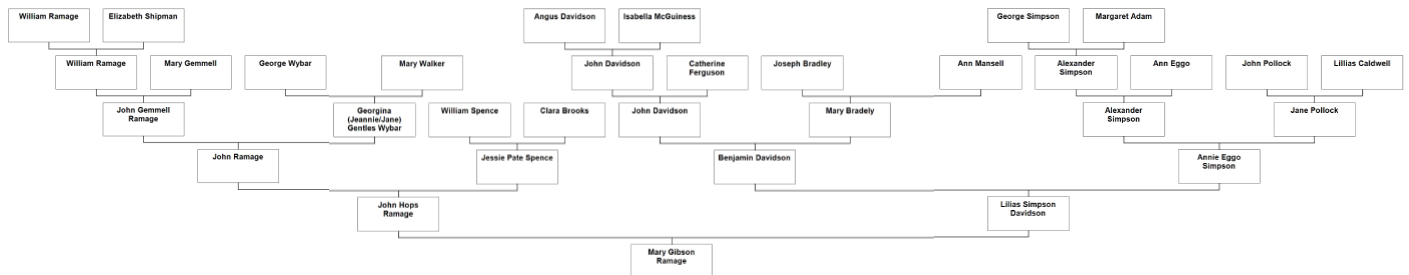




Tracing the Scottish roots of Mary Gibson Ramage



Pedigree family tree chart for Mary Gibson Ramage

Origin of the surname Ramage

The surname Ramage is found in both England and Scotland and is an example of the common medieval practice of creating a surname from a nickname. In this instance the nickname was for an unpredictable, wild individual, from the Middle English and Old French word 'ramage' meaning 'wild', used of a hawk or other bird of prey 'living in the branches'. The derivation is from the medieval Latin 'ramaticus', from 'ramus', branch.

Source: The Generations Network

Information already known

Mary Gibson Ramage (referred to as 'Mary' throughout the rest of this report) provided information about her family to initiate our research, the details of which are noted below.

Mary's father was born John Hops Ramage and her mother Lillias Simpson Davidson. Mary's parents were married in Calderbank in Lanarkshire on the 13th of October 1937, 15 years before she was born.

Mary's father, John Hops Ramage, was born in Airdrie on the 17th of March 1919. He had four younger siblings: Alex, William, Georgina and Janet. John, a Radio/TV Engineer by trade, died in Airdrie on the 9th of March 1995. John was the son of Steam Boiler Fireman John Ramage and his wife Jessie Pate Spence. Jessie died in Airdrie in 1962 and John also died in the town - three years later in 1965. John had seven siblings: one brother and six sisters. Mary was able to provide the names of four of John's sisters: Margaret, Elizabeth (Bessie), Jean and Janet.



It is known that Mary's mother, who died in Airdrie on the 18th of February 2005, was born in Calderbank village on the 16th of March 1920. She was the daughter of Steel Worker Benjamin Davidson and Annie Eggo Simpson. Benjamin and Annie were married in Coatbridge in the year 1908 and had four other children before Liliias was born: John, Jean, Mary and Anne (Nan). Mary's maternal grandparents also both died in Lanarkshire.

The information provided by Mary gave us an excellent starting point for our research. As Mary knew all about the life of her parents, our first task was to obtain more information about Mary's paternal grandparents, John Ramage and Jessie Pate Spence, and trace the Ramage family line back in time.

Tracing the Ramage family line

We first sought to track down the marriage record for John Ramage and Jessie Pate Spence. To do this we searched the statutory registers of Scottish marriages which have been compiled since the 1st of January 1855, when compulsory civil registration was first introduced throughout the country.

We located the marriage record and found that the couple were married in the Lanarkshire district of Blythswood, in Glasgow, on the 15th of December 1917. The full record has been transcribed below.

Marriage record for John Ramage and Jessie P Spence

On the 15th of December 1917, at 19 Howard Street, Glasgow, by declaration in presence of John Hops, Gasmeter Inspector, and Jane Meek or Pate or Hops, John Ramage, Tubework Furnaceman (bachelor), aged 23 of 57 Stirling Street, Airdrie, married Jessie P Spence, Munitions Worker (spinster), aged 20 of 17 E/1 Manse Street, Coatbridge. John - son of John Ramage, Clerk (deceased) and Georgina Ramage, maiden surname Wyber. Jessie - daughter of William Spence, Coal Miner (deceased), and Clara Spence, maiden surname Brooks (deceased).

Ref: 1917 – Blythswood - 644/10 2401

The record shows the marriage was 'irregular', and as such took place under warrant of the Sheriff substitute of Lanarkshire, dated the 15th of December 1917. A regular marriage took place before a church minister following the reading of banns, whereas an irregular marriage came about in one of three ways: by mutual agreement; by a public promise followed by consummation; or by cohabitation and repute.

The record indicates that John Ramage, Mary's paternal grandfather, was born around 1894. We were therefore able to trace him, and his family in the 1901 census records.

The census records information on the country's population and has been taken every ten years since 1801, with the exception of 1941. The returns of most use to the family history



research are those from 1841 onwards. Records may only be inspected after 100 years; therefore the census returns presently available for public scrutiny are 1841-1901.

The census is essentially a snapshot of the people in a household on a given night and as such can provide details of a particular family and anyone else who happens to be in the house at the time, for example, servants, lodgers, or visitors.

The census reveals that in 1901, Mary's paternal grandfather John Ramage was a scholar, aged seven years old. He was living at 57 Stirling Street in Airdrie, with his father, mother, older siblings and two boarders who lived with the family. The home they lived in had four rooms with one or more windows. The record we located is transcribed below.

1901 census record for the Ramage family – 57 Stirling Street, Airdrie, Lanarkshire on 31 Mar 1901

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
<i>John Ramage</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>Commercial Clerk</i>	<i>Airdrie, Lanarkshire</i>
<i>Georgina W Ramage</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Airdrie, Lanarkshire</i>
<i>William Ramage</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>House Painter</i>	<i>Airdrie, Lanarkshire</i>
<i>Maggie Ramage</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Airdrie, Lanarkshire</i>
<i>Jeanie Ramage</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Grocer's Cash Girl</i>	<i>Airdrie, Lanarkshire</i>
<i>Bessie Ramage</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Airdrie, Lanarkshire</i>
<i>John Ramage</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Airdrie, Lanarkshire</i>
<i>George Whillans</i>	<i>Boarder</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Grocer's Assistant</i>	<i>Kirkintilloch, Dumbartonshire</i>
<i>George Grant</i>	<i>Boarder</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>Shop Keeper (Spirit Trade)</i>	<i>Elgin, Morayshire</i>

Ref: 1901 – New Monkland – 651/00 015/00 002

The 1901 census record for 55 and 59 Stirling Street in Airdrie also stood out for us, and its details are transcribed overleaf.

We knew from the earlier marriage record we had found for John Ramage and Jessie Pate Spence that Mary's paternal great grandmother, Georgina Ramage, had the uncommon maiden surname 'Wyber'. The census records showed that a 'Wybar' family lived adjacent to the Ramage family in Stirling Street in Airdrie in 1901. It was not uncommon common at the time for generations of families to live very close each other.

It was reasonable to assume therefore that the widow 'Mary W Wybar', noted as head of the household at number 55 and 59 in the street, was a relation of Georgina – most probably her mother. The Mary Ramage noted as working for the Wybar family as a Servant, we thought, was most likely to be one of John and Georgina's daughters. Where the Wybar family lived in the street had two rooms with one or more windows.



1901 census record for the Wybar family – 55 and 59 Stirling Street, Airdrie, Lanarkshire on 31 Mar 1901

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
Mary W Wybar	Head	68	Furniture Dealer	Airdrie, Lanarkshire
Alexander Wybar	Son	37	House Painter (Employer)	Airdrie, Lanarkshire
Mary Ramage	Servant	23	Domestic Servant	Airdrie, Lanarkshire

Ref: 1901 – New Monkland – 651/00 015/00 002

We went on to verify the connection by consulting other official records. We searched for the statutory death record for Georgina Ramage (nee Wybar) in the knowledge that as a statutory record it would likely provide details of Georgina's parents. Like statutory marriage records, it has been compulsory for all deaths in Scotland to be registered since the 1st of January 1855 when civil registration replaced the old system of registration by parishes of the Established Church (Church of Scotland).

We found the record we were looking for, indexed under the name of 'Jeanie Ramage'. Her death record notes that she was the widower of John Gemmell Ramage and that she died on the 10th of September 1930, aged 74 years. It also confirmed to us that Mary W Wybar, living next to her at 55 and 59 Stirling Street in Airdrie in 1901, was indeed her mother. The full record is transcribed below.

Death record for Jeanie Ramage

Jeanie Ramage, widow of John Gemmell Ramage, Commercial Clerk, died on the 10th of Sep 1930, at 8.10pm, at 57 Stirling Street, Airdrie, aged 74 years. Father – George Wybar, Master Painter and Glazier (deceased). Mother – Mary Wybar, maiden surname Walker (deceased). Cause of death – cardio-arterial fibrosis and auricular fibrillation. Informant – John Ramage, son, who was present at the death and living at 57 Stirling Street, Airdrie.

Ref: 1930 – New Monkland - 651/00 0282

Moving back to the trace Mary's Ramage family line, we knew at this point that John Gemmell Ramage, Mary's paternal great grandfather, was born about 1853 in Airdrie and died before his wife did in 1930. We knew this because she was noted as a widow on her death record. We were able to track down John Gemmell Ramage's death record, the full details of which are transcribed below.

Death record for John Gemmell Ramage

John Gemmell Ramage, Commercial Clerk, married to Jane Wybar, died 13 December 1909, at 1.50am, at 57 Stirling Street, Airdrie, aged 53 years. Father – William Ramage, School Teacher



(deceased). Mother – Mary Ramage, maiden surname Gemmell (deceased). Cause of death – epithelioma of left tonsil with infiltration of cervical lymphalies. Informant – Alexander Wybar, brother-in-law.

Ref: 1909 – New Monkland - 651/00 0518

The record tells us that John Gemmell Ramage, Mary's paternal great grandfather, died on the 13th of December 1909 at 57 Stirling Street in Airdrie.

Having gained more information, we were then able to locate John Gemmell Ramage as a young boy living with his family in the 1861 census. The house they were living in had two rooms with one or more windows. The record is transcribed below.

1861 census record for the Ramage family – 24 Alexander Street, Airdrie, Lanarkshire on 7 Apr 1861

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
William Ramage	Head	46	Teacher	Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire
Margaret Ramage	Daughter	15	Scholar	Airdrie, Lanarkshire
John Ramage	Son	9	Scholar	Airdrie, Lanarkshire
Jane Weir	Cousin	48	House Keeper	Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire
David Cranston	Cousin's Son	16	Apprentice Plumber	Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire

Ref: 1901 – New Monkland – 651/01 008/01 019

The record suggested to us that John Gemmel Ramage's mother had perhaps died before this time. This is because she is not noted as part of the household in the census record, and also because William Ramage's cousin was noted as the House Keeper in the record.

In moving on to trace the life of John Gemmell Ramage, we found through searching the Scottish statutory marriage index that John Gemell Ramage married Jane Gentles Wybar in 1873 in 'Airdrie or New Monkland'.

Eight years later, in 1881, John Gemmell Ramage and his family were living at 57 Stirling Street in Airdrie. The full census record we located is transcribed below.

1881 census record for the Ramage family – 57 Stirling Street, Airdrie, Lanarkshire on 3 Apr 1881

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
John Ramage	Head	29	Clerk	Airdrie, Lanarkshire
Jane Ramage	Wife	26	-	Airdrie, Lanarkshire
William Ramage	Son	6	Scholar	Airdrie, Lanarkshire
Mary Ramage	Daughter	3	-	Airdrie, Lanarkshire
Maggie Ramage	Daughter	1	-	Airdrie, Lanarkshire

Ref: 1881 – New Monkland – 651/01 003/01 004



The record tells us that John Gemell Ramage and Jane Gentles Wybar started a family quickly after they were married – William probably being the eldest of their children and named after John’s own father. Their next child noted on the census record, Mary, was most likely named after Jane’s mother. Such a naming pattern was customary in Scotland at the time.

Ten years later, as shown by the 1891 census records we located, the family were living at the same address. They also had two lodgers living with them and the house had three rooms with one or more windows. The census record details are transcribed below.

1891 census record for the Ramage family – 57 Stirling Street, Airdrie, Lanarkshire on 5 Apr 1891

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
John Ramage	Head	38	Commercial Clerk	Airdrie, Lanarkshire
Georgina Ramage	Wife	36	-	Airdrie, Lanarkshire
William Ramage	Son	16	Painter	Airdrie, Lanarkshire
Mary Ramage	Daughter	13	Shop Girl	Airdrie, Lanarkshire
Jeannie Ramage	Daughter	5	-	Airdrie, Lanarkshire
Bessie Ramage	Daughter	1	-	Airdrie, Lanarkshire
Joseph McCrae	Lodger	30	Provision Merchant Assistant	Glasgow, Lanarkshire
James Jardine	Lodger	27	Provision Merchant Assistant	Moffat, Dumfriesshire

Ref: 1891 – New Monkland – 651/01 017/01 003

The record again shows the Wybar family living next to the Ramage family at 59 Stirling Street. The house had three rooms with one or more windows. The transcript of the record is below.

1891 census record for the Wybar family – 59 Stirling Street, Airdrie, Lanarkshire on 5 Apr 1891

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
Mary Wybar	Head	57	Furniture Dealer	Airdrie, Lanarkshire
Alexander Wybar	Son	29	Painter (Employer)	Airdrie, Lanarkshire
George Wybar	Son	21	Brass Finisher	Airdrie, Lanarkshire
Maggie Ramage	Granddaughter	11	Scholar	Airdrie, Lanarkshire
Marion Hamilton	Servant	17	Domestic Servant	Airdrie, Lanarkshire

Ref: 1891 – New Monkland – 651/01 017/01

We next aimed to research the Ramage family links to Dumfriesshire, having learned from the 1861 census records that John Gemmell Ramage’s father was born in Sanquhar. Sanquhar was at the time both the name of a parish in Dumfriesshire and a town located in



the heart of the parish. First we attempted to locate the marriage record for William Ramage and Mary Gemmell.

A search of Scottish old parish records turned up some details of the marriage. We found that the proclamation of banns for the marriage of William Ramage and Mary Gemmell took place on the 12th of January 1845 in the parish of Old Monkland or Coatbridge. William is noted as a Teacher in the record we found, and as residing in Coatdyke (Ref: OPR Banns & Marriages 652/0030 0233).

We also located the couple in the 1851 census records, as shown below.

1851 census record for the Ramage family – 2 Clark Street, Airdrie, Lanarkshire on 30 Mar 1851

<i>Name</i>	<i>Relationship</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Place of birth</i>
<i>William Ramage</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>Teacher of English</i>	<i>Wanlockhead, Dumfries</i>
<i>Mary Ramage</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Sorn, Ayrshire</i>
<i>Margaret Ramage</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Airdrie, Lanarkshire</i>

Ref: 1851 – New Monkland – 651/00 006/00 014

The record indicates that William Ramage was born in Wanlockhead in Dumfries. Wanlockhead village fell within the parish of Sanquhar at the time the census was undertaken. The record also tells us that William Ramage was a Teacher of English.

To find out who William Ramage's parents were, we traced his death record in the knowledge that, as a statutory record, it would most likely provide the names of his mother and father. We found that William Ramage died on the 13th of February 1867 at 3 Hallcraig Street in Airdrie in Lanarkshire. He is noted as the widower of Mary Gemmell, indicating that she died before him. The full record is transcribed below.

Death record for William Ramage

William Ramage, School Teacher, widower of Mary Gemmel, died 13 February 1867, at 4.30am, at 3 Hallcraig Street, Airdrie, aged 53 years. Father – William Ramage (deceased). Mother – Elizabeth Ramage, maiden surname Shipman (deceased). Cause of death – affliction of stomach. Informant - David Cranston, nephew, who was present at the death.

Ref: 1867 – Airdrie - 651/01 0045

The record tells us that William's parents were called William Ramage and Elizabeth Shipman. We searched for their marriage details, and found that the first proclamation of banns for their marriage took place in Sanquhar on the 11th of October 1812. William is noted in the record to be of the parish of Crawford, and Elizabeth of Sanquhar (Ref: OPR Banns & Marriages 848/0010 0157).



Tracing the Spence family line

Attention was then given to tracing the Spence family of Mary's paternal line, and we focused once again on the details provided to us through John Ramage and Jessie Pate Spence's marriage certificate which we had located early on in our research.

We knew that Mary's paternal grandmother, Jessie Pate Spence, had parents named William Spence and Clara Brooks, and also that she was born around 1897 as these details were provided on the record. We therefore next aimed to locate Jessie's birth record.

We could not trace a record for her within the Scottish index of statutory birth records. We tried also to find a Scottish marriage record for her parents, but to no avail. We then turned our attention to the English records. We found from the statutory marriage index for England and Wales that in 1896 a couple named William Spence and Clara Brooks married in Nottingham (Ref: Vol 7b Page 579). The couple married either in the months of July, Aug or September in the year 1896.

We found in the English index of statutory birth records details for a 'Jessie Spence' born in Basford in December 1897 (Ref: Vol 7b Page 236). Basford district spans the boundaries of the counties of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, so it is quite possible that this could be the birth record for Jessie Pate Spence.

Researching John Hops

Given that one of the witnesses at John Ramage and Jessie Pate Spence's wedding was named John Hops, and that John and Jessie later called their child (Mary's father) John Hops Ramage, some attention was given to finding out more about John Hops. We found through various records that John Hops was born around 1756 in Shotts, in Lanarkshire. He was first married to Nellie Ferguson in 1882, aged 26 when he was an Ironworker's Clerk and living in Mossend, Holytown (Ref: SR Marriages 644/07 0430), and later to Janet Pate (nee Meek), in 1916, after he was widowed and when he was a Gas Inspector living at 83 West Graham Street in Glasgow (Ref: SR Marriages 644/10 2657).

Janet was also noted as a witness at John Ramage and Jessie Pate Spence's wedding, and we sought to find out more about her as 'Pate', one of her married names, was also Jessie's middle name and there might have been be a family or other connection.

We learned that Janet Meek was born around 1863 and first married Anderson Pate, a railway Signaller, in 1890 in Airdrie when she was a Dressmaker and living at 28 Airdriehill Street in Airdrie (Ref: SR Marriages 651/01 0119). She later, as noted above, married John Hops as a widow in 1915 (Ref: SR Marriages 644/10 2657).

In attempting to trace all the above mentioned persons in Scottish census records, we found that Anderson and Janet Pate (nee Meek) were living at 95 Chapel Street in Airdrie in 1901 (Ref: 1901 Census 651/00 008/00 015). With them was living a niece, named 'Jessie Pate',



who was noted to have been born in England around 1898. As no other 1901 census records can be identified for Jessie Pate Spence with any confidence, it can be assumed likely that the niece living with Anderson and Janet is indeed Jessie Pate Spence. This seems particularly likely given that Janet was later a witness at Jessie's own wedding. The record is transcribed below.

1901 census record for the Pate family – 95 Chapel Street, Airdrie, Lanarkshire on 31 Mar 1901

<i>Name</i>	<i>Relationship</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Place of birth</i>
<i>Anderson Pate</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>Gatekeeper at Railway Level Crossing</i>	<i>Shotts, Lanarkshire</i>
<i>Janet Pate</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Shotts, Lanarkshire</i>
<i>Jessie Pate</i>	<i>Niece</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>England</i>

Ref: 1901 – New Monkland – 651/00 008/00 015

Tracing the Davidson family line

We then turned to focus on the Davidson line of Mary's family. In doing this, we first aimed to track down the marriage record for Benjamin Davidson and Annie Eggo Simpson, Mary's maternal grandparents.

We found that the couple were married in Coatbridge on the 9th of October 1908. The full record is transcribed below.

Marriage record for Benjamin Davidson and Annie Eggo Simpson

On 9 October 1908, at 103 Alexander Street, Coatbridge, after banns according to the forms of the Church of Scotland, Benjamin Davidson, Steel Scrap Cutter (bachelor), aged 22 of Woodhall Gates, Calderbank, married Annie Eggo Simpson, Dressmaker (spinster), aged 20 of 103 Alexander Street, Coatbridge. Benjamin - son of John Davidson, Steel Work Labourer and Mary Davidson, maiden surname Bradely. Annie – daughter to Alexander Simpson, Iron Work Timekeeper and Jane Simpson, maiden surname Pollock. Witnesses – Robert Davidson and Jane Pollock Simpson.

Ref: 1908 – Coatbridge - 652/02 0238

The record provided us with information, such as the names of the parents, to be able to locate the couple independently in Scottish census records before they were married.

We found that in 1891 Benjamin Davidson was living with his parents at 59 Stone Row in Calderbank. The full census record we located is transcribed overleaf.



1891 census record for the Davidson family – 59 Stone Row, Calderbank, Old Monkland, Lanarkshire on 5 Apr 1891

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
John Davidson	Head	38	Coal Miner	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Mary Davidson	Wife	35	-	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
John Davidson	Son	17	Assistant Weigher	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Joseph Davidson	Son	14	Coal Miner	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Annie Davidson	Daughter	12	Scholar	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Angus Davidson	Son	10	Scholar	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Benjamin Davidson	Son	5	Scholar	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Robert Davidson	Son	3	-	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Catherine Davidson	Daughter	5mo	-	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Maria Lambert	Visitor	24	-	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Rebecca White	Visitor	1	-	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire

Ref: 1891 – Old Monkland – 652/03 003/03 028

Ten years later the family were living at 'Whitelaws Building' in Old Monkland, as below. The house had two rooms with one or more windows.

1901 census record for the Davidson family – Whitelaws Buildings, Old Monkland, Lanarkshire on 31 Mar 1901

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
John Davidson	Head	43	Coal Miner	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Mary Davidson	Wife	43	-	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Joseph Davidson	Son	22	Steel Worker	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Angus Davidson	Son	19	Tailor	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Benjamin Davidson	Son	14	Colliery Labourer	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Robert Davidson	Son	11	Scholar	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Catherine Davidson	Daughter	10	Scholar	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Richard Davidson	Son	4	-	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Rebecca White	Boarder	10	Scholar	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire

Ref: 1901 – Old Monkland – 652/03 001/03 024

Again Rebecca White appears in the listing with the family. This time she is noted as a boarder rather than a visitor.

The Scottish index of statutory death records tells us that Benjamin Davidson died in Airdrie in 1968 at the age of 81 (Ref: SR Deaths 651/00 0136). Having gained information about Benjamin's life, we next set out to obtain more information about his parents, and his father John Davidson in particular.

We had previously traced John Davidson and his wife Mary in the 1891 and 1901 census records. We located their marriage record (within which Mary's maiden surname is noted as Bradley, and not 'Bradely' as was noted on son Benjamin's marriage record) and found that they were married on the 20th of March in 1874 at Stone Row in Calderbank. The full record is transcribed below.



Marriage record for John Davidson and Mary Bradley

On 20 March 1874, at Stone Row, Calderbank, after banns according to the forms of the Church of Scotland, John Davidson, Coal Miner (bachelor), aged 21 of 50 Stone Row, Calderbank, married Mary Bradley, Domestic Servant (spinster), aged 18 of Stone Row, Calderbank. John – son of John Davidson, Coal Miner and Catherine Davidson, maiden surname Ferguson. Mary – daughter of Joseph Bradley, Mineral Labourer (deceased) and Ann Bradley, maiden name Mansell. Witnesses – Robert and Catherine Davidson.

Ref: 1874 – Old Monkland - 652/03 0016

Now knowing the names of John Davidson's parents, we were able to trace John as a child in the Scottish census records. In 1861 he was eight years old and living with his family at 14 Old Forge Row, as detailed below. The house he was living in had two rooms with one or more windows.

1861 census record for the Davidson family – 14 Old Forge Row, Old Monkland, Lanarkshire on 7 Apr 1861

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
John Davidson	Head	47	Coal Miner	Fort William, Invernesshire
Catherine Davidson	Wife	45	-	Comrie, Perthshire
Angus Davidson	Son	20	Coal Miner	Comrie, Perthshire
Robert Davidson	Son	13	-	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
John Davidson	Son	8	Scholar	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Annie Davidson	Daughter	6	-	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Catherine Davidson	Daughter	4	-	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Mary Davidson	Daughter	2	-	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire

Ref: 1861 – Old Monkland – 652/03 007/03 022

We had already located John in later census records, so next searched for information about his death. We found from the statutory index of deaths in Scotland that John Davidson died at Woodhall Road in Calderbank on the 27th of Feb 1925. He was aged 71. The record sourced is transcribed below.

Death record for John Davidson

John Davidson, Retired Coal Miner, married to Mary Bradley, died on the 27th of February 1925, at 3.30pm, at Woodhall Road, Calderbank, aged 71 years. Father – John Davidson, Coal Miner (deceased). Mother – Ann Davidson, maiden name Bradley (deceased). Cause of death – chronic bronchitis and cardiac vascular disease, three years. Informant – John Davidson, son, who was present at the death.

Ref: 1925 – Old Monkland - 652/03 0007



We next attempted to trace the Davidson line further back and locate John Davidson and his wife Catherine in the 1851 census records.

We found that the Davidson family were residing at Bredisholm Colliery in Baillieston in Old Monkland in 1851. The census record we located is transcribed below.

1851 census record for the Davidson family – Bredisholm Colliery, Old Monkland, Lanarkshire on 30 Mar 1851

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
John Davidson	Head	37	Coal Miner	Killmally, Inverness
Catherine Davidson	Wife	34	-	Comrey, Perth
Angus Davidson	Son	9	-	Comrey, Perth
Jenet Davidson	Daughter	8	-	Drone, Perth
Isable Davidson	Daughter	6	-	Orble, Kinross
Robert Davidson	Son	3	-	Calder, Lanarkshire
Margaret Davidson	Daughter	8mo	-	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
John Aitken	Lodger	34	Coal Miner	England
John McInloch	Lodger	22	Coal Miner	Andnamurchands, Argyll
John McInnis	Lodger	17	Coal Miner	Killmally, Inverness

Ref: 1851 – Old Monkland – 652/00 005/00 014

John Davidson is noted as being born in 'Killmally'. 'Kilmallie' was at the time a large parish which incorporated Fort William.

Jenet is noted as being born in 'Drone' in Perth. 'Dron' was a parish in Perthshire at the time. It was created in 1845 and abolished in 1975.

Isabel is noted as being born in 'Orble' in Kinross, but it is likely this is an error also and she was in fact born in 'Orwell' in Kinross. Orwell was a parish in the county of Kinross in Scotland. Like Dron, it was created in 1845 and abolished in 1975.

It is likely the census enumerator who visited the Davidson household on census night misspelled Kilmallie and Comrie and also mistook Orwell for Orble and Dron for Drone. He was probably unfamiliar with the names of the places.

The record is interesting because the children's places of birth suggest to us the places where the family lived before they settled in Calderbank in Lanarkshire. The record suggests that the family were living in Comrie in Perthshire around 1841, in Dron in Perthshire around 1843 and in Orwell in Kinross around 1845. The family had settled in Lanarkshire by about 1848, as that was where the records indicate son Robert was born around that time.

We had previously located the family in the 1861 census listing, so next looked for the family later in the 1871 records. We found the record transcribed below which shows that they were living at 50 Stone Row in Calderbank, and that John's brother, Thomas, was living with them.



1871 census record for the Davidson family – 50 Stone Row, Old Monkland, Lanarkshire on 2 Apr 1871

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
<i>Thomas Davidson</i>	<i>Brother</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>Colliery Labourer</i>	<i>Invernesshire</i>
<i>John Davidson</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>Coal Miner</i>	<i>Invernesshire</i>
<i>Catherine Davidson</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Perthshire</i>
<i>John Davidson</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Coal Miner</i>	<i>Bredisholm, Lanarkshire</i>
<i>Mary Davidson</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Calderbank, Lanarkshire</i>

Ref: 1871 – Old Monkland – 652/03 010/03 036

Ten years later, the family were living at 9 Stone Row in Calderbank, as detailed below.

1881 census record for the Davidson family – 9 Stone Row, Old Monkland, Lanarkshire on 3 Apr 1881

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
<i>John Davidson</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>Coal Miner</i>	<i>Fort William, Invernesshire</i>
<i>Catherine Davidson</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Monivaird, Perthshire</i>
<i>Daniel Ferguson</i>	<i>Boarder</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>Brickmaker</i>	<i>Monivaird, Perthshire</i>
<i>Dugald Ferguson</i>	<i>Boarder</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Brickmaker</i>	<i>Dunblane, Perthshire</i>
<i>Daniel Ferguson</i>	<i>Boarder</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>Brickwork Labourer</i>	<i>Linlithgow Town</i>

Ref: 1881 – Old Monkland – 652/03 010/00 029

The records show a number of Ferguson men boarding with the family. It is reasonable to assume that Daniel was Catherine's brother, cousin or other relation, given that Ferguson was her maiden name and that they were born in the same place around the same time.

We could not trace the family in the later census records, so turned our attention to tracking down John's death record. As a statutory record, it was likely to provide us with the names of his parents. We found that John Davidson died on the 14th of July in 1890.

Death record for John Davidson

John Davidson, Coal Miner, married to Catherine Ferguson, died on the 14th of July 1890, at 5.20am, at 9 Stone Row, Calderbank, aged 78 years. Father – Angus Davidson, Blacksmith (deceased). Mother – Isabella Davidson, maiden name McGuinness (deceased). Cause of death – gastritis, two months paralysis. Informant – Angus Davidson, son, of McAra's Land, Calderbank (x mark).

Ref: 1890 – Old Monkland - 652/03 0018

The use of the X mark suggests that Angus Davidson was illiterate.



The record gave us information about John's parents – Angus and Isabella – so we next sought to trace the family in the 1841 census.

We found the record which placed John and Isabella in Kilmallie, which was son John's birthplace. The record is transcribed below.

1841 census record for the Davidson family – Church Square, Kilmallie, Inverness on 6 Jun 1841

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
Angus Davidson	Not recorded	78	Blacksmith	Invernesshire
Isabella Davidson	Not recorded	66	-	Invernesshire
Isabella Henderson	Not recorded	3	-	Invernesshire

Ref: 1841 – Kilmallie – 520/00 002/00 009

The record tells us that Angus Davidson was born about 1763 in Invernesshire, and his wife Isabella about 1775.

Tracing the Simpson family line

We then turned our attention to the Simpson family line. We knew that Annie Eggo Simpson was born around 1888, and that her parents were named Alexander Simpson and Jane Pollock, so we aimed to trace the family in the 1901 census records. We found that the family lived at 11C Ronald Street in Coatbridge in 1901. See the full record transcript below.

1901 census record for the Simpson family – 11C Ronald Street, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire on 31 Mar 1901

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
Alexander Simpson	Head	37	Iron Work Timekeeper	Keith, Banffshire
Jane Simpson	Wife	44	-	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Lillias Drummond Simpson	Daughter	14	-	Perth, Perthshire
Annie Eggo Simpson	Daughter	12	Scholar	Coatbridge, Lanarkshire
Jane Pollock Simpson	Daughter	10	Scholar	Coatbridge, Lanarkshire
Elsie Simpson	Daughter	8	Scholar	Coatbridge, Lanarkshire
Mary Pollock Simpson	Daughter	6	Scholar	Coatbridge, Lanarkshire
Isabella Donald Simpson	Daughter	3	-	Coatbridge, Lanarkshire
Alexander Simpson	Son	10mo	-	Coatbridge, Lanarkshire

Ref: 1901 – Old Monkland – 652/02 022/02 014

The record tells us that Alexander was born in Keith in Banffshire, and that he and Jane had their first child in Perth before settling in Coatbridge to raise their family.



According to the record, the family should have been living in Coatbridge area in 1891. We therefore searched for the record to see exactly where they were living at the time.

We found that in 1891 the family were living at 8 Ronald Street in Coatbridge. The property had one room with one or more windows. See the transcript below.

1891 census record for the Simpson family – 8 Ronald Street, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire on 5 Apr 1891

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
Alexander Simpson	Head	46	Iron Work Timekeeper	Keith, Banffshire
Jane Simpson	Wife	34	-	Coatbridge, Lanarkshire
Lillias D Simpson	Daughter	4	-	Perth, Perthshire
Annie E Simpson	Daughter	2	-	Coatbridge, Lanarkshire
Jane P Simpson	Daughter	8mo	-	Coatbridge, Lanarkshire
Richard Henderson	Lodger	24	Railway Signalman	Berwick, Berwickshire

Ref: 1891 – Old Monkland – 652/02 021/02 025

A search of the statutory registers of deaths in Scotland provided us with information that Annie Eggo Simpson (nee Davidson) died on the 22nd of June 1955 at Law Hospital in Carluke. The full record is transcribed below.

Death record for Annie Eggo Davidson

Annie Eggo Davidson, married to Benjamin Davidson, Steel Works Timekeeper, died on the 22nd of June 1955, at 4.30pm, at Law Hospital, Carluke (usual residence – 19 Main Street, Calderbank), aged 67 years. Father – Alexander Simpson, Timekeeper (deceased). Mother – Jane Davidson, maiden name Pollock (deceased). Cause of death – myocardial degeneration, cardiac failure and diabetes mellitus. Informant – Benjamin Davidson, widower.

Ref: 1955 – Carluke - 629/00 0305

Now knowing some details of her parents, we were able to search for their marriage record. We found that the couple were married at Brown's Land, in Coatbridge, on the 1st of March 1883. The full record is transcribed below.

Marriage record for Alexander Simpson and Jane Pollock

On the 1st of March 1883, at Brown's Land, Coatbridge, after banns according to the forms of the Evangelical Union Church, Alexander Simpson, Sergeant of the 1st Battalion of the Royal Highlanders (bachelor), aged 38 of Queen's Barracks, Perth, married Jane Pollock (spinster), aged 27 of Brown's Land, Sunnyside Road, Coatbridge. Alexander - son of Alexander Simpson, Farm Servant, and Ann



Simpson, maiden surname Eggo. Jane – daughter of John Pollock, Engine Keeper and Lillias Pollock, maiden surname Caldwell. Witnesses – Thomas Caldwell and Lillias Pollock.

Ref: 1883 – Old Monkland - 652/02 0025

The record gave us enough information to be able to trace Alexander Simpson in his earlier years. We found from census records that he was living with his parents at Hillhead, Keith, in Banffshire in 1851. The record transcript is below.

1851 census record for the Simpson family – Hillhead, Keith, Banffshire – 30 Mar 1851

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
<i>Alexander Simpson</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>Agricultural Labourer</i>	<i>Keith, Banffshire</i>
<i>Ann Simpson</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>Agricultural Labourer's Wife</i>	<i>Edinburgh, Midlothian</i>
<i>Elspet Simpson</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Keith, Banffshire</i>
<i>Alexander Simpson</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>Scholar at home</i>	<i>Keith, Banffshire</i>
<i>Margaret Simpson</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Keith, Banffshire</i>
<i>Robert Simpson</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>2mo</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Keith, Banffshire</i>

Ref: 1851 – Keith – 159/00 012/00 009

Thirty years later, and just a few years before he married Jane Pollock, Alexander Simpson was recorded in the 1881 census records as a Corporal of the 42nd Highlanders, residing in barracks in Perth.

The 42nd Highlanders later became the 1st Battalion of the Royal Highlanders, and was also known as 'The Black Watch'.

1881 census record for Alexander Simpson - Barracks, East Church Parish, Perth – 3 Apr 1881

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
<i>Alexander Simpson</i>	<i>Soldier</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>Corporal – 42nd Highlanders</i>	<i>Keith, Banffshire</i>

Ref: 1881 – Perth East Church – 387/00 The Barracks

We sought next to find details for Alexander in the 1871 census records.

From January to December 1871 his regiment was stationed in Aldershot and Devonport, and we found his details in the 1871 census listing for England, as transcribed overleaf.



1871 census record for Alexander Simpson – Aldershot, Hampshire, England – 2 Apr 1871

<i>Name</i>	<i>Relationship</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Place of birth</i>
<i>Alexander Simpson</i>	<i>Soldier</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>Private</i>	<i>Scotland</i>

Ref: 1871 – RG10 819 20 33

We then set about locating information for Alexander Simpson's parents. We found that they were married in Keith in Banffshire on the 20th of May 1847. The old parish marriage record we located is transcribed below.

Marriage record for Alexander Simpson and Ann Ego

Keith, 20th May 1847

Alexander Simpson and Ann Ego, both in this parish, were this day matrimonially contracted and after publication of banns married.

Ref: 1837 – Keith – 159/0050 0521

We aimed next to track down birth details for Alexander Simpson.

We searched the Scottish index of old parish birth records and found that Alexander was born on the 8th of September 1816 in Keith, and that his parents were George Simpson and Margaret Adam (Ref: OPR Births & Baptisms 159/0030 0498).

We also searched the Scottish index of old parish marriage records and found that George Simpson and Margaret Adam were married on the 17th of December 1814 in Keith in Banffshire (Ref: OPR Banns & Marriages 159/ 0040 0274).

The research ended there as the allocated time had been exhausted.

Suggestions for further research

- Explore the Ramage line further back in time through further searching old parish records for Dumfriesshire
- Investigate the Gemmell line from Ayrshire
- Follow the Wybar family line back through searching Lanarkshire records
- Trace the Davidson line further back in time by searching old parish records
- Investigate the Bradley family as far as is possible



- Trace the Simpson family line in Banffshire
- Follow the Eggo family back in history through searching various records for Midlothian
- Research the Pollock family line back in time

About this report

This is an example of a dual family line research report. Please see our website, www.ThistleAncestry.com, for further information about our range of services and how we can help you to trace your own Scottish roots.