwhan
Mother: Agnes Mckean¹

Balhassie Property

He was born on Balhassie Property, Creetown, Kirkmabreck, Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland, just 10 miles from TorhouseMuir where Mary Reid lived. His ancestors had lived at Balhassie for several generations. They were likely living under the ownership of Balhassie rather than in the cottage, itself. At the time, the rich owned the manors and cottages and the workers lived off the acreage. The McWhan family stayed at the Balhassie land until death.



“Balhasie Farm” is where the red mark is.



Take Military Road north from Creetown, crossover the Moneypool Bridge, turn right on dirt road after the Works building, crossover the Kilwhern Bridge, pass the Kilwhern Cottage on the left, pass the Railway House (railroad is no longer there). Balhassie is on the right side. The dirt roads do not have names.



Today the area looks like this. This is the land where the family worked.

In 1841 Census, Mathew, who was single at 18 years, was still living in the same area but at an estate called Alocroft or possibly Applecroft. He was living with the Thomas Haining Family.

1844 Circa November 26: Jane Cameron became pregnant.

1845 August 26: Matthew's daughter Jane, was born in Kirkmabreck.

Jane Whan

in the Scotland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1564-1910

[\(rtha\) Agnes Cameron in tree "Willis' Family Tree"](#) [Remove](#)

Name:	Jane Whan
Gender:	Female
Birth Date:	26 Aug 1845
Birth Place:	, Kirkmabreck, Kirkcudbright, Scotland
Father:	Mathew Whan
Mother:	Jane Cameron
FHL Film Number:	1068032

1846 June 12: Matthew married Jane Cameron. He was 21, she was 24. Their daughter was 6 months old.

Scotland, Select Marriages, 1561-1910

[View Record](#)

Name	Mathew Whan
Gender	Male
Marriage Date	12 Jun 1846
Marriage Place	Kirkmabreck,Kirkcudbright,Scotland
Spouse	Janet Cameron
FHL Film Number	1068032
Household Members	

They lived at 6 High St, Creetown.

1846 December 21: James was born (Jannet was the mother).

1849 April 2: David was born

1851 census

Name:	Matthew Whan												
Age:	26												
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1825												
Relationship:	Head												
Spouse:	Jannet Whan												
Gender:	Male												
Where born:	Kirkmabreck, kirkcudbt												
Parish Number:	873												
Civil Parish:	Kirkmabreck												
Phillimore Ecclesiastical Parish Maps:	View related Ecclesiastical Parish Maps:												
Town:	Creetown												
County:	Kirkcudbrightshire												
Address:	6 High Street												
Occupation:	Agr Labourer												
ED:	5												
Page:	28												
Household Schedule Number:	102												
Line:	15												
Roll:	CSSCT1851_213												
Household Members:	<table><thead><tr><th>Name</th><th>Age</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Matthew Whan</td><td>26</td></tr><tr><td>Jannet Whan</td><td>29</td></tr><tr><td>Martha Whan</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>James Whan</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>David Whan</td><td>2</td></tr></tbody></table>	Name	Age	Matthew Whan	26	Jannet Whan	29	Martha Whan	15	James Whan	4	David Whan	2
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Martha Whan, 15, was listed as a daughter of Matthew and Jannet but it is more likely she was a daughter of Jannet from a previous relationship as Matthew would have been 11. James Whan, was 4 but is not found in 1861 census but shows back up in 1881 census living with them.

In 1851, Matthew and wife Jannet moved to Wigtonshire. He was a crofter at TorhouseMuir when his son Matthew was born.

1852 circa August 29, Mary Reid got pregnant with James by Matthew.

1853 April 29: James was born in Wigtonshire, Matthew had been married for 6 years to Jane and had 4 living children. Mary was 29. There is a good chance that Matthew's wife did not know about Mary's pregnancy.

1853 September 1: Andrew Whan was born at TorhouseMuir.

1856 February 26: Mary Reid, James' mother, married Robert Pike.

1856 March 31 Agnes Rae Whan was born

1858 June 25: Jane Whan was born (she later married a Reid)

1861 Matthew was living In Penninghame, the same village as Richard Reid's wife was born in.

1861 Census:

Matthew Whan in the 1861 Scotland Census

see "Willis' Family Tree"

[Remove](#)

Name:	Matthew Whan
Age:	36
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1825
Relationship:	Head
Spouse's Name:	Jannet Whan
Gender:	Male
Where born:	Creetown, Kirkcudbright
Registration Number:	895
Registration district:	Penninghame
Civil parish:	Penninghame
County:	Wigtownshire
Address:	Park Cottage
Occupation:	Farm Servant
ED:	7
Household schedule number:	41
Line:	13
Roll:	CSSCT1861_148

Household Members	Age	Relationship
Matthew Whan	36	Head
Jannet Whan	39	Wife
David Whan	11	Son
Matthew Whan	9	Son
Andrew Whan	7	Son
Agness Whan	4	Daughter
Jane Whan	2	Daughter
Mary Whan	1 Mo	Daughter

1885: Family went to New South Wales, Australia

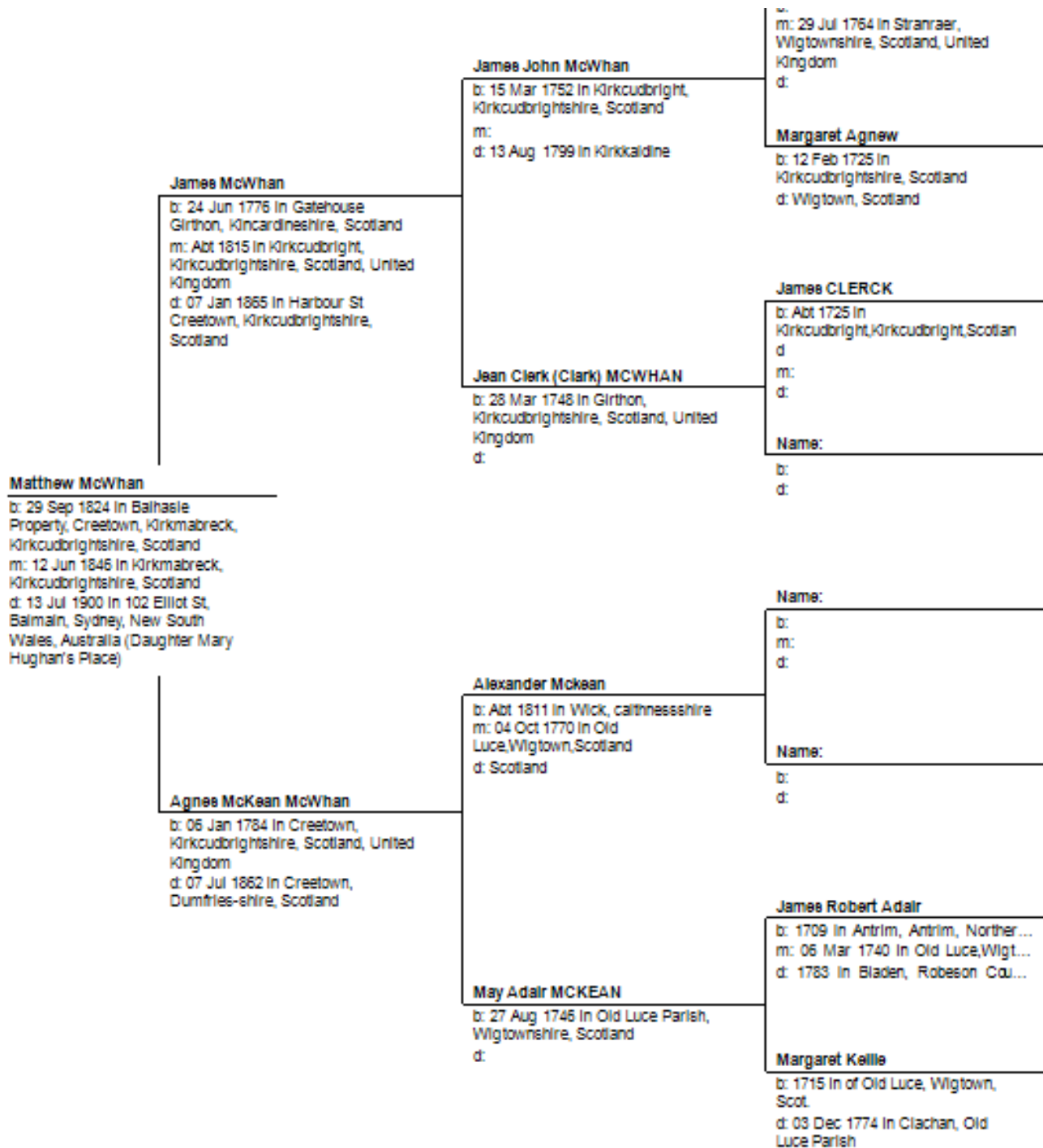
Matthew's Death

1900 12 July: Matthew Whan died 102 Elliot St, Balmain, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. He was living with his daughter, Mary Whan Hughsan at the time of his death. Balmain is a suburb of Sydney.














Darling Street, less than a mile from Elliott St, where Matthew died in 1900.

Pedigree Chart for Matthew McWhan

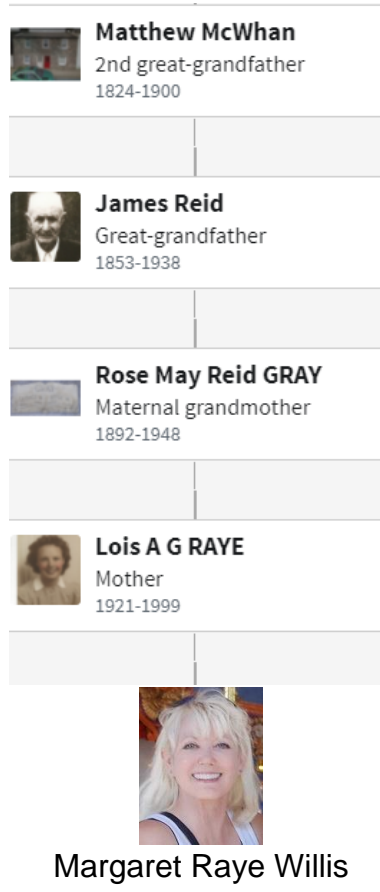


Descendants of Matthew McWhan and Janet Cameron

	Margaret Whan 1844-
	Jane (Martha) Agnes Cameron Whan 1845-1915
	James M Whan 1846-1934
	Jean Whan 1847-
	David Whan 1849-1929
	Matthew Whan 1851-1920
	Andrew McWhan 1853-1943
	Agnes Rae Whan 1856-1867
	Jane W Whan REID 1858-1899
	Mary Whan HUGHAN 1861-1941
	Martha Whan 1884-

Verification

In May of 2021, DNA compared between Margaret Raye Willis (James Reid's great-granddaughter) and Darelyn Whan (a great-granddaughter of Matthew Whan) confirmed that Matthew Whan was James Reid's grandfather and the Whan family immediately changed their Ancestry Tree to show James as Matthew's son:



Controversy

James did not specify the name of his father in his autobiography. Later documentation in the LDS church stated that he knew his father's name. But he did not share it in written format. The Ancestral records often name the father as Matthew McLaughton but no evidence is given. The other name that appears is Matthew McWhan.

¹ FHL Film Number: 1068032 Reference ID: 2:165Q4K6