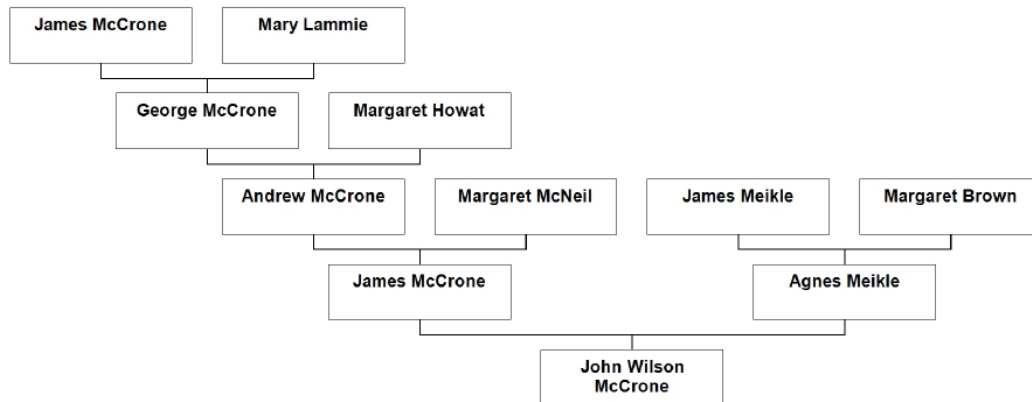




Tracing the Scottish roots of John Wilson McCrone



Pedigree family tree chart for John Wilson McCrone

Origin of the surname McCrone

McCrone, a Scottish and Irish surname, is an anglicised form of Gaelic Mac Cróin 'son of the swarthy one', from crón 'swarthy'.

Source: Name Origin Research

Starting the research

As it was known to us that John Wilson McCrone was born around 1900 in Coatbridge, our first task was to locate his statutory birth record in order to obtain further details about him, including the names of his parents. We found from the 1902 statutory index of births that John Wilson McCrone was born in that year. His record has been carefully transcribed below.

Birth record for John Wilson McCrone

John Wilson McCrone was born 21 July 1902 at 71i Jackson Street, in the district of Coatbridge in the county of Lanarkshire, son of James McCrone, Engine Fitter (Journeyman) and Agnes McCrone (maiden surname Meikle) - who were married 11 July 1883 in Bellshill. The informant was James McCrone, the father, who was present at the birth.

Ref: 1902 – Coatbridge - 652/02 0950



Knowing the names of John's parents, and that they were married in 1883 in Bellshill, we were able to quickly source their marriage record, which provides the names of their parents, and a wealth of other details about them.

The record has been carefully transcribed below.

Marriage record for James McCrone and Agnes Meikle

On 11 July 1883 at Baird's Land, Main Street, Bellshill in Lanarkshire, after banns according to the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland, James McCrone, Mechanical Engineer and bachelor, aged 23 of Mossend Farm, Mossend, married Agnes Meikle, Domestic Servant and spinster, aged 22 of Baird's Land, Main Street, Bellshill. James - son to Andrew McCrone, Iron Works Manager and Margaret McNeil. Agnes - daughter to James Meikle, Innkeeper (deceased) and Margaret Meikle, maiden surname Brown (deceased). The marriage was witnessed by William Chapman and Ellen Dodds.

Ref: 1883 – Bothwell - 625/01 0042

Some facts relating to the early findings

Coatbridge was at the time a developing industrial town, due to its vast stores of coal and iron. James Baird was a local ironmaster who erected a number of blast furnaces in the area and owned a great deal of land.

Mossend, was, and still is, a small settlement lying to the north eastern edge of Bellshill. Bellshill is also a Lanarkshire town which developed in the mid 1800s after large coal and iron deposits were uncovered, and a number of mines opened in the surrounding area.

The United Presbyterian Church of Scotland (1847 – 1900) was a Scottish Presbyterian denomination. For most of its existence it was the third largest Presbyterian church in Scotland. In 1900 it merged with the Free Church of Scotland to form the United Free Church of Scotland, which in turn united with the Church of Scotland in 1929.

Finding where James McCrone's family lived

Using the information gleaned from the statutory records we had located, we were able to locate James' family in the census listings. 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, so 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 records reveal that



in 1891, James and his wife Agnes were living in Dunbeth Road in Coatbridge with their three sons. According to the census schedule the house in which they lived had three rooms with one or more windows.

The record located is transcribed overleaf, and shows that John Wilson McCrone had at least three older siblings.

1891 census record for McCrone family - 68 Dunbeth Road, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire on 6 April 1891

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
James McCrone	Head	31	Steam Engine Fitter	Coatbridge, Lanarkshire
Agnes McCrone	Wife	30	-	Coatbridge, Lanarkshire
Andrew McCrone	Son	7	Scholar	Motherwell, Lanarkshire
James McCrone	Son	5	Scholar	Glasgow, Lanarkshire
George McCrone	Son	1	Scholar	Coatbridge, Lanarkshire

Ref: 1891 – Coatbridge - 652/02 017/02 013

The family were also located in the 1901 census listing. In 1901 they were still living in Coatbridge, although the family had changed residence and were living at 71i North Jackson Street. According to the schedule, this house contained two rooms with one or more windows.

We know from John Wilson McCrone's birth record that this is the place in which he was born. The information provided from the 1901 census record also shows that John Wilson McCrone had an older sister, Margaret McCrone. The record has been carefully transcribed below.

1901 census record for the McCrone family - 71i North Jackson Street, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire on 31 March 1901

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
James McCrone	Head	41	Steam Engine Maker -Fitter	Coatbridge, Lanarkshire
Agnes McCrone	Wife	40	-	Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire
Andrew McCrone	Son	16	Iron Roller's Assistant	Motherwell, Lanarkshire
James McCrone	Son	15	Apprentice Engineer	Glasgow, Lanarkshire
George McCrone	Son	11	Scholar	Coatbridge, Lanarkshire
Margaret McCrone	Daughter	8	Scholar	Coatbridge, Lanarkshire

Ref: 1901 – Coatbridge - 652/02 017/02 027

Tracing earlier McCrone generations

We then sought to trace earlier generations and so located Andrew and Margaret McCrone in the 1861 census listing. They were in 1861 living in Manse Street in Coatbridge, with young son James McCrone. The record is transcribed overleaf.



1861 census record for the McCrone family - Manse Street, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire on 7 April 1861

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
Andrew McCrone	Head	35	Forge Manager	Muirkirk, Ayrshire
Margaret McCrone	Wife	31	-	Bothwell, Lanarkshire
James McCrone	Son	1	-	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire

Ref: 1861 – Coatbridge - 652/02 003/00 009

The record shows that Andrew McCrone was born in Muirkirk in Ayrshire around 1826.

The village of Muirkirk is a historical Covenanter town located on the eastern edge of the county.

Ten years later, in 1871, the McCrone family were living at Stewart's Land in Coatbridge. Andrew and Margaret had three more children by this time. The home had two rooms with one or more windows.

The 1871 census record is transcribed overleaf.

1871 census record for the McCrone family - Stewart's Land, Main Street, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire on 2 April 1871

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
Andrew McCrone	Head	45	Forge Manager	Muirkirk, Ayrshire
Margaret McCrone	Wife	41	-	Bothwell, Lanarkshire
James McCrone	Son	11	Scholar	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Elizabeth McCrone	Daughter	6	Scholar	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
George McCrone	Son	4	Scholar	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire
Jessie McCrone	Daughter	1	Scholar	Old Monkland, Lanarkshire

Ref: 1871 – Coatbridge - 652/02 011/02 005

Tracing the McCrone family further back

In order to trace earlier ancestors, we then searched for Andrew McCrone's death record, knowing that as a statutory record it was likely to offer us useful information, including the names of his parents. We found that Andrew McCrone died in 1915, at the age of 89 years. His death record has been transcribed below.

Death record for Andrew McCrone

Andrew McCrone, Iron Works Foreman and widower of Margaret Kerr McNeil, died 10 February, at 2am, at 38 Portland Street, Coatbridge, aged 89 years. Father - George McCrone, Iron Works Labourer (deceased). Mother - Margaret McCrone, maiden surname Howat (deceased). Cause of death - vascular disease of the heart, duration of which uncertain. Informant – George McCrone, son, who was present.

Ref: 1915 – Coatbridge - 625/02 0103



The record provided us with details which enabled us to trace the family in the 1841 Census.

1841 census record for the McCrone family - Main Street, Muirkirk, Ayr on 6 Jun 1841

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
<i>George McCrone</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>Ayrshire, Scotland</i>
<i>Margaret McCrone</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Ayrshire, Scotland</i>
<i>Andrew McCrone</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Ayrshire, Scotland</i>
<i>Margaret McCrone</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Ayrshire, Scotland</i>
<i>Janet McCrone</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Ayrshire, Scotland</i>

Ref: 1841 – Muirkirk – 607/00 001/00 037

In 1851 the details were still living in Muirkirk. The census record located provides the information detailed below.

1851 census record for the McCrone family - Muirkirk village on 30/31 March 1851

Name	Relationship	Age	Occupation	Place of birth
<i>George McCrone</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>Ayrshire</i>
<i>Margaret McCrone</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Ayrshire</i>
<i>Janet McCrone</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Handsewer</i>	<i>Ayrshire</i>

Ref: 1851 – Muirkirk – 607/00 002/00 020

We found it impossible to trace George McCrone's death certificate, suggesting that he died before 1855, the year that the statutory registration of deaths in Scotland began.

To trace the names of his parents we set about to locate his birth record, knowing that, from the information provided in the census records, he was born around 1791 in Ayrshire.

The statutory registration of births did not begin in Scotland until 1855, and before that individual parishes of the Established Church (Church of Scotland) maintained registers comprising the records of births and baptisms, banns and marriages, and deaths and burials.

Unfortunately because no standard format was employed, record keeping varied enormously from parish to parish and also from year to year.

As a result, the information is often sparse, unreliable and difficult to read. In addition, some registers have been lost or destroyed.

Nevertheless, we were able to source George's birth record, and it provided the information transcribed overleaf.



Birth record for George McCrone

March 20 - George, lawful son to James McCrone and Mary Lammie.

Ref: 1902 – New Cumnock – 608 00/10 0151

If a child was born out of wedlock it was noted as a 'natural' child, and if the parents were married the child was normally noted as 'lawful' on the parish birth record.

Knowing the names of his parents, we were able to search the parish records birth index to locate a number of George McCrone's siblings. The children noted below were born to James McCrone and Mary Lammie.

Children of James McCrone and Mary Lammie

<i>Name</i>	<i>Birth date</i>	<i>Place of birth</i>	<i>Reference</i>
<i>Jean McCrone</i>	<i>4 April 1784</i>	<i>New Cumnock</i>	<i>608/0010 0141</i>
<i>Agnes McCrone</i>	<i>17 August 1788</i>	<i>New Cumnock</i>	<i>608/0010 0147</i>
<i>Jennet McCrone</i>	<i>1 April 1793</i>	<i>New Cumnock</i>	<i>608/0010 0154</i>
<i>John McCrone</i>	<i>15 March 1795</i>	<i>New Cumnock</i>	<i>608/0010 0156</i>

Meikle family line

Attention was then given to the Meikle family line. Meikle, a Scottish surname, is most likely a variant of the surname Mickle. Mickle is thought to be a shortened form of Scottish or Irish McMickle, a nickname for a big man from Older Scots and northern Middle English or an altered spelling of the German Mickel.

Knowing that Agnes Meikle was born around 1861 in Lesmahagow, and the details of her parents from Agnes' marriage record, we were able to locate the Meikle family in the 1861 Census. The record has been carefully transcribed below.

1861 census record for the Meikle family - Lower Main Street, Lesmahagow on 7/8 April 1861

<i>Name</i>	<i>Relationship</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Place of birth</i>
<i>James Meikle</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>Innkeeper</i>	<i>Lesmahagow</i>
<i>Margaret Meikle</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Lesmahagow</i>
<i>Jane Meikle</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Lesmahagow</i>
<i>John Meikle</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Lesmahagow</i>
<i>Elizabeth Meikle</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Lesmahagow</i>
<i>Margaret Meikle</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Lesmahagow</i>
<i>Gavin Meikle</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Lesmahagow</i>
<i>Marion Meikle</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Lesmahagow</i>
<i>Agnes Meikle</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>Lesmahagow</i>

Ref: 1861 – Lesmahagow – 649/00 005/00 010



Lesmahagow was then, and still is, a small town near Lanark in the central belt of Scotland. It is also often known as Abbeygreen.

We found that it is written in the Annals of Lesmahagow (A narrative of events year by year of written records and pictures dating from 1179AD to 1864AD) that “*as a souvenir of the [final 1794 Jacobite] Rebellion, Mr James Meikle, Innkeeper, possesses a dirk, said to have been left at Milltown ‘by one of the Highlanders’: The inscription on the blade is ‘IN TE DOMINE’.*”

We were able to locate the family in the 1871 census, and the record is transcribed below.

1871 census record for the Meikle family - Black Bull Alley, Lesmahagow on 2 April 1871

<i>Name</i>	<i>Relationship</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Place of birth</i>
<i>Margaret Meikle</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>Inn Keeper</i>	<i>Lesmahagow</i>
<i>Margaret Meikle</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>Domestic Servant</i>	<i>Lesmahagow</i>
<i>Gavin Meikle</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Ostler</i>	<i>Lesmahagow</i>
<i>Marion Meikle</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Lesmahagow</i>
<i>Agnes Meikle</i>	<i>Daughter</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Lesmahagow</i>
<i>James Meikle</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Lesmahagow</i>

Ref: 1871 – Lesmahagow – 649/00 005/00 016

An ostler was someone employed in a stable to take care of horses.

Given the details found, it is most likely that the family managed the Black Bull Inn located in Black Bull Alley, which still stands today.

Given that Margaret is noted as the head of the family in the 1871 census, it was reasonable for us to believe that James might have died between 1861 and 1871. Indeed we found this to be true when we sourced his death record. It indicated that he died in 1869, aged 47. The record is transcribed below.

Death record for James Meikle

James Meikle, Innkeeper married to Margaret Brown, died on 16 November 1869, at 14.30 pm, at Abbeygreen, Lesmahagow, aged 47 years. Father - John Meikle, Grocer (deceased). Mother - Margaret Plenderleith (deceased). Cause of death - stomach and liver disease. Informant - Gavin Meikle, son, who was present.

Ref: 1869 – Lesmahagow - 649/00 0148

There lies in Lesmahagow Parish Churchyard a family gravestone erected by James Meikle the year before he died. The inscription can be transcribed as noted overleaf.



Meikle family gravestone – Lesmahagow Parish Churchyard

Erected by James Meikle, Black Bull Inn, to the memory of his daughter Elizabeth, who died 15 Aug 1868 aged 16 years. John, his son, died 18 July 1869 aged 18 years. The said James Meikle, died 14 November 1869 aged 47 years. Margaret Brown, his wife, died 1 December 1879 aged 59. Gavin, his son, died in India, 7 January 1895 aged 39. James, his son, died Mar 1882 aged 20.

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

Suggestions for further research

- The McCrone line could be researched further back and siblings investigated.
- There is much scope to further research the Meikle family line in Lesmahagow.
- The McNeil, Howat, Lammie and Brown lines could all be explored.

About this report

This is an example single 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.