

THE JOHNSTON FAMILY OF AGHAGASKIN AND ALLIED FAMILIES

The difficulties of Irish research are well documented. The explosion at the Four Courts complex at the beginning of the Irish Civil War in 1922 destroyed much of the archival heritage of the island, thus making Irish research particularly difficult. The most significant loss was the destruction of the census returns for the period 1821-1851.¹ The 1821 census was one of the earliest carried out in Europe and had it survived intact would have been of enormous help to make a link right back into the eighteenth century.² The practical limits of research in Ireland are determined almost entirely by the survival of local church registers. Although much work has been done to repair the archival heritage of the island the loss of census and testamentary returns in particular make the task of family research a real challenge for the genealogist in Ireland. Thus, when contacted by Denise Quay whose forbears emigrated to Australia, to research her ancestry in the period before civil registration, I was prepared for the challenges that lay ahead. Denise had some information that her ancestors were from County Londonderry.³

Death certificate of Benjamin Johnstone, Australia

Benjamin Johnstone 11 January 1829 Died 11 January 1895 Aged 65 years Son of Benjamin Johnstone and Betsy McCull Londonderry, Ireland	549	Benjamin Johnstone 11 January 1829 Died 11 January 1895 Aged 65 years Son of Benjamin Johnstone and Betsy McCull Londonderry, Ireland	Benjamin Johnstone 11 January 1829 Died 11 January 1895 Aged 65 years Son of Benjamin Johnstone and Betsy McCull Londonderry, Ireland
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Queensland vital records are much more detailed than their Irish counterparts: the death certificate revealed that Benjamin Johnstone died 11 Jan 1895 aged 65 (giving him a birth date of c. 1829) son of Benjamin Johnstone and Betsy McCull of Londonderry, Ireland. Benjamin junior was married to Jane McNease in an unknown location.⁴ Armed with this information we were soon able to locate the marriage of Benjamin Johnstone to Jane McNiece in Castledawson Presbyterian church, providing us with a place of origin in Ireland.

Marriage Castledawson Presbyterian Church, 1854⁵

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
78	21 February 1854	Benjamin Johnstone	25	Bachelor	Labourer	Widdowson	Benjamin Johnstone	Farmer
		Jane McNiece	21	Spinster		Abberhead	Jane McNiece	Farmer

Married in the Presbyterian Church according to the Form and Discipline of the Presbyterian Church, by James by one, Robert Gault

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { Benjamin Johnstone } in the Presence of us, { James Johnstone }
{ Jane McNiece } { Robert Gault }

¹ The returns for the period 1861-1891 were pulped during the Great War much to the chagrin of genealogists and archivists alike.

² The recent discovery of the 1821 census for the parish of Forkhill, County Armagh in the vaults of the local Church of Ireland parish church gave great impetus and encouragement of local historians in the area.

³ Denise has an avid interest in family history and made great strides in uncovering source material in Australia that provided vital clues that supported the search in Ireland [vital records of births, marriages and deaths in Australia generally contain more information than the Irish equivalent].

⁴ The children are also listed including those deceased.

⁵ MIC 1P/90/1 Castledawson Presbyterian Church registers

Married Castledawson Presbyterian 24 February 1854 Benjamin Johnston aged 25 years bachelor, labourer of Killineese son of Benjamin Johnston, farmer to Jane McNiece aged 21 years, spinster of Toberhead, daughter of John McNiece, farmer: x both made mark: Witnesses – Robert Carr & James(?).

Documentary evidence of births, marriages, deaths are the pivotal records that provide the building blocks for family research. The marriage corroborated the evidence from the death certificate confirming that Benjamin Johnston was born c. 1829 and Jane McNiece his wife c. 1833. In addition we now had that vital clue necessary for progressing in Irish genealogy – townland of origin. The key to unlocking family history in Ireland is to locate the townland of origin of the family and locate the sources for the area that reveals the surnames of the locality. I have found this to be the most effective methodology for unlocking family history.⁶ Place is central to making progress since the land records are an effective means of uncovering additional vital information, especially in the period before civil registration. Landless relations are much more difficult to trace. Those who were cottiers, labourers even weavers can really only be traced in the period before civil registration if church records are extant for they are unlikely to be found in estate rentals and other land records.

Many hours were spent digging in the archives pouring over church registers, gravestone inscriptions, registry of deeds, extant wills, O.A.P returns, tithes books, estate records (Salters' and Vintners' estates), 1831 census returns, Griffith's printed valuation and revision books. The research was centred on several townlands in the south Derry area within the confines of Maghera and Magherafelt civil parishes.⁷

The search had uncovered that Benjamin Johnston had been born in the townland of Aghagaskin in the parish of Magherafelt and that his mother was Jane Weir of Ballynoger and not Betsy McCull as recorded on the death certificate. It was later discovered that Besty McCull or McCool⁸ was the mother of Jane McNiece so there was some confusion in the oral history amongst descendants in Australia.⁹

Benjamin Johnston was born around 1828 – paternal Johnston of Aghagaskin; maternal Weir of Ballynoger. His wife was Jane McNiece: her paternal line McNiece, and maternal line – McCool, Backhouse, Morton all of Toberhead. These townlands are close to Castledawson.

Aghagaskin – parish of Magherafelt in the PLU of Magherafelt (Salters' estate).¹⁰

Ballynocker – parish of Magherafelt in the PLU of Magherafelt (Salters' estate).

Toberhead – parish of Maghera in the PLU of Magherafelt (Vintners' estate).

Castledawson – parish of Magherafelt in the PLU of Magherafelt.

⁶ Especially if a perpetuity lease was taken out on the land.

⁷ The vast majority of research was conducted in PRONI, now a world-class facility. I also spent a day in GRONI, and travelled to Dublin to Registry of Deeds in Henrietta Street where I uncovered several family deeds.

⁸ Elizabeth 'Betsy' McCool was married twice first to John McNiece and secondly to William Morton. Morton was a litigious character and as a result records have survived throwing additional light on the families of McNiece; Backhouse and Morton. The Morton Papers in PRONI D4480 opened a window of light into these families in the early decades of the nineteenth century. In addition a Morton pedigree in Ballyknocker back to seventeenth century.

⁹ The accuracy of the information provided on parents was dependent on knowledge of the informant.

¹⁰ PLU: Poor Law Union a land subdivision created in nineteenth century that provided a workhouse for the regional poor.

Standardisation of surnames

The spelling of surnames provide an added difficulty to Irish research. In the period before civil registration, many names were spelt phonetically and there was no set methodology. The genealogist and local historian needs to take this into consideration when conducting research. Government surveys such as Griffiths Valuation and the onset of civil registration provided the impetus which had the consequence of standardising the spelling of surnames.

William McAfee in his excellent CD Rom 'Researching Derry/Londonderry Ancestors' makes the following illuminative and informed statements based upon his experience of data-basing thousands of surnames:

'Not surprisingly, the spelling of surnames in the original sources varied a great deal both within and between documents over the centuries. The names in these documents were entered by various officials and there is some evidence to suggest that this led to regional spelling of surnames, particularly in the earlier sources. Certainly, the spelling of surnames had become more standardised by the time of the Griffith's Printed Valuation of 1858/59. Remember too, that the originals of the seventeenth-century Hearth Money Rolls and the eighteenth-century Religious Returns were destroyed in the 1922 Four Courts fire. The only sources we now have are transcripts of those originals and many of these are typed, suggesting that they are probably a transcript of a transcript. Let's not forget that the databases are further transcripts! In transcription it is relatively easy to mistake an "e" for an "a" or an "r" for an "n" and so on.'

'Surnames in seventeenth-century sources were written down by officials who, if they were not familiar with the spelling of a surname, spelt it phonetically in a way that made sense to them. For example, McGoldrick can be spelt as Megolrake, McCandless as Micandlass, Ewing as Youing, Brewster as Broster and so on. However, the greatest problem with names in early sources is the fact that the spellings of some surnames in these documents are completely different from their modern equivalents e.g. in earlier documents Alexander often appears as McCalsenor or McElsinor.'

In addition those with Gaelic Irish surnames there was often a process of anglicanisation which sometimes rendered a complete change to the name (examples McGowan to Smith; McCrory to Rogers, McGalisher to Green are just some examples).

Johnston: Jonston, Johnson, Johnston, Johnstone.

Weir: Wier, Weer.

McCool: Macool, McCowl. McHowl, McCoul, McCoole.

McNiece: McNice, McNiece, Maneese, Maniece, McNeece, McNease.

Backhouse: Bachouse, Baccus, Bacchus.

THE ARCHIVES

PRONI is the leading archive for records for Ulster counties and now a world-class facility located in the Titanic quarter in Belfast. The great variety of records held in PRONI is its strength. The key to Irish research is the location of townland and place. Much of the research effort consisted in locating source material pertaining to the townland rather than the surname. The land records often reveal the surnames under investigation.

THE REGISTRY OF DEEDS ARCHIVE

I have found the Registry of Deeds to be a particularly rich resource for those families that held land but not everyone used the facility since it was not compulsory to register land transactions. Nevertheless, once registered, a deed provided a degree of legal protection that was attractive to even people of fairly modest means.

A lease of perpetual renewal guaranteed occupation of the farm. The renewable three-life lease was in reality a grant in perpetuity so long as the tenant wished to renew it. Initially when a lease was taken out three lives were inserted [often the children of some of the lessees are named]. A fine usually equal to half of the annual rent was paid on each life. Thereafter new lives could be inserted forever to replace each life as it expired. Again, a fine of half the rent had to be paid for each new life. In effect this provided a degree of real security for the tenant. Perpetuity leaseholders were free to sublet the property, or part of it, to a third party; this was known as a sub-lease. The third party became an under-tenant, paying rent to the leaseholder, who continued to pay rent to the landlord.

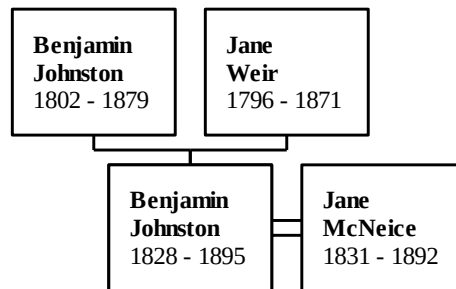
I began a systematic search of the Registry of Deeds using both the names index and the land index for the townland of Aghagaskin, Toberhead, Ballynoghger.

William Conolly, the original landlord of the Bellaghy estate granted several perpetuity leases on the estate in 1734 and as a result these farmers received large tracts of land; some gained whole townlands. More perpetuity-leases were granted on the estate in 1784 and 1803. The Conolly family was an emerging political dynasty and perpetuity leaseholders were guaranteed the vote and therefore expected to support the landlord at election time. Thomas Conolly, the great nephew of speaker Conolly was encumbered by debt, hence the granting of perpetuities in 1784 and 1803; these leases could generate a lot of capital up-front but rents tended to be fixed, which was a disadvantage for the landlord. Spotswood wrote to Thomas Conolly 19 May 1801 of the desire of '*making leases in perpetuity to that part of your estate not let in perpetuity by the late Mr Conolly.*'¹¹ Hence, the Backhouse, McCool and allied families were able to avail of valuable perpetuity leases on the Vintners' Irish estate at Bellaghy.

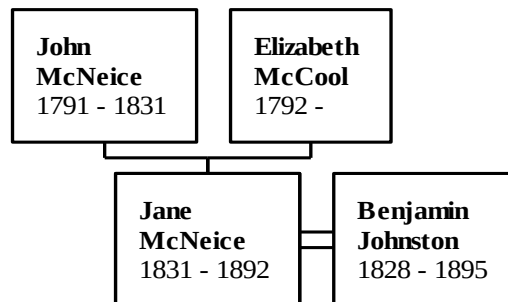
The Weir lease was 'determinable' that is for a fixed term and this lease was less valuable because it was not necessarily renewed by the landlord so there was less security with this kind of lease.

¹¹ TCD 3980/1396

Ancestors of Benjamin Johnston



Ancestors of Jane McNiece



Denise had made it clear during the course of our correspondence that she was interested in developing a family pedigree of her Irish ancestry. The given task was to uncover the history of Johnstones of Aghagaskin;¹² Weirs of Ballynocker; McNieces and McCools of Toberhead. The latter was a most interesting line and we were able to trace the McCool family back to the seventeenth century in the townland of Toberhead.¹³ The maternal line of Elizabeth McCool was a Quaker family by the name of Backhouse. In addition we discovered that the McCools were early Quakers in the area and indeed the original family home in Toberhead was used as a Quaker meeting-house as early as 1695.¹⁴ Quaker records are generally well kept and allowed us to trace both the McCool

¹² This family gave the name to Johnstone's hill in Aghagaskin.

¹³ They too have left their impact on the local topography, as there is a McCool's quarter in Toberhead and there is also McCool's road named after the same family.

¹⁴ William Edmundson, 'A Journal of the Life, Travels, Sufferings and Labour of Love in the work of that Worthy Elder, and faithful Servant of Jesus Christ, William Edmundson, Dublin, 1715, p. 154. Known as the Irish Hammer, William Edmundson (1627-1712) is considered to be the founding father of Quakerism in Ireland.

and Backhouse families into the seventeenth century. That they were early Quaker families does indicate roots in the north of England where Quakerism was strongest and had its origins. I have uncovered no direct evidence that the Johnston, Weir or McNiece families were Quakers.¹⁵ Rather they appear to have been Presbyterian (and occasionally Episcopalian) and have their origins in Scotland and came as part of that flow of emigrants during the plantation of Ulster in the seventeenth century.

The joy of discovery was shared across the globe by regular correspondence by email. We also shared a memorable meal in Belfast when Denise stopped off in the city during a cruise. Encouraged by our successes and in the breaking open of new ground it was envisaged that some form of family history could be written up and perhaps published for posterity. Irish genealogy is difficult but not impossible. It is, however, a labour intensive project and requires a skilful methodology to unlock family origins, especially in the period before civil registration.

This family history report will follow the chronological order in which I carried out the research:

Johnston

Weir

McNiece¹⁶

McCool

McCool

Morton

The families all resided in the civil parishes of Maghera or Magherafelt in the barony of Loughinsholin, County Derry on the contiguous townlands of Aghagaskin, Ballyknocker and Toberhead. All lie on the boundary between the two parishes in question with Toberhead as the most southerly townland in Maghera parish thus bordering Magherafelt. These are rural locations situated between several small urban centres;¹⁷ Magherafelt to the south; Castledawson to the east; Desertmartin to the west and also Tobermore and Maghera to the north-west. Maghera lies furthest from this rural landscape therefore Magherafelt would be the largest urban centre and market town in the vicinity in the early nineteenth century. Since the primary activity of rural Ireland was farming any trade or market activity would most likely have taken place in the nearest market town.

In addition precise location is important to Irish genealogy in terms of identifying local churches (and graveyards) where the families may have worshipped and conducted the Christian rites of baptisms, marriages and burials. In terms of post civil registration Magherafelt was the primary registration district where the civil events of births, marriages and deaths were registered for our families in question. Civil registration of all births, marriages and deaths in Ireland began 1864.¹⁸ In the period before compulsory civil registration then one has to rely on extant church registers as the primary source of family material and again this is subject to great variability depending on parish history.

¹⁵ One prominent Quaker in the Toberhead meeting was Gervais or Jervais Johnston but I have found no evidence linking him to the Johnnston family of Aghagaskin.

¹⁶ This surname was problematic as so many surname variants and spellings (Manice; McNice; McNise; McNeece; McNeese; Maniece; McNeice and so on)

¹⁷ These were either villages or small towns in the early nineteenth century. Ireland was largely a rural and agricultural society at this time and the market town was important centre for local farmers.

¹⁸ Protestant marriages were registered from 1845.

MAP OF BARONIES AND CIVIL PARISHES IN COUNTY DERRY



As you can see both Maghera and Magherafelt are in the barony of Loughinsholin. This barony came into existence upon the creation of the new county of Londonderry in the early seventeenth century and was appended from the O'Neill land in Tyrone and added to what was formerly county Coleraine to create the new county.

THE LOCATION

The Barony of Loughinsholin

The South-Eastern part of Derry or the barony of Loughinsholin forms a distinct geographical region of some two-hundred square miles of varied and broken topography. Isolation is and always has been one of the main characteristics of this area. In the early seventeenth century, Loughinsholin was described by Sir Thomas Phillips as 'the most dangerous place in Ireland'¹⁹ – it was the last Gaelic stronghold and thus a real threat to the Plantation of Ulster. Much of the barony had been covered in scrubby woodland or forest in the pre-plantation period and its destruction throughout the seventeenth century opened new agricultural vistas for settlement for the new immigrant class.

When the London Companies were offered the county of Coleraine (O'Cahan's lands) for plantation, they insisted on having the barony of Loughinsholin appended as well (then part of Tir-Owen), no doubt tempted by Thomas Phillips' glowing account of its wealth, especially in the great woods of Glenconkeyne and Killetra. Thus emerged the new county of Londonderry. By the early decades of the eighteenth century most of the woodland was gone (timber from Glenconkeyne was shipped across Lough Neagh to Belfast) and this early clearance of woodland was the most significant single factor in the evolution of the south South Derry landscape because it was in these clearings that agriculture took root and settlements expanded.

In terms of human settlement the different terrains played a part in segregating the native Irish from the new settlers. The former were to be found in the foothills and light gravel soils in spots around the wide boglands.

By the end of the seventeenth century an influx of Scottish settlers had saturated the townlands in the middle Moyola valley northwards to the Claudy river but their numbers dropped sharply towards the bog strewn areas of Drumard, Rocktown, and Moyagall in the centre of the Vintners' estate. By 1740 British settlement had spread to every parish in Loughinsholin with about one-third of it concentrated in the parishes of Magherafelt, Artea, Maghera and Tamlaght O'Crilly. Nevertheless, the new planter class were a minority in the barony of Loughinisland overall but they did occupy the better land. Overall, south Derry had a scrubby boggy and watery appearance in the early eighteenth century.

¹⁹ Thomas Phillips' Mss

THE JOHNSTONE FAMILY OF AGHAGASKIN & WEIR FAMILY OF BALLYNOCKER

Johnston was the most common surname in the parish of Magherafelt at the time of Griffiths' valuation.²⁰ The occurrence of a common surname in the local records makes it difficult to untangle the web of family ties in the period before civil registration. It did help however, that we were dealing with a Johnston with a distinctive Christian name in Benjamin.²¹ This proved to be a useful marker in tracking down the family in the local church records.

A systematic search of the relevant church records in the Magherafelt area was made²² and uncovered four children baptised with a father named Benjamin Johnston all occurring within the period 1828 to 1842 and therefore most likely the same family.

Magherafelt Church of Ireland registers.²³

1828

April 2 Benjamin of Benjamin Johnston, Aghagaskin, weaver

1834

Dec 10 Jas of Benj & Jane Johnston, Aghagaskin, farmer

Castledawson Presbyterian Church registers.²⁴

1839

Born 22 March baptised May 14 Henry of Benjamin Johnston & Jane Weir, Aghagaskin

1842

Aug 24 Mary daughter of Benjamin Johnston & Jane Weir of Glenmaquill was received into the church by baptism, born March 23rd 1842

Christchurch Church of Ireland, Castledawson graveyard



²⁰ Billy Macafee, CD, 'Tracing Derry/Londonderry Ancestors' - based on an analysis of Griffiths valuation which was carried out 1858 to 1859.

²¹ The Redferns were a prominent local family and used the Christian name Benjamin with frequency.

²² See Appendix One for copy of these records.

²³ MIC1/1A

²⁴ MIC 1P/190

Two headstones are contained within one enclosure in Castledawson Church of Ireland graveyard.

LEFT SIDE HEADSTONE:

JOHNSTON/WEIR

Erected by John Johnston in memory of John Weir who departed this life 6th March 1870 aged 85 years. Also William Weir died 1809, Ballynougher.

The above John Johnston, Tamnadace died 16th December 1905.

Also John Johnston, Killyneese died 9th December 1988 and his brother William James died 19th January 1989.

Also their sisters Lillian Leota (Lily) died 23rd September 2010.

Anna Mary McDowell nee Johnston died 20th August 2011.

RIGHT SIDE HEADSTONE:

JOHNSTON: Erected in memory of Jane Johnston who departed this life 14th January 1874 aged 76 years and her husband Ben Johnston died January 1879 and their son William died January 1908. In loving memory of Annie Johnston died 20th April 1963 and her husband John Johnston son of William Johnston died 4th December 1972

Gravestone inscriptions can often provide one of the building blocks for family trees but the some of the relationships on these two headstones were difficult to untangle. Those who erected the headstones took for granted the relationships of those whose names are inscribed but the intricacies of the relationships can often be lost through the mists of time. Genealogy, as a discipline does require a lot of lateral thinking and I have spent a considerable time trying to discern the various relationships therein.

The headstone to our right in the picture is self explanatory, as the relationships are explained. It is the Weir/Johnston headstone that has led to some confusion as inscribed thereon we have Weir of Ballynogh²⁵, Johnston of Tamnadace and Johnston of Killyneese. John Johnston of Killyneese died 1988 was the son of the John Johnston named on the other headstone died 1972. An obvious lack of room on the second tombstone provided an opportunity to use the space left on the Weir headstone.²⁶

It was soon clear that the information provided on the Australian death certificate for Benjamin Johnston was incorrect on the maternal line. Given location and naming pattern I was sure we had uncovered the correct baptismal record in Magherafelt Church of Ireland and that the emigrant ancestor Benjamin Johnston was baptised there 2nd April 1828 son of Benjamin Johnston, a weaver from the townland of Aghagaskin.

The challenge now for the Johnston tree was to attempt to take the tree back one further generation and identify other children of Benjamin Johnston by his wife Jane Weir.

Aghagaskin, occasionally recorded as Aughagaskin formed part of the manor of Sal on the Salters' Irish estate.

²⁵ One explanation for the Weir headstone is that Ben Johnston's wife was Jane Weir hence the placement of two headstones within one plot.

²⁶ That leaves us to explain the William Weir of Ballynocher and John Johnstone of Tamnadase on the first headstone, which was a real conundrum, one which I will examine later with the Weir family tree.

THE SALTERS' IRISH ESTATE

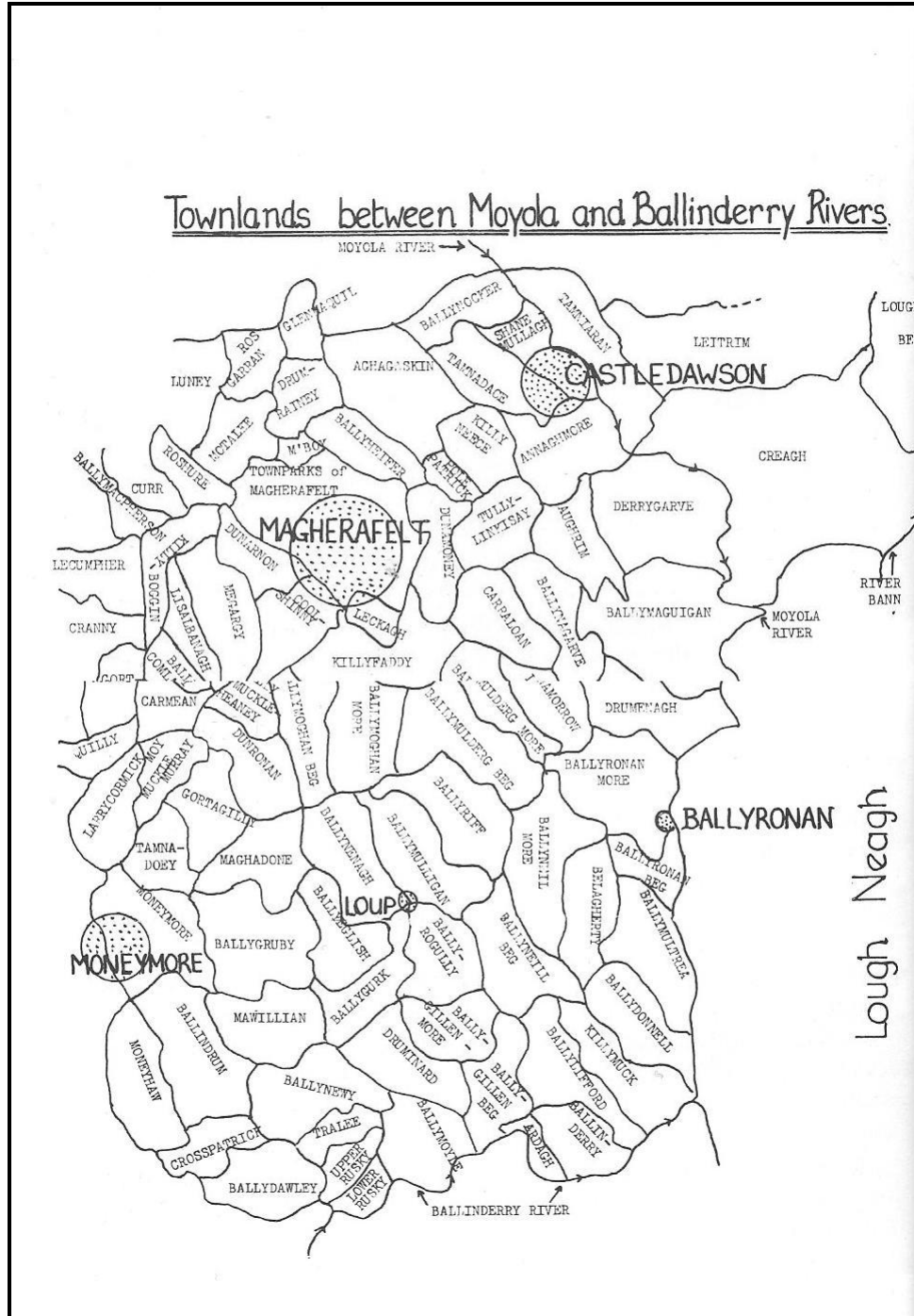


Brief history of the Salters' Irish estate:

The Whistler family remained took control of the estate in 1627. Gabriel Whistler was granted a lease in 1699 for 99 years with no fine and an annual rent of £100.²⁷ This lease was acquired by Sir Robert Bateson who in 1753 was given a lease for 53 years [the remainder of the original 99 year lease] at an annual rent of £500. In 1798 the company re-let to the Batesons for a further term to expire in 1853. The Batesons went into partnership with the Londonderrys of Ards who also had lands in other parts of the county, including the nearby estate of the Mercers. Bateson and Londonderry wished to renew their lease [due to expire in 1853] but the Company refused. Instead they decided to manage the estate themselves and appointed Andrew Spotswood as their agent at £500 per annum. Spotswood had been agent for Bateson and Londonderry. The Company undertook a substantial building programme both in the town of Magherafelt and the surrounding area. As well as providing public and commercial buildings, the company made generous donations to the building of new churches on the estate. By the end of the century the estate went the way of other estates in the county as the tenants bought out their farms under the Land Purchase Acts.

²⁷ He was the ancestor of James McNeill Whistler, the American painter.

LOCATION OF AGHAGASKIN AND BALLYNOGHER



Aghagsakin and Ballynocher both lie to the south of the Moyola river. This area was woodland in the pre-plantation period – the old forest of Killetra. In the survey of 1591 this barony is written as Lochynisholin and described as containing Glenconkeyne and Killytragh – clothed in dense woods. Tradition has it that one could walk from Magherafelt to Coleraine on tree-tops and from Tobermore to Lough Neagh. The forest had well nigh disappeared by the middle of the eighteenth century²⁸.

John Leigh, Sheriff of Tyrone 1608 'in the barony of the Glynnnes called Loughinsolyn the inhabitants consist chiefly of Neales, the Hagans, the Mulhollands with the McCahirs and the Quinns are wholly those which had their absolute dependence upon Tyrone and his

²⁸ Hill page 167

sept. Tyrone's party able to draw 200 able men from Killytragh and well armed within 24 hours.

The Salters' portion lay in the Killetra, a densely forested region, so Phillips suggested that large passes needed to be cut through the woods for highways to improve communications and safety. Ralph Whistler, the farmer of the Salters' Proportion, 1627-1635 was noted for his making and exporting pipe-staves in direct contravention of the Articles. The planter population were a minority in this region in the seventeenth century and vulnerable to attack from the Irish woodkerne. Both Magherafelt and Salterstown were burnt and plundered during the 1641 rebellion and many of the inhabitants killed. Mr Birket, the rector and the keeper of the castle at Salterstown escaped across the lake in 1641 but they and their families subsequently died of starvation at Carrickfergus.²⁹

Many settlers claimed compensation for losses as a consequence of the 1641 rebellion including: Thomas Bacon, Gent of Dublin previously of Magherafelt, losses included house and cattle 12 May 1642; Christopher Moore of Ballylenan, £116; James Smith of Moneymore, Gent in County Derry and Dublin, £276 and Ann Smith, his wife, Ann Waltan, her servant and Susanna Wright, daughter-in-law to said James, who were all robbed and stripped; Robert Waring of Magherafelt, Gent, £658; Mr **Edward Brere of Aghlaghaskin**.³⁰ Robert Redfern of Magherafelt, Tanner, £20, John Redferne, the elder of Magherafelt, Gent, £833 and James Redferne of Cushony, his second son, £314 and said James claimed for the loss of his brother; Charles Anthony of Bellaghy (cleric), £130 and £50 per annum; and the wife of William Camell of Bellaghy, husbandman, lost one child and £150; Richard Whiteside of Desertmartin, Tanner, £80; Mary, widow of William Chesman, pastor of Desertlyn, the loss £800; Anne Beeres of Drumrany.³¹

By the mid-eighteenth century the old landscape was unrecognisable. The oak and ash would no longer dominate the landscape. The Salters' terrier of 1752 reveals that farms had been carved out of the cleared areas. The population was more mixed and the 1766 religious returns for the parish of Magherafelt reveals 628 families; 148 Established Church; 274 Dissenter; 206 RC.³² Housing was of a poor standard in general. Of the forty-eight townlands surveyed only forty-nine houses were described as in a tolerable state. In the town of Magherafelt there were thirty-two houses, twelve of which were cabins. The area was primarily a rural society and most people were dependent on agriculture for subsistence. Thirty-six townlands were described as consisting of scrubby brushwood so there was still room for agricultural improvement in the area.

By this stage our Johnston family were well established in Aghagaskin

Survey of early Johnstons in Loughinsholin Barony:

The muster roll for Salters' estate in 1630 has not survived.³³ An examination of the seventeenth century summonister court rolls for county Londonderry³⁴ reveals a cluster of Johnston families in the parish of Desertlyn including: Andrew Johnston 1656; Robert

²⁹ Maitland, W. H 1916, *History of Magherafelt*, p7

³⁰ This is the earliest reference to a settler in Aghagaskin that I have uncovered. Mr Edward Bryars was seneschal of Magherafelt in 1658/9 reference: T 808/15130 Summonister court rolls, Co. Londonderry.

³¹ T716/10

³² Journal of the South Derry Historical Society, 'Some 17th and 18th Century Aspects of Local Landscapes, Colum Barton p. 13.

³³ Daniel Johnston listed on nearby Drapers' company muster roll, 1630.

³⁴ T808/15130

Johnston 1657; Edward Johnston 1657; Wm Johnston 1659. In addition Walter Johnston resided in Bellaghy in 1657 and John Johnston was described as 'of Tamlaght O'Crilly parish' in 1661.

The summonister records clearly indicate that the hearth money rolls under represent the numbers of people resident in the area in 1663 as we find only four Johnston families listed in the whole of the barony of Loughinsholin.³⁵

Andrew Johnston, Brackagh, Lissan John Johnstoune, Drumgarner, Tamlaght O'Crilly James Johnstowne, Carmean, Desertlyn James Johnstoun, Mullagh, Termoneeny

The 1740 Protestant householders' returns, which appears to be a much more accurate survey gives forty-four heads of households named Johnston in the early eighteenth century in the same area. The following is a breakdown of parish and numbers of households headed by a Johnston in 1740.

Maghera 9; Lissan 9; Magherafelt 6; Desertlyn 3; Ballyscullion 4; Tamlaght 3; Desertmartin 5; Tamlaght O'Crilly 2; Kilcronaghan 1; Termoneeny 1; Ballinderry 1
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The 1766 religious returns are extant for only a few parishes in the barony of Loughinsholin and there are twenty-four Johnston heads of household as follows:

Ballynascreen 1; Desertmartin 7; Artrea 4; Desertlyn 1; Magherafelt 12.

The Johnston family under investigation resided in Aghagaskin in the parish of Magherafelt. The chart below lists all of the Johnston families in the parish from eighteenth century surveys.³⁶

Parish of Magherafelt		
1740 protestant householders	1766 religious returns	1796 flax returns
Alexander Johnston Andrew Johnston; Alexander Johnston; William Johnston; John Johnston Martha Johnston	John Johnston Thomas Johnston Matthw Johnston Thomas Johnston James Johnston John Johnston John Johnston Elder John Johnston youngr Matthw Johnston John Johnston Elisabeth Johnston widow Mary Johnston widow	Thomas Johnston Matthew Johnston John Johnston

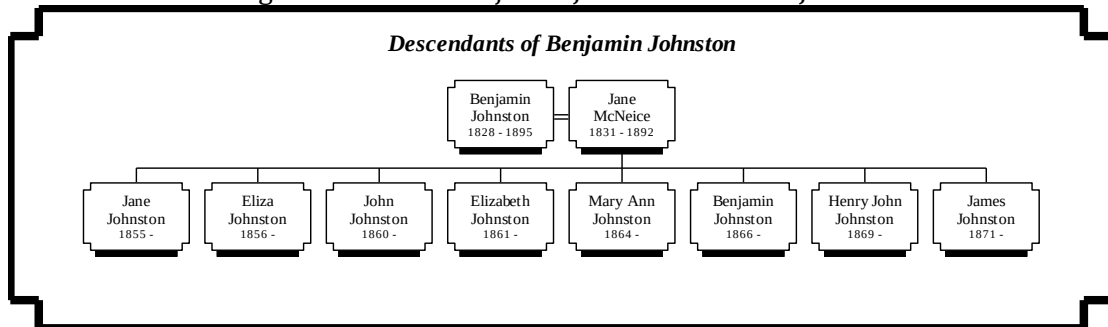
The most accurate survey the 1766 religious returns indicates that there were at least twelve independent families in the parish of Magherafelt in the mid eighteenth century. This gives us a framework by which we can contextualise the family history.

³⁵ The hearth rolls are not a complete census of heads of households. Many areas in the barony were still remote and inaccessible and of course tax avoidance was also a factor.

³⁶ These surveys are often referred to as census substitutes but they name only head of household.

We have established that Benjamin Johnston senior and junior were born in the townland of Aghagaskin in the parish of Magherafelt:

The emigrant ancestor Benjamin Johnston married Jane McNiece



Denise Quay's emigrant ancestor Benjamin Johnston, junior emigrated to Bendigo, Victoria, Australia in 1857. Benjamin Johnston aged 38 years and his wife Jane aged 24 emigrated on board *Star of the South* as part of an Assisted Emigration scheme from Liverpool 24 April 1857 arrived Melbourne 5 August 1857.³⁷ Two daughters, Jane and Eliza had been born in Ireland but no baptismal record is extant. Additional children were born in Australia.

The death of Jane Johnston (nee McNiece) occurred on Christmas day 1895: According to the death record she died in East Melbourne Hospital aged 60 years. Father unknown and Mother unknown. It appears that the family did not give the information about her death. This often happened if someone died in hospital a distance from home so someone in the hospital probably gave information for the death certificate. Jane was held in great affection by her family as her children paid to have a memorial inserted in the local newspaper:

The Bendigo Advertiser Monday 2 January 1893 page 2

In Memoriam

Johnston – In affectionate remembrance of Jane, the beloved wife of Benjamin Johnston who departed this life on 24th December 1892, aged 59 years.

She was so long with pain oppressed;
It wore her strength away;
It made her long for endless rest,
Which never can decay.
Weary days and nights were appointed unto me.
I cried unto the Lord, and He heard me.
Inserted by her loving children.

Benjamin Johnston died just over two years later on 11 January 1895. His death certificate names children: Jane dead; Elizabeth dead; John dead; Elizabeth 32; Mary Ann 30; Benjamin 28; John 26; James 24.

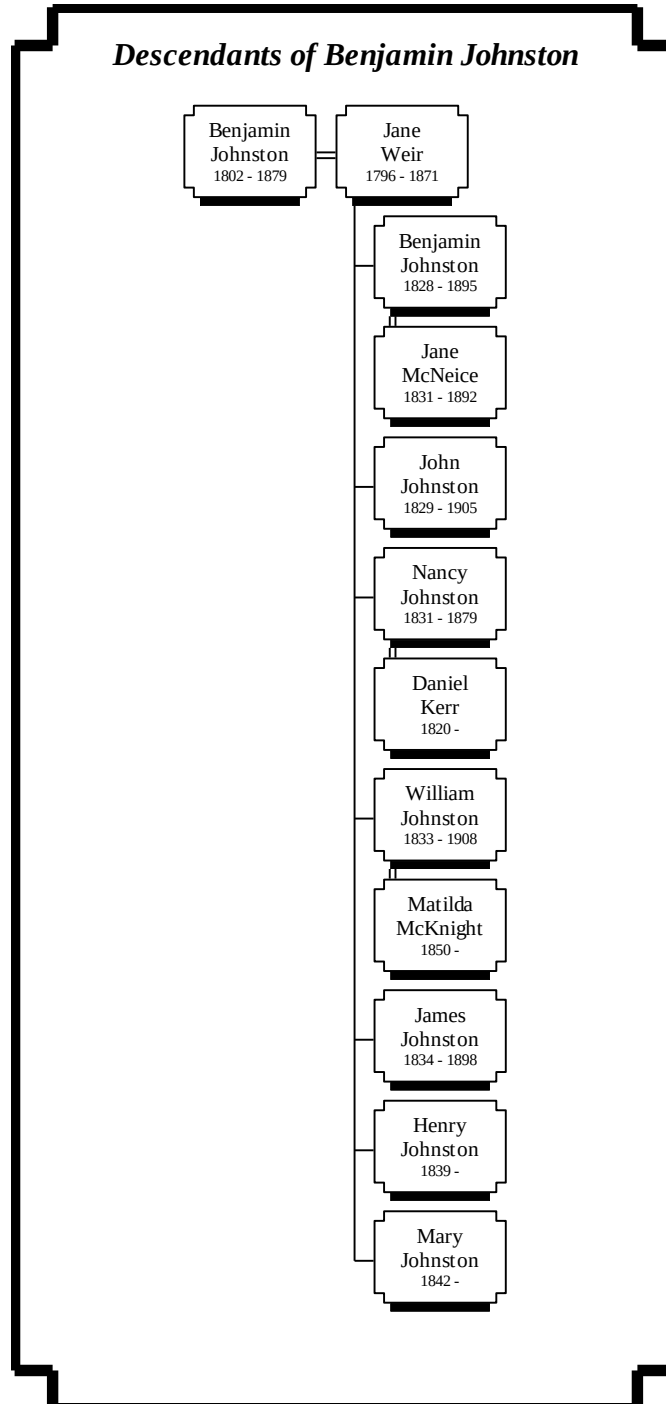
Connecting the family back a further generation was an achievable objective as church records for the area were reasonably good. I had managed to locate the baptism of Benjamin Johnston junior in the records of Magherafelt Church of Ireland as follows:

³⁷ Book 11 p 446

1828 April 2 Benjamin of Benjamin Johnston, Aghagaskin, weaver

Benjamin Johnston, senior of Aghagaskin by his wife Jane Weir had at least seven children. I was able to positively identify four children who were baptised in local churches; (Benjamin, James, Mary and Henry); in addition the gravestone inscription and marriage certificates identified a further three siblings (John, William and Nancy).

The tree is outlined below:



I had successfully located the family in Aghagaskin. Given that Johnston was a common name in the area I was less than hopeful of taking the tree back a further generation. Nevertheless, having identified the townland of origin this provided a platform for

further research and I was determined to unlock the history of the Johnstons of Aghagaskin.

At the time of the 1831 census there were six Johnston households in Aghagaskin, all probably related, with three of the families headed by John Johnston.

1831 census Aghagaskin, Magherafelt

No. 25: Jno Johnson 1 family 7males/2females 9 Presbyterians

No 47: Jno Johnson 1 family 5male/2female 8 Presbyterian [as in original]

No 48: And: Johnson 1 family 1 male/2females 3 Presbyterian

No 63: Ben Johnson 1 family 3males/2females 5 Established Church

No 68: Jon Johnson 1 family 2 males 2 Established Church

No 69 Ibid Jon Johnson ----- Blank ----

No 109: Thos Johnson 1 family 1male/2females 3 Roman Catholic

Undoubtedly, many of these families were related but making connections between the different branches of the family would be impossible using the census material in isolation. Clearly, household number 68 in Aghagaskin is our Benjamin Johnston, senior with a family of five present; three males and two females belonging at that time to the Established Church of Ireland.

As mentioned previously, Aghagaskin formed part of the Salters' Irish estate. Thankfully, the Salters' company kept a fairly good series of rental books on their estate from 1752 to 1830 and this with the tithe book for Magherafelt shed additional light on the Johnston family.

Summary of Salters' rentals for Aghagaskin, 1752-1830 taken from my notebook.³⁸

RENTALS SUMMARY Aghagaskin.			
1752 rental. (nil)		1790 rental CD 4-108/1/178 (poor condition)	
1772 George Stewart 8-11-6.		Thos Johnston £8-9-7.	
1775 George Stewart 8-11-6.		No Stewart.	
(1766?) 1776 George Stewart 8-11-6 1/2.			
1814		1818	
1814 1. Thos Johnston 13 3 0 p.		13 3 0 Thos Johnston	
26 Jas Johnston 6 11 7		9 1 24 Jas Johnston	
39 Thos Johnston 5 3 30		5 3 30 Thos Johnston heirs	
1824		1828	
1. Thos Johnston 13 3 0		1. 14 2 5 John Johnston	
6. J ⁿ Johnston 9 3 5		6. 19-0-4 John Johnston sen	
26 Jas Johnston 9 1 24		7. 11-1-27 John Johnston jun ^r	
39 Thom Johnston 5 3 30 trust.		10-2-24 John Johnston	
		26. 9-3-13 Jas Johnston	
		39 3-3-28 Pat ^k McAleer.	
TITHES 1829.			
28/ Jas Johnston 6-3-13			
31/ Benjamin Johnston 3-0-0.		1829/30 John Johnston 14-0-25	
33/ J ⁿ Johnston 14-0-25		rental John Johnston 19-0-4	
39/ J ⁿ Johnston 19-0-4		(no numbers) Jas Johnston 9-3-13	

A careful analysis of the rentals provides some vital clues about the Johnston family of Aghagaskin. Thomas Johnston first appears in the rental of 1790 and appeared to have replaced George Stewart.³⁹ The annual rent for the farm of land was £8:9:7.⁴⁰ It seemed probable that Thomas Johnston was the progenitor of the family but this assumption would need additional verification. It seemed likely that the cluster of Johnston families recorded in the rentals would be closely related, especially if there was a perpetuity lease for the land.

One advantage of the four rentals detailed between 1814 and 1828 is that the farms are numbered helping us to compare the different rentals. The original Thomas Johnston appears to have held farms numbered 1 and 39 in the Aghagaskin rental. He may have died between 1814 and 1818 as in the latter rental is written '**heirs of Thomas Johnston**'. In 1824, his small farm of five acres had been held in trust perhaps awaiting the probation of his will.⁴¹

James Johnston held a farm numbered 26 in the period 1814-1828 and may well be a son of the original Thomas Johnston. He appears in the tithe book of 1829 numbered 28

³⁸ For reference for Salters' rental see Appendix

³⁹ I remained open to the possibility that there was a familial connection between the Johnston and Stewart families of Aghagaskin.

⁴⁰ D4018/1/17B

⁴¹ This farm was subsequently taken over by Patrick McAleer in the 1828 rental.

but is not recorded in the 1831 census so it is possible that he may have died before that time.

We also have the appearance in 1824 of John Johnston senior in farm number 6 (possibly another son of Thomas Johnston) and John Johnston junior appeared in the rental for 1828 on farm numbered seven. In the tithe book of 1829 it looks like John Johnston senior held a farm of some 14 acres and John Johnston junior one of 19 acres.⁴²

In addition Benjamin Johnston appears in the tithe book of 1829 with a small farm of 3 acres. This is Benjamin Johnston senior – his occupation at this time was given as weaver in the church registers but he also held a small farm. The 1831 census reveals that he was the head of a family of 3 males and 2 females.⁴³

The sequencing of the various Johnstons in the rentals may be significant and allows us to begin to make tentative connections. The records seemed to indicate that Thomas Johnston of the 1790 rental may have been the common ancestor of both James and John Johnston who appear in the later rentals. It seemed more likely that Benjamin Johnston listed in the 1831 census was more likely be the son of the James or John Johnston. This became a working assumption or hypothesis to be verified or corrected upon discovery of other primary source material.

Given that several Johnstons appeared in the tithe book and rentals in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt, indicating that they may have had strong leases I undertook a systematic search of the Registry of Deeds in Dublin for the townland of Aghagaskin:

The registry of deeds archive survives intact from 1704 and is a most useful repository for those ancestors who held strong leases for farms. A registered deed or document provided a degree of legal security in matters of land transfer. A systematic search in the land index from 1704 to 1878 produced only five registered transactions for the townland of Aghagaskin. Two of these deeds mentioned the surname Johnston but other surnames included Palmer, Warburton, Stewart and Fearson.⁴⁴ There was an explosion of entries for Aghagaskin from 1879 onwards as under the Land Acts tenants were encouraged to buy their farms and register the deeds for insurance.

The two Johnston deeds recorded in the Registry of Deeds index for Aghagaskin:⁴⁵

Volume 44 (1739-1810) Aghagaskin, Salters' portion: Johnston & another to Stewart & another: Book 247; page 419; memorial number 162706
Volume 47 (1811-1820) Aghagaskin: Johnston to Johnston: Book 673; page 346; memorial number 464205

Deeds from 1708 have been transcribed into huge volumes that can be found on the shelves of the Registry of Deeds in Henrietta Street, Dublin. I was not to be disappointed. In Volume 44 page 419, the registered memorial 162706 recited a marriage settlement for the year 1765 concerning nuptial arrangements between the families of Stewart and Johnston both from the townland of Aghagaskin. I have reproduced the memorial here for posterity as it contains valuable family history.

⁴² Usually, the title senior and junior refers to father and son.

⁴³ I suggest the make-up of the family was father, mother, two sons and a daughter.

⁴⁴ See Appendix for Registry of Deeds references and transcripts.

⁴⁵ When using microfilm in PRONI of the Registry of Deeds volumes one cannot see page numbers so the most useful reference is the memorial number.

No: 162706: Johnston to Stewart & an'r registered 13 Novr 1766 at 12 at noon:

A memorial of a deed poll or instrument in writing bearing date the eleventh day of March 1765 and made between Mathew Johnston of Aghagaskin in the county of Londonderry, mason on the one part and George Stewart and John Stewart his son both of Aghagaskin aforesaid, farmer on the other part whereby after reciting that a marriage was intended to be had between Thomas Johnston son of the said Mathew Johnston and Mary Stewart daughter of the said George Stewart; they the said George Stewart and John Stewart agree to give as and for a marriage portion to the said Mary Stewart that part or parcel of land in the town land of Aghagaskin, then in occupation of John Dobbin containing by estimation eight or nine acres be the same more or less to have and to hold to the said Thomas Johnston, his exors, admons & assigns from the end and determ't (?) of said John Dobbin's lease, which is held and enjoyed under the said George Stewart or John Stewart, he the said Thomas Johnston from thenceforth yielding and paying to the said George Stewart or John Stewart etc yearly rent of five shillings and six pence sterling an acre – and at the expiration of the said George Stewart's lease of the premises the said Thomas Johnston to have the full tenant right and benefit of renewal and the said writing is executed by the said George Stewart, John Stewart and Mathew Johnston and witnesses by Ezekiel Richardson, scrivener, William Berfoot, Innkeeper and James Redfern, saddler, all of Magherafelt:

Mem witnesses by said James Redfern & Richardson Williams of the City of Dublin, Gent. Mathew Johnston seal; signed, seales and executed in the presence of James Redfern & Rich Williamson

James Redfern sworn before me at Castledawson 24 July 1766, Thomas Graves – and I know the deponent – present Sam Richardson JP & John Downing JP.

This is a very interesting family document. From the early rentals on the Salters' estate we know that George Stewart was in possession of a farm of some eight acres in Aghagaskin from 1772-1776.⁴⁶ George Stewart was a farmer in Aghagaskin and had at least two children John and Mary. In 1765 a marriage was to be arranged between Mary Stewart, daughter of George Stewart and Thomas Johnston son of Mathew Johnston of Aghagaskin, mason.

The deed was witnessed by Ezekiel Richardson, scrivener, William Berfoot, Innkeeper and James Redfern, saddler, all of Magherafelt indicating that Mathew Johnston knew these people. It seems likely that much of Matthew Johnston's building work would have been carried out in local villages (Tobermore and Castledawson) and towns (Maghera and Magherafelt). Around 1766, Thomas Johnston, his son, was endowed with a farm of land that could be passed down through the family.

Thomas Johnston was listed in the 1790 rental as occupier of the Stewart farm and James Johnston was in occupation of the same land in the tithe book of 1829.⁴⁷ In addition James Johnston appears in the 1814 rental with Thomas Johnston. Hence, I suggest the line of descent for the Johnston family of Aghagaskin runs from Matthew Johnston to his son Thomas and grandson James.

Thomas Johnston appears to have died sometime before 1818 as the rental for that year indicates that he was deceased as the farm was listed in trust for his heirs. This was confirmed also in the 1824 rental, which also indicates his estate was still held in trust possibly due to a delay in his will being probated. I therefore assume Thomas Johnston

⁴⁶ D4108/1/15F Salters' estate volume of 1752 names about twenty inhabitants in Aghagaskin including a George Stewart (but no one by the name of Johnston).

⁴⁷ Note - different measurements are used for acreage hence the differences in size.

died sometime between the rentals of 1814 and 1818. I have estimated his birth as c. 1740 since he was married c. 1766 and died in the period 1814-1818.

The date of the marriage 1765 between Thomas Johnston and Mary Stewart allows us to make a reasoned guess at the approximate birth date for children within the range 1766-1780. Since James Johnston appears to have been the eldest son I have given him an estimated birth date of 1766.⁴⁸

The second Johnston deed:

The second deed was of indifferent quality as the handwriting was poor and the ink somewhat faded so I had real difficulty deciphering the deed, however, I was able to transcribe a portion of the document.

No: 464205: Deed dated the 6th day September 1807 made between Thomas Johnston, of Aghagaskin and James Johnston the son of the said Thomas --- and unto said John Johnston the field(?) in the townland of Fallygloon – (rest illegible).

My reading of this document is that in 1807, Thomas Johnston was conveying property (probably his farm in Aghagaskin) to his son James Johnston before his death (which appears to have occurred sometime between 1814 and 1818) and in addition a field of land to John Johnston in Fallygloon (Fallagloon, Maghera parish).

Magherafelt Church of Ireland registers are extant for most of eighteenth century and there are Johnston entries recorded but none in the townland of Aghagaskin.⁴⁹ This may well indicate that the Johnstons of Aghagaskin were Presbyterian. It is always necessary to check local Church of Ireland burial registers as they also may contain burials of other Protestant denominations. One interesting entry in the Magherafelt burial register (1822-1830) caught my attention.⁵⁰

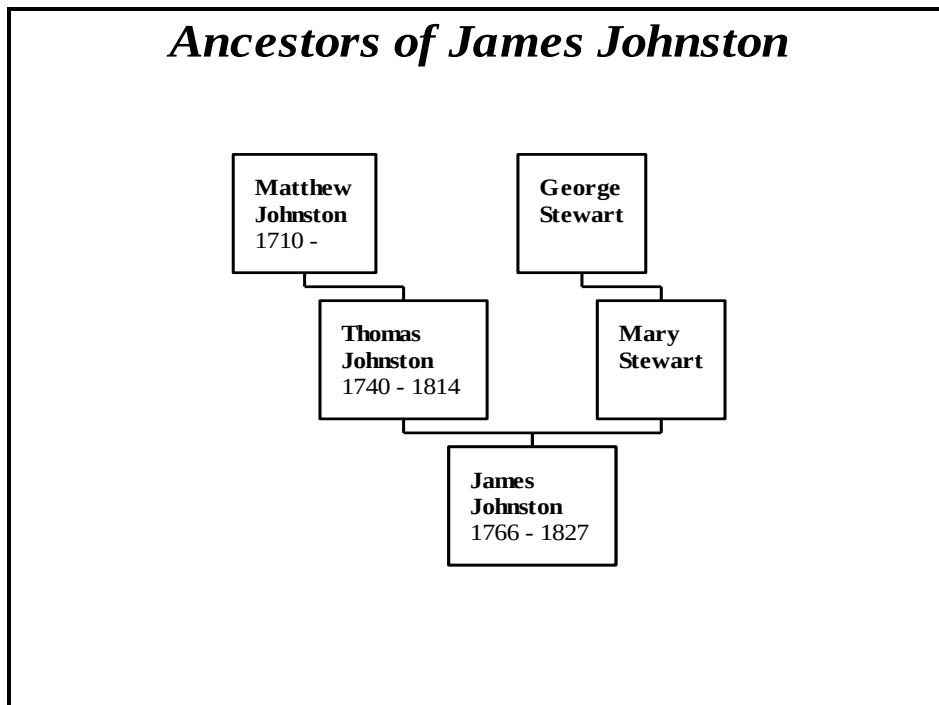
<i>James Johnston, Aghagaskin Dec 8 1827 aged 62</i>

I am fairly certain that this entry refers to James Johnston, son of Thomas Johnston by his wife Mary Stewart, since the location and dates match very well. The above James Johnston's vital records c.1765-1827 fits as a likely son of Thomas Johnston by Mary Stewart. One slight doubt is that a James Johnston appears in the tithe book and rental of 1829 but often there was a delay in transferring details to the estate books. The tithes book would have taken time to prepare and would be a reflection of landholding a year or two before its publication. That James Johnston is not listed in the 1831 census might also indicate that he was deceased by that date. Given the weight of evidence it seems likely that James Johnston (son of Thomas) was buried 8 December 1827.

⁴⁸ As already mentioned the rental for 1824 lists John Johnston who appears to have been a sibling of James Johnston.

⁴⁹ Families listed in Aghagaskin included old established names in the area – Lennox; Redfern, Morgan and Semple. For Johnston entries see index on Church records.

⁵⁰ MIC/1/1A/1



The registered deeds together with the land records and 1831 census have helped us create an early tree for the Johnstons of Aghagaskin. The earliest progenitor in the line Matthew Johnston I estimate was born c.1710 and in him we have reached the limits of our search.

It is likely that he is one of the two Matthew Johnstons listed in the 1766 religious returns for the parish of Magherafelt (and a Thomas Johnston is also listed) but unfortunately no townland address is give in this source, which would have added greatly to its value.⁵¹ In the 1796 flax lists Matthew and Thomas Johnston are listed as claiming one spinning wheel in the parish of Magherafelt but again no townland address is forthcoming, One is mindful that Johnston is a common name in the area (nevertheless Matthew is a useful marker for a Christian name).

The local parish registers did throw light on a family in Glenmaquill townland that may well be related to the Aghagaskin Johnstons therefore I include it here for the record:

Magherafelt Church of Ireland christenings:

- 1762 – (Jo)hn, son of Matthew Johnston of Glenmaquil was bapt.
- 1765 – Mary, daughter of John Johnston of Glenmaquil was bapt 4th May.
- 1767 – Mathew, son of John Johnston of John Johnston, Glenmaquill was bapt Dec'r
- 1769 – Margaret, daughter of John Johnston, Glenmaquil was bapt 5th July
- 1792 – Matthew son of Andw Johnston of Glen(?) was baptised 24th July

In addition First Magherafelt Presbyterian registers:

Married 14 April 1776 Matthew Johnston to Ann Cowan both of Magherafel congregation.

⁵¹ In the 1740 Protestant householders' survey for Magherafelt the following Johnstons are also listed: Alex Johnston (x2) Andrew Johnston; William Johnston; John Johnston and Martha Johnston.

What looks like their first child was baptised just over one year later:
Baptised John son to Matthew Johnston 27 April 1777

No firm conclusions can be taken from these entries and I have included them only because Glenmaquil townland is contiguous with Aghagaskin and the use of the Christian name Matthew may be significant. In addition Benjamin Johnston the weaver of Aghagaskin would later move to become a farmer in Glenmaquill in the 1840s.⁵² Two Johnston households were recorded in the 1831 census in Glenmaquill.⁵³ Although Benjamin Johnston resided in Glenmaquill in the 1840s by the time of Griffiths valuation he had moved to Killyneese.⁵⁴ This movement between townlands indicates that Benjamin Johnston held terminable leases that is a lease with fixed number of years.

The mention of the townland of Fallagloon in the 1807 registered deed also stoked my interest concerning that townland.

An examination of Vintners' rental for 1791-1793⁵⁵ shows a Matthew Johnston paying rent of £27, 8, 1 in Fallagloon. The Vintners' lease book has four Johnston leases and lives named for 1799 as follows:

Fallagloon leases D1062/1

Page	Lease & date	Lives
404	Jas Johnston & co 38a, 1r, 35p from 1 Nov 1799	For lives renewable forever – lives of Robert & Samuel Johnston lesees and Wm Johnston
405	Thomas Johnston 28a, 1 Nov 1799	For lives renewable forever – lives of Thos Johnston, John Johnston & Jas Gregg
406	James Johnston 27a, 25p 1 Nov 1799	For lives Matthew Johnston, Wm Johnston & James McGaw
407	Robert Johnston 11 acres 1 Nov 1799	Lives of Matthew Johnston, Andrew Johnston & James McGaw

The evidence does suggest that there may well have been a link between the Aghagaskin and Fallagloon Johnstons but the exact nature of that relationship has been lost over time. That the Aghagaskin/Glenmaquill and Fallagloon Johnstons share the Christian name Matthew is interesting.⁵⁶

LINKING BENJAMIN JOHNSTON SENIOR TO THE KNOWN TREE.

Having identified the early family tree in Aghagaskin Johnston to this tree – it seemed likely he was the son of the John or James Johnston listed in the rentals of the early nineteenth century. He was married by 1831 and appears to have had a family of two boys and a girl indicating that he might have married c. 1826.⁵⁷ The census also indicates that at that time the family identified themselves as members of the established Church of Ireland.

⁵² The Bellaghy lease book for Glenmaquill D1061/1 has no Johnston listed; leases were given 1733 to John Marlin; 1779 to Jas Clarke and 1818 to Henry Sheil.

⁵³ No 19: Andrew Johnston 2m/2f - 4 P: No 21 Margaret Johnston 2f – 2P.

⁵⁴ No Johnston is recorded in Glenmaquill in the Griffiths valuation of 1858.

⁵⁵ D2094/78.

⁵⁶ Perhaps a systematic search of the registry of deeds for Fallagloon could shed additional light on any putative links.

⁵⁷ But no marriage record is extant in the local registers.

A search of the confirmation lists in the parish church of Magherafelt Church of Ireland produced a positive result as a Ben Johnson of Aghagaskin was listed in the year 1824.⁵⁸

Magherafelt Church of Ireland
Confirmations 1824
No 53 – Jas Johnson, Aghagaskin
No 54 – [Blank] Johnson, ibid
No 92 – Ben Johnson, Aghagaskin

This is our first direct reference to Ben Johnston in Aghagaskin townland. He must have married within a year or two of his confirmation as in the 1831 census he appears to be married with family.

1831 census
No 63: Ben Johnson 1 family 3males/2females 5 Established Church

From church registers and other genealogical sources we can positively identify those present on census night in Aghagaskin household 63.

Benjamin Johnston, senior father
Jane Johnston his wife nee Weir
Benjamin, junior (born 1828),
John Johnston (born 1829)
Jane Johnston (born 1831)

Baptismal records for four of the seven known children are extant:

1828
April 2 Benjamin of Benjamin Johnston, Aghagaskin, weaver

1834
Dec 10 Jas of Benj & Jane Johnston, Aghagaskin, farmer

1839
Born 22 March baptised May 14 Henry of Benjamin Johnston & Jane Weir, Aghagaskin

1842
Aug 24 Mary daughter of Benjamin Johnston & Jane Weir of Glenmaquill was received into the church by baptism, born March 23rd 1842

In addition another daughter Jane Johnston married Curran Presbyterian Church.⁵⁹
Married 25 March 1848: Daniel Kerr aged 28 Widower & farmer son of Andrew Kerr farmer to Nancy Johnston aged 17 spinster of Glenmaquill dau of Ben Johnston, Farmer:
Witnesses - William Moor or Doore & Nancy Stewart.

The family gravestone identified John Johnston as another son of Benjamin Johnston.

It was a challenge to work out who Benjamin Johnston's father was. Civil registration of protestant marriages began in 1845 and gives the name of the father but our Benjamin

⁵⁸ Confirmation in the Established Church varied usually mid to late teens. Ben Johnston appears to have been around 21 years old when he was confirmed.

⁵⁹ MIC1P/338/B1-3

Henry Johnston revealed in his will that he had two brothers alive in 1887 namely **Benjamin Johnston and John Johnston**. Henry Johnston appears to have had no issue even though he had been married.

1887	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	
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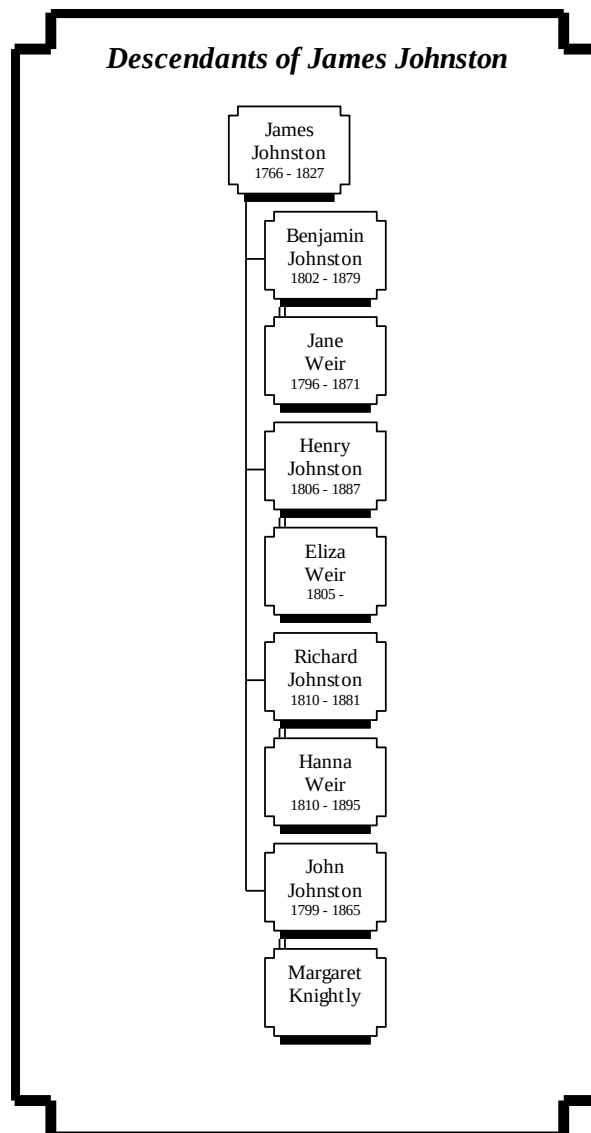
25

Marriage register 1st P Magherafelt⁶¹

No 11

6 Feb 1846 Richard Johnston, 34, Bachelor, carpenter of Aghagaskin son of James Johnston, Land Surveyor to Hanna Weir aged 28 spinster, Ballynocher dau of William Weir, farmer by licence (both signed names).⁶² Witnesses - John Weir & William Hastings

The marriage confirmed that the father of Richard, and hence Benjamin, John and Henry Johnston of Aghagaskin was James Johnston described on the certificate as a land surveyor.⁶³ I take this to be the James Johnston who died 1827 aged 62. In addition the records indicated that three Johnston brothers had married three Weir sisters.⁶⁴ The descendants of James Johnston of Aghagaskin are outlined in the tree below.



⁶¹ CR13/B/1

⁶² I usually take this as a sign of literacy.

⁶³ It seems possible that James Johnston was perhaps employed on the Salters' estate in some capacity as well as being a farmer.

⁶⁴ See Weir family history for additional information.

Johnstons in Aghagaskin Griffiths Valuation 1858

VALUATION OF TENEMENTS.										319
PARISH OF MAGHERAFELT.										
No. and Letters of Reference to Map.	Names.		Description of Tenement.	Acre.	Rateable Annual Valuation.			Total Annual Valuation of Rateable Property.		
	Tenants and Occupiers.	Immediate Lessors.			Land.	Buildings.				
	AGHAGASKIN— continued.									
16	a	James Kikly, sen., James Kikly, jun., William Sully.	Worshipful Company of Salters.	Land.	7 3 20	£ 2 5 0 { 2 5 0	— —	2 5 0 2 5 0		
17		John Johnson.	James Kikly, sen., and James Kikly, jun.	House.	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0		
		John Johnson.	Worshipful Company of Salters.	Land.	8 3 20	4 10 0	—	4 10 0		
18	a	John Johnson.	Same.	House, offices, and land.	5 1 0	2 15 0	0 15 0	3 10 0		
	b	Henry Johnson.	Same.	House, office, and land.	5 1 0	2 15 0	0 10 0	3 5 0		
	c	Richard Johnson.	Same.	House, office, and land.	5 2 0	2 15 0	0 10 0	3 5 0		
19		Eliza Kikly.	Same.	House, offices, and land.	8 0 20	4 5 0	0 15 0	5 0 0		
20		Anne Kikly.	Same.	House, office, and land.	13 0 15	4 10 0	0 10 0	5 0 0		
21		John Stewart, jun.	Same.	Bog.	4 1 0	—	—	—		
22	a	David Lennox, jun.	Same.	House and land.	5 2 25	4 5 0	0 15 0	5 0 0		
22	b	Andrew Lennox.	Same.	House, offices, & land.	15 1 25	5 5 0	0 15 0	6 0 0		
23		William Johnson.	Same.	House, offices, & land.	5 5 0	5 5 0	0 15 0	6 0 0		
24		William Stewart.	Same.	House, offices, and land.	8 0 25	4 15 0	0 15 0	5 10 0		
25	b	William Stewart.	Same.	Land.	12 1 10	8 0 0	—	—		
			Same.	House, office, & garden.	0 1 0	0 5 0	0 10 0	0 5 0		

The Griffiths Valuation of 1858 for Aghagaskin lists three Johnston brothers living on one farm that has been subdivided into three lots of approximately 5 acres each (this can be seen on the map below number 18).

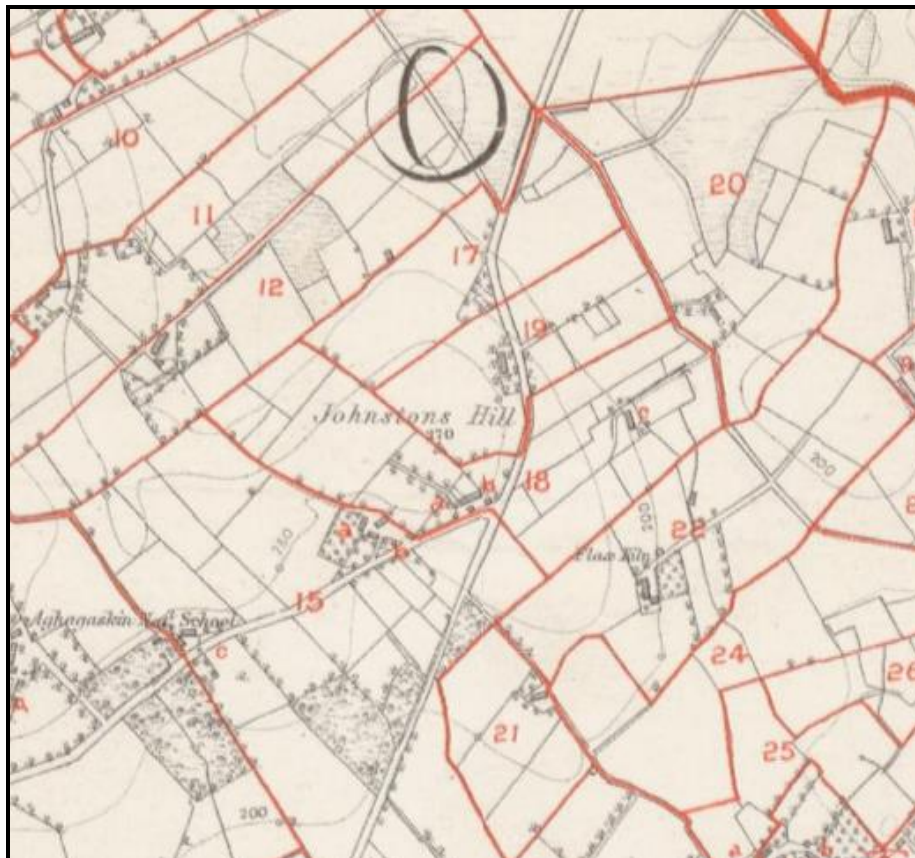
GV Aghagaskin 1858/59

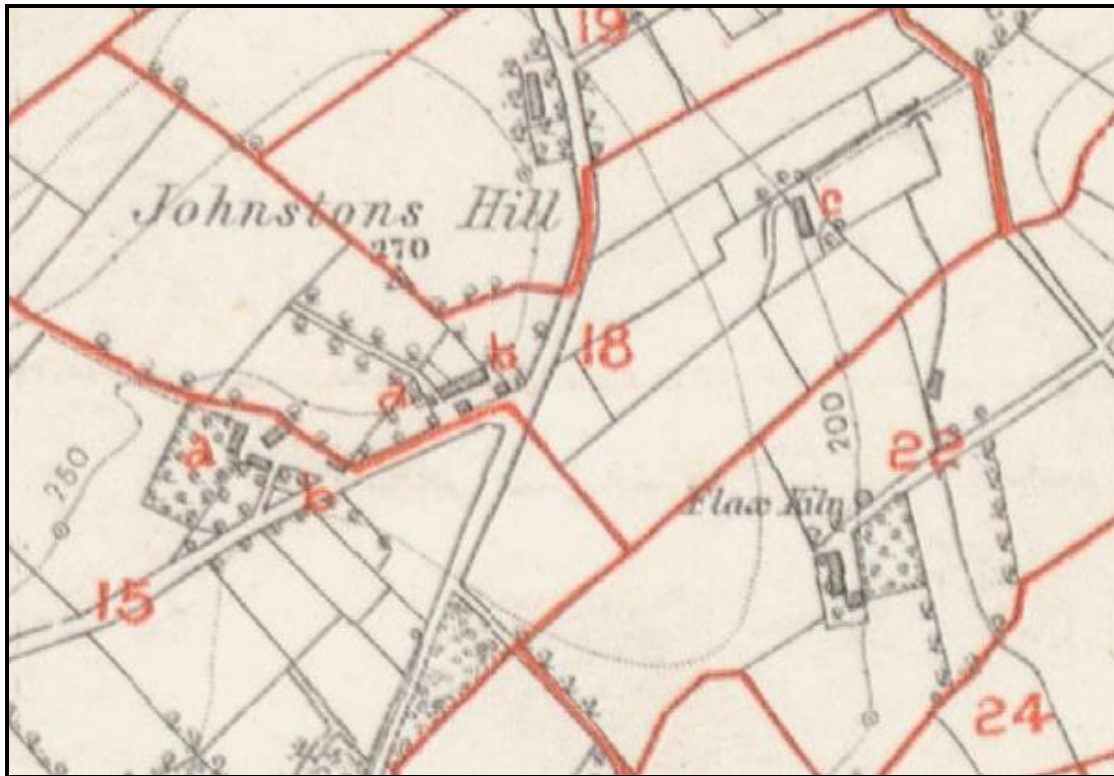
No 18

a John Johnston 5 acres, 1 rood

b Henry Johnston 5 acres, 1 rood

c Richard Johnston 5 acres, 2 rood





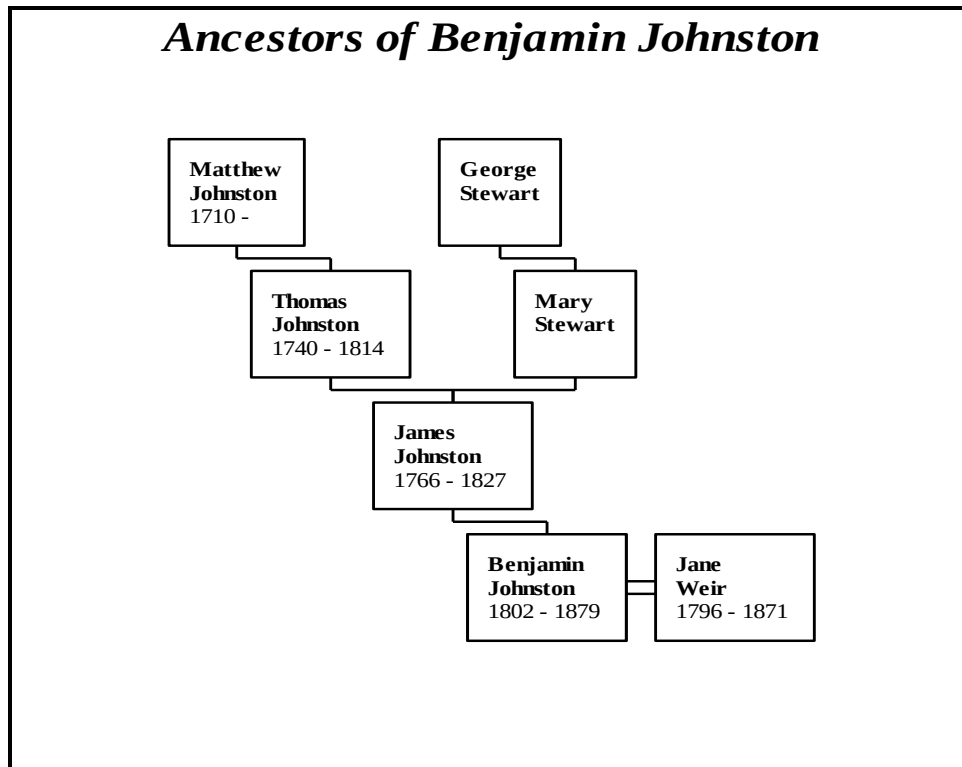
The local topography indicates the prevalence of the surname Johnston in the area and we can clearly see the outline of the family farm numbered 18 on the Griffiths valuation map. We can actually identify each of the three dwelling houses in the map above. John and Henry Johnston lived close by in 18a and 18b with Richard residing in 18c. The map shows field patterns and divisions but shows the Johnston farm as one holding. The Johnston 'farm' was dissected by a road running up and over Johnston's Hill in Aghagaskin townland.

Neighbours to the Johnstons included – to the north (no19) Eliza Kikly (Knightly); to the West (no15) James Kikly sen & jun; to the east (no 22) David & Andrew Lennox and also the Stewarts in 24 & 21 respectively.

All of these families were connected through marriage – the three Johnston brothers' grandmother was a Stewart and that is how the Johnstons came to hold the farm - through marriage.⁶⁵ Likewise the Lennox and Stewart families were related. The name Kikly is also rendered as Knightly or McKnight (McNight) even Keatly. John Johnston of Aghagaskin number 18a in the above map of 1858 was married to Margaret Knightly. In addition John Johnston held an additional farm of land numbered 17 on the map beside Elizabeth Kikly's farm (perhaps endowed to him through marriage). The map shows the close connection in kinship ties between neighbours in a farming area, a common feature of life in rural Ireland in the past. Often farmers' sons and daughters married the neighbouring farmers' sons and daughters. The tight interconnectedness of kinship ties was necessary in an age before mechanization when neighbour relied upon neighbour to help in the busy times such as harvest.

⁶⁵ See registered deed dated 1766 (No: 162706)

In 1858 Benjamin Johnstone senior resided in Killyneese. Having ascertained that his father was James Johnston I have reproduced his ancestral line below taking it back three generations.⁶⁶



The search of the registry of Deeds uncovered one recorded memorial concerning Benjamin Johnston senior.

Registry of Deeds: Volume 5 memorial number 205

Johnston to Bates registered 27 day March 1847

Memorial of an Indented Deed of Conveyance 5 March 1847

Between Benjamin Johnston of Glenmaquil, Londonderry, farmer of the one part & John Bates of Belfast, Antrim of the second part – confirm unto said John Bates said deed, the house formerly occupied by William Lawson together southern portion of the lands situate in Glenmacquill nearly 3 acres plantation Irish as lately occupied by John Johnston & William Lawson together with two fields of land in Toberhead aforesaid of the premises then or lately held by Benj Boon & then in occupation of Edward Marlin & Michael Wallace containing 2 acres of late Irish acres & also two other parcels of Bog in Toberhead aforesaid and also two parcels of bog in Curran in the barony of Loughinsholin, from the first day November then last:

Memorial witnessed by William Henderson, Drumlamph, Land Surveyor & George Young of Cabragh, Termoneeny, farmer both in said county Londonderry:

Ben Johnson <seal>

Benjamin Johnston senior resided in Aghagaskin until at least 1839 but by 1842 was resident in Glenmaquill.⁶⁷ By a registered deed 1847 he offset property and land in Glenmaquill to John Bates. The small farm of 3 acres Irish was in previous occupation of

⁶⁶ We do not know the name of James Johnston's wife (the mother of Benjamin Johnstone).

⁶⁷ Based on church records of baptismal addresses for his children.

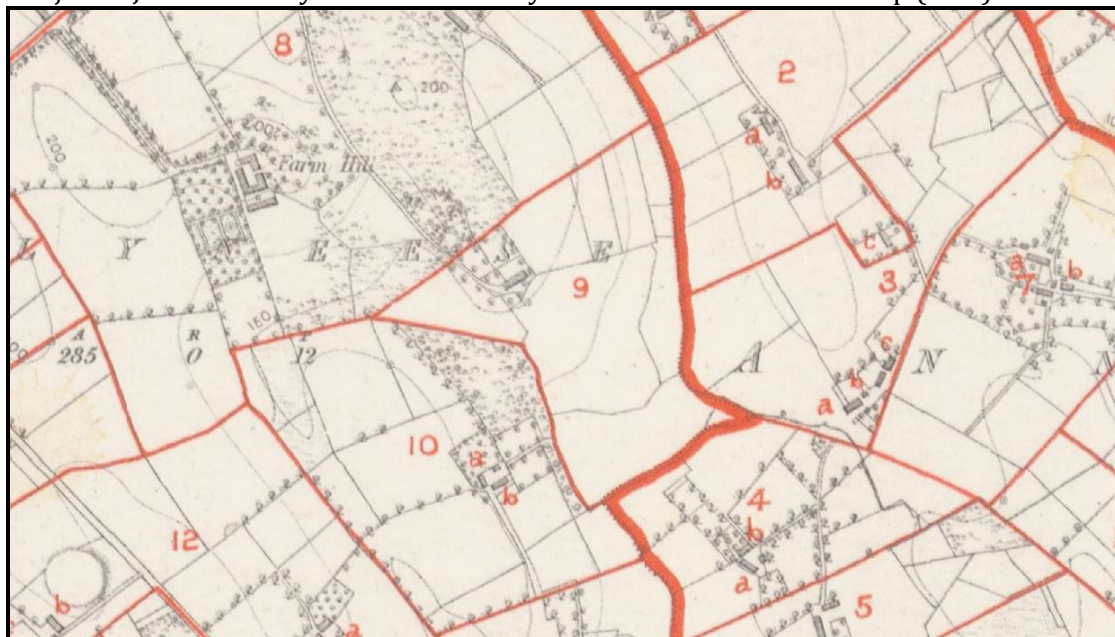
William Lawson and John Johnston.⁶⁸ He also offset two acres in Toberhead and two parcels of bog in Curran. We have no way of knowing how Benjamin Johnston came to have rights in Toberhead and Curran but this possibly came into the family as dowries from marriages and rights passed on. It is probable that after offsetting his property in Glenmaquil that Benjamin Johnston moved to Killyneese where we find him resident at the time of Griffiths' valuation of 1858.

In the previous year his son Benjamin Johnston junior, emigrated with his young family on board Star of the South Assisted Emigration scheme from Liverpool 24 April 1857 arrived Melbourne 5 August 1857.⁶⁹

Killyneese Griffiths Valuation:

No 9: Benjamin Johnston from Salters' company farm of 15 acres, 1 rood, 10 perches.

Benjamin Johnston's Killyneese farm clearly marked on the Griffiths' map (no 9).



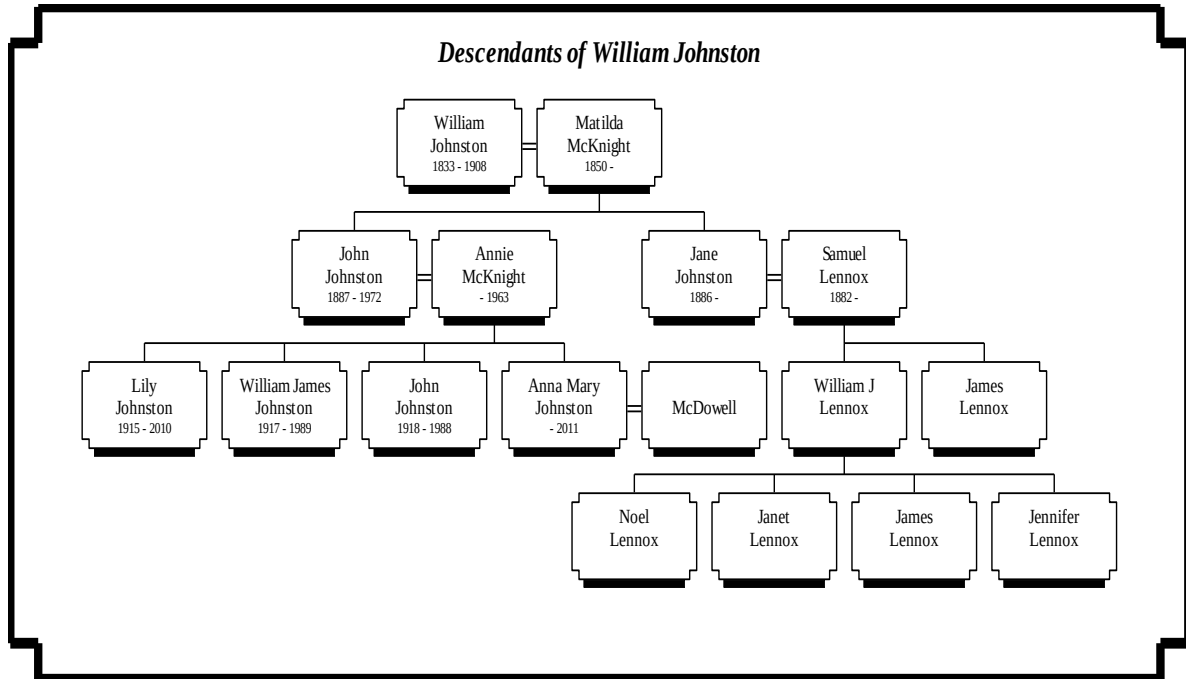
Registered death Benjamin Johnston senior 1879 Killyneese:

23 Jan 1879, Killyneese: Benjamin Johnston male married aged 77 years, farmer; died of Bronchitis, uncertified, no medical attendant; Informant William Johnston x his mark, Killyneese.

William Johnston was his son and he inherited the farm. He married Matilda McKnight in 1884 and his descendants are charted below.

⁶⁸ John Johnston in Glenmaquil may have been a relation - it is possible that Benjamin Johnston inherited this property due to a family connection.

⁶⁹ Book 11 page 446



William Johnston died on 1st January 1908 in Killyneese leaving a will to be probated:

This is the last will and testament of William Johnston Killyneese. I leave and bequeath to my son John all I possess with this proviso that he pay one hundred (100) pounds to my daughter Jane, also that the said son is to support my wife as long as she lives. I leave and bequeath the sum of ten shillings (10s) yearly for all time to be given out of the proceeds of the land

to the Presbyterian church
in Castledawson
I appoint as my executors
William John Duncan of
Killyniece, and Wm Davison
dated this 17th day of April
1907.
Signed.
William ^{his} Johnston
mark
Witness. William Davison
William John Duncan

Probate of the Will of William Johnston late of Killyniece, County Londonderry Farmer who died 1 January 1908 granted at Londonderry to William John Duncan and William Davison Farmers. Probate granted 22 Feb 1909:

Will of James Johnston died 1 Jan 1908, Killyniece

I leave & bequeath to my son John all I possess with the proviso that he pay £100 to my daughter Jane & is to support my wife as long as she lives. 10sh per year to the Presbyterian Church at Castledawson.

Exors - William John Duncan, Killiniece & William Davison

17 April 1907

x mark of Wm Johnston

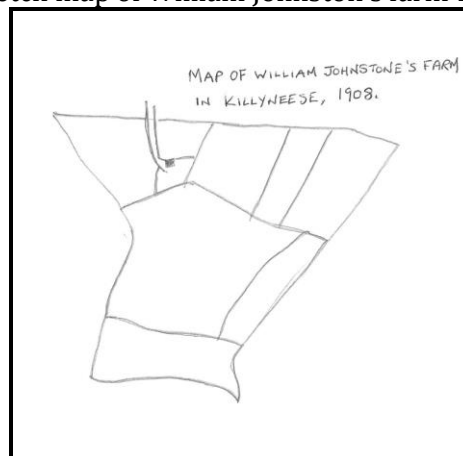
Effects £309: 5sh

Household £5

Stock £46

Freehold £256-5sh

Sketch map of William Johnston's farm 1908



The above sketch is based on the farm map that came with the William Johnston's will and corresponds very well with the Griffiths valuation map.

Benjamin Johnston the emigrant ancestor probably spent his last few days with family in Killyneese before departing for Australia in 1857. We have established that he was, in fact, born in the townland of Aghagaskin circa 1828 son of Benjamin Johnston by Jane Weir. His grandfather was James Johnston who in turn was a son of Thomas Johnston by Mary Stewart. Thomas Johnston had inherited the Stewart farm in 1766 as part of a marriage dowry and thus he became a farmer in Aghagaskin – his father Matthew Johnston was a skilled craftsman, a mason residing in Aghagaskin at the time of the marriage. In Matthew Johnston, we reached the limits of research. The Johnston surname still resonates around Aghagaskin and Johnston's Hill will always be a permanent marker and reminder of the presence of the family in the townland of Aghagaskin.

As mentioned the wife of Benjamin Johnston senior (and mother of the emigrant ancestor Benjamin Johnston junior) was Jane Weir. The Weir family were from the townland of Ballynocker, which also formed part of the Salters' Irish estate and lies contiguous to Aghagaskin. The next line of research was into the family of Jane Weir.

THE WEIR FAMILY OF BALLYKNOCKER



It was known that the Weir family came from Ballynocker and this was contiguous with the townland of Aghagaskin both in the parish of Magherafelt and both lay in the northern section of the Salters' Irish estate. Ballynocker townland itself presents the researcher with problems because of the variety of different spellings of the place name.⁷⁰ This made the search process a little more difficult since my primary research strategy is centred on placename rather than surname.

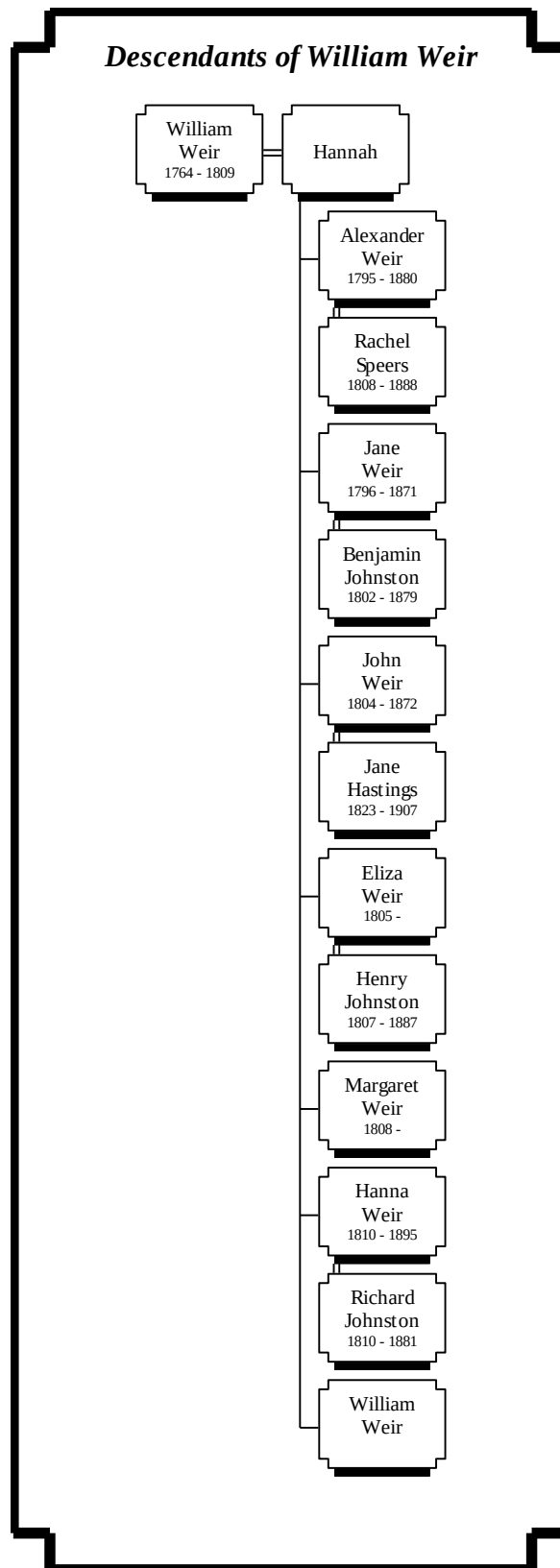
I had already identified from the Johnston family search that three Johnston brothers had married three Weir sisters. It was fortunate that the marriage of Richard Johnston to Hanna Weir occurred on 6 February 1846 less than one year after the compulsory civil registration of protestant marriages in Ireland. The marriage certificate indicated that Hannah Weir was the daughter of William Weir, farmer and since she resided in Ballyncoher and this was again confirmation that the family was from that townland.⁷¹

The Weir family were members of Castledawson Presbyterian Church so it was possible to use the registers of births and marriages to develop a descendant tree from the primogenitor of the family William Weir.⁷²

⁷⁰ Ballyncoher; Ballynoger; Ballyknocker; Ballynocker are just some examples.

⁷¹ Marriage register of First Presbyterian Magherafelt [CR13/B/1]. The witnesses to the marriage were John Weir (Hanna's brother) and William Hastings (Hanna's brother in law). It is important to record witnesses to the vital records of births, marriages and deaths as they often relations and so provide additional clues regarding kinship ties.

⁷² MIC 1P/90: Castledawson Presbyterian registers of baptisms 1809 and marriages from 1805 and also a membership list of 1848.



The Johnston family headstone in Castledawson Presbyterian Church also provided a tantalizing conundrum about the relationship between the Johnston and Weir families.

Erected by John Johnston in memory of John Weir who departed this life 6 March 1870 aged 85 years
Also William Weir died 1809 Ballynougher
The above John Johnston, Tamnadace died 16 December 1905

Analysis of the headstone:

Many hours were initially spent trying to work out the relationship between the people mentioned in this headstone. The relationship of those engraved on the stone was obvious to those who had the headstone erected but with the passage of time was lost to subsequent generations. I am fairly certain now of the relationships involved but only after a significant amount of research into these families (and with new additional family information provided through Janet Lennox, a Johnston and Weir descendant).

William Weir of Ballynoghger who was recorded having died 1809 appears to have been the progenitor of the Weir family as already mentioned. It would also seem that he died as a relatively young man. He was the maternal grandfather of John Johnston mentioned in the headstone. Although John Johnston (1829-1905) was recorded as a resident of Tamnadace he was in fact born in Aghagaskin son of Benjamin Johnston senior by Jane Weir.

John Johnston had inherited a farm in Tamnadace from his relation John Weir.⁷³ So it seemed clear that the Tamnadace Weirs and the Ballynocker Weirs must have been related.

William Weir of Ballynocker (died 1809) appears to have been the uncle of John Weir of Tamnadace⁷⁴ (1785-1870). John Weir was unmarried and left no issue so transferred the family farm to John Johnston. If my calculations are correct John Weir was first cousin (once removed) of John Johnston (who also died without giving issue).⁷⁵

The 1831 census for Tamnadace revealed a household (number 5) headed by a John Weir with 4 males/1 female and 1 female servant present on census night.⁷⁶ Since John Weir (1785-1870) had not been married and had no issue it seemed probable that the John Weir of the 1831 census was his father (and hence brother of William Weir of Ballynocker).

My initial conclusions were confirmed by a pedigree of the Weir family provided by Janet Lennox, a descendant, and appears to have been drawn up from oral tradition within the family. I was delighted that the pedigree had vindicated much of my research and proved that research methodologies were sound. Since I had carried out a lot of field work I am able to confirm that the pedigree provides a very useful and sound template and so it is recorded here for posterity.

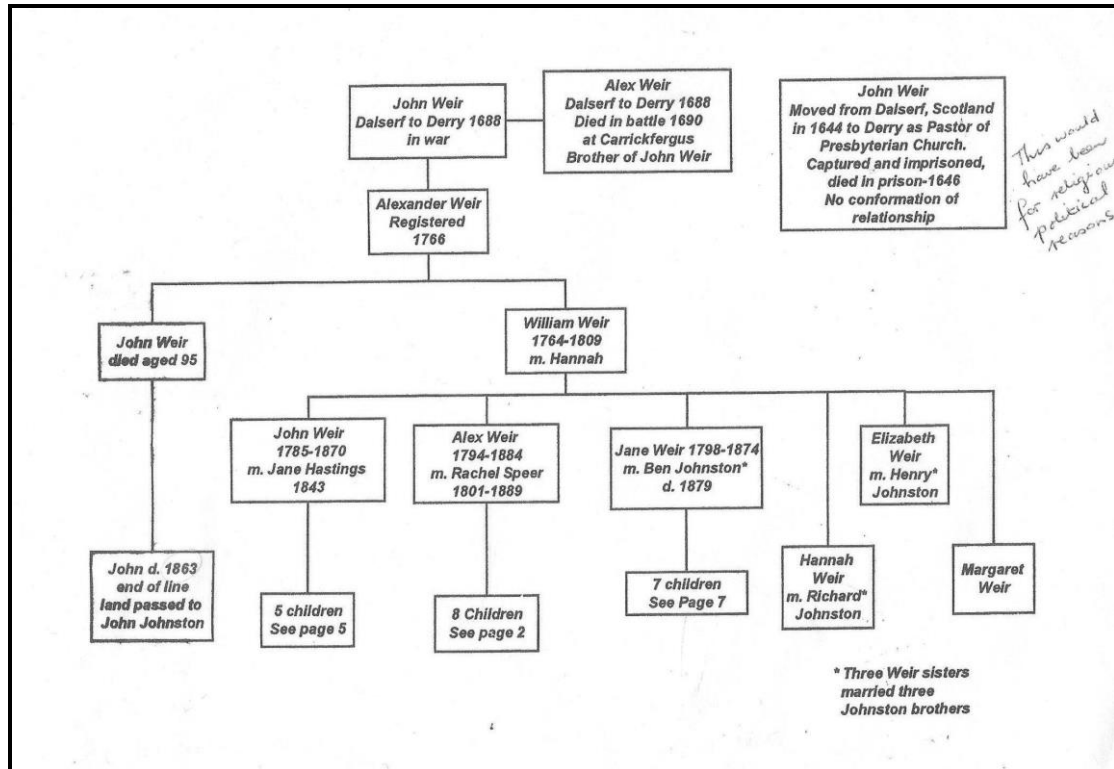
⁷³ This was confirmed in the Griffiths revision books.

⁷⁴ Death certificate confirmed John Weir's address as Tamnadace and informant was John Johnston.

⁷⁵ The Tamnadeese farm came into possession of George Watterson 1904 and John Kane 1907 (Griffiths revision books)

⁷⁶ This was the only Weir family in Tamnadace in the 1831 census.

WEIR PEDIGREE



Analysis of the pedigree:

The above family tree has John Weir (died aged 95 but no date of death forthcoming) as brother of William Weir of Ballynocher. His son John Weir died c.1863 without issue and the farm passed to John Johnston (son of Benjamin Johnston by Jane Weir). The documentary trail proves this land transaction to be a fact but the evidence shows that John Weir died in 1870 and not 1863.

John Weir of Tamnadase

There exists a good run of rentals for the Salters's estate in the archives of PRONI.⁷⁷ John Weir is not listed in the 1778 rental by name but may be part of the partnership group listed under Robert Love. In subsequent rentals John Weir is listed with Love and Thomas Rogers in Tamnadase. It is possible that John Weir moved into Tamnadase as a consequence of marrying someone from that townland.⁷⁸

1778 rental Salters⁷⁹

No 7. Robert Love & partners 44a, 3 r, 37p rent £16-4-1 expiration 1779

1779-1783 rental⁸⁰

Robert Love

Thos Rogers

John Weir

Partners sharing 13a-8r-2p

⁷⁷ Primarily D4108 and D654

⁷⁸ Perhaps to a Love or a Rogers but this is only speculation as I have no proof.

⁷⁹ D654/R/4/2A

⁸⁰ D654/R/4/2B

1795 rental⁸¹

No2. John Weir 13-1-8 rent £6-4-0

1796 rental⁸² ibid

1797 rental⁸³ ibid

1800 rental⁸⁴

No 6. John Weir & James Rogers rent £6-13-5

1812 rental⁸⁵

John Weir 17a, 2r, 25 p rent £13-4-0 lease 13 years

1814 rental⁸⁶

No 6. John Weir 17 a, 2r, 25 p rent £13:4:10

John Weir is first recorded in the 1779 rental, which is useful in terms of trying to estimate his date of birth which (which may have been c.1750-60). Again this would fit with Alexander Weir in the 1766 religious returns being his father (and John Wier of the 1740 Protestant householders' returns may have been his grandfather whom he was named for).⁸⁷

The 1766 religious returns, which generally I have found to be a reliable source indicates that there was only one Weir family in the parish of Magherafelt in the middle of the eighteenth century. It is probable that we are dealing with one family descending from John Weir of the 1740 returns and it seems most likely that he is the progenitor of the Weir family of Ballynoghger.⁸⁸

The 1812 Salters' company rental shows that John Weir's lease was a determinable lease for a fixed period of 13 years. This type of lease was much less valuable than a perpetuity lease and the tenant was more financially vulnerable since the landlord could increase the rent each time upon the expiration of the lease. As the lease was less valuable it is highly unlikely that the transaction involved would have been recorded in the Registry of Deeds.

We know that John Weir junior of Tamnadase was born c. 1784 and died 1870 so it is most likely it is his father John Weir senior who is recorded in the 1796 Flax returns for Magherafelt parish with a premium of two spinning wheels.⁸⁹ It seems probable that it is John Weir junior who is recorded as head of household in the 1831 census and subsequent Griffiths' valuation land records.

⁸¹ D654/R4/3A

⁸² D654/R4/3B

⁸³ D654/R4/4

⁸⁴ D654/R/4/5

⁸⁵ D654/R/4/8

⁸⁶ D4108/4/3/1

⁸⁷ Eighteenth century census substitutes include the 1740 Protestant householders' survey, which has survived for all parishes in the county; the 1766 returns, which has survived for a limited number of parishes including Magherafelt. In addition there are the 1796 Flax returns, essentially a list of farmers who claimed for a premium for growing an agreed amount of flax on their farms.

⁸⁸ The 1831 census shows four Weir households in the parish of Magherafelt again indicating that they were a small clan in the area.

⁸⁹ In addition a James Wier in Magherafelt parish received four wheels (possibly another brother).

1831 census

John Wier 4 males/1female 1 female servant (5 Presbyterian 1 RC).

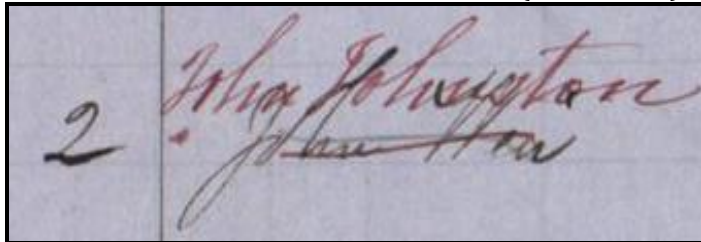
There were four males recorded in the Weir property on census night, which includes the head of household John Weir. Castledawson Presbyterian registers do not record any Weirs from Tamnadase using the church for marriages or baptisms.⁹⁰ John Weir junior was unmarried and had no issue so his farm passed to his cousin John Johnston of Aghagaskin, (this may indicate no male descendants in the Tamnadase line due to a lack of issue or perhaps emigration). I have uncovered several source of material evidence to prove the oral tradition that the Tamnadase farm passed from John Weir to John Johnston.

In the 1858 Griffiths valuation for Tamnadeese John Weir is recorded as a substantial farmer with the Salters' company:

No2. John Weir 38 acres, 10p from Worshipful Company of Salters

Griffiths valuation has often been described as a 'useful census substitute' but that underplays the genealogical significance of this important source to the family historian since the books were periodically updated and changes in occupancy recorded.⁹¹ As you can see below the 'cancelled' book for Tamnadase shows the name of John Weir being replaced by John Johnston. The red ink corresponds to a date, 1876, when the change was recorded. This would usually be an indication that the occupier was deceased and therefore the farm transferred to another person often a relation. I find these cancelled books most useful in terms of helping to narrow down the search for a registered death. In this case it seemed likely that John Weir had died sometime between 1864 (when this cancelled book was started) and 1876. A search in the archive of GRONI in Belfast proved this to be the case and the registered death of John Weir (recorded below) occurred in 1870.⁹²

Griffiths revision books for Tamnadase⁹³ (1864-1878)



The name of John Weir was stroked out in 1876 and replaced by John Johnston.

⁹⁰ May have used another local Church but the Weir family appear to have been attached to Castledawson congregation so this perhaps indicates a lack of issue in the Tamnadase line.

⁹¹ I am certain that even if the census returns for the nineteenth century had survived for Ireland that the genealogist would still be using Griffiths valuation and the updated books since they contain a wealth of genealogical material. In addition there are maps that accompany the valuation that show both property and land occupancy so it is possible to trace exact residency and farms of ancestors from mid nineteenth century.

⁹² This search of the registered births, marriages and deaths in N Ireland can now be carried out online since the GRONI platform came live in 2014.

⁹³ VAL12/B/34/18B

Registered death

6 March 1870 Tamnadace John Weir male bachelor aged 85 years Homoplegia 17 years right side uncertified no medical attendant - Informant - John Johnston present at death Tamnadace 24 March 1870

In addition the manor of Sal rental also records the change in occupancy:

Manor of Sal rental 1869-1871 D4108/4/4/1

PLU rates⁹⁴

Tamnadee No16 - John Weir stroked out replaced by John Johnston, Cartright's return (March 1871).

Family tradition also maintained that John Johnston of Tamnadase died unmarried and without issue and the registered death entry proved that this was indeed the case.

Registered death

16 Dec 1905 Tamnadace John Johnston male bachelor aged 80 years farmer of Bronchitis & Cardiac disease 21 days certified: Informant George Watterson present at death Tamnadace: 20 Dec 1905.

With the death of John Johnston the Tamnadase farm passed out of the family and it was in possession of George Watterson⁹⁵ (informant of John Johnston's death) about 1904 and subsequently John Kane c.1907.

The Weir family of Ballynogher:

With regard to the Weir family in Ballynogher, the family pedigree has Hanna as wife of William Weir (1764-1809). I have found no evidence to substantiate the name of William Weir's wife but one daughter was named Hanna Weir (1810-1895) so I have no reason to doubt the oral history of the family.⁹⁶ With regard to their children I am in agreement with the outlined pedigree but have added a William Weir (junior) to the tree since he appears in the 1831 census in Ballynogher and the following year a William Weir acted as a witness to the marriage of Bess Weir to Henry Johnston.

It seems probable that William and Alexander Weir recorded in the 1831 census for Ballynogher were brothers.

1831 census Ballynogher

No 34: Wm Wier 2m/4f [6]

No 47: Alex'r Wier 2m/1f [3P].

The pedigree takes the family tree back one further generation indicating that Alexander Weir was the father of William and John Weir. The date indicated (1766) refers to the religious returns. In March and April 1766 Church of Ireland rectors were instructed by the government to make a return of all householders in their parishes showing their religion. Unfortunately the original returns were lost in the 1922 fire in the Four Courts, Dublin. We therefore have to rely on the transcripts of Tenison Groves.

The returns for Magherafelt lists Alex'r Wier, Dissenter in the parish 1766. It seems likely that he was the progenitor of the family. Indeed this is supported by the statistical

⁹⁴ Poor Law Union

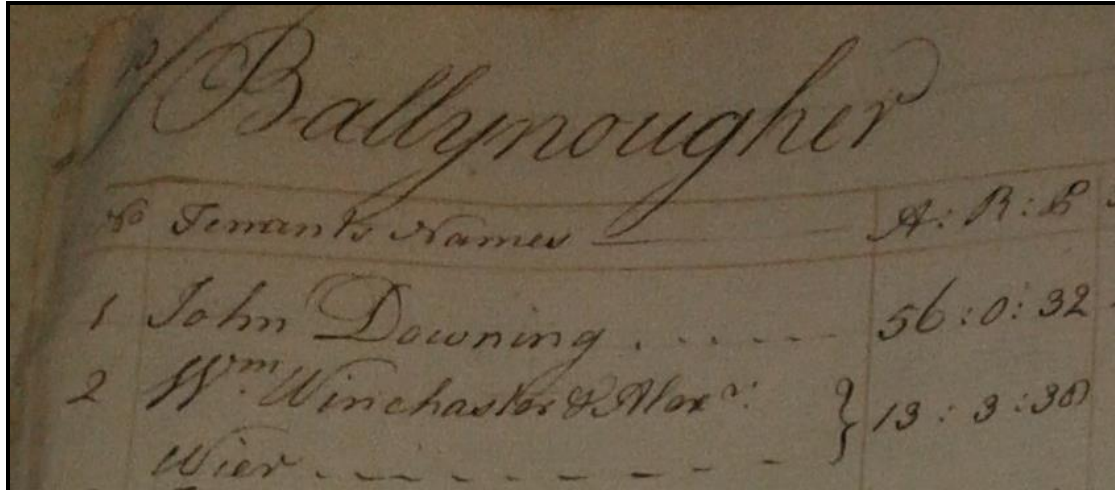
⁹⁵ I have found no evidence to suggest the Wattersons were related to the Weirs or the Johnstons.

⁹⁶ Only William Weir is listed on the Johnston headstone.

evidence as there was only four Weir families in the parish of Magherafelt in the 1831 census almost certainly all were related.

A search of the rentals for the Salters' estate confirmed that Alex'r Wier of the 1766 religious returns did indeed reside in Ballynougher townland in a joint tenancy with Wm Winchester for a farm of 13 acres: 3 rood & 38 perches

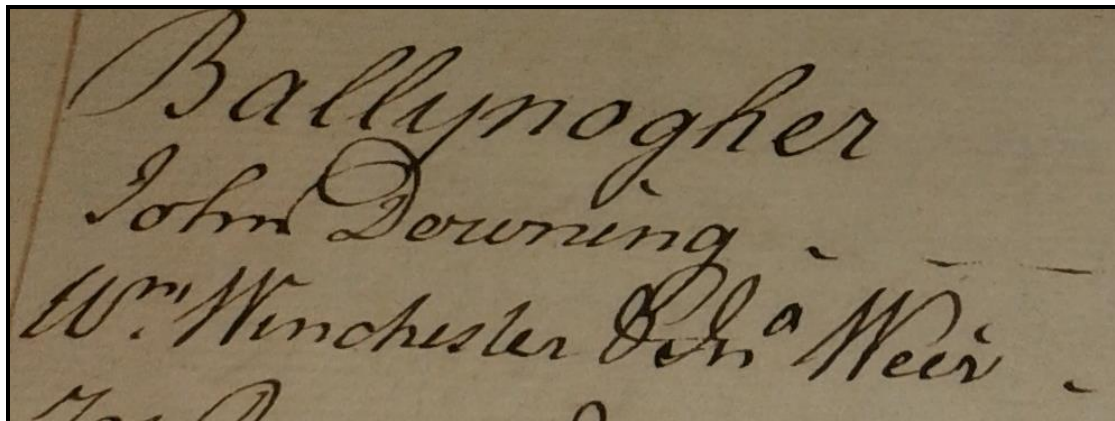
1778 rental Salters' Irish estate ⁹⁷



Tenant's Name	A: R: P:
1 John Downing	56:0:32
2 Wm Winchester & Alex'r Wier	13:3:38

In addition, a search of the 1740 Protestant householders' survey lists one John Weir (sic) in Magherafelt parish. It is probable that he was the father of Alexander Weir of the 1766 census and 1778 rentals.

1779-1783 rental ⁹⁸



Tenant's Name	A: R: P:
John Downing	
Wm Winchester & John Weir	

Appears to show Jno (John) Weir with Wm Winchester paying a rent of £5: 9: 10. It is likely that is the John Weir, son of Alexander Weir whom who also held the farm in Tamnadase. I suspect that Alexander Weir had died hence the change of name indicating perhaps that John Weir was the eldest son.

The next series of rentals shows William Weir as occupying a farm in Ballynoghger:

⁹⁷ D654/R/4/2A

⁹⁸ D654/R/4/2B

1795 rental Ballynogher⁹⁹

No 8. William Weir 7a, 2r, 4p rent £5:8:6 value £14.

1796 rental¹⁰⁰ ibid

1797 rental¹⁰¹ ibid

1800 rental Ballynogher¹⁰²

No 8. William Wier rent £5-8-6

1812 rental Ballynogher¹⁰³

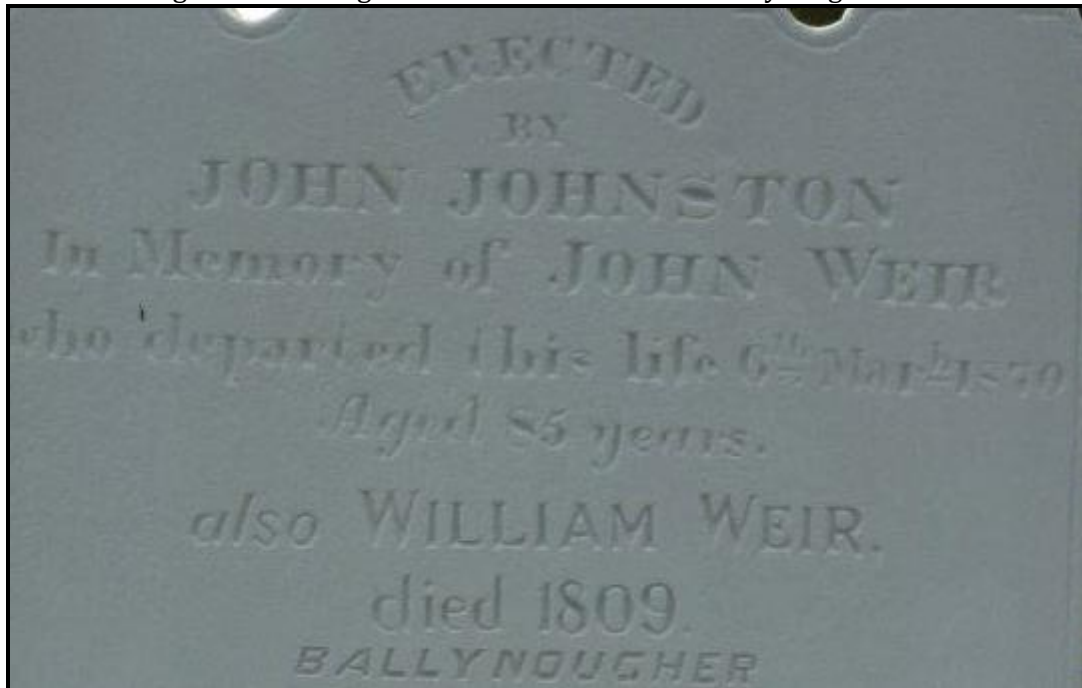
No 8. William Weir 7a, 3r, 0 p rent £5:8:6¹⁰⁴

1814 rental Ballynogher¹⁰⁵

No 8. William Weir 7a, 2r rent £5-8-6.¹⁰⁶

The evidence points to Alexander Weir in occupation of Ballynogher and his son John Weir moving to Tamnadase and another son William Weir remaining in Ballynogher.

John Johnston had an inscription placed posthumously on the family headstone memorialising his maternal grandfather William Weir of Ballynougher died 1809.



⁹⁹ D654/R4/3A

¹⁰⁰ D654/R4/3B

¹⁰¹ D654/R4/4

¹⁰² D654/R/4/5

¹⁰³ D654/R/4/8

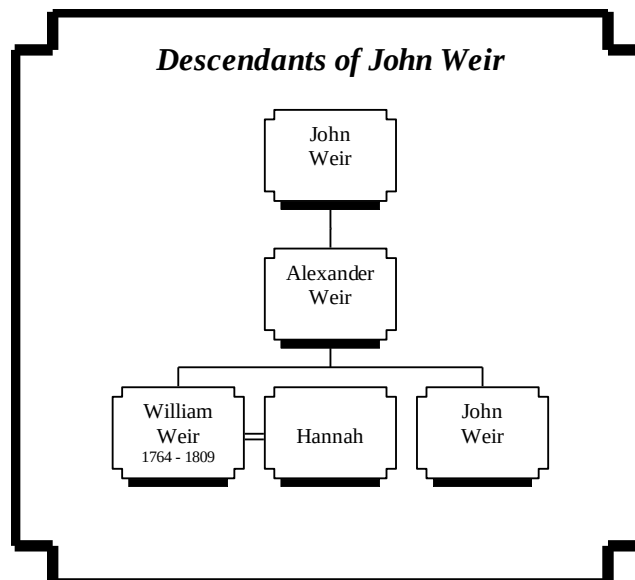
¹⁰⁴ The difference in size of the farm is probably due to different measurements used.

¹⁰⁵ D4108/4/3/1

¹⁰⁶ Both the 1812 and 1814 rental show that John Weir held in trust the farm of William Winchester numbered 7 on the rent schedule.

The headstone gives a date of death for John Weir of 1809. The last child baptised to William Weir of Ballynoger in the Castledawson registers occurred on the 21st April 1810.¹⁰⁷ This headstone was erected posthumously so the date of death might not be exact. Also we see a William Weir in the Salters' rentals for 1812 and 1814, which also challenges the date of death on the headstone.¹⁰⁸ I do not have any real answers for this discrepancy but it would be my interpretation of the family history that William Johnston died quite young around 1809. This date is taken to be an approximation since the headstone was probably erected around 1870. Unless, there was a family Bible it is hard to determine how the family would have known the date of death, leaving a certain margin of error, perhaps.

The documentary evidence uncovered corresponds well with the family pedigree, which I have found to be internally consistent. It is probable then that John Weir listed in the 1740 household returns also resided in Ballynoger so I have included him as the family patriarch in the outline tree below.¹⁰⁹



Family tradition records that the Weir family had its origins in the area of Dalserf in Lanark, Scotland and came to Ireland around the time of the siege of Derry. Whether this oral history is accurate cannot at this time be verified but there is no doubt that the Weirs were Scottish in origin.

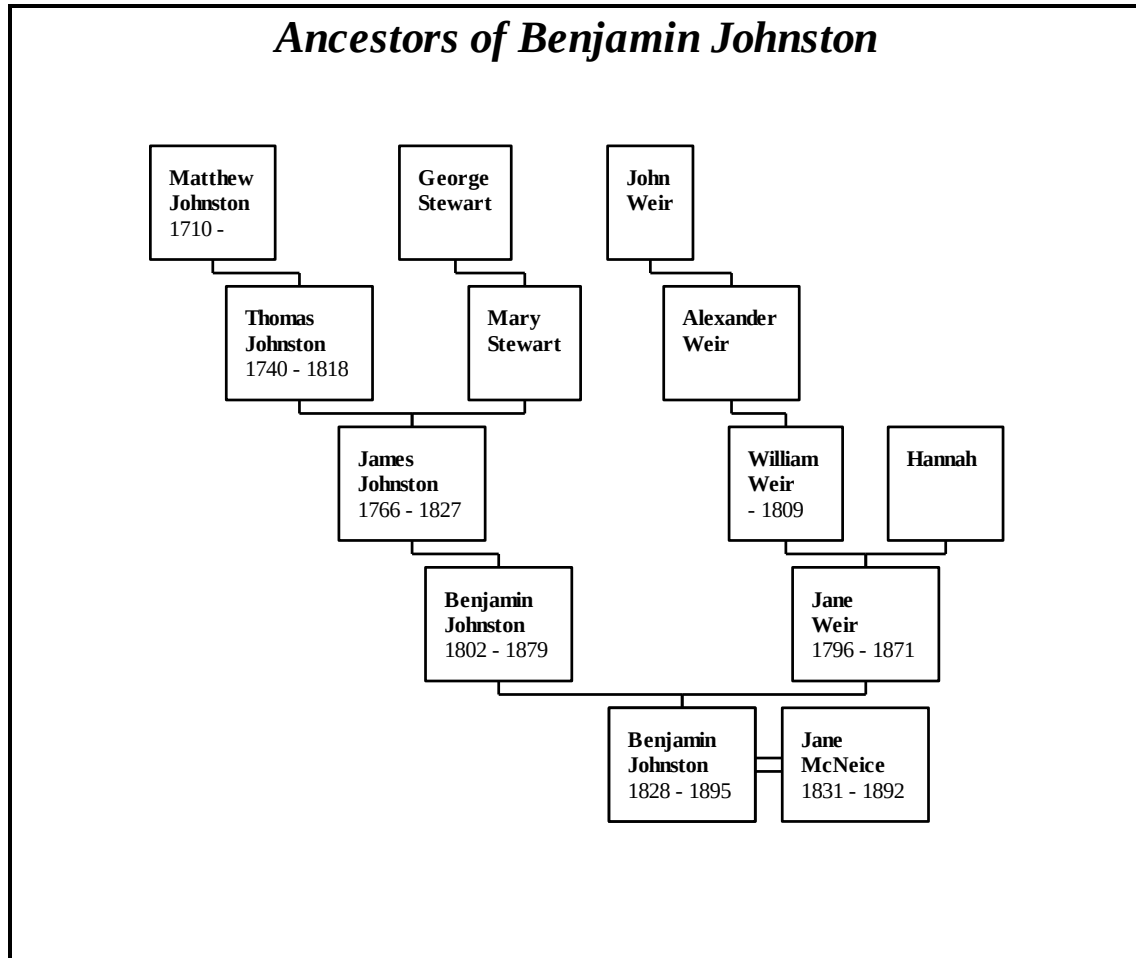
The paternal and maternal line of the emigrant ancestor Benjamin Johnston (1828-1895) is therefore outlined below for completeness.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁷ 1810 April 21st Hanna (daughter) of William Weir, Ballynocher

¹⁰⁸ It is also possible that this may have been his son, William Weir junior.

¹⁰⁹ This is a hypothetical tree based on best available evidence but I am confident that the records and oral tradition supports this narrative given that there appears to have been only one Weir family in the parish of Magherafelt.

¹¹⁰ Note that some of the dates I have entered in the early family tree are speculative due to a lack of vital records but are based on the best available evidence.



Having completed the Johnston/Weir line, attention was turned to the paternal and maternal line of Jane McNiece (1831-1892) wife of Benjamin Johnston (1802-1879).

It transpired that both the paternal and maternal ancestors of Jane McNiece had their origins in the townland of Toberhead, which lies north of and contiguous with both Aghagaskin and Ballynocker. Despite the close proximity Toberhead lies in a different parish (Maghera) and formed part of the company of Vintners' Bellaghy estate. This location proved to be fortuitous since the Vintners' records are quite substantial and a rich source for the family historian.

It will be remembered that the death record of Benjamin Johnston in Australia 1895 recorded that he was the son of Benjamin Johnstone and **Betsy McCull** of Londonderry, Ireland. The mistake is now clear that the information given by the family recorded the maternal grandmother rather than the paternal grandmother for Benjamin's death. It was Jane McNiece Johnston who was the daughter of Elizabeth McCull or McCool. The McCools were an early Toberhead family and were originally a Quaker family, which opened up the possibility of further research into the Quaker church records, which generally are superior to other church records in Ireland. In addition I uncovered in PRONI detailed records of a family dispute over land that revealed the maternal grandmother of Jane McNiece was a Backhouse, another family with Quaker origins in Toberhead. Both McCool and Backhouse families resided in Toberhead on the Vintners' Irish estate.

The records also revealed that Jane McNiece's mother (Elizabeth McNiece nee McCool) had remarried after the death of her husband John McNiece to a William Morton

(another family with early origins in the area in the townland of Ballynocker). Morton appears to have been a fiery character and it is a result of his litigious actions over property rights that so much family evidence has come to light (Morton Papers). The Morton papers, in addition to the Quaker and Vintner's estate records allied with the Registry of Deeds opened an archive of material on the family of McCool that has allowed me to trace the family back to the seventeenth century with a degree of confidence rarely afforded to an Irish researcher (and in addition the Backhouse family to the very early eighteenth century).

Irish genealogical research is difficult, time-consuming and often frustrating but perseverance is a necessary attribute in order to succeed. It is almost impossible to successfully engage in Irish family research in the period before civil registration without the support of a competent professional researcher digging into the actual records in the various archives.¹¹¹ Land is key to success. Search place rather than surname. The genealogist is not only a family researcher but also a competent local historian since knowledge of place and seeking out the sources pertaining to that place are the keys to unlocking the past.

Toberhead proved to be a productive location in terms of evidential source material, which allowed us to unlock the family history and extend the tree back into the seventeenth century.

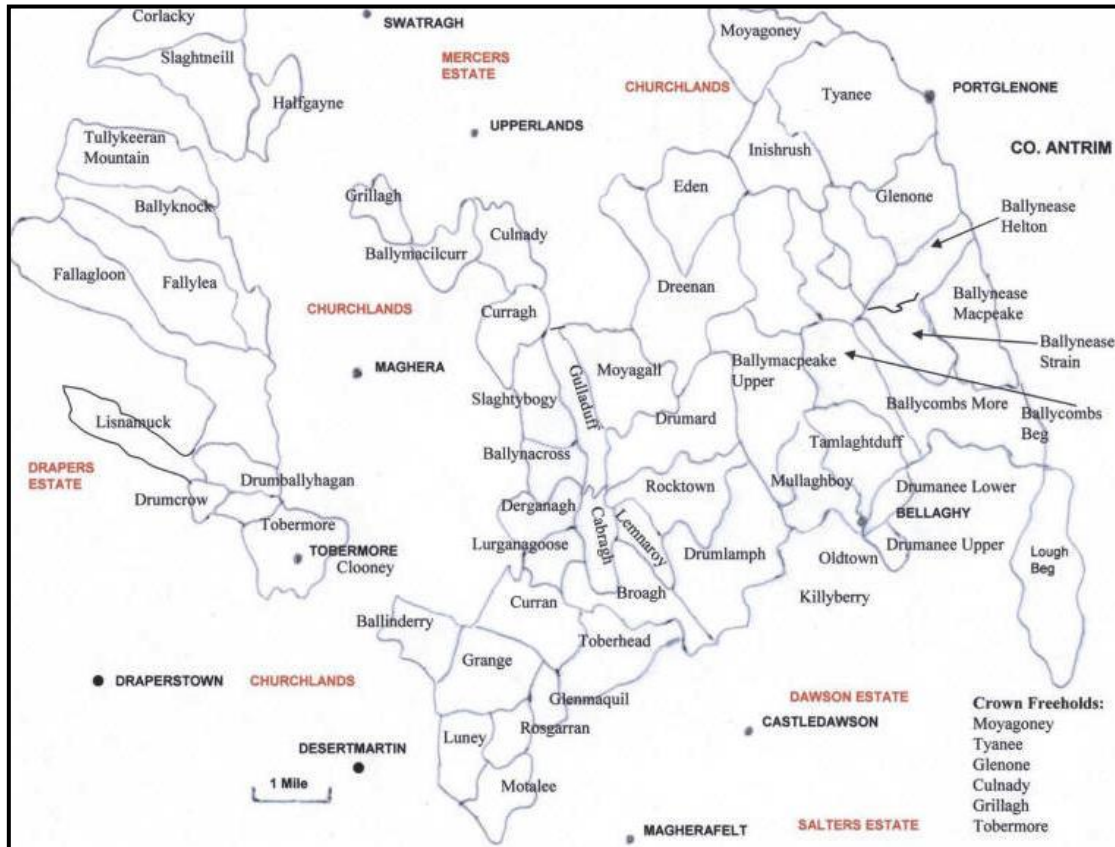
In order to maximise the utility of the evidence d one needs to understand the historical context of the records uncovered. Toberhead formed part of the Vintners' Irish estate (often called the Bellaghy estate). The Bellaghy estate was purchased by William Conolly, (a man of humble origins from Ballyshannon, county Donegal) who subsequently became speaker of the Irish House of Commons and one of the largest landlords and wealthiest men in Ireland. Conolly was a progressive landlord in his era because he favoured granting perpetuity leases as a means to creating a strong, progressive and upwardly mobile tenantry. Effectively perpetuity leases were freeholds and entitled the holder of the lease to a vote. This was one of the reasons why Speaker Conolly granted freeholds on his estates.

¹¹¹ It is of course possible for the amateur to undertake the search in the archives themselves if they have spent time studying and learning the research methodologies that are necessary for Irish research.

THE VINTNER'S BELLAGHY ESTATE COUNTY LONDONDERRY

As you can see from the map below of the Vintners' estate there was a scattered distribution of townlands within the estate. They were separated in places by churchland or land held by the Mercers' company. The area of particular interest for our study centres on townland of Toberhead which lay to the southern portion of the estate. The estate covered a wide area and lay within the civil parishes of Killelagh, Maghera, Tamlaght O'Crilly, Ballyscullion, Termoneeny, Kilcronaghan and Desertmartin.

MAP OF VINTNERS' ESTATE¹¹²



Landlords were often absent from their estates yet a knowledge of the history of the proprietor of the estates can often provide valuable additional clues with regard to the tenants on their estates. The Vintners' company leased their lands to John Rowley and Baptist Jones in 1619 for 57 years. In 1625, the lease was taken over by Henry Conway. Following the 1641 rebellion Sir John Clotworthy acquired Conway's lease without the Company's knowledge. Clotworthy was accused of stripping the woods on the estate and the Company appointed Lawrence Cox as their agent in 1658. Despite his misdemeanours, Clotworthy remained as the company's chief tenant. In 1660 Clotworthy became Viscount Massereene and by 1669 his son-in-law, the Second Viscount Massereene was in charge. In 1673 he obtained a new lease of 61 years [with a fine of £2,000 and an annual rent of £200]. It is in this period that the progenitor of the McCool family made his first appearance in the local records (Quaker registers 1688/1689). John McCool may have been in possession of a strong lease but the absence of estate records for the Massereene Bellaghy estate are prescriptive in this regard.

¹¹² CD: Tracing Derry/Londonderry Ancestors; Macafee. My thanks to Billy for kind permission to reproduce the map.

William Conyngham of Moneymore was commissioned by the Company to survey the estate in 1697 but Massereene would not co-operate. The company appointed William Conolly (later Speaker of the Irish House of Commons) as their agent and he appears to have seized the estate because Massereene was in arrears. Conolly took over the estate in 1714 when Massereene died. We are fortunate that a large collection of material is extant for the estate under Conolly's tenure for the eighteenth century.

The opening decades of the 18th century were a time of economic depression hence many of the inhabitants and tenants emigrated to America leaving their lands.¹¹³ The 1718 rental bears out this testimony and shows the Vintners' estate leased out to middlemen in large tracts at low rents – most of these were long established British families – Browne, Clark, Rowley, Arrell, Stafford and Downing. This abrogation of duties by the London Companies and the subletting to middlemen was considered to be the worst feature of the land system in county Derry in the eighteenth century.

In 1729 Conolly was negotiating to purchase the estate in fee simple for £6,000 and a rent of £200 with two fat bucks. After a survey of the estate by the Company's surveyor Sloan, Conolly increased his offer to £15,000. Conolly died during 1729 and the purchase of the estate was completed by his nephew, also a William Conolly and he had obtained the deeds by 1737. £10,000 of the purchase money was due by 1734, which helps to explain the granting of so many perpetuities on the estate at that time. Because perpetuities included initial fines that were reasonably substantial this was a quick way of raising cash initially. Also tenants holding perpetuities were regarded as freeholders and freeholders could vote.

As mentioned the Vintners' estate was leased in perpetuity to William Conolly in 1734 at the yearly rent of £200 and '*a brace of good bucks or £12 in lieu thereof*'.¹¹⁴ The estate contained 32,600 acres [48-50 square miles]. Whilst researching for this paper I noted in the registry of Deeds that Conolly granted several perpetuity leases in 1734 to both native Irish and British settlers. The McCools were one family that succeeded in obtaining a perpetuity lease in 1734 represented by Archibald McCool son of the original John.

The subsequent history of the estate was somewhat complicated. The nephew, William Conolly was succeeded by his son Thomas Conolly and after his death the estate passed into the hands of various persons who, through marriages to females within the Conolly connection, managed to acquire an interest in the estate. In 1836 the estate was in the hands of the Marquis of Lothian, the Earl of Strafford, the Earl of Clancarty and Colonel Conolly, who were tenants-in-common. Strafford, for example, acquired his interest through the marriage of Anne Conolly [the daughter of the Rt. Hon. William Conolly] to George Byng of Wrotham Park. Byng was the family name of the Straffords. Lord Strafford, et.al held the estate until the compulsory Land Purchase Act of 1921.

¹¹³ D2094/21

¹¹⁴ D1062/1/16

TOBERHEAD AND THE VINTERS' ESTATE

The area of particular interest for our study centres on townland of Toberhead on the Vintners' estate. Three of the families under investigation were rooted in the townland of Toberhead namely - McNiece, McCool and Backhouse. The latter two families were originally Quaker in origin but later Presbyterian. The McNiece family were Presbyterian but I do not preclude the possibility that they had been a Quaker family at an earlier time.¹¹⁵

THE McNEICE FAMILY TREE

Jane Johnston nee McNiece wife of Benjamin Johnston:

Jane Johnston died Sunday 25th December 1892, Bendigo aged 56 years - interred in White Hills cemetery: Section C1.

According to her death record Jane Johnston died in East Melbourne Hospital aged 60 years. Father unknown and Mother unknown. It appears that the family may not have been present to give the information about her death. This often happened if someone died in hospital a distance from home.¹¹⁶

Benjamin Johnston's death certificate 1895 gave his wife's name as Jane Johnston formerly McNease as seen below:



Armed with this knowledge it was easy to find the marriage of Benjamin Johnston to Jane McNiece which occurred in Castledawson Presbyterian Church in 1854.¹¹⁷

1854 Marriage solemnized at <i>Castledawson</i> in the <i>Parish</i> of <i>Magherafelt</i> in the <i>County of Londonderry</i>							
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.
78	<i>21 February 1854</i>	<i>Benjamin Johnston</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>Bachelor</i>	<i>Labourer</i>	<i>Killinore</i>	<i>Benjamin Johnston</i>
		<i>Jane McNiece</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>Spinster</i>		<i>Toberhead</i>	<i>John McNiece</i>
Married in the <i>Presbyterian Church</i> according to the Form and Discipline of the Presbyterian Church, By <i>James Johnston</i> by me, <i>Robert Carr</i>							
This Marriage was solemnized between us, <i>Benjamin Johnston</i> and <i>Jane McNiece</i>				in the Presence of us, <i>James Johnston</i> and <i>Robert Carr</i>			

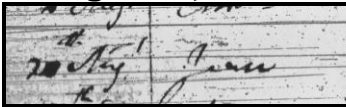
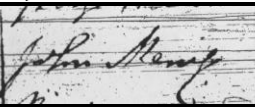
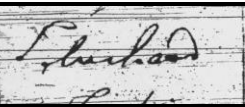
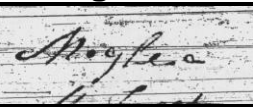
According the marriage certificate Jane McNiece was aged 21 in 1854, which gave her a birth date of c. 1832/1833. The McNiece surname is subject to an array of spelling variations and it would have been easy to miss the baptismal entry for Jane McNiece in the Castledawson Presbyterian church registers since the minister recorded the surname as Meniss. This indicated that she was baptised in 1831 and was from the

¹¹⁵ I have not uncovered any direct evidence that the McNiece family of Toberhead were Quaker.

¹¹⁶ Someone in the hospital probably gave the details for the death.

¹¹⁷ Castledawson Presbyterian marriages MIC 1P/90

townland of Toberhead, the daughter of John McNeice confirming the details on the marriage certificate.

20 Aug 1831 Jane	John Meniss	Toberhead	Maghera
			

Castledawson Presbyterian register of baptisms¹¹⁸
20 Aug 1831 Jane of John Meniss Toberhead, Maghera.

In addition the registers identified one other McNeice baptism:

10 Aug 1829 Arch'd of John McNiss of Toberhead, Maghera

I took Archibald McNeice to be a sibling to Jane. But the trail ended after the baptism of Jane in 1831. No other children were baptised to a John McNeice in the registers. In addition the only McNeice household listed in the 1831 census for Toberhead was headed by a Thomas McNeice. The absence of John McNeice in the census returns was unexpected.

1831 head of household Tubberhead
No 45 Thos McNeice 2 households 3 males 6 females 9 Presbyterians

Notice that this household had two families present so it was possible that John McNeice's family was residing with another relation (Thomas McNeice could have been a brother or father).

Additional fragmentary evidence from the tithe's book for Maghera and the registers of Castledawson Presbyterian Church gave indication of another McNeice family in Toberhead.

Daniel McNeice senior had a son baptised in Castledawson Presbyterian Church:
14 July 1806 Daniel of Daniel Menise, Toberhead.¹¹⁹

1827 Tithe book Toberhead, Maghera
Danl McNeese senior had a farm of 12a, 2roods
Daniel McNeese junior had a farm of 5a, 2roods

1831 was headed by Daniel McNeiss (probably, senior):
1831 census Tubberhead
Daniel McNeiss head 3males/3females 6 Presbyterian

I was less than hopeful in developing the McNeice line any further and believed that I had probably reached the limits of my research.

As mentioned previously a key research methodology is centered on locating sources pertaining to the placename under consideration. I was mindful that like surnames the spelling of placenames was subject to a great variation in the older records. Toberhead was also rendered as Tuberhead or Tubberhead.

¹¹⁸ Castledawson Presbyterian baptisms MIC 1P/90

¹¹⁹ Castledawson Presbyterian births MIC 1P/90

It was this search for sources in the e-CATNI PRONI catalogue that provided the breakthrough on the McNeice family and also the allied families of McCool, Bachouse and Morton. I outline below how I use the catalogue to find relevant documents pertaining to Toberhead pre civil registration (1864).

1. Searching for returns on Toberhead narrowed by year 1600-1864.

Search eCatalogue

Search using one or more of the fields below.

Any Text : [Show Help](#)

☒ Description and Title
 ☐ Description Only
 ☐ Title Only

☒ Match ALL words
 ☐ Match ANY word
 ☐ Match Phrase

Date : Year To Year [Show Help](#)

Month Month

Day Day

PRONI Ref : [Show Help](#)

Results per Page : Sort By :

[Search](#) [Clear](#)

2. The search returned 8 'hits'.

PRONI Reference	Date(s)	Title/Description
D1044/192	29 August 1769	Thomas and James Nicholson, Dublin to Thomas
D1062/1	c.1700-1942	Estate papers of the Earl of Strafford at Bellaghy, Co. Londonderry.
D4480/1/1	27 July 1827	Will of Archibald McCool of Toberhead in
ED/6/2/3/2	1860-1906	National Schools' Correspondence Registers
LPC/697	1 April 1734	Lease of Toberhead, Co. Londonderry from
MIC16/43	1740-1834	ANTRIM OR GRANGE MONTHLY MEETING [GRANGE
T717/1	1717-1832	Prerogative will extracts of: Edmond
VAL/2/B/5/37F	1856	Parish/Town of Maghera - 6, in the Barony

3. The will of Archibald McCool was from a larger collection D4480 so I wanted to know what else was in this archive. Instead of search I used the 'browse function' for D4480 as illustrated below.

Search eCatalogue

Browse eCatalogue

Browse PRONI collections or navigate up and down the levels of a specific archive:

Input a PRONI reference
e.g. MIC354 or D623/B - please note that you cannot use the wildcard function (*)

D4480

Or

Select the individual letter then the archive prefix
e.g. V and then VAL to browse Valuation Records
D and then D623 to browse the Abercorn Papers
M and then MIC354 to browse the 1901 Census

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#)

4. Here are the results from using the browse function for D4480 called 'Morton Family Papers'. The archive was broken down into two units.

Search eCatalogue

Search Results

[D4480](#) D4480 Morton Family Papers

[1 - 2]

PRONI Reference	Title	
D4480/1	19th century papers	1827-1900
D4480/2	20th century papers	1900-1997

[1 - 2]

5. Having clicked on the D4480/1 (blue above) there is a further breakdown of the archive as seen below.

[D4480](#) D4480 Morton Family Papers

[D4480/1](#) D4480/1 19th century papers

[1 - 5]

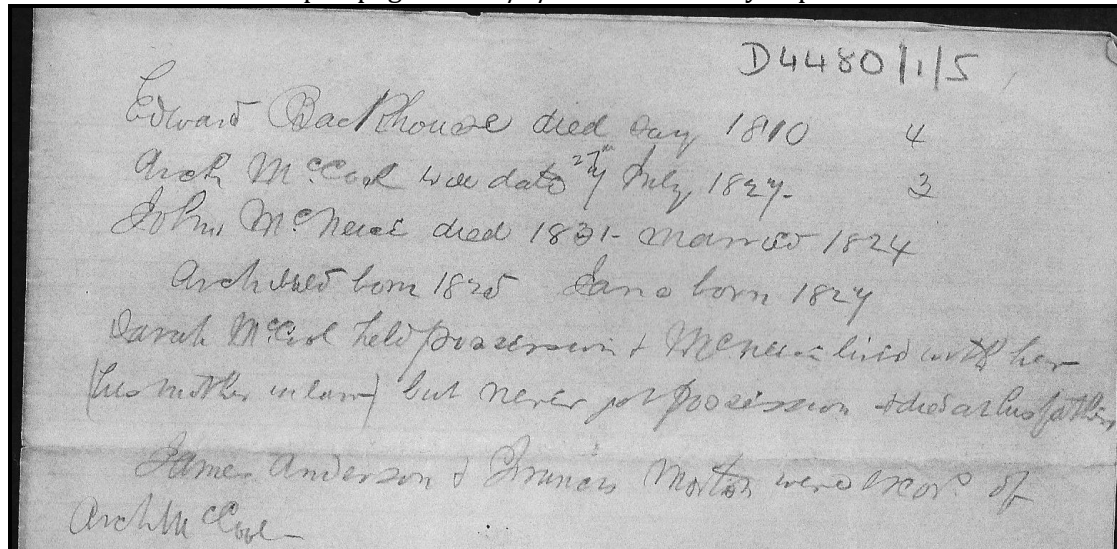
PRONI Reference	Title	Date(s)
D4480/1/1	Will of Archibald McCool of Toberhead in	27 July 1827
D4480/1/2	Fragment/Extract from a Will entitled "Memorandum of Edward Backhouse" regarding a dispute over property ownership/ rights, in relation to 14 English acres, valued at £350 sterling. No location is na	c. 1850
D4480/1/3	A letter, consisting of a double folded	4 March 1852
D4480/1/4	Letter to Mr John Morton, addressed from	11 August 1862
D4480/1/5	A4 paper, written on one side, with handwritten	1810-1860

The D4480 archive revealed that there were five interesting items concerning a number of families in Toberhead but at this stage I had no real idea if I would find anything relevant to the McNiece family.¹²⁰ I ordered the documents in order to have a closer look. It transpired that some of the documents from the Morton Family Papers were concerned about a legal dispute about land ownership in the townland of Toberhead. In addition there was a wonderful outline of the family history of the Mortons of Ballynougher back to the seventeenth century but at this stage I was not aware of any connection between the McNieces and Mortons.

¹²⁰ D4480/1/1 through to D4480/1/5

Some of the documents were penciled notes and the handwriting was difficult to decipher. Some of the material was genealogical in nature providing names and dates in an effort to clarify legal aspects of the land dispute. I soon realized that the Morton papers were significant when I identified the name of John McNiece who was recorded as having died 1831 married 1824. I ordered a photocopy of all five documents in order to study them more closely at home.

Top of page D4480/1/5 Morton Family Papers



It soon became clear that I had uncovered valuable family papers with regard to the maternal ancestry of Jane McNiece (wife of Benjamin Johnston). The Morton Papers opened up a vista on the family that provided further research opportunities in the Registry of Deeds and the local Quaker records for Toberhead. I spent quite a substantial amount of time reading through each document and trying to understand the context of the Morton Papers to the point that I was able to recognize even the short hand of the author. This time was well spent as the papers turned out to be genealogical treasure trove and the fulcrum for unlocking the family history of the allied families of McNiece, McCool, and Backhouse all from the townland of Toberhead.

McNiece genealogy continued.

The McNiece line still proved to be quite problematic. Both McCool and Backhouse families were to be found in the local Quaker records and also held perpetuity leases in the Vintner's estate and the uncovering of additional material made the search for these families much easier. I uncovered no evidence of McNiece in the Quaker records nor did they hold a strong lease for their farm in Toberhead. Nevertheless, certain details from the Morton Papers were fundamental in helping to draw up a somewhat tentative and sketchy tree for the McNiece family taking us back into the mid-eighteenth century.

Analysis of the Morton Papers with regard to the McNiece family (*italics mine*).

D4480/1 stated the following:¹²¹

John McNiece died 1831 married 1824 (*Elizabeth aka Betty McCool*).

Archibald born 1825; Jane born 1827

Note – the dates for children are slightly out. Castledawson Presbyterian registers reveal that Archibald was baptised 1829 and Jane 1831. I suspect then that the date of marriage is also slightly out - I would place marriage c. 1826 based on the following evidence again from Castledawson Presbyterian register¹²² - Miss Betty McCool was a witness to the marriage of her sister Jean McCool to Robert McMaster 20 March 1825 & I think this was the future Mrs John McNiece. So the marriage of Betty McCool to John McNiece occurred after 20 March 1825.

This document contains many genealogical gems and one single sentence provided quite a lot of detail on John McNiece (father of Jane) as highlighted below:

Sarah McCool held possession <i>of the farm</i> & John McNiece lived with her (his mother in law) but never got possession & died at his father's.
--

A vital clue was contained therein – that is John McNiece died sometime around 1831 at his father's residence rather than that of his mother in law where he normally resided on the family farm. From this information we can discern that John McNiece took unwell and moved 'home' to be with his McNiece family in his final days and died (a relatively young man) at his father's residence.

Interestingly, a careful analysis of the 1831 census for Tubberhead (sic) reveals that in the household headed by Thomas McNiece that there were two adult families present in the family home on census night. The 1831 census (extracted 1834 for religious analysis) was much less comprehensive than other Irish censuses and survives intact for the whole of County Derry. Unlike the 1821 census names of all the inhabitants were not required, only those of household heads.¹²³ The 1831 census thus includes the name of the head of household; number of adult households; and includes numbers and a breakdown of the religious make up of those present on census day.

What is interesting for the household of Thomas McNiece in 1831 is that the enumerator recorded two adult households present on the day of the census. The household contained nine persons 3 males and 6 females all Presbyterian,

1831 head of household Tubberhead

No 45 Thos McNiece 2 households 3 males 6 females 9 Presbyterians

¹²¹ D4480/1/5 was an undated document but careful analysis of the contents and corroboration with other source material enabled me to date the document to circa. 1862. Uncovering the date was paramount since the paper contained valuable genealogical material. The process of working out the date of this document took several working hours but this was essential since this document in particular helped to unlock the maternal ancestry of Jane Johnston nee McNiece.

¹²² Often the value of documents can be overlooked – witnesses to marriages were often relations; siblings, cousins etc so it is important not only to keep a careful record of all material uncovered but scrutinize all documentation carefully. Detailed source analysis always adds to the utility of the source material uncovered. It is time consuming but also fruitful.

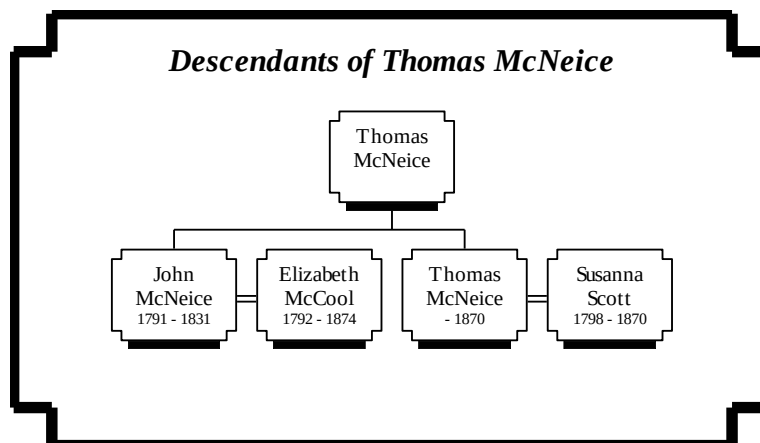
¹²³ Counting the People: a survey of the Irish Censuses, 1813-1911, E. Margaret Crawford, Four Courts press, 2003 p. 16.

According to the Morton archive documentation,¹²⁴ John McNiece died at his father's house in 1831 that is the same year that the census was taken for county Derry. The majority of rural households in county Derry are recorded as single households in the 1831 census. 108 out of the 109 households recorded in the townland of Tuberhead in 1831 were single households.¹²⁵ Only the household that of Thomas McNiece was recorded as having two adult families present on the day of the census. This statistic confirmed my initial instinct John McNiece and his family were residing with Thomas McNiece in 1831 and confirmed for me that Thomas McNiece was most likely the father of John McNiece.

In addition, another Thomas McNiece (probably junior) was recorded in Toberhead with his wife Susanna Scott baptising children in Castledawson Presbyterian Church during the 1830s and early 1840s. With regard to the McNiece family it is most likely that the Toberhead family were all related descended from a common ancestor (none was recorded in the 1740 Protestant householders' survey for the parish of Maghera). It seemed likely to me that Thomas McNiece was another son of Thomas McNiece and therefore a younger brother of John McNiece.

Both John McNiece (married Elizabeth McCool daughter of Archbald McCool) and Thomas McNiece (married Susanna Scott) named their first-born sons Archibald. Since John McNiece inherited a valuable farm from his marriage to Elizabeth McCool I think he named his first born after his father in law Archibald McCool.

So the putative tree looks as follows:



An added problem was to work out the relationship between the Daniel McNiece and the Thomas McNiece in Toberhead 1831 census

1831 census Toberhead

Daniel McNeiss head 3males/3females 6 Presbyterian.

Daniel McNiece senior had a son baptised in Castledawson Presbyterian Church:
14 July 1806 Daniel of Daniel Menise, Toberhead.

1827 Tithe book Toberhead

¹²⁴ D4480/1/5

¹²⁵ Multiple occupancy of tenements was a common feature especially in the city of Londonderry in 1831 and also in other urban centres such as Coleraine and Limavady.

Danl McNeese senior had a farm of 12a, 2roods
Daniel McNeese junior had a farm of 5a, 2roods

Daniel McNeice senior of Toberhead was a witness to a lease drawn up in 1796 between Hugh Beaton, Toberhead, famer of the one part and John Gilmore, Co Tyrone farmer, concerning lands in Broagh and that part of Toberhead East quarter and North Division of Toberhead.¹²⁶

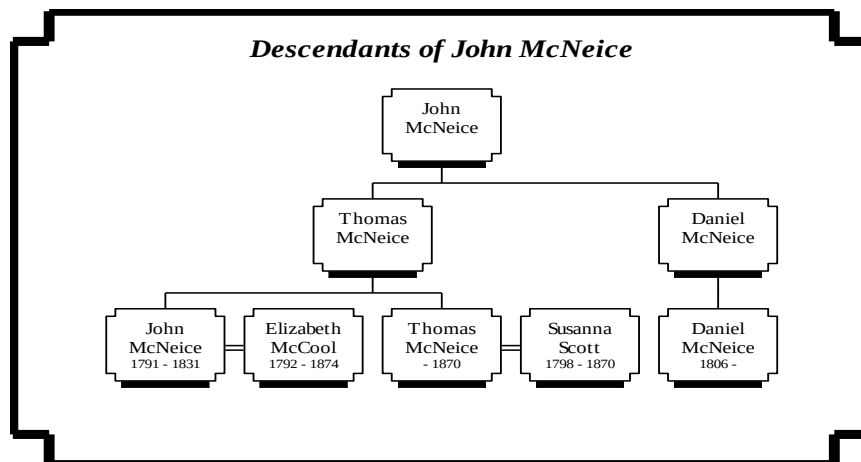
Given date and location it seemed likely that Daniel McNeice (senior) and Thomas McNeice of the 1831 census were at least cousins but possibly brothers so the quest was to find the progenitor of the family.

Here again we have to rely on the Registry of Deeds for additional family information. Daniel Backhouse of Toberhead conveyed part of his farm to his son Edward Backhouse in 1757. Witnesses to this deed were Morgan Wilson of Lemnaroy, farmer & **John McNeesh of Toberhead, weaver.**

This is the first recorded instance of the surname McNeice in Toberhead and one can only conclude that John McNeice was the progenitor of the McNeice family of Toberhead. I suspect but cannot prove definitively that he is the father of Daniel and Thomas McNeice of 1831 census but weight of evidence supports this hypothesis.¹²⁷

With regard to the eighteenth century family tree, we are in the realms of probability, since the absence of material evidence in the Irish records is a constant barrier to the certainty required of proof in the legal definition

This leaves us with a somewhat speculative tree taking us back into the early eighteenth century. I will add here that this is a hypothetical tree based on the available but limited evidence. This tree should be considered as hypothetical and not a defined pedigree but I include it here as the best working model.



¹²⁶ ROD Vol 503 page 414; memorial number 324609

¹²⁷ John McNeice was witness to the lease drawn up by Daniel Backhouse in 1757. Daniel Backhouse's wife was Sarah McCool. The above John McNeice's grandson, also John McNeice was married to Eliza McCool. Eliza McCool was great granddaughter of Daniel Backhouse by Sarah McCool.

Daniel McNiece junior appears to have had no issue (or emigrated). Archibald McNiece he only son of John McNiece by Elizabeth McCool likewise, appears to have had no issue. The remaining McNieces in Toberhead descend from Thomas McNiece junior by Susannah Scott who had at least two sons and four daughters.

There is an interesting headstone to be found in Castledawson Church of Ireland graveyard of an early McNeiss in the area.

McNEISS: Here lieth the body of Mary McNeiss aelies Lambard who departed this life Nov 24th 1804 aged 73years.¹²⁸

This gives Mary Lambard McNeiss a vital range of c. 1732-1804. She would fit perfectly as the wife of John McNiece, weaver, of Toberhead of the deed 1757, however, this is only speculative.¹²⁹ Lambard is an uncommon surname in the area.¹³⁰ I only include this as an outside possibility that there was somehow that there was a Lambert connection to the Toberhead family of McNiece.

The origins of the McNiece family:

I have found no evidence that the McNiece family of Toberhead were Quaker in origin, however that does not preclude that earlier members of the family were linked with the Society of Friends.¹³¹

In the 1740 Protestant Householders survey in the parish of Termoneeny, Daniel McNish was a head of household. It is possible given location and naming patterns that this Daniel was the father of John McNiece of Toberhead, the weaver. Maghera parish and Termoneeny parish are contiguous. There was an early Quaker meeting in Dunglady, which was in Termoneeny parish and close connections between the Quakers of Dunglady and Toberhead, which could explain why we find John McNiece in Toberhead in 1757. We have now reached the end of the achievable limits to this family search. Since John McNiece putative progenitor was a weaver, documentary evidence is harder to uncover. Farmers are easier to trace because land and perpetuity leases were valuable and can leave a documentary trace. But we do know that McNieces were in Toberhead from at least mid-eighteenth century.

¹²⁸ There is also another headstone in Castledawson graveyard that fits as brother to Mary Lambert: LAMBERT: Here lies the body of Edward Lambert who dept this life June 22 1808 aged 83 years [giving a lifespan of c. 1725-1808].

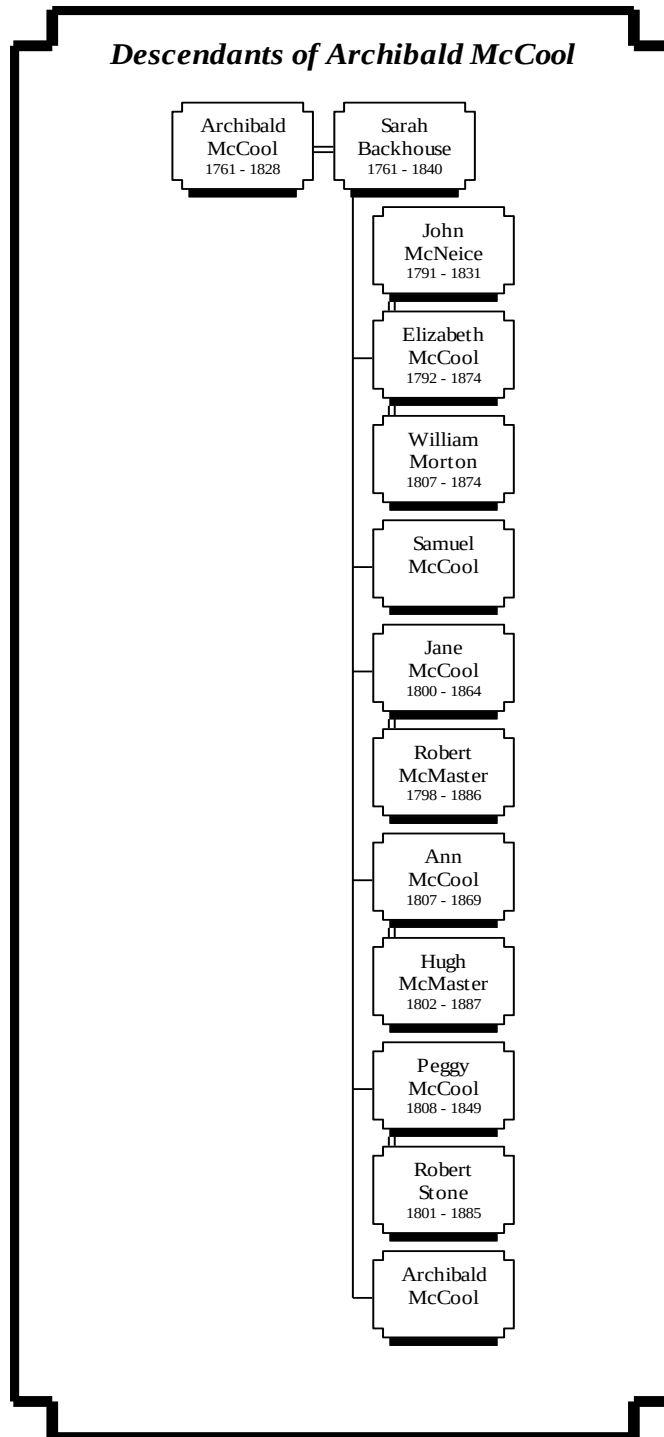
¹²⁹ And leaves us questioning why a husband was not also recorded on the headstone?

¹³⁰ Ship Westpoint from LD to NY 11 March 1806: Robert Lambert aged 26, farmer, Castledawson. Ship Westpoint from LD to NY May 1811 - John Lambert. In addition the 1839 voters' list County Derry lists a Joseph Lambert of Drumlamph as a £10 freeholder

¹³¹ See Appendix on McNiece family for early Quaker records from Ulster.

McCOOL AND BACKHOUSE FAMILIES OF TOBERHEAD.

The families of McCool and Backhouse were interconnected from an early period since the families were Quaker in origin and attended Toberhead meeting-house. The emigrant ancestor Jane Johnston nee McNiece was daughter of John McNiece & Elizabeth McCool.¹³² The Morton papers gave me enough information that I was able to complete a descendant tree for the children of Archibald McCool and Sarah Backhouse.



¹³² Elizabeth McCool was daughter of Archibald McCool by Sarah Backhouse.

There is a remarkable consistency between the families mentioned in the tree outlined above and the returns of householders in Toberhead from Griffiths valuation in 1858 (number 22, 24 & 26).

22	a	Hugh M'Master.	Trench, .
-	b	Thomas Badger.	Captain Henderson, .
23		William Shannon,	Hugh M'Master, .
		John M'Coole,	Captain Henderson, .
24	A {	Robert M'Master.	Earl of Strafford, Sir {
	- b	Archibald M'Neece,	Robt. Bateson, Bt., {
	-	Hugh M'Master,	and Lady Louisa {
	- B {	Robert Stone,	Trench, . . . {
		Unoccupied, .	Archibald M'Neece, .
	A c	William M'Coole.	John M'Coole, . . .
	- d	Patrick M'Ilwee,	Same, . . .
	B a		
25	A {	Hugh M'Master,	Earl of Strafford, Sir {
	-	Robert M'Master,	Robert Bateson, Bt., {
	-	Robert Stone.	and Lady Louisa {
	A a	Archibald M'Neece,	Trench, . . . {
	B a		
- B			
- C			

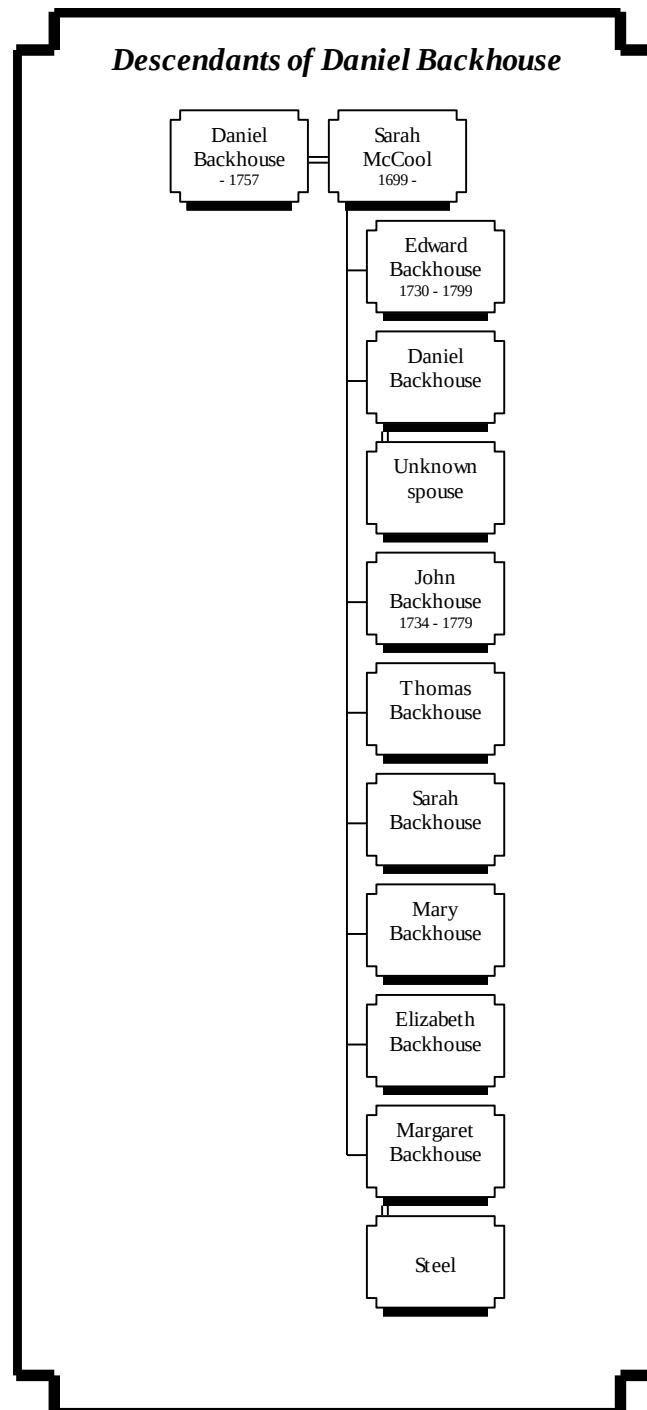
Through careful analysis of the Morton Papers I was able to determine, in fact that, the original proprietor of this farm of land was the Backhouse family. Sarah Backhouse was the last remaining of the family line hence the land passed to her descendants – McCool, McNiece, McMaster & Stone families all gained their farms through the Backhouse line and the legacy of Sarah McCool nee Backhouse. Hence, plots 22, 24 & 25 in the Griffiths valuation were all occupied by descendants of Archibald McCool and Sarah Backhouse.

BACKHOUSE FAMILY TREE

The Backhouse family most likely came from the North West of England where Quakerism had its origins. Sarah Backhouse wife of Archibald McCool inherited the legacy of the farm from her father Edward Backhouse (c. 1730-1799) and her grandfather Daniel Backhouse who was married to Sarah McCool.¹³³

This was a notable feature of life in rural Toberhead – families intermarrying to local families often distantly related. One reason for this was that some local families held perpetuity leases and these were valuable leases to keep within the family.

¹³³ From my research into the McCool family I believe Sarah McCool was also the half great-grand-aunt of Archibald McCool. That would mean that Archibald McCool and his wife Sarah Backhouse were related – they were half-second cousins once removed.



Here I will explain how the Morton papers were of primary help in unlocking the Backhouse tree.

The Morton dispute has left a valuable paper trail of evidence that was very useful to working out the complex relationships and descendants of Edward Backhouse, the father of Sarah Backhouse and grandfather of Elizabeth McCool. This was the Elizabeth McCool who married first John McNiece and secondly William Morton. She was the mother of the emigrant ancestor Jane Johnston nee McCool.

After careful consideration of all of the evidence in the Morton papers the key documents were dated to 1862.¹³⁴ Below is of a memorandum concerning the effects of the estate of Edward Backhouse of Toberhead that explains much of the history of the family. Edward Backhouse died around 1799 without a male heir so the property was split between two daughters Margaret and Sarah Backhouse. Subsequently, the estate was passed on to their heirs.

Memorandum concerning will of Edward Backhouse¹³⁵

Memorandum of Edward Backhouse

The property off which Morton claims or living contains 14 English acres, value 350 pounds. Edward Backhouse died in 1799 leaving two daughters, Sarah and Margaret. He willed his property equally between them and their heirs. If any of their daughters died without issue their her share was to be divided between the surviving sisters. Margaret married Thomas McGonigal by whom she had one only daughter, who married Patrick Macpherson by whom she had one child. That child died almost its mother leaving none of Margarts heirs surviving. Thomas McGonigal kept possession till his death, at which time the heirs of Sarah Backhouse claimed possession of Margarts share which they got and divided it equally between them. Elizabeth & her son Archibald getting full possession of one fourth, off this Morton claims a living having been lawfully married in the body of the church to the said Elizabeth Macpherson of which he can show the lines with living witnesses. Morton's wife had one son which died when a child. The property was inherited only by females and Morton's wife Elizabeth was one of them.

¹³⁴ D4480/1/

¹³⁵ D4480/1/2

Memorandum concerning will of Edward Backhouse.

The property off which [William] Morton claims a living contain 14 English Acres value £350 stg - Edward Baccus died in 1799 leaving two daughters Sarah & Margaret. He willed his property equally between them and their heirs. If any of the daughters died without issue her share was to be divided between the surviving sisters. Margaret married Thos McGonigal by whom she had one only daughter who married Patrick Mulholland by whom she had one child; that child died also its mother leaving none of Margaret's heirs surviving. Thomas McGonigal kept possession till his death at which time the heirs of Sarah Baccus claimed possession of Margaret's share, which they got and divided it equally between them. Elizabeth and her son Archibald getting full possession of one fourth; off this Morton claims a living having been lawfully married in the body of the church to the said Elizabeth Macool of which he can show the lines (lives?) with every witness - Morton's wife had one son which died when a child - the property was inherited only by females and Morton's wife Elizabeth was one of them.

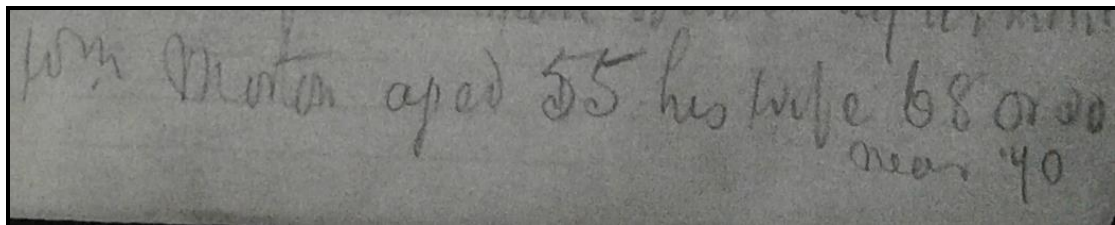
Willam Morton married the widow of John McNiece (Elizabeth McCool) and believed he was entitled to claim a living off the land. The family information provided shows that Edward Backhouse in his will of 1799 left legacies to his only surviving issue daughters Sarah and Margaret Backhouse. Margaret married Thomas McGonigle but we are told this line died out leaving no heirs so heirs of Sarah Backhouse's line claimed possession.

Sarah Backhouse married Archibald McCool. Her daughter Elizabeth (and her son Archibald McNiece) got full possession of one fourth and it is this that Morton claimed a living off as he was married Elizabeth McNiece nee McCool in the '*body of the Church*'. I took this to mean the local established parish Church. A search of Maghera Church of Ireland marriage registers produced a positive return.

William Morton to Elizabeth McNiece of this parish Oct 2nd 1834 by licence.¹³⁶

In addition to the Backhouse memorandum another valuable document outlined the details of the disputed farm and also the legacies of the will of Edward Backhouse, which was probated in 1799.

At the bottom of this page was scribbled - Wm Morton aged 55 his wife 68 or so - near 70. This would give William Morton an approximate birth date of c. 1807 and his wife Elizabeth c. 1792-1794. This document was most useful in helping us to frame the family tree with dates.

A photograph of a handwritten note on a piece of paper. The text is written in cursive and reads: "Wm Morton aged 55 his wife 68 or so near 70". The paper appears to be a scan of a physical document, with some texture and slight discoloration visible.

The dispute was primarily between William Morton and Archibald McNiece concerning his part of the legacy (through marriage) to the farm of 7 acres arable land, 7 acres bog, freehold property.¹³⁷ William Morewood acted as arbitrator in the dispute and in a letter

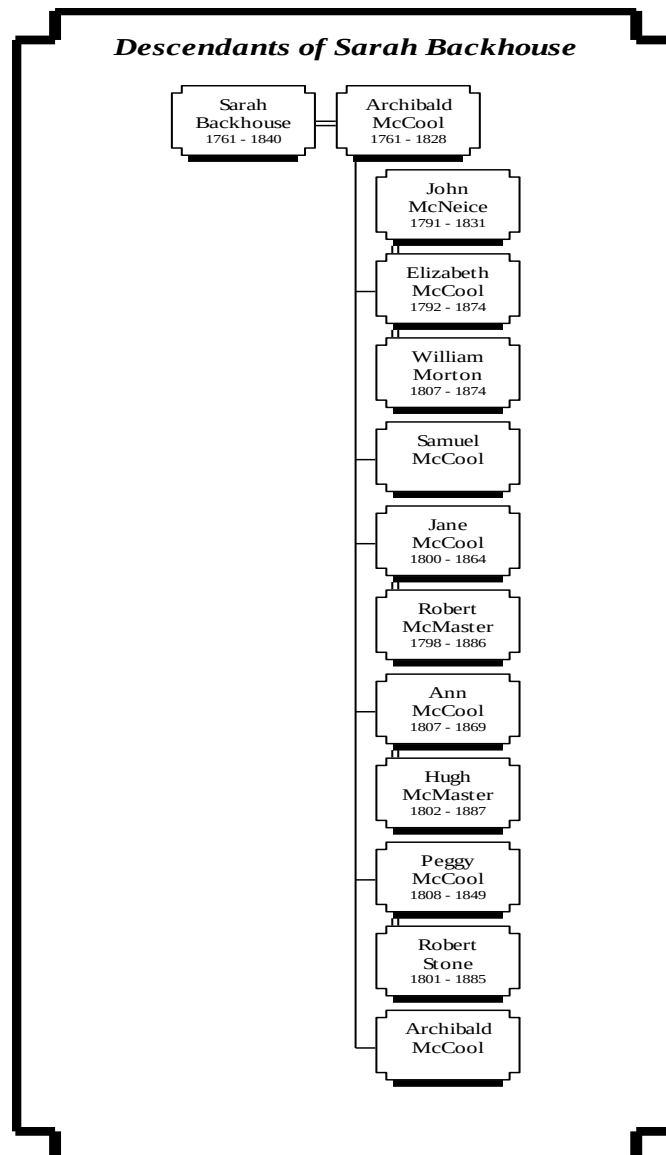
¹³⁶ MIC1/201 Maghera Church of Ireland marriages. Note - I checked baptisms 1836-1840 & burials 1839-1845 but no returns. Note - microfilm of poor quality.

¹³⁷ Estimated value £350 sterling in 1862.

dated 11 Aug 1862 complained '*for my part I would like to see peace and comfort among them as they are all my friends*'.¹³⁸ Friends in the context of the time often meant relations. McNeice offered rood ground and a house but Morton rejected the deal.

In addition the document reveals that Sarah Backhouse otherwise McCool died about 1840. Other disputes broke out after this date as mention is made that (Robert) Stone claimed against the two McMasters and William (Morton).

All of these gentlemen had married daughters of Sarah McCool nee Backhouse and therefore had claim via marriage to the Backhouse legacy. Robert Stone married Peggy McCool. The 'two McMasters' were Hugh McMaster who married Ann McCool and Robert McMaster who married Jane McCool. Stone and the two McMasters were therefore the brothers in law of Elizabeth McCool whose son Archie McNiece was in dispute with William Morton. This document was vital in constructing the outlined tree below. Descendants of these families still reside on the Toberhead land that once was possession of their Backhouse ancestors.



¹³⁸ D4480/1/4

Whilst I was able to trace the descendants of the female line the fate of the two sons Samuel McCool and Archibald McCool remains shrouded in mystery. It seems that Samuel McCool may have died as a relatively young man as he was to inherit the family farm. Archibald McCool styled himself 'senior' in his will of 1827 so one assumes that he had a son Archibald McCool junior (but the latter is not mentioned in the will). It is possible he emigrated. The direct male line of Archibald McCool (died c.1828) appears to have ended but female lines of Stone and McMaster continued in Toberhead.¹³⁹

The family tree of Edward Backhouse (died c. 1799)

Edward Backhouse was born into a Quaker family around 1730 and appears in the Quaker records for Toberhead.¹⁴⁰ Initially he was a Quaker of good standing as the minutes of the men's meeting held at Morgan Wilson's, near Toberhead on the 21st of 5th month 1758 includes him as one of the active members alongside John McMunn, James McMunn jun, Archibald McCool, and John Crawford.

Two years later the Quaker records reveal that he was censured and disciplined since he had met and decided to marry in a Presbyterian meeting house and was removed from the Quaker meeting.

Minutes 1760: This meeting being informed that Edward Backhouse, Archd McCool and Olive Wilson otherwise McCaghy have joyned in marriage with persons not professing with us: John McMunn & Morgan Willson are desired to draw suitable testimonys against their transgressions and bring them to the next mens meeting.

Discipline/Removals (page9)

Wheras Edward Backhouse was educated in the profession of of the People called Quakers & did some time frequent our Meetings for worship but forwant of a faithful adherence to the dictates of that devine principle which was sufficient to have preserved him hath been prevailed to suffer himself to be called in a Presbyterian meeting house & married by a Presbyterian preacher to a woman of a different profession we do hereby disown the said Edward Backhouse to be of our society untill he come to witness that Godly sorrow which worketh true repentance which that the Lord may mercifully grant him is our sincere desire. Given at a men's meeting held at Antrim the 27th of the seventh month 1760.

Unfortunately, the wife's name is not given. All that we know is that she was a Presbyterian and they were married in the local Presbyterian meeting-house. From the Morton papers we learn that Edward Backhouse had at least two daughters Sarah and Margaret Backhouse but no male issue.¹⁴¹

THE BACKHOUSE TREE – DESCENDANTS OF DANIEL BACKHOUSE, SENIOR

From the Quaker church records and registry of deeds I was able to establish that the father of Edward Backhouse and hence the progenitor of the family was Daniel Backhouse who was a witness in 1717 to the marriage of Morgan Wilson of Toberhead. Another witness was Archibald McCool of Toberhead,

¹³⁹ There was another McCool line in Toberhead descended from Archibald McCool's brother John.

¹⁴⁰ MIC/16/43 (1758)

¹⁴¹ It transpires that Edward Backhouse's mother was Sarah so perhaps his wife was Margaret?

Quaker records: 1717 marriage of Morgan Wilson (of Toberhead meeting) to Hanna Gilbert of Aghagallon, Antrim in Lurgan Meeting: Witness - **Daniel Backhas**, Archibald McCool & Neile O'mony appointed to make enquiry about suitability for marriage.¹⁴²

Daniel Backhouse and Archibald McCool came into joint partnership of a perpetuity lease for part of Toberhead in 1734.

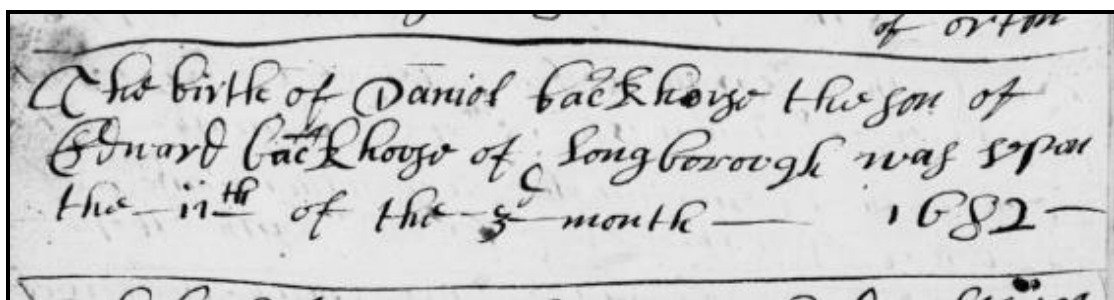
Registry of Deeds volume 176 page 49 memorial number 116751 Conolly to Beaton & ors Registered 17 day April 1755

Lease bearing the date 28 March 1734

Between the Rt Hon Wm Conolly, Dublin of the one part & Samuel Beaton, Hugh Beaton, Archibald McCowl¹⁴³ & **Daniel Backhouse** in the proportion of Vintners - East Quarter Division 103 acres; 1r 20p arable & pasture and 51 acres, 2r, 16p bogg - natural lives and lives of Archibald McCowl eldest son of John McCowl of Toberhead; **John Backhouse, son of said Daniel Backhouse** & John McCracken son of Robert McCracken of Grange in said proportion: £14 annual rent; renewal of life £7. Witnesses - Marcus McCausland, Deasey [Daisy] Hill, L'Derry & Geo Tiney, Dublin, Gent Signed in presence of and sealed - Marcus McCausland & James Marley 7 Sept 1754

Dan'l Backhouse bought into a joint perpetuity lease with the allied families of Beaton and McCool.¹⁴⁴ We learn from the deed that his eldest son was John Backhouse a life in the lease. Daniel Backhouse was recorded in the 1740 Protestant householders' survey in the parish of Maghera and Edward Backhouse in the same survey in the civil parish of Termoneeny. It seems likely that they were brothers one attached to the Toberhead Quaker meeting in Maghera parish and the other to the Dunglady meeting in Termoneeny parish.

Given the rarity of the surname and the use of the Christian names Edward and Daniel in the records for County Londonderry I was struck by the following entry in the Quaker records for Moorhouse in Cumbria, England confirming the birth of a Daniel Backhouse on 17th of the third month (June) 1682.¹⁴⁵



Longburgh is a hamlet in the parish of Burgh by Sands near the city of Carlisle in Cumbria, England. Cumbria was a hotbed of Quaker activity in the late seventeenth century. An outflow Quakers migrated to Ireland from Cumbria due to a combination of

¹⁴² This is the first reference to Daniel Backhouse in the Irish records

¹⁴³ A variant of McCool

¹⁴⁴ His wife was Sarah McCool daughter of John McCool the progenitor of the Toberhead McCool family.

¹⁴⁵ RG6/1243: Register of Births belonging to the Monthly Meeting of Moorhouse, Cumberland from 1654 to 1827, with a Register of Marriages from 1654 to 1827, and a Register of Burials from 1659 to 1828

persecution and well-developed trade links between North-west England and Ireland. Both Dublin and Lurgan in Armagh were centres of Quaker economic activity.¹⁴⁶

I have no way of confirming if this Daniel Backhouse of Longburgh was the same Daniel Backhouse we find in Toberhead in 1740 but the coincidence is striking.¹⁴⁷ If it is the same person then he was around fifty-eight years old in 1740

In the year 1757 Daniel Backhouse of Toberhead offset half of his farm to his son Edward Backhouse.¹⁴⁸ The deed was recorded in the registry of Deeds in Dublin in 1766 the same year that the will of Daniel Backhouse was probated in Derry diocese.¹⁴⁹

Registry of Deeds: volume 245 page 396 memorial number 162365

Backhouse to Backhouse

A memorial of a deed poll bearing date of 1 July 1757 & made between Daniel Backhouse of Toberhead in county of Londonderry of the one part & Edward Backhouse son of the said Daniel Backhouse of the other part – unto the said Edward Backhouse one half of farm in Toberhead:

Said deed is executed by said Daniel Backhouse & witnessed by Morgan Willson of Lemnaro in county Londonderry, farmer & John McNeesh of Toberhead aforesaid weaver:

Memorial witnessed by said Francis Morton, Theadeus Williams of Bellagherty in said county Gent.

Edward Backhouse <seal>

Reg 29 Oct 1766

The will of Daniel Backhouse of Toberhead was probated in 1766 Derry Diocese but the date of probate is not the same as the date of death. There is a reference to a Daniel Backhouse in the Quaker book of sufferings in 1759.¹⁵⁰ It does seem likely that Daniel Backhouse senior died sometime after 1759 and before 1766 when his will was probated. This would give him a birth range of c.1680-1690.

The other 'half' of the Backhouse farm appears to have been inherited by two sons of Daniel Backhouse senior namely Thomas and Daniel Backhouse junior as the following advertisement in the Belfast Newsletter alludes to.

Belfast Newsletter dated 22nd January 1773 page 3 column 4:

Sold by public auction 13 Feb 1773 at the house of James McWhiney the interest of a lease of lives renewable forever held under Thos Conolly Esq containing 12a 2r 36 and 8 acres Moss in the townland of Toberhead. The title deed may be seen in the hands of Hugh & Joseph Beaton of Toberhead. For further particulars enquire of Thomas or Daniel Backhouse who will show the premises etc.

¹⁴⁶ Parish Registers: Historical Treasures in Manuscript, Francis X McCorry, p 102 Lurgan 2004.

¹⁴⁷ It is possible that additional information on the Backhouse family of Longburgh might be available in the Carlisle Monthly meeting records, which may record removals of Quaker activists to Ireland.

¹⁴⁸ ROD 245: 396: 162365

¹⁴⁹ As mentioned previously the Registry of Deeds provided a degree of legal security for recorded transactions. So it appears that Edward Backhouse was ensuring that there would be no legal dispute over his entitlement to the one half of the Backhouse farm.

¹⁵⁰ MIC16/6 Book Q/5/5. This probably refers to Daniel Backhouse senior as in the same year Daniel Backhouse junior was disciplined for being married to one of another persuasion by a priest.

Registry of Deeds volume 298 page 29 Memorial number 196332

Backhouse & an' r to Courtney

Deed of lease bearing date 19 & 20 day of April 1773 made between Thomas Backhouse & Daniel Backhouse of Toberhead, county Londonderry, farmers of the one part & Joseph Courtney of New Ferry, County Londonderry --- sum of £140 stg did grant, bargain, convey unto said Courtney said proportion lands in Toberhead aforesaid then in possession of the said Thomas Backhouse & Daniel Backhouse containing by estimation 12a, 2r, 36 p arable/pasture & 8 acres tubury in Manor of Vintners during natural lives of Archibald McCool, Jno Backhouse & Thos McCracken & survivor or survivors of them.

Memorial witnessed by William McNeil Bay of Coolbane, county Londonderry, Gent; John Henderson of Bellaghy, Co Londonderry, Innkeeper & Bernard McGuckin city of Dublin writing Clerk:

Registered 4 June 1773

Daniel Backhouse was the son of Daniel Backhouse senior as he is mentioned in the Quaker records as Daniel Backhouse the younger.¹⁵¹ I assume therefore that Thomas Backhouse was his brother and both had inherited part of the Toberhead lease as part of their father's will of 1766.¹⁵²

QUAKER RECORDS ANTRIM (Toberhead, Grange, Ballynachree etc)

In addition the Quaker records were also helpful in developing the family tree. Daniel Backhouse (died c.1766) and his wife Sarah McCool were both practising Quakers.¹⁵³ Mention is made of Daniel Backhouse of Toberhead in the Quaker sufferings of 1759. In examining the Quaker records for Toberhead it is clear to see why Quakerism declined in the area. Five of Daniel Backhouse's children are listed in the disciplinary minutes for marrying persons of 'another persuasion'. Having married outside the faith they were excluded from the body of Quakers until they came to Godly sorrow and repentance for the sin of disunity. Naturally, in an area dominated by Presbyterianism it was much easier to find a spouse outside of the Quaker religion. Thus, the descendants of many of the early Toberhead Quakers are today Presbyterian families.

As early as 1742 in the minutes from the meeting held at Grange it was noted that '*Toberhead meeting is much lessened of late by deaths of such friends*'.¹⁵⁴ The mainstay of the Toberhead meeting was undoubtedly Morgan Wilson. A meeting was held in his house near Toberhead in 1758 and the minutes' record John McMunn junior,¹⁵⁵ John Crawford, Edward Backhouse and Archibald McCool as being members present from the Toberhead meeting.

In the year 1760 both Edward Backhouse and Archibald McCool were censured and disciplined, the former for being married in a Presbyterian Meeting House and the latter for being married by a priest. Two important Toberhead members were no longer considered to be Quakers and parted company with old friends. In addition Daniel Backhouse junior was disciplined in 1759 for marrying another of a different persuasion without his father's consent, a two-fold sin, which he acknowledged and further

¹⁵¹ MIC 16/43 - minutes of men's meeting held in Grange 30 of the 12 month 1759

¹⁵² From the recorded deed it appears that John Backhouse the life in the original lease may have still been alive in 1773.

¹⁵³ Quaker database Dublin: (unsourced) marriage date of 1718.

¹⁵⁴ MIC 16/43 - minutes of men's meeting held at Grange on 15 of 3 month 1742.

¹⁵⁵ Rendered also as McIlmunn in the local Quaker records.

declared publicly that he was *'heartily sorry for the same and hope that God will forgive me and that you will receive me into Unity with you again'*. Whether Daniel Backhouse became a practising Quaker again is uncertain for it may be his descendants that we find in the records of Castledawson Presbyterian Church in the early nineteenth century.¹⁵⁶

Three Backhouse sisters Elizabeth (1758), Mary (1770) and Sarah junior (1770) were recorded in the disciplinary minutes for having married outside of the Society.¹⁵⁷ The latter gives confirmation to the fact that her mother was Sarah Backhouse, senior and this may indicate that she was still alive in 1770. I suspect that one of the Backhouse sisters may have married a local man by the surname of Lennox as there was a Bacchus Lennox recorded in the Salter's cavalry of 1796.¹⁵⁸ Another sister Margaret Backhouse was recorded in the minutes repenting from her decision to marry contrary to the rules of the Society to a man with surname of Steel.¹⁵⁹

In all the records indicate that the children of Daniel Backhouse senior by Sarah McCool were: John, Edward, Thomas, Daniel, Mary, Margaret, Elizabeth and Sarah.

The Backhouse name did persist in the Castledawson area well into the nineteenth century therefore there was issue from a male line most probably Daniel Backhouse junior.¹⁶⁰

In the mid nineteenth century the Great Famine had a massive impact on the management and economic viability of landed estates. Many estates were mortgaged and landowners unable to collect rents were forced to sell their estates. By an act of parliament in 1849 an Encumbered Estates Court was established with authority to sell estates on the application of the owner or encumbrancer (one who had a claim on the estate). After the sale the court distributed the money among the creditors and granted clear title to the new owners. The functions of the court were assumed by the Landed Estates Court in 1858. By 1881 the Landed Estates Court was replaced by the Land Commission set up under the 1881 Land Act.

The Irish Encumbered Estates Rentals, deposited at PRONI, are in bound volumes and are available for the whole of Ireland. These printed rentals or particulars of sale were issued before the sale of a property and therefore contain very detailed information on tenants and holdings on each estate in order to attract potential buyers. They are divided into counties, townlands and tenements, the names of the parties involved and the date. Included are rentals, maps of the estate giving tenants' names and, on occasion, surveys of the estate. Many landlords owned properties in local towns and villages, and these too can be found in the Encumbered Estates Rentals.

The descendants of the Backhouse line were to be found in the LEC document McMaster, McNiece and McCool as shown below in the LEC document.

¹⁵⁶ I have no evidence that his brothers Thomas or John were married. We know that his brother Edward married Sarah McCool but they had only female issue.

¹⁵⁷ Only Elizabeth Backhouse publicly repented of her indiscretion.

¹⁵⁸ T1021/3 p.7

¹⁵⁹ MIC 16/43 removal book page 11.

¹⁶⁰ MIC 1P/190: Castledawson Presbyterian register had a Sarah Baccus baptised 22 July 1807 daughter of Daniel Baccus of Toberhead.

As to Lot No. 10—Toberhead.—The part of the lands of Toberhead being sold in this matter is held with other parts of said lands not being sold under fee-farm grant, dated 18th of December, 1876, and made between the Right Honourable George Stevens Byng Earl of Strafford, Sir Thomas Bateson, Bart., and Lady Louisa Le Poer Trench, of the one part, and Arthur Charles Fleming, a minor, by Catherine Fleming, widow, and Ellen Fleming, his guardians, John Henderson, Robert M'Master, Hugh M'Master, Archibald Macneece, Robert Stones, Eliza M'Cool and William M'Cool, Robert William Newton and James Courtenay, of the other part, executed in lieu of a lease for lives renewable for ever, dated 28th March, 1734, the said Earl of Strafford, Sir Thomas Bateson, and Lady Louisa Le Poer Trench, in consideration of the provisions of the Renewable Leasehold Conversion Act, granted unto the parties of the second part all that part of Toberhead commonly called East Quarter or Division, containing 153a. 2r. 36p. Plantation measure, of which, at the date of said original lease, 103a. 1r. 20p. consisted of arable and pasture, and 50a. 1r. 16p. of bog, as appears by a map thereunto affixed, all said premises being part and parcel of the Manor or Proportion of Vintners, Barony of Loughinshollin, and County of Londonderry, together with all rights, members, and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining; excepting thereout unto the grantors, their heirs and assigns, all timber, timber trees, other trees, woods, and underwoods, which, on the 1st

September, 1766, were lying, being standing, or growing on the said premises; and also all mines and minerals of copper, lead, iron, coal, quarries of stone or slate, and all other mines and minerals and royalties whatsoever, with full and free liberty of ingress, egress, and regress into, out of, and upon the said premises, and every part thereof, for the grantors, their heirs and assigns, with their workmen, with working tools, utensils, implements, carts, cars, and other carriages, for felling, cutting, digging, searching, taking, carrying away, and using all and singular the premises therein excepted, they, the grantors, their heirs and assigns, making reasonable amends and satisfaction to the grantees, their heirs and assigns, for the spoil or damage that should be occasioned thereby; and also excepting unto the grantors, their heirs and assigns, with their servants and attendants, full and free liberty of hunting, hawking, fishing, and fowling on the said demised premises, and every part thereof, in all fit and proper seasons for the same; to hold the same unto the grantees, their heir and assigns, subject to the yearly rent of £13 19s. 8d., payable on 1st May and 1st November, clear rent over and above all, and all manner of taxes, charges, subsidies, assessments, county charges, impositions, and payments whatsoever, as well extraordinary as ordinary, charged or to be charged on the said granted premises, or any part thereof, by Act of Parliament or otherwise howsoever. Said grant contains a covenant on the grantee's part to grind all corn, &c., at the mill of Curran, and pay the accustomed toll. NOTE.—By deed dated 20th April, 1773, from Thomas Backhouse and Daniel Backhouse to Joseph Courtenay, the lands to be sold in this matter were conveyed to the said Joseph Courtenay subject to the sum of £1 11s. 9d. with 6d. in the £ receiver's fees, proportionable share of the head-rent reserved by said lease. The proportion of said fee-farm rent which has been heretofore paid by the owner in respect of the lands to be sold in this matter is £1 11s. 3d., which is about an equivalent in present currency, including receiver's fees and rent in lieu of fines, to the said sum so mentioned in said deed. The lands will be sold subject to the entire of said rent and fees, but with such rights of indemnity and contribution as may exist. (See Conditions of Sale.)

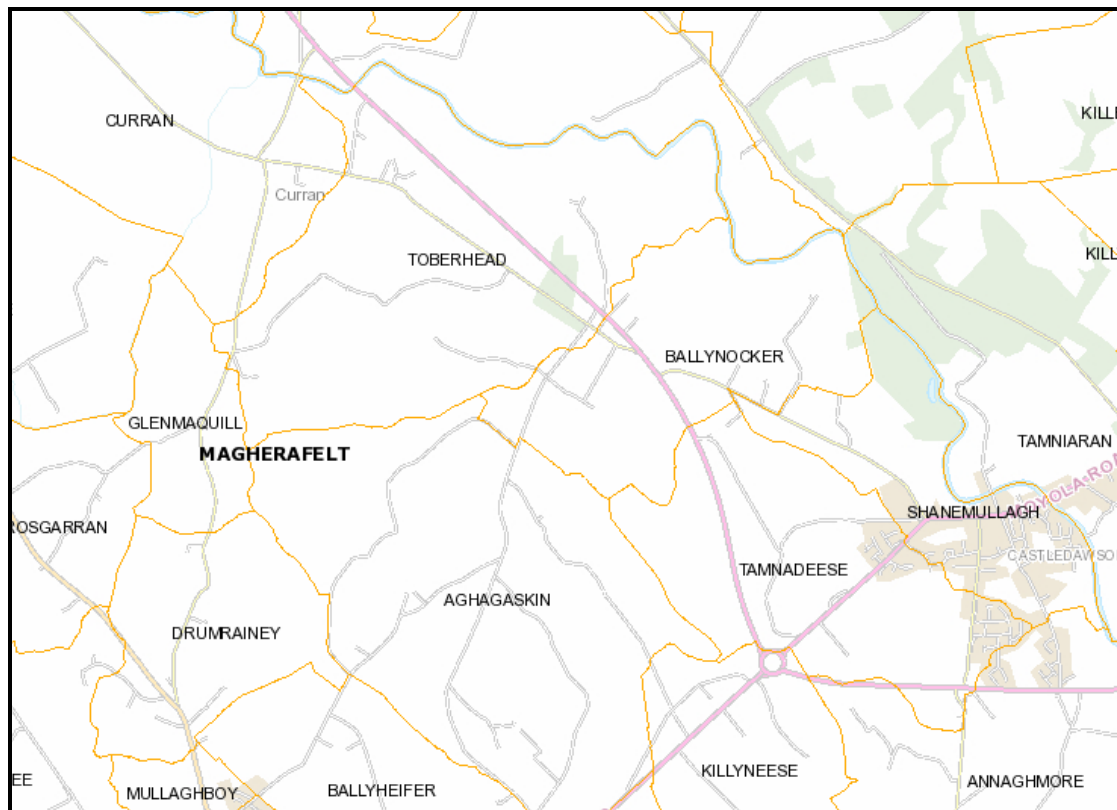
Conclusion:

Jane Johnston formerly McNiece, the emigrant ancestor was the granddaughter of Sarah McCool formerly Backhouse. Sarah McCool was heir to part of the Backhouse property and lease in Toberhead which she inherited from her father Edward Backhouse in his will of 1799. This discovery was only made possible with the discovery of the Morton Papers and has taken us on a journey of discovery through the Quaker records of Toberhead and even beyond. It seems likely that Daniel Backhouse, the original

patriarch was a first generation English Quaker immigrant to Ireland most likely from Cumbria in the North West of England.

I suspect that our Daniel Backhouse may well have been born in Longburgh in Cumbria in 1682 the son of Edward Backhouse. In the Quaker emigrant flow to Ulster it is possible that he made the move to a rural Quaker outpost in the townland of Toberhead, county Londonderry. Further research may well prove this to be the case.

McCOOL FAMILY OF TOBERHEAD



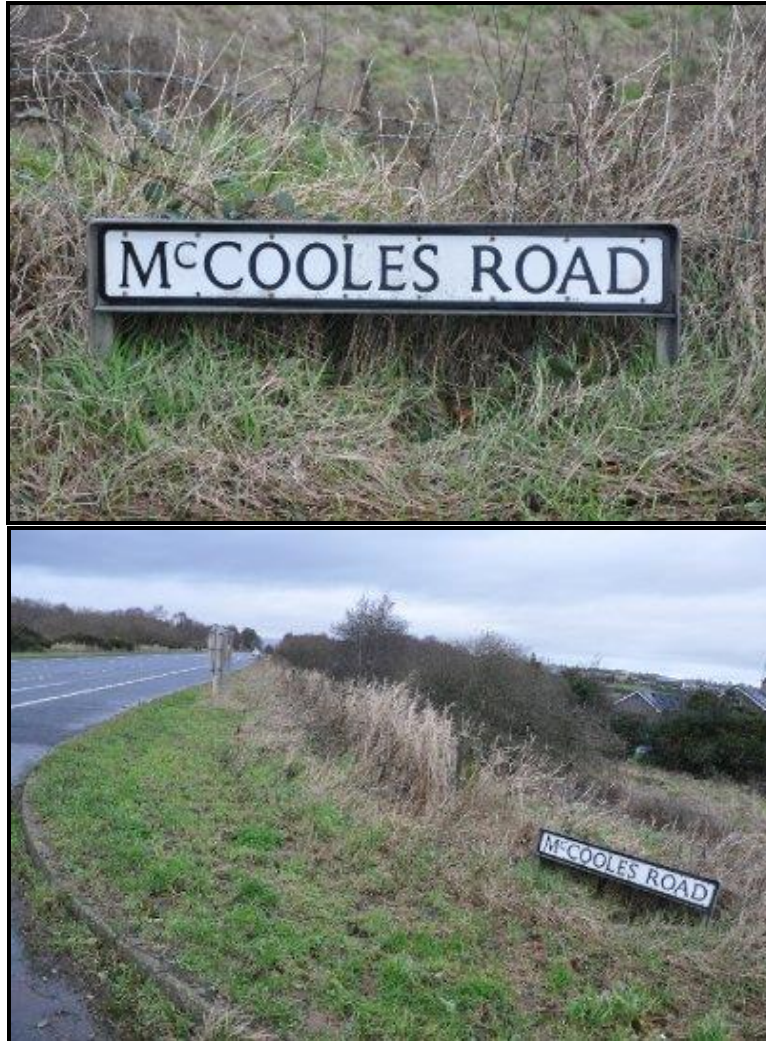
Toberhead lies to the north west of Castledawson. The main Belfast to Derry road intersects the townland bypassing the village of Castledawson. McCool's Road is a secondary road that runs off the main road and is clearly signposted and is a permanent marker and reminded of the family under investigation in this study.

The attachment to land and to place was a remarkable feature of Irish life up to recent times. McCools have a documented record of residing in the townland of Toberhead from at least 1688 until 1908 an unbroken presence of 220 years. The McCool family have left their imprint on the topography of the local area and McCool's road is a local landmark easily seen off the main Derry road. Part of Toberhead is also called McCool's quarter again referring to the same family that is so clearly identifiable with Toberhead.

The McCool family were initially a Quaker family, which was fortunate for research purposes since Quaker Church records are usually superior to other Church records. The family also managed to get hold of a valuable perpetuity lease for part of Toberhead, which formed part of the Vintners' Bellaghy estate purchased by William Conolly, speaker to the Irish House of Commons. The Vintners' estate records and the Registry of Deeds in Dublin were searched for this paper and provided valuable additional information on the McCool family. In addition the Morton Family Papers, which were in effect, a record of a family dispute over land in Toberhead, shone a light into the various

family connections in the early nineteenth century. This fortuitous combination of records has opened up a vista into the origins and development of the family tree and I have been able to trace the family back to the late seventeenth century with a degree of confidence rarely accorded an Irish genealogist. I propose the following family tree as a best working model or hypothesis. But the records do exist that connect the various generations of McCools that resided in Toberhead for 220 years.

McCoole's Road



Generations One and Two

John McCooles was a resident of Toberhead at the time of the Williamite Wars (1689-1691) in Ireland and was one of the early Quakers in the region. He suffered at the hands of both the Irish and the British army as the following records confirm:

Sufferings of Quakers at the hands of the Irish Army, 1688/9¹⁶¹

Londonderry (Toberhead, Dunlady & Coleraine)

John McCoules good to value of £9-0-0

John McCoolle himself stripped, two horsed take to the value of £16:14:0

Forceably taken by ye British Army¹⁶²

John McCool oats and barley worth 02-10-0

The evidence indicates that John McCool was the patriarch of the Toberhead McCool family. It appears that his wife's name was Olivia or Olive. He does not appear in the Hearth Money Rolls for Co Derry, 1663, which does not preclude his presence since the returns were far from complete. It is in the Quaker records we find John McCool.

Dunlady meeting (Dunlady) 1696¹⁶³

John McCool

Grange meeting 1702¹⁶⁴

John McCooles & Olive McCool

Quakerism had its origins in the north-west of England in the mid seventeenth century. William Edmunson established a meeting in Lurgan as early as 1654. Quaker meeting houses in the Bann Valley area that were formed in the late seventeenth century included Toberhead, Dunlady and Coleraine in county Derry and Ballynacree (on the Vow road near Ballymoney), Lower Grange near Portglenone and Antrim town on the east side of the Bann in County Antrim. Ideally weekly meetings were to be held in each of these regional locations (often in a local home) and then representatives were to be sent to the monthly meeting held in Antrim, which appears to have been the regional centre for Quakerism in the area. In reality all of the local Quaker meetings struggled to survive in the region because Presbyterianism had become strongly embedded in the Bann valley from the Ulster Plantation. Most of these regional outposts struggled on throughout the eighteenth century but diminishing numbers caused by an outflow of emigrants and local decay saw the closure of most by the year 1800. Antrim alone has had a continuous and unbroken Quaker presence in the region.

Early records for the Quakers in the regional outposts of Ballynacree, Coleraine, Dunlady and Toberhead are to be found in the monthly minutes of the Antrim meeting. In addition the Ulster Quarterly meeting minutes occasionally give additional information on the progress of Quakerism in the area.

¹⁶¹ D2224/1

¹⁶² D2224/4

¹⁶³ T1062/41/65

¹⁶⁴ T1062/41/65

The following is a chronology of the Quaker meetings in Derry & Antrim

The earliest Quaker house was Toberhead, Maghera in the home of Archibald Scott 1655-60.¹⁶⁵ Also a meeting was held at [Lower] Grange near Toomebridge at the same time.

A meeting was organised in Antrim town in 1669 and this was followed by Coleraine and Ballynacree [Ballymoney] in 1673.

In 1692 a meeting was formed in Dunlady [Dunclaudy & variant spellings] in the home of William Henderson near Swatragh in Derry.

In 1738 'Downglady' became part of Toberhead.

By 1796 Toberhead ceased to exist as a meeting place for Quakers.

The Toberhead meeting was held occasionally in the home of the McCools and also the Greggs also committed Quakers in the area.

McCool homestead and sometimes Quaker meeting house, Toberhead



William Edmunston, a famous Quaker, referred to as the 'Irish Hammer' gives a fascinating insight into the structure of Quakerism in Derry and Antrim in his diary recording his travels in the years 1698-1700. It is almost certain that he was in contact with John McCool in Toberhead.

Edmunston Diary

In the sixth month, 1698, I traveled into the North. Next day to the quarterly meeting near Ballinderry, which continued part of three days, for the worship of God and church

¹⁶⁵ 'Friends' Intelligencer, Volume 16' William M Moore, 1860 p. 149

affairs. When the service of the meeting was over, we went to Lurgan meeting, and their to Ballyhagan meeting, and so to the meeting beyond Charlemount, and **Toberhead** meeting near Salter's Town, where many Friends met us, also many other people came, and a heavenly meeting it was. Then we went to Grange; there to Colerain, and so to Dunclaudy meeting; in all which meetings with Friends, the mighty power of the Lord did accompany us in his word and testimony, to the comfort and confirmation of faithful Friends and placing of judgment on the unfaithful. Now having so far gone through Friends' meetings we entered on the mountains in the county of Londonderry, and had a meeting at Dungivin on a first day, to which came many people, several persons of account; and all seemed to be well satisfied with what was declared in the authority of the Lord's Spirit and power, which reached his witness in their hearts.

27th of the sixth month, 1700.

After this meeting we rode to John Whiteside's near Charlemount, fifteen miles, and the next day had a heavenly meeting with Friends at their meeting-house, and on the day following went to Toberhead twenty miles; the next day, being first day of the week, we had a meeting with Friends at Thomas Gregg's house, many Friends met us there, from Grange and Dunclaudy; then we went to Colerain, and had a meeting there, and several Friends came out of the country to it; from there we rode to Grange, and had a meeting there with Friends, and another at Antrim.

The McCool family managed to take hold of a valuable perpetuity lease (three lives lease) in 1734 for part of the townland of Toberhead on the Vintner's estate. The landlord William Conolly, Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, was reputedly the wealthiest person in Ireland at the time of the lease 1734. With regard to the townland of Toberhead I was in a fortunate position to have access to a relative complete archive of land records in the form of estate papers and the Registry of Deeds, Dublin in addition to the Quaker church records. The discovery of the Morton Family Papers in PRONI added another valuable family archive since there had been intermarriage between the Mortons and the McCools of Toberhead.¹⁶⁶ The records were revealing and I have been able to put together a cohesive tree descending from the progenitor of the family John McCool born around the mid-seventeenth century and linking this to Tommy McCool of the same family who resides in Coleraine.¹⁶⁷

I propose this tree as the best working hypothesis but having spent countless hours putting together the pieces of the jigsaw from the available evidence I am confident that the line of descent is as accurate as the records will allow. The majority of the original McCool family left for Pennsylvania in the early seventeenth century in a Quaker migratory wave to Pennsylvania. A few family members remained to farm the family farm and their descendants are recorded in the townland in Griffiths' valuation (1858).

On the 5th March 1908 the widow Mary McCool (nee McCallion) died at Toberhead aged 90 years thus ending the McCool line in Toberhead.¹⁶⁸ Her husband William McCool had encumbered the farm in Toberhead with debt and after his death in 1880 and the farm passed out of the family. Thus, we have recorded and documented evidence of the McCool surname in Toberhead from the year 1688 until 1908, a continuous presence of over 220 years. There are many McCool descendants in America but the Irish line has

¹⁶⁶ D4480/1-2 Morton Family Papers

¹⁶⁷ Tommy McCool a talented local painter and one of the last links to the Toberhead family.

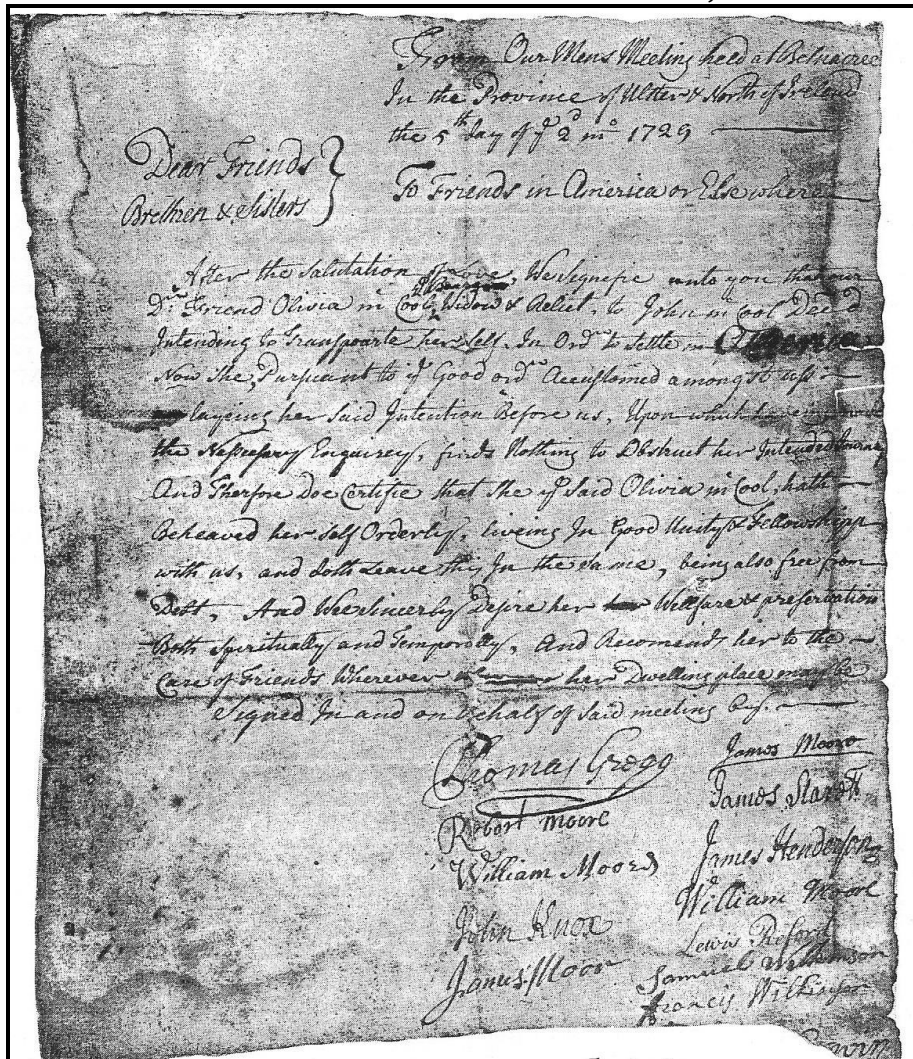
¹⁶⁸ In the 1901 census Mary McCool resided with her daughter Marianne Kirkwood in Toberhead.

diminished greatly with Tommy McCool's family one of the last of the family still resident in Ulster.

We have established that the first generation began with John McCool who was residing as an adult in Toberhead in 1688. I have been unable to garner any additional information concerning his origins, whether he was a convert to Quakerism or born into the faith. John McCool died sometime before Eleventh Month (January) 1719/20, when Olivia was referred to as a widow. I have estimated John McCool's birth therefore to be circa. 1655.

In 1729, his widow Olivia emigrated to Pennsylvania and a descendant kept a copy of the original certificate of removal, which is included here too for posterity.

REMOVAL CERTIFICATE OLIVIA MCCOOL RELICT OF JOHN MCCOOL



Frontspiece.

AN IRISH QUAKER'S CERTIFICATE OF REMOVAL TO PENNSYLVANIA, 1729

Brought to Newark or Kennett Monthly Meeting
Chester Co by the Weaver Olivia McCool. From original
M.S. in collection of Arthur Cope, of West Chester PA.

Certificate of Removal from Belnacree MM for Olivia McCool:

From Our Mens Meeting held at Belnacree
In the Province of Ulster & North of Ireland
the 5th day of 2nd mo 1729

To Friends in America or Elsewhere
Dear Friends, Brethren & Sisters:

After the Salutation of Love, We Signifie unto you that our (Dear?) Friend Olivia McCool (?), Widow & Relict to John McCool Decd, Intending to Transpoarte herself, In Ordr to Settle in America, now she, Pursuant to the Good order Accustomed amongst us, laying her said Intention Before us, Upon which having made the Necessary Enquirey, find Nothing to Obstruct her Intended leaving And Therefore Doe Certifie that the afSaid Olivia McCool hath Beheaved her Self Orderly, liveing In Good Unity & Fellowship with us, and doth Leave this In the Same, being also free from Debt, And Wee Sincerly Desire her Wellfare & preservation Both Spiritually and Temporally, And Recomend her to the Care of Friends Wherever her Dwelling place may be.

Signed In and on Behalf of Said meeting by: Thomas Gregg, Robert Moore, William Moore, John Knox, James Moor, James Moore, James Starett, James Henderson, William Moore, Lewis Reford, Samuel Wilkinson, Francis Wilkinson, et al

Friends at Belnachree (Ballynacree) meeting in 1729 granted to Olivia McCool, widow and relict of John McCool deceased, a certificate of good conduct that she could present to Quaker meeting in America. That the certificate of removal was granted at Ballynacree is incidental. Olivia McCool could have received the certificate from any of the local Quaker meetings since she was a well-known and active Quaker in Toberhead where she resided. Olivia had continued to hold the local Friends meeting in her home after her husband's death. On 2nd of the Eleventh Month 1719/20 Widow McCool's house in Toberhead, was to be registered as a meeting-house.¹⁶⁹

Olivia McCool was John McCool's second wife. The evidence for this was uncovered when I was investigating the family of his daughter Jane McCool of Toberhead who had married Arthur Willson of Lemnaroy in 1725.

Co. Londonderry Quaker Mar. Notice 1725 Jane McCool "to marry with Arthur Willson."¹⁷⁰

Jane McCool married into a local Quaker family by the name of Willson. Her husband was Arthur Willson who had a brother Morgan Willson who was a prominent member of the Toberhead meeting.¹⁷¹ Morgan Willson's son in law Gervais Johnston was also a prominent member of the Toberhead meeting but by the time of his death in 1801 the Toberhead meeting had been dissolved.

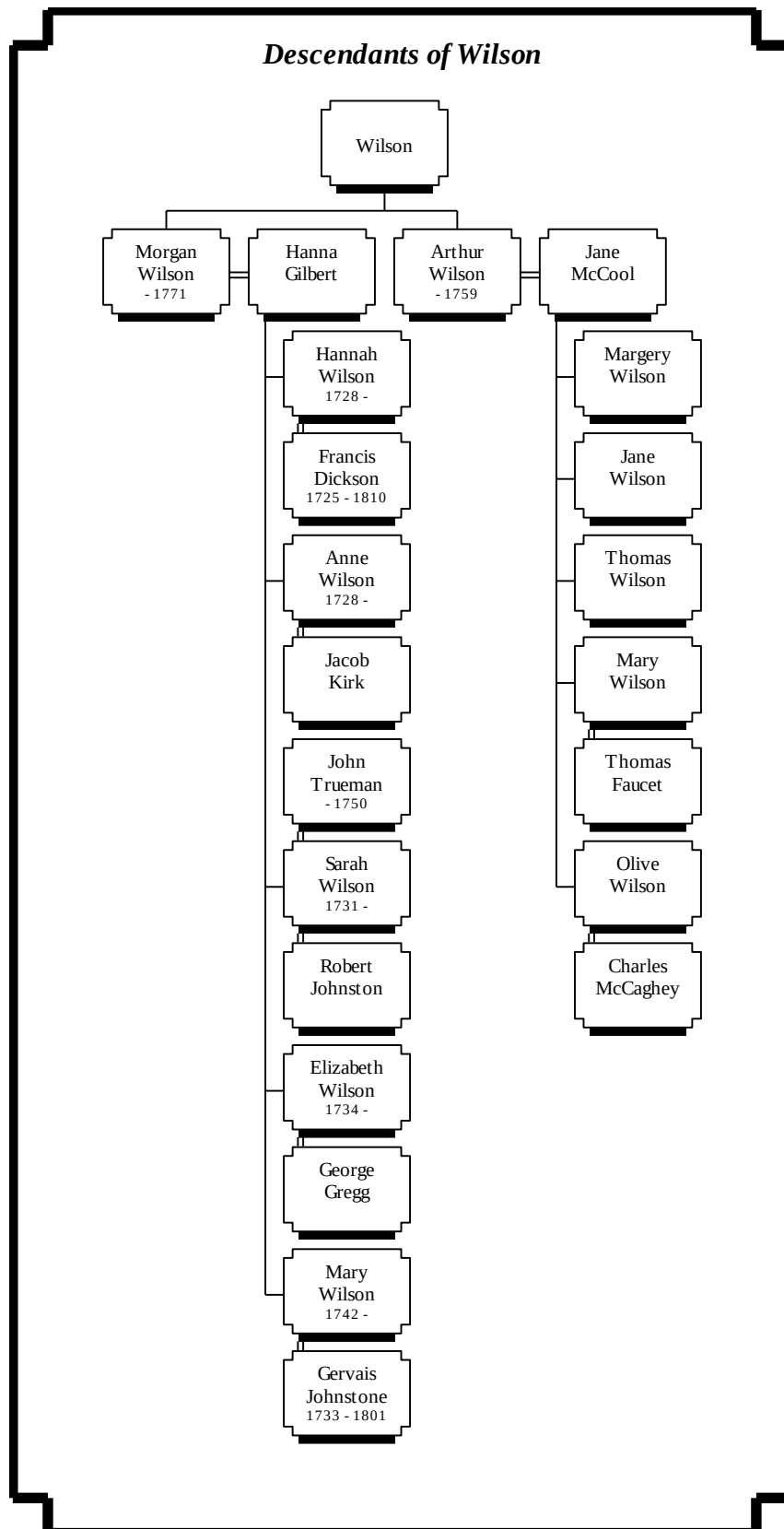
The family tree of the Willson family is outlined below.¹⁷²

¹⁶⁹ T1062/41 pp. 17, 95, 147. T1062/46 p. 30

¹⁷⁰ T1026/46 p. 44

¹⁷¹ There was a William Wilson in Toberhead as early as 4 Aug 1686 who may be the progenitor of this family: 'The Bishopric of Derry and the Irish Society of London, 1602-1705' Irish Manuscript Commission, 1983 p.113.

¹⁷² Margaret Dickson Falley 'Scotch Irish & Irish Ancestral Research' pp. 90-106.



Arthur Willson died sometime around 1759.¹⁷³ His widow, Jane Willson nee McCool decided to emigrate to America in 1763 upon receiving legacies from the will of her brother John McCool of Delaware in 1761. I take this John McCool to be the son of John McCool senior the patriarch. This will was of great help in sorting out the early tree of the emigrant ancestors of John McCool senior.

The Last Will & Testament of John McCool (Jr.), New Castle Co., DE dated February 26, 1761:

Be it Remembred that I John McCoole of New Castle County on Dellaware ----

I will & ordain that my Sister Jane Willson Wife of Arthur Willson of the County of Londonderry in the Kingdom of Ireland, have, possess & Enjoy all the profits privilege use & Benefits of all that Tract or Parcel of Land

I give & bequeath unto my Sister Jane Willson before mentioned the Sum of Fifty Pounds of like money to be paid to her or her Lawful Heirs, when Lawfully demanded, with Lawful Interest for the same.

In order for her to progress to the New World Jane Willson required a certificate of removal from her Irish Quaker friends and it is within this document that shaft of light into the early origins of the family. The certificate of removal was approved by the Quaker meeting at Grange.

Antrim/Grange with Toberhead Quaker meeting minutes¹⁷⁴

To friends of Newcastle County Pennsylvania or Elsewhere in America

Dear Friends,

Jane Wilson, widow of Arthur Wilson Deceased having acquainted us that she puropes going to your land & To take her daughter Jane Wilson with her and desiring a certificate.

We therefore hereby Certify that the said Jane Wilson the Elder both during her Husband's life & since his decease has been of a sober, orderly conversation & that her daughter Jane Wilson the younger so far as we know hath been of sober conversation & Leaves free from Marriage, Ingagement, & as they both these parts in unity with we recommend them to your brotherly care & Advices & as we are informed **said Jane Wilson the elder is going over on account of a Legacy left her by her Half Brother Jno McCool**, late of your county, not doubting your friendly Assistance in that or other respects we conclude & remain your loveing friends:

Signed on behalf of our six weeks men & women's meeting held at Grange for Antrim Quarter in the Province of Ulster the 26 of the 3rd month 1763 --

Hanna Bready, Sarah Bready, Mary Wilson, Jane Clark, Ann Clark:

Morgan Wilson, Richard Steer, Samson Bready, Samuel Clark, John Dean, William English, William Gregg, David Hunter, James Robson, William McMullan, John Clark, Thomas Greer.

Fortunately, the Grange-meeting, gave additional and revealing family information that John McCool of Delaware was the half-brother of the emigrant Jane McCool. This vital piece of information shone a shaft of light into the structure of the first and second generations of the McCool family and helped me to make sense of the early tree. Without

¹⁷³ His will dated 1759 registered in the ROD

¹⁷⁴ MIC 16/43 & AM5/1

this detail I may never have been able to make meaningful connections between the early generations of the family. What had been previously confusing now made sense in light of this family revelation. Other pieces of the jigsaw began to fall into place and the documentary evidence uncovered further details about the tree.

John McCool senior was married twice. We do not have the name of his first wife.

I had noticed in the sufferings book for Quakers register that an Archibald McCool appeared in the records for Toberhead from 1706 onwards and it seemed most likely that he was the eldest son of John McCool by his first wife.¹⁷⁵

1706 sufferings County Londonderry
Parish of Maghera
Archibald McCull
John McCull

1708 sufferings County Londonderry
John McCull
Archibald McCull

1709 sufferings County Londonderry
John McCool
Archibald McCool

1710 sufferings County Londonderry
Maghera parish
John McCool
Archibald McCool

These sufferings are the lists of adults who were punished by the state for refusing to pay tithes to the Established Church of Ireland. Archibald McCool first appears in the sufferings book of 1706 and we can estimate his birth range as circa 1680 to 1690.

It is through this Archibald McCool that the Toberhead McCools are descended. We find him resident in the parish of Maghera in the 1740 Protestant Householders' survey listed as Arch. McCoule. It seems likely that Archibald McCool was a son of John McCool senior by his first marriage.¹⁷⁶ Archibald was probably the eldest son and as a result would have inherited the family farm and lease. It appears that most of his siblings migrated to the New World.

A problem remains with the early McCool tree for the first two generations in that I am unable to determine which children belong to which marriage.

It seems probable given the evidence that Archibald and John were children of the first marriage and Jane of the second marriage.

In his will of 1761 John McCool's refers to each of his siblings as either brothers or sisters and makes no distinction in consanguinity.

¹⁷⁵ T1062/48 Quaker sufferings book 1706; 1708; 1709; 1710

¹⁷⁶ As was John McCool of Delaware will probated 1761

The Last Will & Testament of John McCool, New Castle Co., DE dated February 26, 1761:

Be it Remembred that I John McCoolle of New Castle County on Dellaware

Item: I give and Devise unto the monthly meeting of Duck Creek Composed of the People Called Quakers, my Mansion House and Plantation thereunto belonging, Except the Buildings, Clearings and Improvements made on the upper End of the said Tract of Land, being that part now in the Possession of Peter Hiard & Sidney Peery Widow; Together with Twenty Acres of Woodland next Adjoining the said clearing and Improvement , My Will is that my loving Friend Jacob Janney and his now Wife Elizabeth, Have, possess and enjoy the same,

Item: I give & devise unto the Yearly Meeting of Philadelphia Composed of the People called Quakers all that part or parcel of Land now in the Possession of Peter Hiard & Sidney Peery Widow; Excepted in the Paragraph,

Item: I will & ordain that my Brother Samuel McCoolle, have, possess & enjoy, all the profits, privelieges Use & Benefits of one Moiety

Item: My Will is that my Nephew John McCool Son of my Brother William McCoolle, Deceased, have possess & enjoy all the profits, priveliege, use & benefits of the other Moiety or half Part of the aforesaid Tract or parcel of Land (being that part whereon his Mother Susannah McCoolle now dwells)

Item: I will and Ordain that my Loving Kinsman John Meriss & his now Wife Mary, have, Possess & Enjoy all the profits privileges use & Benefits of all & singular them two Tracts or Parcels of Land or Plantations Scituate lying & being in Georges Creek Hundred in the County of New Castle aforesaid, and on the South Side of Scotts Runn, , they or either of them yielding & paying unto their Daughter Susannah, the Just & full Sum of Forty Pounds Current Money of the Goverment aforesaid, at the day of her marriage or her arriving to the Age of Twenty one years the said Lands & Premises to be & descend unto the next male Heir of the Body of the said Mary Meriss Lawfully begotten and in failure of Such Heirs, to be & descend unto to my Nephew John McCool Son of Walter McCoolle

Item: I will & ordain that my Sister Jane Willson Wife of Arthur Willson of the County of Londonderry in the Kingdom of Ireland, have, possess & Enjoy all the profits privilege use & Benefits of all that Tract or Parcel of Land

Item: My Will is that my Nephew John McCoolle, Son of James McCoolle, Deceased, have, Possess & Enjoy all the profits privelieges, Use & Benefits of that Tract or Parcel of Land

Item: I give & bequeath unto my Kinsman James Butler, Living in Jerseys the Just & full Sum of Fifty Pounds Current Lawful Money of this Goverment, to be paid to him or his Heirs by my Executors when Lawfully Demanded.

Item: I give & bequeath unto my Brother Walter McCoolle the Just & full Sum of One Hundred & Fifty Pounds of like money to be paid to him in Bonds or Obligations upon Demand.

Item: I give & bequeath unto my Brother Samuel McCoolle the Sum of Fifty Pounds of like Money to be paid him in like manner.

Item: I give & bequeath unto John McCoolle, Son of the Said Samuel McCoolle the Sum of

Forty Pounds of like money to be paid to him in like manner.

Item: I give & bequeath unto my Nephew John McCoole, Son of James McCoole, deceased, the Sum of Fifty Pounds of like Money to be paid to him when he comes to age to receive it according to Law, with Lawful Interest for the same.

Item: I give & bequeath unto my Sister Jane Willson before mentioned the Sum of Fifty Pounds of like money to be paid to her or her Lawful Heirs, when Lawfully demanded, with Lawful Interest for the same.

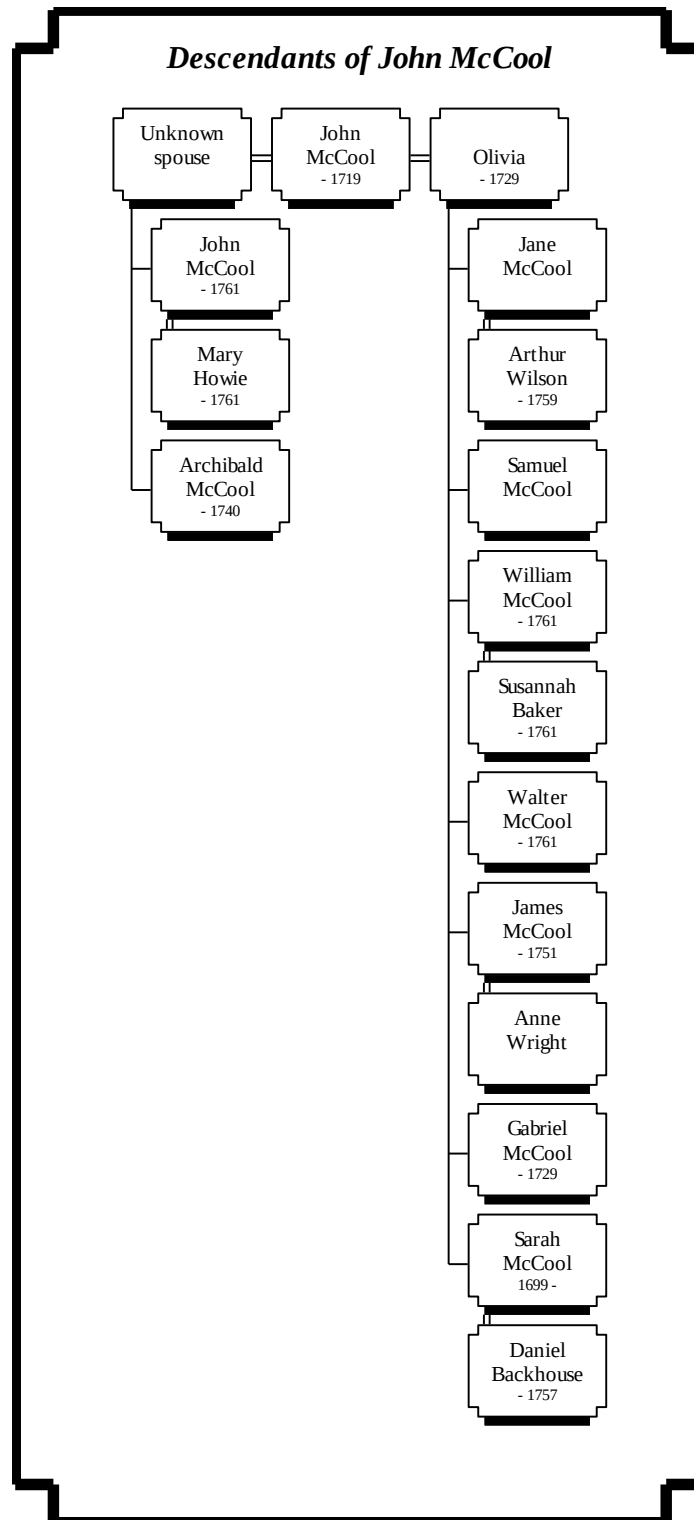
Items: (He carefully arranges for the education, freedom from servitude, and continuing support (as needed) of nine slaves).

And Lastly, I do hereby Nominate, Constitute & appoint Trusty and well Esteemed Friends Robert Richardson & John Meriss, both of New Castle County, Executors of this my last Will and Testament, declaring this & no other to be my last Will and Testament In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Affixed my Seal this twenty Sixth Day of the Second Month Called February in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and sixty one ----- 1761.

Signed Sealed and Acknowledged by the Said John McCoole (Seal)
John McCoole to be his last Will and Testament
in the presence of us.

Robert Patterson
Edith Patterson
her
Esther (X) Boyd
mark

The will of John McCool 1761 and other records from the Quaker records in America were useful in building up a picture of the second generation of the family. I have attached Archibald and John to the first marriage (unknown spouse) and all other known children to the second marriage with Olivia (unknown maiden name). This in part may explain why the widowed Olivia emigrated to America in 1729. There is no proof of death but one assumes she died in America amongst her family.



The children of John McCool in America:

The will of John McCool junior 1761 mentions brothers Samuel McCool, William McCool deceased, Walter McCool, James McCool deceased (will 1751), Sister Jane Wilson in Londonderry. In addition James McCool emigrated to America with his brother Gabriel McCool in 1725 with a certificate of removal from the Quaker meeting in Dunlady .¹⁷⁷

¹⁷⁷ Quaker database Dublin

Gabriel McCool's estate was administered 1729. In addition research on the Backhouse family genealogy revealed that the wife of Daniel Backhouse was Sarah McCool most likely another child of John McCool senior.¹⁷⁸

Back to the Toberhead family.

We find in the 1740 Protestant Householders' List for the parish of Maghera. Archibald McCool's name. He took out a valuable lease in Toberhead, dated 1734. The three lives lease was also known as a perpetuity lease and gave the McCool family a sense of security rarely granted to Irish tenants. A marker stone with the family initials and the date 1735 was uncovered at the McCool homestead in Toberhead. I suggest there is a connection between the perpetuity lease of the 1734 and the stone marker of 1735. At some stage it appears that the McCool homestead was extended and a second home built perhaps for a son. It seems likely that the marker was carved to commemorate this significant family event that was made possible by the taking on such a valuable lease.

1735 marker stone



LEASE OF 1734 TRANSCRIBED FROM THE ORIGINAL IN THE REGISTRY OF DEEDS IN DUBLIN

Original Lease for Toberhead 1734 East Quarter Division 103 acres; 1r 20p arable & 51 acres boggy

Registry of Deeds Volume 176 page 49 memorial number 116751

Conolly to Beaton & ors

Registered 17 day April 1755

Lease dated 28 March 1734

Rt Hon Wm Conolly, Dublin of the one part & Samuel Beaton, Hugh Beaton, **Archibald McCowl** & Daniel Backhouse in the proportion of Vintners - East Quarter Division 103 acres; 1r 20p arable & pasture and 51 acres, 2r, 16p bogg - natural lives and lives of **Archibald McCowl eldest son of John McCowl of Toberhead**; John Backhouse, son of said Daniel Backhouse¹⁷⁹ & John McCracken son of Robert McCracken of Grange in said proportion: £14 annual rent; renewal of life £7.

Witnesses - Marcus McCausland, Deasey [Daisy] Hill, L'Derry & Geo Tiney, Dublin, Gent
Signed in presence of and sealed - Marcus McCausland & James Marley 7 Sept 1754

¹⁷⁸ The Backhouse family were another early Quaker family in Toberhead.

¹⁷⁹ Daniel Backhouse's wife Sarah McCool was another daughter of John McCool, senior.

Careful analysis of this lease indicates that it identifies three generations of McCools.

The lease was devised to Archibald McCool in 1734 – I take this Archibald McCool to be the eldest son of John McCool senior deceased before 1721.¹⁸⁰

In the 1734 lease a John McCool is named as the father of Archibald McCool, a life inserted in the lease.¹⁸¹

I take this John McCool named in the lease to be the son of Archibald McCool of the 1734 lease and the 1740 Protestant Householders survey. It will be noted that Archibald McCool, the life in the lease, was described as the eldest son of John McCool, and I suspect he was just a child at the time of the lease in 1734. So the Archibald McCool life in the lease was grandson of Archibald McCool of the 1740 householders' survey.¹⁸²

Line of descent for the McCools who remained in Toberhead:

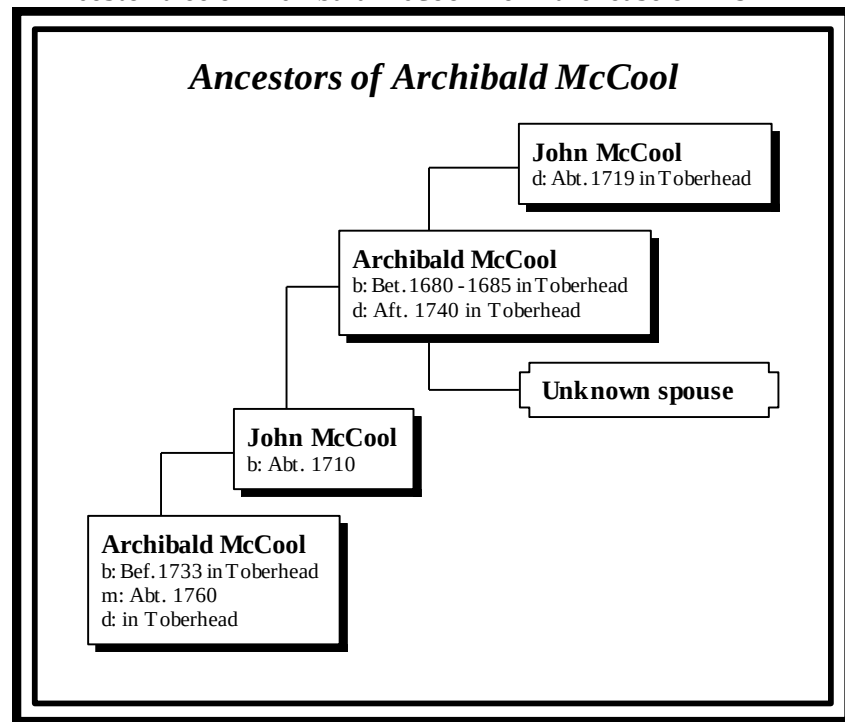
John McCool progenitor of the Toberhead family deceased by 1721 had issue:

Archibald McCool (1734 lease & 1740 survey) who had issue:

John McCool (named in 1734 lease) and he had issue

Archibald McCool (eldest son of John McCool and the life in the lease of 1734).

Ancestor tree of Archibald McCool life in the lease of 1734



¹⁸⁰ Archibald McCool is mentioned in the book of sufferings for 1706 and is also listed in the 1740 Protestant householders' survey for Maghera parish.

¹⁸¹ The John McCool mentioned in the 1734 lease cannot be John McCool junior son of John McCool senior, as he had emigrated to Delaware in USA well before this deed was drawn up.

¹⁸² Archibald McCool the life in the lease is mentioned in later leases, rentals, registered deeds concerning the Toberhead farm.

This line of descent makes sense in light of the available evidence and subsequent family history. The McCools of Toberhead appear to have been one homogeneous family so we are not talking about large numbers.¹⁸³

Evidence for Archibald McCool (mentioned as a life in lease of 1734)

It seems likely that the Archibald McCool mentioned in the deed as eldest son of John McCool was a child in the 1734 lease. Sometimes ages are given in the lease but not in this occasion. Confirmation that Archibald McCool was probably a child in 1734 is confirmed from Quaker records as he was married in 1760. He is mentioned as an active Quaker in Toberhead in 1758 and 1759. But in 1760 he was disowned from the body of Quakers for marrying a non-Quaker.

Minutes of a men's meeting held at Morgan Wilson's, near Toberhead 21 of 5th month 1758.¹⁸⁴

Toberhead members - **Archibald McCool**

Book of Sufferings, 1759¹⁸⁵

Maghera parish: **Archibald McCool** had taken from him for thythes by John Hagan by the taker under Thomas Bernard priest of the parish of Maghera 12 stooks of oats with some hay worth 7shillings.

Quaker Minutes 1760¹⁸⁶

This meeting being informed that Edward Backhouse, **Archd McCool** and Olive Wilson otherwise McCaghy have joyned in marriage with persons not professing with us: John McMunn & Morgan Willson are desired to draw suitable testimonys against their transgressions and bring them to the next men's meeting.

Quaker discipline/removals¹⁸⁷

Whereas **Archibald McCool** was educated in the profession of people called Quakers & did sometime frequent our religious meetings but for want of a faithful adherence to the Dictates of that Devine Principle which was sufficient to have preserved hath been prevailed on to suffer himself to be joined in marriage by a Priest to a Woman of a different profession, we do thereby Disown the said Archibald McCool to be of our society untill he come to witness that Godly sorrow which worketh true repentance which that the Lord may Mercifully grant him is our sincere desire. Given forth at a men's meeting held in Antrim ye 27th of ye 7th month 1760.

Commentary:

Archibald McCool was married circa. 1760. He was married to a woman from a different denomination and this was sufficient for his expulsion from the Society of Friends.¹⁸⁸ The Quaker meeting at Toberhead was struggling to survive by the late eighteenth century and by 1796 ceased to exist.¹⁸⁹

¹⁸³ Considering that most of the early family emigrated.

¹⁸⁴ MIC16/43, 1758-1760

¹⁸⁵ MIC16/6 Q5/3 1748-1809 Ulster Province/Quarterly meetings

¹⁸⁶ MIC16/43

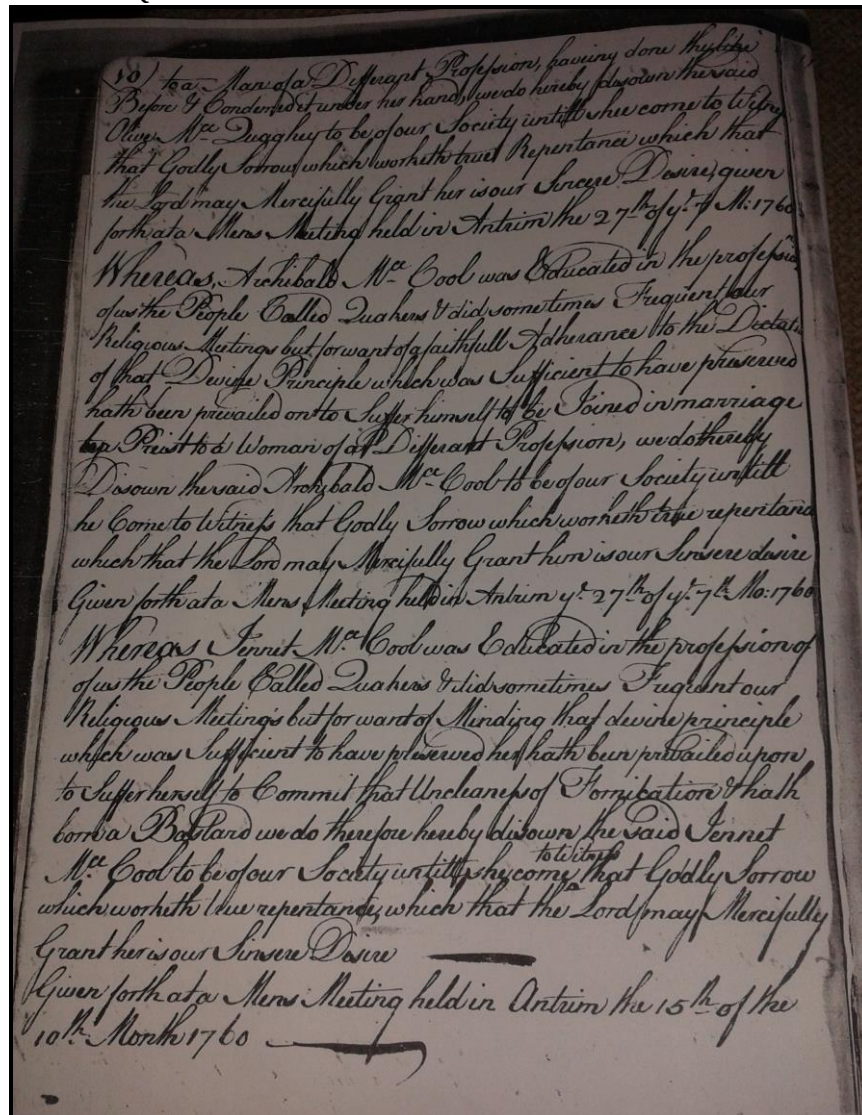
¹⁸⁷ MIC16/43 p.10

¹⁸⁸ Most likely married by a Presbyterian minister. Quakers viewed all ministers as 'priests' irrespective of denomination. Subsequently the family were attached to Castledawson Presbyterian Church.

¹⁸⁹ In 1793 Job Scott described the Toberhead meeting as a 'feeble one'. 'A Journal of life, travels, gospel and labours of Job Scott', 1815.

Archibald McCool inherited the family farm and lease. As the life in the lease of 1734 he is mentioned in the lease book for the estate.

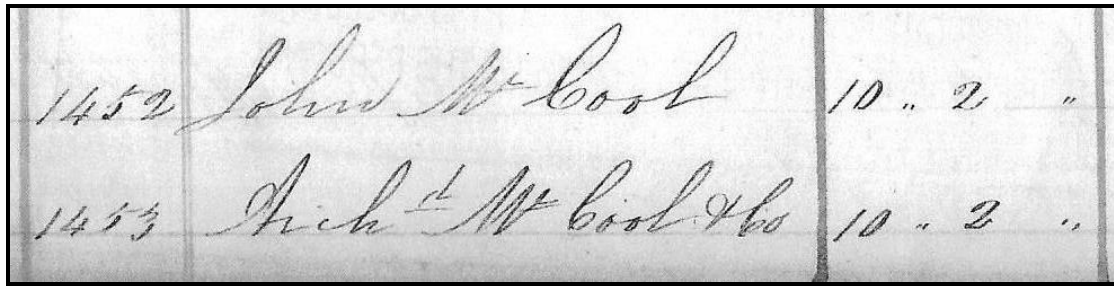
Quaker record of disownment for Archibald McCool 1760 ¹⁹⁰



Moving forward in time to the tithes book of 1827 this reveals that the family farm was in the possession of John McCool and Archibald McCool junior. Divided into 2 lots of 10 acres 2 rood numbered 1452 and 1453 respectively in the Maghera tithe book. ¹⁹¹

¹⁹⁰ MIC16/43 p.10

¹⁹¹ FIN/5/A/212



I have concluded that John & Archibald were brothers (and children of Archibald McCool senior who was married c. 1760) given that they were contemporaries and in possession of the McCool land, which was in effect one contiguous farm. Evidence uncovered in the Vintners' Bellaghy estate archive supports this assertion. An examination of the rental for 1779 contains information about the lives in the perpetuity lease.

Rental of Vintners' estate with leases recited (1779)¹⁹²

Tubberhead

Page 762: Samuel Beaton & co part of Tubberhead containing 103-1-20 arable/pasture and 50-1-16 bog from Nov 1733 for lives renewable forever: Renewed to Kennedy Henderson & ors 1779 **for lives of Archibald McCool, Archibald McCool J'r & John Henderson.**

The rental confirmed that Archibald McCool named as a life in the 1733 lease was still alive in 1779 and indeed had a son Archibald McCool, junior. It is the latter we find in the tithes book for Toberhead in 1827, which was also the year of his death.¹⁹³

Additional information on the family was uncovered in the valuable Bellaghy lease book.

The McCools and allied farmers were fortunate to hold a valuable perpetuity lease that enabled them to survive the vicissitudes of the late eighteenth century on the Vintners' estate. The McCools would have been considered strong farmers. By comparison many of the local tenants in the area would have struggled to make a subsistence living from the land as population pressured increased significantly towards the end of the eighteenth century.

The correspondence between the Bellaghy agent Andrew Spotswood and the proprietor Thomas Conolly reveal the conditions that the tenants at the end of the eighteenth century. The letters shed a shaft of light into this period of history. Spotswood wrote to Conolly in [?] about the problems with collecting the November rent due to scarcity of money, *'I have been using my utmost endeavours to bring in the November rents and assure you Sir, when I have impounded the tenants' cattle I have been obliged to return them again for want of purchasers, and little or no money given for cloth or yarn so great is the distress of this part of the country'* (TCD: 3976/514) YEAR?

The rapid increase in the population of Ireland in the latter half of the eighteenth century was clearly reflected at regional level in south Derry and is summed up in the comments of one local observer *'there are several townlands the houses of which have been trebled in the memory of men not very old; the last decade of George II may be*

¹⁹² D1062/1/2

¹⁹³ He had a son Archibald McCool junior, which causes some confusion as we have three contiguous generations named Archibald.

assumed as the point whence it began to start towards its present density'. A significant portion became dependent on the potato crop for survival.

The late eighteenth century was a time of distress for many due to crop failure and this led to distressful years in 1782-1783 and 1799-1800 with the potato always the culprit. Bad harvests led to rent crises and the frustrations of the Bellaghy land-agent are prevalent in his letters to the landlord Conolly, and in 1782 he wrote, *'the late and very bad harvests make the rents come in more tardy than usual'*. The period 1795-1805 was particularly bad, *'few of the Roman Catholic tenants, if any, are able to fine down to the rents granted in 1734. The farms each man occupies is so small it is impossible for them to be rich and it is by linen manufacture that they all live'*.¹⁹⁴

Although the spinning and weaving of linen was important in County Derry, the south of the county was not a major area of production. Only a dozen or so families are listed in Maghera parish flax premium returns for 1796. There were 4 corn mills on the Vintners' proportion and tenants were tied to a particular mill, a usual condition of the lease contract.

On June 9 1800 John Spotswood wrote *'I never experienced such distress as the people are in general in, and assure you there are very few on your estate have their bread unbought and you will not be surprised at it when I can with truth inform you there are but four who live on your estate have above 50 acres of land in their own occupation, and not twenty who occupy 20 acres and the general average of this estate do not occupy more than 7 acres.'* [*'I registered 234 freeholders on this estate in May 1796 above 25 are since dead or gone to America, a very few stayed at home'*]. *'Most of your Roman Catholic tenants who you gave lives to would not take the oath prescribed by the law to enable them to vote, but many came in when they heard you were anxious for Colonel Stewart and offered to take the oaths and I am in hopes I will get all Catholics to register votes in July next'*.¹⁹⁵

A letter of 19 May 1801 reflects the same gloomy picture, *'the dreadful distress of the people by the total failure of the potato crop'* and again *'the estate is so thickly inhabited and so many here have joined in a lease and the dreadful distresses at least 5 out of every 8 have suffered for 18 months past that it has rendered many bankrupts and numbers obliged to sell parts of their farms, many the whole, to keep them and their families from starving'*.¹⁹⁶ The average farm at this time was only 7 acres.

The McCool family survived these regional difficulties. It is fortunate that a lease book is extant giving details of the ages of lives in the perpetuity leases on the Bellaghy estate over a significant period of time as we can see from a transcript of the document below:

¹⁹⁴ TCD/3980/1361 5 July 1800

¹⁹⁵ TCD/3980/1350

¹⁹⁶ TCD/3980/1396

Bellaghy lease book details ¹⁹⁷

Original lease dated 28 March 1734 from William Conolly to Samuel Beaton, **Archibald McCowl** & Daniel Backhouse containing 103-1-2 arable and pasture and 50-1-15 bog. Year rent and fees £14-7-0 for the lives of **Archibald McCowl**, John Backhouse & John McCrackin. Additional rent £5 in case of alienation.

First rent dated 10 Oct 1779 (note – this means renewal of a ‘life’)
From Thomas Conolly to Kennedy Henderson, Hugh Beaton, Joseph Courtenay, Edward Backhouse & **Archibald McCool**. Life deceased John Backhouse. Life inserted John Kennedy son of Kennedy Henderson aged 14 years.¹⁹⁸

Lives therein being Archibald McCool (one of the lives in the original lease eldest son of said Achibald McCool sen’r aforesaid) & Archibald McCool jun’r - whose life was inserted by virtue of a power of attorney as recited in this rent in the room of John McCracken & John son of Kennedy Henderson of C:Dawson.

Is there a new rent? --- I do not see one. **Archibald McCool senior died in August 1827** (and the life of Robert Peel Dawson eldest son of George Robert Dawson has been nominated in his stead). The lives then would be John Henderson of Castledawson, **Archibald McCool junior** & Robert Peel Dawson.

Archibald McCool jun died in Oct 1828

John Henderson died 20 May 1832

The details in the Bellaghy lease-book adds significantly to our knowledge of the family as it mentions Archibald McCool senior who died 1827 and Archibald McCool junior who died 1828. I was fortunate to uncover a copy of the will of Archibald McCool senior in the Morton Family Papers. His wife was Sarah Backhouse the daughter of Edward Backhouse of Toberhead.

Will of Archibald McCool dated 27 July 1827 ¹⁹⁹

In the name of God, Amen

I Archibald McCool Senior of Toberhead in the county of Londonderry.
I will that my body be buried in a decent but not expensive manner
My will is that after my death my family shall not seperate during their mother's life
Mention of son Samuel providing bed and bedding for family members upon death of their mother or upon marriage whichever should come first.
They being otherwise provided for by the last will of the late Edward Backhouse their grandfather

To my son Samuel McCool I do give and deliver all my lands and real property in Toberhead aforesaid and to his heirs male or female forever together with all my personal and chattle property of what kind forever subject nevertheless to bequests to his sisters aforesaid and to the payment of all my just debts.

And in case my son Samuel die without lawful heirs then in that case I give my lands to

¹⁹⁷ D1062/1/5 p. 80

¹⁹⁸ Henderson of Broagh, Castledawson: Kennedy Henderson married Ann Mauleverer in July 1759 (D313/1). Lease of Broagh near Castledawson 1762 (LPC/326) and was listed in 1766 religious returns for Magherafelt parish, dissenter. Around 1771 he was running a bleachyard at Broagh. Kennedy Henderson was still alive in 1796 as he was a Burgess of Newtownlimavady Corporation (D663/27). His son John Henderson (c1755-1832) was a life in the Toberhead lease.

¹⁹⁹ D4480/1/1 (spelling as in the original document).

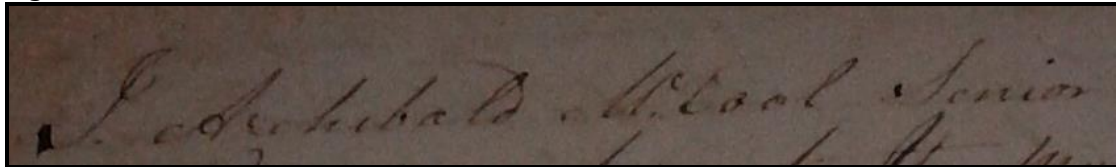
Mr James Mawhinney at present of Coran, Innkeeper in trust for the purpose hereafter mentioned that is to say to sell and dispose of my lands aforesaid and the money & proceeds arising therefrom to be divided between my daughters and thier heirs share and share alike:

I appoint Mr Francis Morton of Ballynogher & James Anderson of Toberhead my executors

27 day of July 1827

Archibald McCool

Signature of Archibald McCool senior from the will of 1827



In addition I uncovered an additional transcript of Archibald McCool's will, which had been filed with the Inland Revenue (these transcripts survived destruction as they were not housed in the Public Record Office in Dublin). Microfilm copies are available in the National Archives, Dublin. In this transcript a different date of death is recorded for Archibald McCool senior than in the Bellaghy lease-book, nevertheless both sources confirmed that he died in the year 1827.

Transcription of will of Archibald McCool Inland Revenue²⁰⁰

Will transcript Derry Diocese of Archibald McCool 1837 [4/236/29]

Archibald McCool of Toberhead Co Derry died 27 October 1827; will dated 21 July 1827 In Trust of Jas Mawhinney of Curran, Innkeeper. Exors - Francis Morton, Ballynocker & Jas Anderson, Toberhead, PT Castledawson; proved Con Court of Derry April 1837.

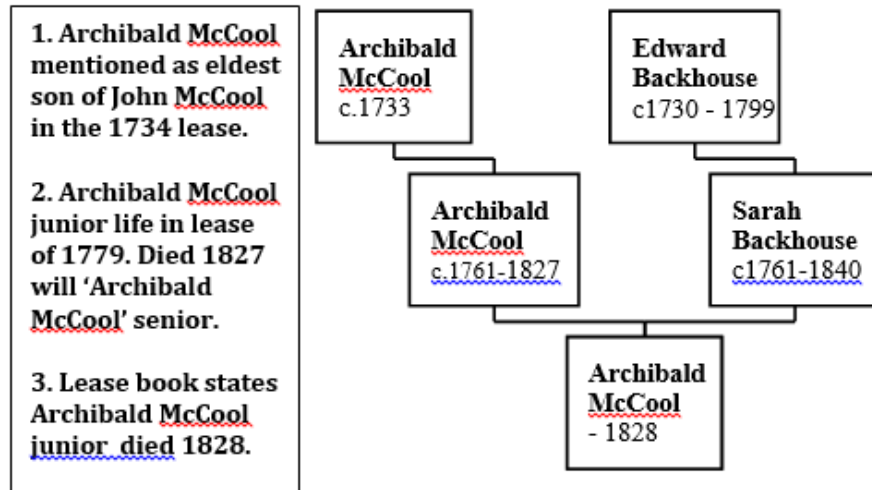
All testators lands/real estate/ Should the son Sam'l die without heirs (sell same) to testators daughters & heirs

In his will of 1827 Archibald McCool sets the farm and land to his son Samuel McCool. Mentions daughters unnamed. Archibald McCool styled himself 'senior' in his will of 1827. Son Archibald McCool junior is not mentioned in the will so it is possible that he was already provided for or possibly he was already ill as he died the following year (Oct 1828).

We are presented with three generations named Archibald McCool outlined in the tree below for reference purposes.

²⁰⁰ National Archives Ireland IWR/1837/F/249

Archibald McCool life in lease of 1734



The will of Archibald McCool of Toberhead was not probated in Derry Diocese until 1837. It seems likely that the delay was predicated by a legal wrangle, possibly caused by the premature death of Samuel McCool who was mentioned in his father's will 1827.²⁰¹ It seems likely that Samuel McCool died without lawful issue as the will of Archibald McCool senior stated:

And in case my son Samuel die without lawful heirs then in that case I give my lands to Mr James Mawhinney at present of Coran Innkeeper in trust for the purpose hereafter mentioned that is to say to sell and dispose of my lands aforesaid and the money & proceeds arising therefrom to be divided between my daughters and their heirs share and share alike:

Subsequent research proved that Archie McCool had at least four daughters who married local men. Two daughters Jane and Anne married two McMaster brothers, Robert and Hugh respectively. Another daughter Peggy McCool married Robert Stone and another Elizabeth was married to John McNiece. Concerning the latter, Elizabeth McNiece formerly McCool was widowed around 1831 and in 1834 remarried William Morton in Maghera Church of Ireland. Morton subsequently became embroiled in a legal dispute over family legacy that he felt he was entitled to as a result of the marriage.²⁰² The Morton Family Papers were of immense help in working out the various family connections in the earlier part of the nineteenth century.

²⁰¹ This is the only reference we have to Samuel McCool son of Archibald McCool.

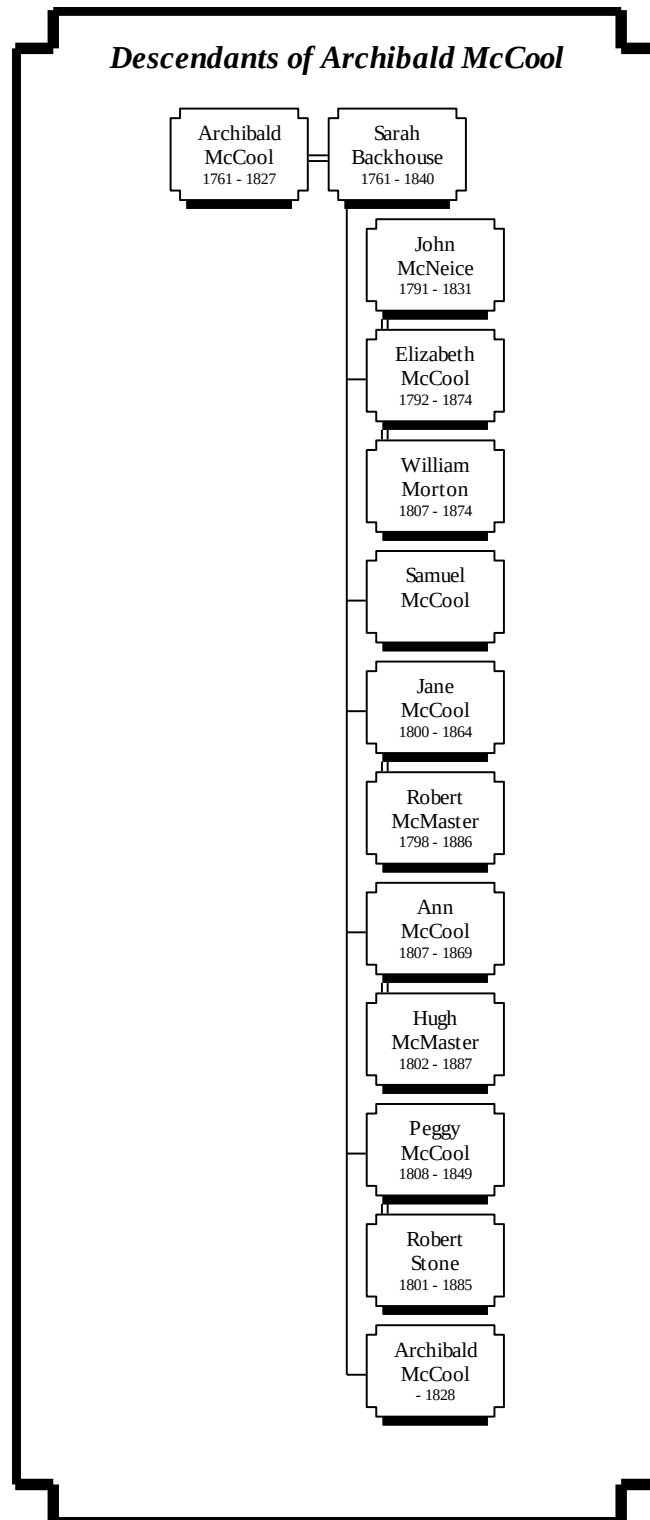
²⁰² We are in one way grateful for this since the legal case has left a valuable documentary trail.

Toberhead: Griffiths Valuation 1858

22	a	Hugh M'Master.	Captain Henderson.	House, offices, and land,	21	2	0
-	b	Thomas Badger.	Hugh M'Master,	House,			
23		William Shannon,	Captain Henderson,	House, offices, and land,	5	2	10
24	A a	John M'Coole,	Earl of Strafford, Sir	House, offices, & land,	28	2	30
-	- b	Robert M'Master,	Robt. Bateson, Bt.,	House, office, & land,			
	-	Archibald M'Neese,	and Lady Louisa	Land, . . .			
-	B	Hugh M'Master,	Trench, . . .	Land, . . .	2	1	15
	-	Robert Stone,		Land, . . .			
	A c	Unoccupied,	Archibald M'Neese,	House, . . .			
	- d	William M'Coole.	John M'Coole, . . .	House, . . .			
	n a	Patrick M'Ilwee,	Same, . . .	House, . . .			
25	A				16	3	35
	-	Hugh M'Master,	Earl of Strafford, Sir	Land, . . .			
	-	Robert M'Master,	Robert Bateson, Bt.,	Land, . . .			
	A a	Robert Stone,	and Lady Louisa	House, office, & land,			
	B a	Archibald M'Neese,	Trench, . . .	House and land,			
-	B				5	1	20
-	C				1	3	25

As can be seen from the Griffiths' returns above (McCoole's quarter) local families married into the McCool family and so the original farm was sub-divided over time.

The following is the descendant tree of Archibald McCool and his wife Sarah Backhouse. The male line in this family died out but female lines intermarried with Toberhead families of McNiece, Stone and McMaster and their descendants still reside in the area today.



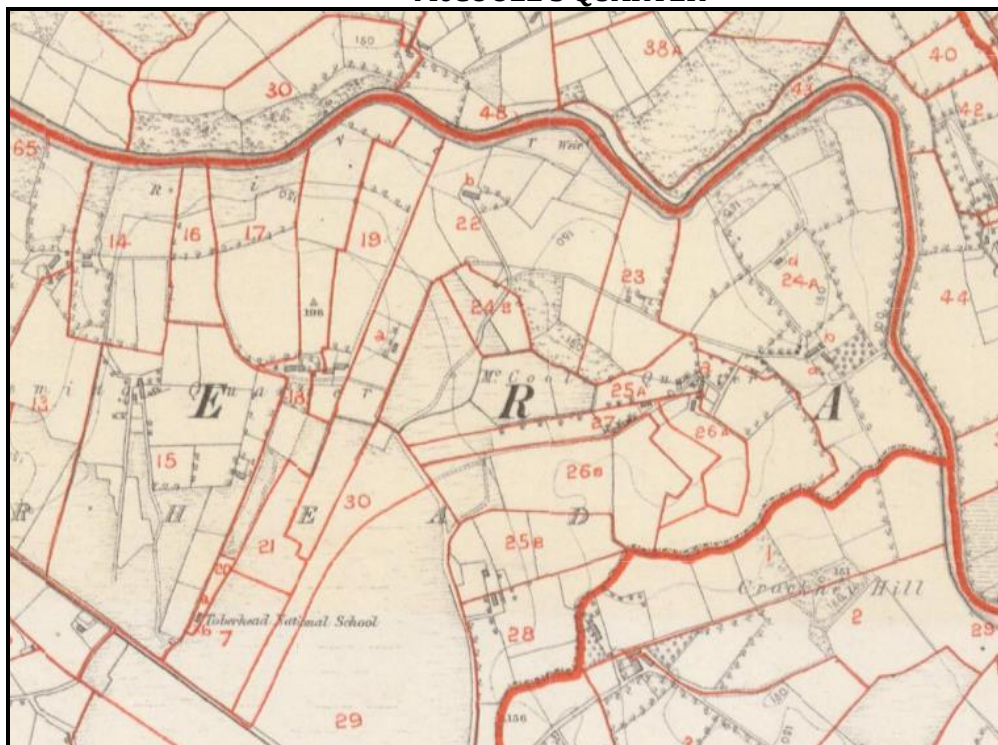
The male McCool line through Archibald McCool and Sarah Backhouse died out. The remaining McCools in Toberhead descend from John McCool (1775-1865) whom we find listed in the 1827 tithes book and 1858 Griffiths valuation in Toberhead.

An interesting visitation took place in Toberhead in 1835 by the Quaker Joshua Evans who wrote his diary *'From Coleraine we passed through several towns to a meeting inn Toberhead where there is no person in membership with us **but some of the descendants of Friends reside there.** I thought they resembled the lost sheep of the house of Israel and we laboured earnestly for their help, though the prospect appears gloomy'*.²⁰³

No doubt John McCool was one of the persons spoken about in the diary I have already mentioned that this John McCool was most likely the brother of Archibald McCool who married Sarah Backhouse. I suspect that John McCool married someone by the name of Hammond since he named one son Samuel Hammond McCool (and Hammonds resided in the area). It is through John McCool that the surname of McCool was still resident in Toberhead by the time of the 1901 census. It seems that John McCool took possession of the perpetuity lease but I have not been able to find a copy of the document. Other evidence suggests that he held the perpetuity lease. He was listed as a £10 freeholder in 1839, which gave him the right to vote.²⁰⁴ He appears posthumously in the volume 'Landowners of Ireland' 1876 with a holding of 22 acres in Toberhead.²⁰⁵ No will appears to have been probated.

LOCATION OF MCCOOL FARM TOBERHEAD

McCOOLE'S QUARTER

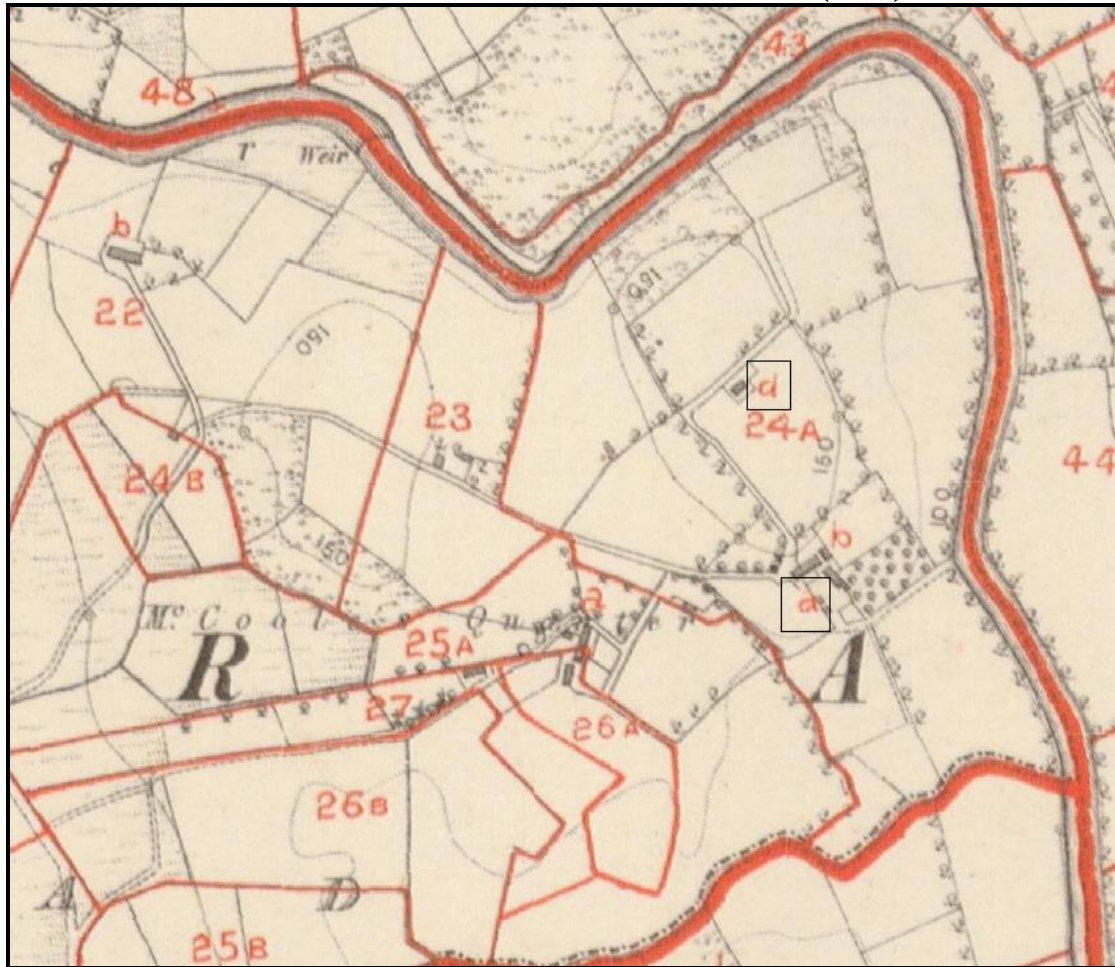


²⁰³ Friends Miscellany Volume 6: Joshua Evans, published by J Richards, 1835 referring to Phebe Speakman's voyage to England and Ireland c. 1796.

²⁰⁴ D834/1 no 172: John McCool £10 freeholder.

²⁰⁵ His estate matters had still not been settled from the time of his death in 1865 hence the phrase 'representatives of' John McCool had been inserted.

McCool farm at the time of Griffiths valuation (1858)



Griffiths valuation books and the accompanying maps are revealing as they show that John McCool shared a farm of land with Robert McMaster of some 28 acres, 2 rood, 30 perch. Lot 24 shows the related families of McMaster, McNiece, and Stone all of whom married daughters of Archibald McCool (died 1827) of Toberhead. Descendants still farm the land today.

The numbers in the map correspond to those in the Griffiths valuation volume.

24	A	a	John M'Coole,	Earl of Strafford, Sir	House, offices, & land,	28	2	30
		b	Robert M'Master,	Robt. Bateson, Bt.,	House, office, & land,			
		c	Archibald M'Niece,	and Lady Louisa	Land, . . .			
	B	d	Hugh M'Master,	Trench, . . .	Land, . . .	2	1	15
		e	Robert Stone,		Land, . . .			
		f	Unoccupied, . . .	Archibald M'Niece,	House, . . .			
		g	William M'Coole,	John M'Coole, . . .	House, . . .			
		h	Patrick M'Ilwee,	Same, . . .	House, . . .			

John McCool resided 24Aa, which I have marked on the map (Robert McMaster resided at b.). I believe his son Archibald McCool may have resided with his father John McCool on the family farm.²⁰⁶

²⁰⁶ Archibald McCool was a bachelor.

McCool homestead: The house on the hill



William McCool resided at 24Ad, which I have also marked on the map.²⁰⁷



²⁰⁷ John McCool's son.

The farm consisted of 28 acres, 2 rood and 30 perches joint lease between John McCool, Robert McMaster (wife Jane McCool), Archibald McNeese (mother Elizabeth McCool) and Hugh McMaster (wife Ann McCool).

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

Nineteenth century many more sources are available and the completed family research enables us to make sense of the records of Toberhead.

1828 Tithe book:

The Maghera parish tithe book is written in pencil and as a consequence some of the handwriting is faded. The books contain lists of names but it must be remembered that these only include the main tenants in the townland.²⁰⁸ The tithes payment was a form of tax resented by Dissenters and Catholics alike since the money was raised for the upkeep of the Established Church in Ireland a branch of the Anglican Communion.

Maghera Tithe Book page 51 - Tubberhead

1452	John McCool	10	2
1453	Archibald McCool	10	2

The tithe book appears to show two brothers John McCool and Archibald McCool farming contiguously 10 acres and 2 perches each.²⁰⁹ Archibald McCool senior died 1827 and junior in 1828. The tithe book reveals the pattern of rural settlement and farm occupation. What emerged then at the end of the eighteenth century was a well-populated if rather bleak and through other landscape. The consolidation of scattered holdings, the planting of hedgerows and timber for the reclamation of flow bog were tasks for a later generation. By the time of the 1831 census the pattern, which emerged on the Bellaghy estate and the south-east generally was one of dense settlement and small holdings hemmed in by expanses of flow bog.

We are fortunate that Derry is the only county with a complete transcript of the 1831 census but unfortunately only the head of family was named.

1831 census Tubberhead

Robert McMaster	39	1	2	1	0	3
Sarah McCool	40	1	2	4	0	6
John McCool	41	1	4	4	1	9

²⁰⁸ This would include leaseholders and tenants-at-will. In townlands where the latter were more prevalent more names are usually listed since they only held the land on a year-to-year basis.

²⁰⁹ FIN/5/A/212 Maghera Tithe book, p.51

The census confirms that the McCool homesteads were contiguous. Sarah McCool (formerly Backhouse) was the widow of Archibald McCool senior and I take John McCool to be her brother in law. Note that John McCool had one male servant also in the household. Both households were Presbyterian and attended Castledawson Presbyterian Church.

The listing of households in the census returns normally followed a geographical order which reflect the route that the enumerator took around a townland or street. Because of this, it is usually possible to match the names in the 1831 Census Returns with the Tithe Books in rural areas and subsequently match many of the 1831 names and locations with the 1858/59 Griffiths Printed (Tenement) Valuation and its accompanying maps.

With the death of Sarah McCool circa 1840 (Morton Papers) it seems that this line of the McCool family died out through emigration and lack of issue. Around the same time we are able to locate John McCool in a freeholders' register for the county of Londonderry.

Freeholders' Records Co Derry c. 1840²¹⁰

	No.	Name of Freeholder	Place of abode.	Yearly value	
		Mr.		£.	
	168	Dav ^r Mulholland,	Edow, — — — — —	10	
	169	W ^m Magowan, —	Ballinderry, — — — — —	10	
	170	And ^r Magowan, —	— D ^o — — — — —	20	
	171	Jas ^r Magowan, —	— D ^o — — — — —	10	
	172	John McCool, —	Toberhead, — — — — —	10	

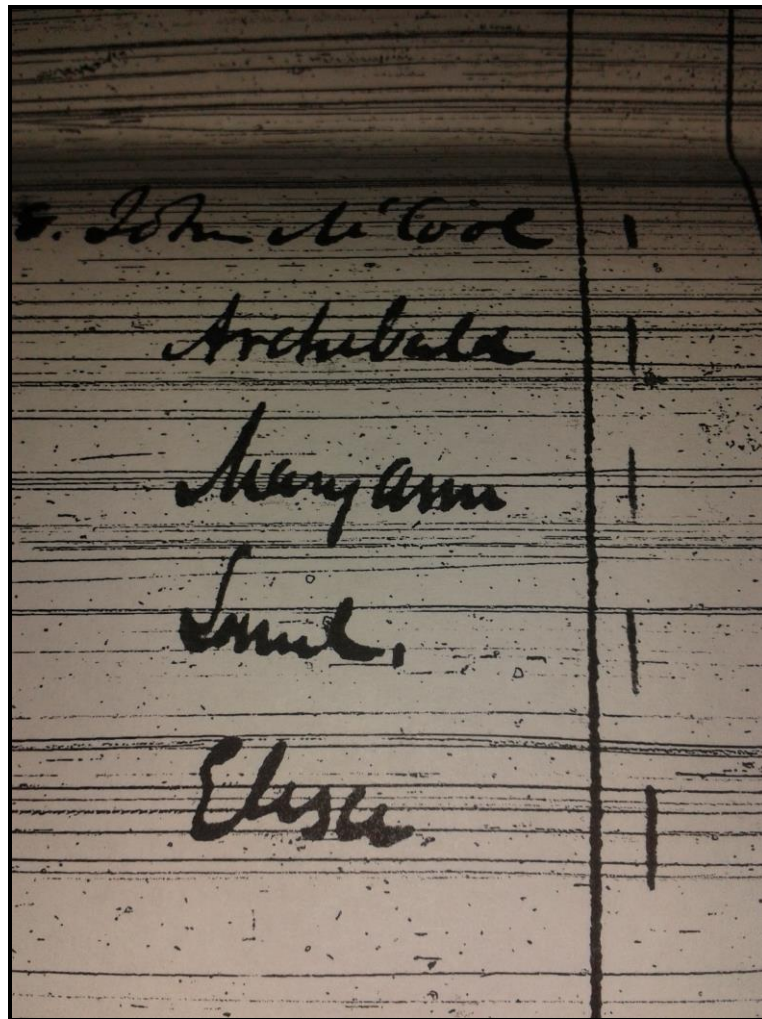
Freeholders' records are lists of people entitled to vote, or of people who voted, at elections. Freehold in Ireland was defined as the possession of a lease for more than one life. A freeholder was a man who owned his land outright (in fee) or who held it by lease, which could be for one or more lives. This gave anyone who owned or rented land that was worth 40 shillings (£2) or more the right to vote up to 1829. John McCool was registered as a £10 freeholder number 172 in the returns for Co Derry dated to c. 1840.

The minister for Castledawson Presbyterian church carried out a local survey or census for the congregation in 1848. The returns for Toberhead reveal that there was only one family of McCool attending the congregation. Headed by John McCool it lists several of his unmarried children including Archibald, Mary Ann, Samuel and Elisa.²¹¹

²¹⁰ D834/1

²¹¹ Samuel (Hammond) McCool would marry Ellen Scott (McNiece) in 1849 and subsequently the family emigrated to Canada and can be found in 1871 census for Bruce County, Ontario.

1848 census Castledawson Presbyterian Church

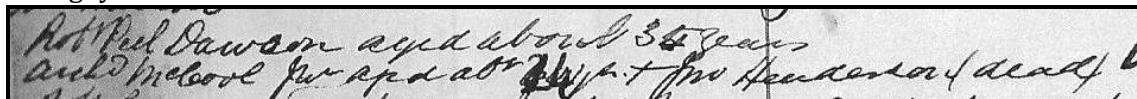


John McCool	
Archibald	
Mary Ann	
Samuel	
Eliza	

What became of the McCool farm and perpetuity lease?

Archibald McCool appears as a life in the lease for Toberhead in 1852. Unfortunately, the age for Arch'd McCool mentioned as a life in the lease has been written over and is not verifiable.

Bellaghy leasebook dated 1852 – the 3 lives in the Toberhead lease.²¹²



Robt Peel Dawson aged about 34 years
and McCool for age about 24 years + for Henderson (dead)

The death of Archibald McCool (son of John McCool) was registered in Toberhead in 1876.

Registered death Magherafelt

27 March 1876 Toberhead

Archy McCool male Bachelor aged 71 farmer diseased bladder certified - Informant Eliza McCool x her mark present at death Toberhead 30 March 1876.

²¹² One of the lives in the Toberhead lease was that of Robert Peel Dawson (1818-1877), a nephew of Sir Robert Peel, the Prime Minister of Great Britain (his mother was the PM's sister).

Archibald McCool erected a headstone in memory of his father John McCool.



McCOOL

Erected by Archibald McCool of Toberhead in memory of his father John McCool who departed this life 25 March 1865 aged 90 and also the above mentioned Archibald McCool who departed this life 27 March 1876 aged 71.

In his will Archibald McCool leaves the home field to his brother William and nephew John McCool if he should come home.

Will of Archibald McCool written 13 Oct 1874 - he died 27 March 1876 To brother William McCool 'home field' To sister Eliza McCool remainder of farm To John McCool son of my brother Samuel McCool the farm on Eliza's death if he comes home [otherwise she has power to will to whom she pleases].
--

Samuel McCool emigrated with his family to Bruce, Ontario where he died in 1876.

Ontario Deaths

Died 12 July 1876 aged 58 years Samuel McCool of Elderslie, Bruce, Ontario aged 58 born Londonderry Ireland c. 1818. Spouse - Hellen McCool.

It does not appear that his son John McCool returned to Ireland to inherit the family farm rather it appears that William McCool took over the property.

AN ENCUMBERED ESTATE

As mentioned previously the history of the ownership of Vintners' Bellaghy estate is somewhat complicated but at the time of Griffiths' valuation (1858) the Earl of Stafford, Sir Robert Bateson, Baronet and Lady Louis Trench were the lessors in possession of the estate. A decision was made to sell the estate as it had been encumbered by debt.

The Great Famine had a massive impact on the management and economic viability of landed estates. Many estates were mortgaged and landowners unable to collect rents were forced to sell their estates. By an act of parliament in 1849, an Encumbered Estates Court was established with authority to sell estates on the application of the owner or encumbrancer (one who had a claim on the estate). After the sale the court distributed the money among the creditors and granted clear title to the new owners. The functions of the court were assumed by the Landed Estates Court in 1858. By 1881 the Landed Estates Court was replaced by the Land Commission set up under the 1881 Land Act.

The Irish Encumbered Estates Rentals, deposited at PRONI, are in bound volumes and are available for the whole of Ireland. These printed rentals or particulars of sale were issued before the sale of a property and therefore contain very detailed information on tenants and holdings on each estate in order to attract potential buyers. They are divided into counties, townlands and tenements, the names of the parties involved and the date. Included are rentals, maps of the estate giving tenants' names and, on occasion, surveys of the estate.

The details for the McCool farm are to be found as part of Lot 10 in the Encumbered Estates book for County Londonderry as shown below.

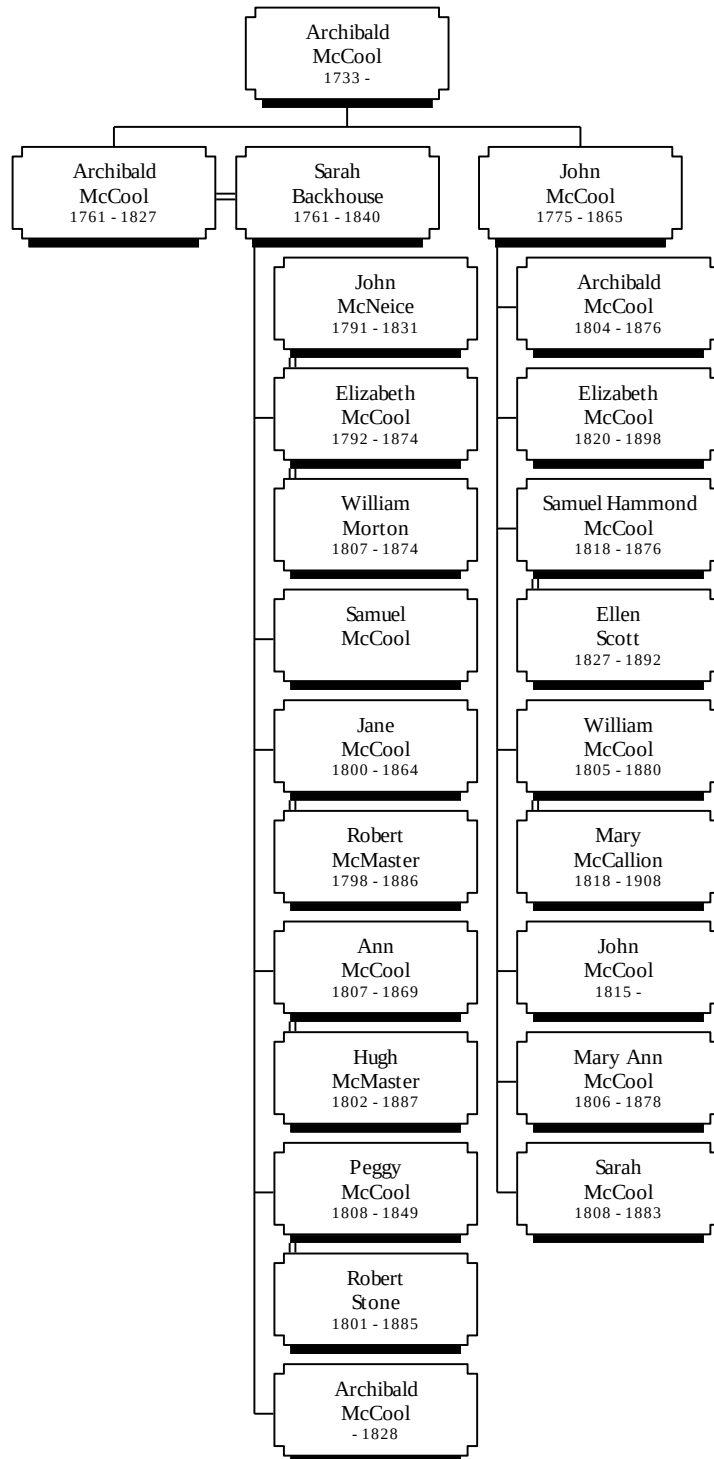
As to Lot No. 10—Toberhead.—The part of the lands of Toberhead being sold in this matter is held with other parts of said lands not being sold under fee-farm grant, dated 18th of December, 1876, and made between the Right Honourable George Stevens Byng Earl of Strafford, Sir Thomas Bateson, Bart., and Lady Louisa Le Poer Trench, of the one part, and Arthur Charles Fleming, a minor, by Catherine Fleming, widow, and Ellen Fleming, his guardians, John Henderson, Robert M'Master, Hugh M'Master, Archibald Macneece, Robert Stones, Eliza M'Cool and William M'Cool, Robert William Newton and James Courtenay, of the other part, executed in lieu of a lease for lives renewable for ever, dated 28th March, 1734, the said Earl of Strafford, Sir Thomas Bateson, and Lady Louisa Le Poer Trench, in consideration of the provisions of the Renewable Leasehold Conversion Act, granted unto the parties of the second part all that part of Toberhead commonly called East Quarter or Division, containing 153a. 2r. 36p. Plantation measure, of which, at the date of said original lease, 103a. 1r. 20p. consisted of arable and pasture, and 50a. 1r. 16p. of bog, as appears by a map thereunto affixed, all said premises being part and parcel of the Manor or Proportion of Vintners, Barony of Loughinshollin, and County of Londonderry, together with all rights, members, and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining; excepting thereout unto the grantors, their heirs and assigns, all timber, timber trees, other trees, woods, and underwoods, which, on the 1st

8

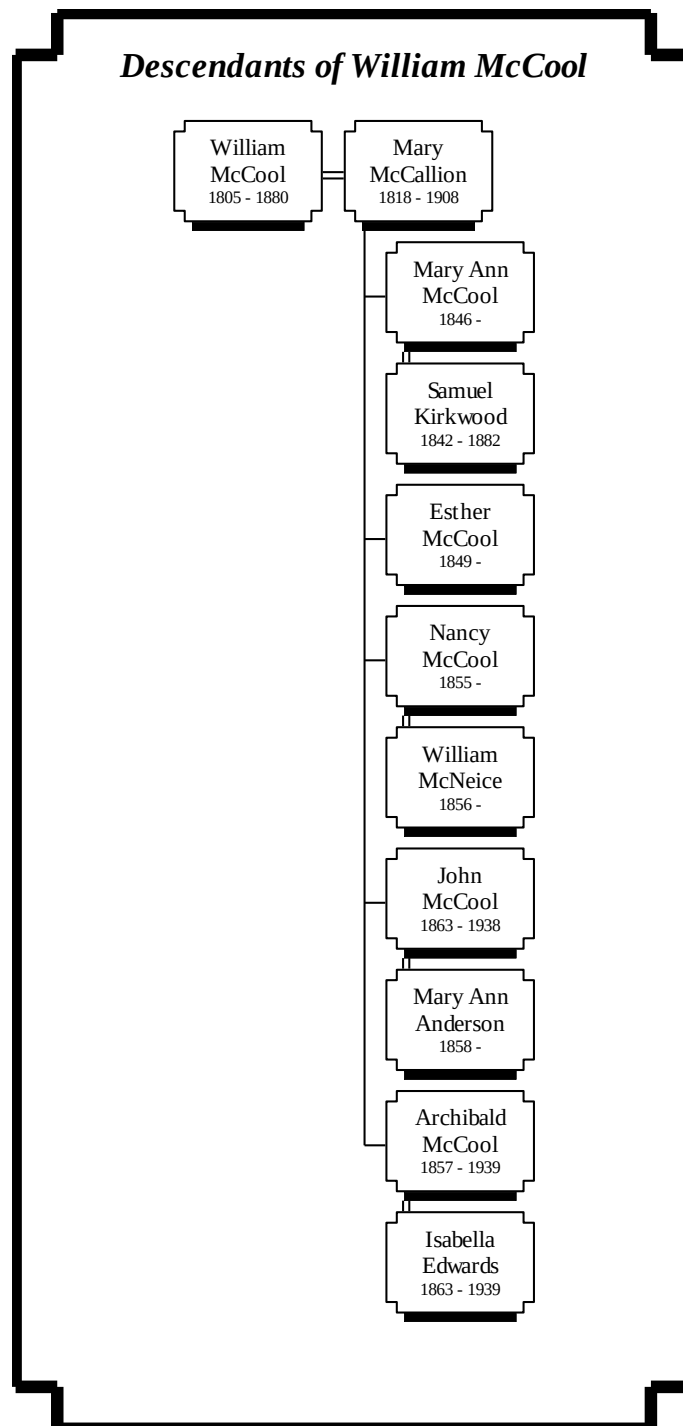
By 1876, the original lot (consisting of 153 acres, 2 rood, 38 perch) had been subdivided into a number of contiguous farms and families named in the lease included Fleming, Henderson, McMaster, McNiece, Stone, McCool, Newton and Courtenay. From this document we learn that William McCool and his sister Eliza McCool had inherited the land from their father John McCool and were therefore direct descendants of Archibald McCool who had taken out the lease in 1734.

It is through this William McCool of Toberhead that the name of McCool was perpetuated in the area.

Descendants of Archibald McCool



William McCool (1805-1880) married Mary McAllen and had issue at least five children as outlined in the tree below.



William McCool

The death of William McCool was registered in 1880:

6 Dec 1880 Toberhead: William McCool male married aged 74 years farmer of asthma & chronic bronchitis no medical attendant: Informant - Mary McCool present at death Toberhead.²¹³

Letters of Admin & Will of William McCool 1880 died 6 Dec 1880: Effects £10

Property to Wife Mary McCool then divided between two sons John McCool & Archibald McCool

Dau Mary Anne McCool now Mrs Kirkwood

Dau Nancy McCool now Mrs McNeice

Witnesses - Charles McCallin & James McCallin

In his will William McCool left legacies to various family members but by the time of his death he had encumbered the family farm by debt having taken out several mortgages on his farm. An advertisement was placed in the Belfast Newsletter in 1893

Belfast Newsletter 13 July 1893

ADVERTISEMENT FOR INCUMBRANCERS.
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF THE CITY AND
COUNTY OF LONDONDERRY.
DIVISION OF MAGHERAFELT.
EQUITY SIDE.

Pursuant to a Decree of his Honour Judge Overend, the Recorder of Londonderry, made in a suit wherein Alexander Johnston, of Magherafelt, in the County of Londonderry, Merchant, is Plaintiff, and Mary M'Cool, Widow, and John M'Cool and Archibald M'Cool, Farmers, all of Toberhead, in the County of Londonderry, and Division of Magherafelt, are Defendants,

ALL PERSONS CLAIMING TO BE INCUMBRANCERS of all that and those the Farm of Land in Toberhead, lately in the possession of William M'Cool, Deceased, and now in the possession of the Defendants, containing by estimation eight acres and two roods of arable and pasture and two acres and three roods of bog, Statute measure, be the same more or less, situate in the Barony of Loughisholin, and County of Londonderry, together with all Buildings, Fixtures, Rights, Easements, Advantages, and Appurtenances whatsoever to the said Lands and Premises appertaining, are, on or before the 1st day of August, 1893, to send by post, prepaid, to the Registrar of said Court, at his Office, at the Courthouse, Londonderry, their Christian and surnames, the full particulars of their Claims, and the nature of the securities held by them, or, in default thereof, they will be excluded from the benefit of the said Decree.

Every person holding any security for any Incumbrance is to produce the same before the said Registrar, at the Courthouse, Magherafelt, on Tuesday, the 5th day of September, 1893, at Eleven o'clock forenoon, being the time appointed for adjudicating on Claims, and of which Sitting all persons interested are hereby required to take Notice.

Dated this 30th day of June, 1893.
ARTHUR T. FARRELL, Registrar.
GLOVER & M'GUCKIN, Solicitors
for the Plaintiff, Magherafelt.

14798

²¹³ Note – the informant Mary McCool was probably his wife.

Transcript of advertisement from Belfast Newsletter July 13th 1893.

Advertisement for Incumbrancers in the county of court of the City and county of Londonderry, Division of Magherafelt; Equity side.

Pursuant to a degree to his honour Judge Overend the Recorder of Londonderry made in a suit wherein Alexander Johnston of Magherafelt in the county of LD, Merchant is Plaintiff and Mary McCool, widow and John McCool & Archibald McCool, Farmers all of Toberhead in the county of LD and division of Magherafelt are Defendants:

All persons claiming to be incumbrancers of all that and those the Farm of Land in Toberhead, lately in the possession of William McCool, Deceased and now in the possession of the Defendants containing by estimation eight acres and two roods of arable and pasture and two acres and three roods of bog, Statute measure be the same more or less situate in the Barony of Loughinsholin & Co of LD containing all buildings, fixtures, rights easements, advantages, and appurtenances whatsoever to the said lands and premises appertaining, are on or before the 1st day August 1893 to send by post, prepaid, to the Registrar of said Court at his office, at the courthouse, LD their Christian and surnames, the full particulars of their claims and the nature of their securities held by them or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of said decree.

Every person holding any security for any Incumbrance is to produce the same before the said Registrar at the Courthouse, Magherafelt on Tuesday the 5th September 1893 at 11 o'clock forenoon being the time appointed for adjudicating on Claims and of which sitting all persons interested are hereby required to take notice.

Dated this 30 day of June 1893

Arthur T Farrell, Registrar

Glover & McGuckin, Solicitors for the Plaintiff, Magherafelt

Belfast Newsletter 1st May 1894

JOHNSTON vs M'COOL

This was a motion by the Plaintiff's solicitors (Messrs Glover & McGuckin) to confirm the sale, had on the 22 Feb 1894, to John Esler of Ballylummin, near Ahoghill at £105. The lands in question are situate at Toberhead and contain 11a, 1r and the suit was first instituted to raise the amount of a mortgage there also being two other mortgages on the lands. Mr Harbison, solicitor opposed on behalf of the second mortgagees (executors of Mathew M'Lernon, solicitors) and submitted that £105 was an undervalue and offered on their behalf £140 for the property and to lodge the amount in court. Mr James Brown represented the defendant. His Honour held that £105 was an undervalue, refused to confirm the sale and directed the tenders for the purchase be received by the registrar up to and including Thursday morning first, subject to condition of sale.

Additional information was uncovered at PRONI as John McCool made a claim to the evicted tenant's court and provides an interesting insight into the plight of the family.

EVICTED TENANTS COURT FILES ²¹⁴

Landlord Sir Thos Bateson, Bart

Evicted Tenant - Jno & Mary McCool, Castledawson re. farm in Toberhead

Eviction caused by sale of holding to pay off mortgages to amount of £140.

John McCool is sexton of Castledawson Church & lives on the church premises - he has 5 children (aged 13 to 22). Inspector says that this was a freehold although stated to be subject to a rent of 10sh 4 1/2 d.

²¹⁴ FIN23/4E/18

Holding in occupation by Robert McErlane, 10 acres Toberhead

Evicted by creditors - Wm Silly now in occupation - he purchased from R McErlan who gave £140 for the freehold.

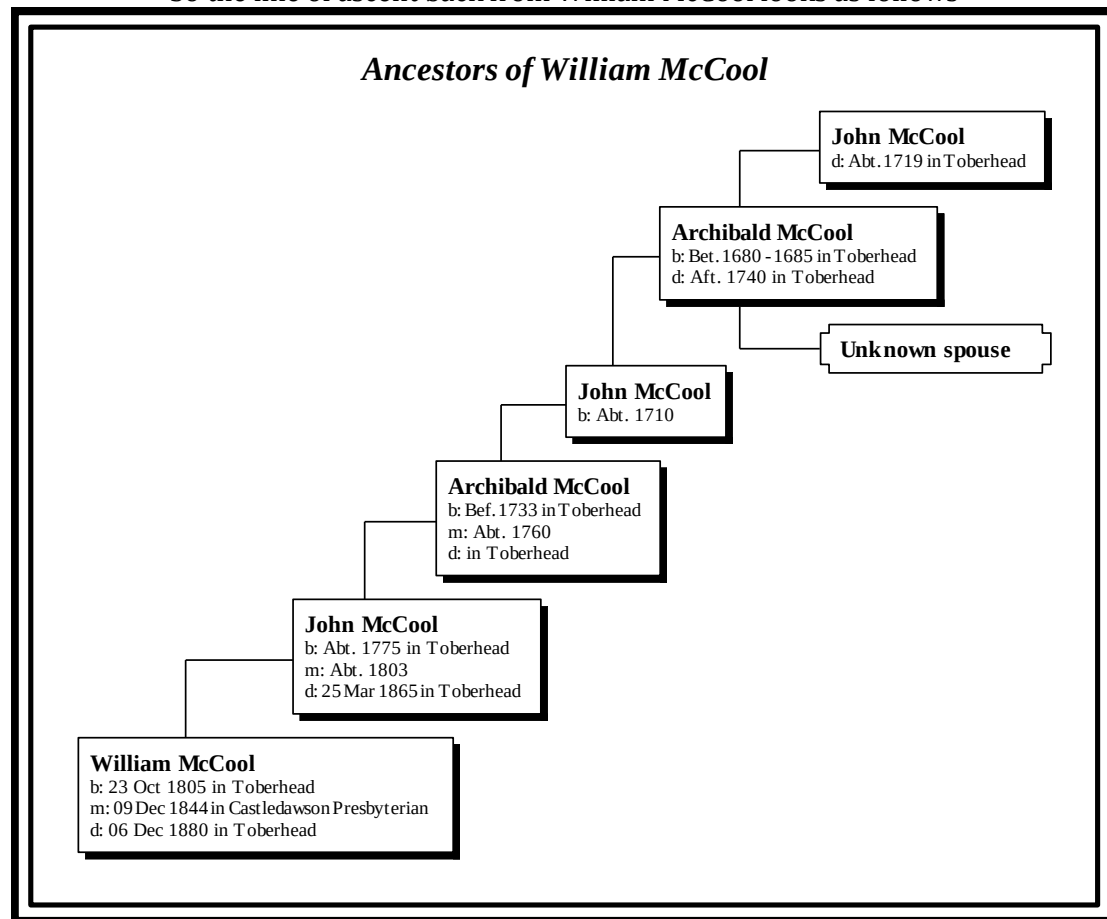
John McCool is a strong man although not stout & well able to work. Employed daily at the castle & children all working -- would be glad to get a small holding -- has no means of working land, no capital or live stock.

The misfortune which overtook McCole (sic) was not caused by himself. His father had effected 3 mortgages on this little freehold, one for £60, one for £50 and one for £30 and when he died the place was sold to pay off these debts.²¹⁵

W Hammond 5th March 1907
Verdict - not reinstated

Thus with the death of William McCool's wife Mary McCool nee McCallion on 5 March 1908 that the last link to Toberhead was broken.

So the line of ascent back from William McCool looks as follows



²¹⁵ These transactions recorded in the Registry of Deeds for Toberhead; William McCool to Alexander Johnston 1880 (50-5-1313) and Mary McCool & ors to Mat McLernon 1886 (13-290-383)

GRIFFITHS' REVISION BOOKS

The Griffiths' revision books provide an interesting insight into the movements of families in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Revision Book for Toberhead, 1884-1898 ²¹⁶

	<u>Eliza McCool</u>	
	William McCool	
24 A }	William McCool	
	Robert McErlane	
	Robert McMaster	Earl of Strafford
		Lord Desmores
		Mr Thomas Watson
13 }	Archibald McKee	Lady Louisa French
	Hugh McMaster	
	Robert Stone	

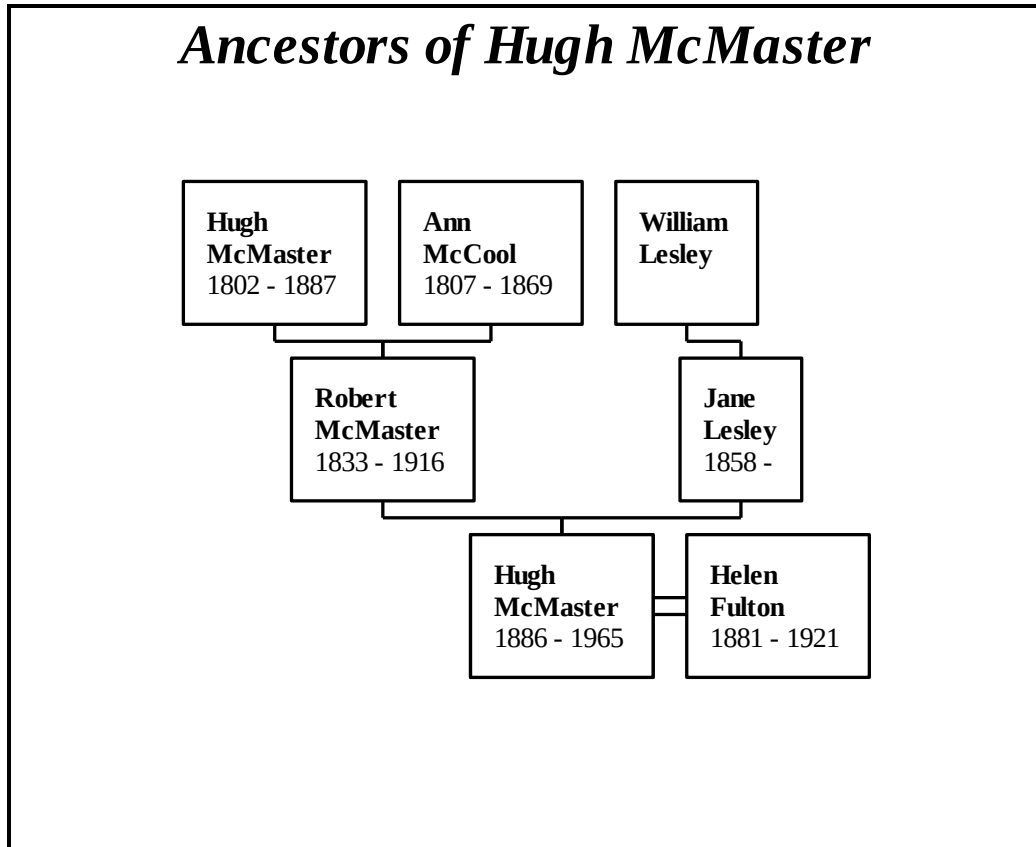
In the page we see the last of the McCools of Toberhead. William McCool died 1880 and we see his name struck off and replaced by Robert McErlane. His sister Eliza McCool died 1898 and was replaced by Hugh McMaster.

The last revision book (1916-1929)²¹⁷ shows Hugh McMaster taking occupation of the McCool farm in 1920. Undoubtedly he was a relation of the McCools.

My thinking is that this Hugh McCool (married Helen Fulton 1911) was the Hugh McMaster, grandson of Hugh McMaster and Ann McCool. His great grandparents were Archibald McCool and Sarah Backhouse. The tree is outlined below.

²¹⁶ VAL/12/B/34/11D

²¹⁷ VAL/12/B/34/11F



Hugh McMaster died 4 June 1965 and was buried in Castledawson Presbyterian graveyard with is two wives (Helen died 27 Sept 1921 and Margaret died 29 August 1955).²¹⁸

The story of the McCools will be of interest to many of their descendants that reside primarily in the USA. I have used a variety of sources in order to make connections between the various generations but it is possible that there may be mistakes, which if pointed out I will correct in due course.

Summary of the McCool family tree:

The records indicate the line of descent for the McCool family residing in Toberhead as follows:

Generation One: John McCool progenitor [Married twice; 2nd wife called Olivia].

Generation Two: Archibald McCool, eldest son of the above, by his first wife, took lease of 1734 and listed in 1740 Protestant Householders' survey.

Generation Three: John McCool, named in the lease of 1734, probably eldest son of the said Archibald above. (So his son Archibald named in the 1734 lease as a life would be a grandson of Archibald McCool of 1740 PH).

Generation Four: Archibald McCool, eldest son of John, life in the lease of 1734 (married by a priest in 1760 and disowned by the Quakers as a result).

Generation Five: Archibald McCool (c. 1765-1827 married Sarah Backhouse) was eldest

²¹⁸ Everafter database: www.discovereverafter.com

son of Archibald McCool (another probable son was John McCool c.1775-1865). Archibald McCool (1765-1827) had 2 sons Archibald junior (died 1828) & Samuel McCool (will) & 4 daughters who inherited Backhouse farm.

Generation Six: John McCool (1775-1865). The remaining McCools in Toberhead descend from this John McCool (note –probably it is his son Archibald McCool noted as the life in the lease book of 1852 for Toberhead).

Generation Seven: William McCool (1805-1880), the last of the McCools in Toberhead.

I realise that there is a degree of speculation involved here but this line of descent is our best working hypothesis. I am certain though that all McCools in Toberhead are of the one family.

Conclusion

Many man-hours have been spent on researching the various families in the Maghera and Magherafelt areas of south Derry and I have accumulated a huge amount of material on each of the families concerned. This report was an attempt to distil this material into a working and readable paper but I am not sure if I have been successful or not. Irish genealogy is difficult but not impossible but specialist help is often needed to unlock family history in the period before civil registration.

We have taken the family history much further than was envisaged at the onset of the research. Once I was able to locate townland of origin, for example, Aghagaskin and Toberhead then progress came swiftly. As we kept digging more and more material became available and that is the key to success - locating source material related to place that reveals the family names. During the course of research I have visited quite a few of the major archives in Ireland including PRONI (where the bulk of the research was carried out), National Archives of Ireland, Linenhall Library, National Library of Ireland, Derry Central Library, and the Registry of Deeds, Henrietta Street, Dublin. The latter is a favourite destination of mine with an unbroken archival record from 1708.

The Registry of Deeds is an under-valued archive with regards to genealogical research in Ireland and is to be highly recommended as an archive, especially for farming families that held strong leases/perpetuity leases or for the professional urban classes. Many different transactions are recorded in the Registry as it provided a degree of legal protection for those who used it.

In addition the new GRONI platform is a welcome addition for Irish research during the civil registration period. I have also found the Scotland's People online platform to be useful as there was a degree of mobility between Ulster and Scotland with regard to employment (both Scottish marriage records and death records record the names of both parents and thus much superior to their Irish counter-part).

APPENDICES

1. DESCENDANTS OF MATTHEW JOHNSTON OF AGHAGASKIN

2. DESCENDANTS OF ALEXANDER WEIR OF BALLYNOCKER

3. DESCENDANTS OF JOHN McNEICE OF TOBERHEAD

4. DESCENDANTS OF ARCHIBALD McCOOL OF TOBERHEAD

5. DESCENDANTS OF ANDREW MORTON OF BALLYNOCKER

**6. CHURCH RECORDS – TRANSCRIPTS OF CHURCH OF IRELAND,
PRESBYTERIAN AND QUAKER RECORDS FOR JOHNSTON AND
ALLIED FAMILIES.**

7. LAND RECORDS

ESTATE RECORDS (Salters' and Vintners' estates, Londonderry)

THE REGISTRY OF DEEDS FOR COUNTY LONDONDERRY

APPENDIX ONE – DESCENDANTS OF MATTHEW JOHNSTON OF AGHAGASKIN

Descendants of Matthew Johnston

Generation No. 1

1. MATTHEW¹ JOHNSTON was born Abt. 1710, and died in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt.

Notes for MATTHEW JOHNSTON:

1766 Religious census, Magherafelt

Matth'w Johnston Protestant Dissenter

Described as a mason in the registered deed of 1765

Child of MATTHEW JOHNSTON is:

2. i. THOMAS² JOHNSTON, b. Bet. 1740 - 1745, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; d. Bet. 1818 - 1823, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt.

Generation No. 2

2. THOMAS² JOHNSTON (MATTHEW¹) was born Bet. 1740 - 1745 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt, and died Bet. 1818 - 1823 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt. He married MARY STEWART Bet. 1765 - 1766, daughter of GEORGE STEWART. She was born in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt, and died in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt.

Notes for THOMAS JOHNSTON:

1796 Flax Lists Magherafelt

Matthew Johnston

Thomas Johnston

1790 rental Aghagaskin [D4108/1/17B - poor condition]

Thos Johnston 8-9-7

1814 rental

1. Thos Johnston 13-3-0

26. Jas Johnston 6-11-7

39. Thos Johnston 5-3-38

1818 rental

1. Thos Johnston 13-3-0

26. Jas Johnston 9-1-24

39. Thos Johnston 5-3-30 heirs [1824 rental says 'In trust'.]

Confirmation that Thomas Johnston of Aghagaskin had a son named James Johnston.

1807 registered deed 673-346-464205

Mem of a registered deed dated 6 day Sept 1807 & made between Thomas Johnston of Aghagaskin & James the son of said Thomas.

Notes for MARY STEWART:

Marriage article for deed of 1765 names Thomas Johnston's spouse as Mary Stewart daughter of George Stewart, Aghagaskin.

Child of THOMAS JOHNSTON and MARY STEWART is:

3. i. JAMES³ JOHNSTON, b. 1766, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; d. 08 Dec 1827, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt.

Generation No. 3

3. JAMES³ JOHNSTON (*THOMAS², MATTHEW¹*) was born 1766 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt, and died 08 Dec 1827 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt.

Notes for JAMES JOHNSTON:

Aghagaskin rental 1814 [D4108/4/3/1]

No 26 James Johnston £9-1-24

Magherafelt CI burials MIC/1/1A/1

Buried Dec 8th 1827 James Johnston, Aghagaskin aged 62 years

Both tithes & rental have James Johnston listed 1829 but often there was a delay in updating these surveys and also delay in transferring land to children due to will being probated.

1829 Tithes: number 28: Jas Johnston 6-3-13

1829/30 rental

Jas Johnston 9-3-13

Not in 1831 census for Aghagaskin as head of household again an indication he had died by this date.

Children of JAMES JOHNSTON are:

4. i. BENJAMIN⁴ JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1802, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; d. 23 Jan 1879, Killynecce, Magherafelt.
- ii. HENRY JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1806, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; d. 16 Dec 1887, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; m. ELIZA WEIR, 02 Mar 1832, Castledawson Presbyterian; b. 16 Apr 1805, Ballynocher, Magherafelt.

Notes for HENRY JOHNSTON:

Castledawson P register marriages (MIC1P/90/1)

1832: March 2 Henry Johnston to Bess Wier in presence of John Wier; Wm Wier, Mrs George Duncan & Sam Winchester.

No issue appears to have been forthcoming from this marriage:

GV Aghagaskin 1858/59

No 18

a John Johnston

b Henry Johnston

c Richard Johnston

Henry Johnston, Aghagaskin was informant of death of Richard Johnston who died 1881 Aghagaskin husband of Hanna Weir: Henry was described as his brother thus confirming their father as James.

Will of Henry Johnston died 16 Dec 1887

Effects £85

Aughagaskin, Magherafelt

To James Johnston son of my brother Benjamin £20

To James Johnston Aghagaskin son of my brother John £5 & half crop in the garden; half the turf; half furnishing and a further £12

To Peggy Johnston wife of my nephew William Johnston of Aghagaskin £5

Foreign missions of the Church of Ireland £10

Exors - Richard Dalrimple, Magherafelt & James Weir of Ballynoger

NOTE: Exor of will dated 1887 was James Weir of Ballyknocker whom I take to be a relation through marriage: Henry's brother Richard Johnston married Hanna Wier & his brother Benjamin Johnston married Jane Weir.

The James Weir who was exor of his will was recorded in the 1901 census for Ballynocker

James Weir 1901 census aged 52 farmer & widower

Head of household was William Hastings aged 82 [uncle of James Weir although he is listed as a servant]. James Weir's father appears to have been John Weir who married Jane Hastings in 1843. I assume therefore that John Weir was the brother of Hanna Weir Johnston & Jane Weir Johnston.

Registered death of Henry Johnston

16 December 1887 Aghagaskin, Henry Johnston male widower aged 81 years farmer of Bronchitis chronic; no medical attendant: Informant Mary Milliken, x her mark present at death, Aghagaskin, 2 Jan 1888.

Notes for ELIZA WEIR:

Castledawson P baptisms

26 April 1805 Eliza dau of William Weir, Ballynougher, Magherafelt

Married 1832 Castledawson P: March 2 Henry Johnston to Bess Wier in presence of John Wier; Wm Wier, Mrs George Duncan & Sam Winchester

I take Wm Weir & John Weir the witnesses to be her brothers

5. iii. RICHARD JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1810, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; d. 09 Jul 1881, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt.
6. iv. JOHN JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1799, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; d. 28 Sep 1865, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt.

Generation No. 4

4. BENJAMIN⁴ JOHNSTON (*JAMES³, THOMAS², MATTHEW¹*) was born Abt. 1802 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt, and died 23 Jan 1879 in Killyneece, Magherafelt. He married JANE WEIR Abt. 1827, daughter of WILLIAM WEIR and HANNAH. She was born Abt. 1796 in Ballynoger, Magherafelt, and died 14 Jan 1871.

Notes for BENJAMIN JOHNSTON:

Magherafelt CI [MIC/1/1A/1]

Baptism: April 2nd 1828 Benjamin of Benjamin Johnston, Aghagaskin, weaver

Magheraflet CI Confirmations 1824 [out of sequence]

No 92 – Ben Johnson, Aghagaskin

Note baptism of son Henry Johnston 1839 Aghagaskin; daughter Mary Johnston baptised 1842 address Glenmaquill

Registered death

23 Jan 1879, Killyniece: Benjamin Johnston male married aged 77 years farmer of Bronchitis uncertified, no medical attendant; Informant William Johnston x his mark, Killyniece.

Note - informant Wm Johnston was probably his son.

Note - Benjamin Johnston was a widower

Notes for JANE WEIR:

Gravestone

Jane Johnston died 14 Jan 1871 aged 76 years [estimated birth 1796]

Cannot locate death record in civil registration.

Children of BENJAMIN JOHNSTON and JANE WEIR are:

7.
 - i. BENJAMIN⁵ JOHNSTON, b. 02 Apr 1828, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; d. 11 Jan 1895, Bendigo, Victoria, Australia.
 - ii. JOHN JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1829, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; d. 16 Dec 1905, Tamnadase.

Notes for JOHN JOHNSTON:

Belfast Newsletter 26 Feb 1861 page 3

Moneymore Farming Society

Awards - Ploughing

1st prize and silver cup - Mr John Johnston, Aughagaskin (plough held by himself)

John Johnston died 1905 unmarried and no issue. He inherited John Weir's property. This John Johnston erected a headstone in memory of John Weir (his first cousin once removed) and William Weir (whom I take to be his maternal grandfather).

Headstone Castledawson CI

Erected by John Johnston in memory of John Weir who departed this life 6th March 1870 aged 85 years. Also William Weir who died 1809, Ballynougher.

The above John Johnston, Tamnadace died 16 Dec 1905.

Registered death

16 Dec 1905 Tamnadace John Johnston male bachelor aged 80 years
farmer of Bronchitis & Cardiac disease 21 days certified: Informant George
Watterson present at death Tamnadace: 20 Dec 1905.

His farm in Tamnadace was taken over by George Watterson 1904 and
John Kane 1907

- iii. NANCY JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1831, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; d. Jan 1879; m.
DANIEL KERR, 25 Mar 1848, Curran Presbyterian Church; b. Abt. 1820.

Notes for NANCY JOHNSTON:

Marriage cert 1848

Nancy Johnston aged 17 spinster of Glenmaquill dau of Ben Johnston,

Notes for DANIEL KERR:

Curran Presbyterian Church MIC1P/338/B1-3

Married 25 March 1848: Daniel Kerr aged 28 Widower & farmer son of
Andrew Kerr farmer to Nancy Johnston aged 17 spinster of Glenmaquill
dau of Ben Johnston, Farmer: Witnesses - William Moor or Doore & Nancy
Stewart.

8. iv. WILLIAM JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1833, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; d. 01 Jan
1908, Killynecce, Magherafelt.

- v. JAMES JOHNSTON, b. 10 Dec 1834, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; d. 12 Jan
1898.

Notes for JAMES JOHNSTON:

Magherafelt CI [MIC/1/1A/1]

Baptism: 1834 Dec 10th Jas of Benj & Jane Johnston, Aghagaskin, farmer

Received £10 from will of his uncle Henry Johnston 1887 'to Jas Johnston
son of my brother, Benjamin'.

Unmarried - no issue

- vi. HENRY JOHNSTON, b. 22 Mar 1839, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; d. 1925,
Bendigo, Australia.

Notes for HENRY JOHNSTON:

Castledawson P [MIC1P/90/1]

1839: Born 22 March baptised May 14 Henry of Benjamin Johnston & Jane Weir, Aghagaskin

vii. MARY JOHNSTON, b. 23 Mar 1842, Glenmaquill.

Notes for MARY JOHNSTON:

Castledawson P [MIC1P/90/1] 1842: Aug 24 Mary daughter of Benjamin Johnston & Jane Weir of Glenmaquill was received into the church by baptism, born March 23rd 1842

5. RICHARD⁴ JOHNSTON (*JAMES³, THOMAS², MATTHEW¹*) was born Abt. 1810 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt, and died 09 Jul 1881 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt. He married HANNA WEIR 06 Feb 1846 in Magherafelt 1st Presbyterian Church, daughter of WILLIAM WEIR and HANNAH. She was born 21 Apr 1810 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt, and died 25 Sep 1895 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt.

Notes for RICHARD JOHNSTON:

Marriage register 1st P Magherafelt [CR13/B/1]

No 11: 6 Feb 1846 Richard Johnston, 34, Bachelor, carpenter of Aghagaskin son of James Johnston, Land Surveyor to Hanna Weir aged 28 spinster, Ballynocher dau of William Weir, farmer by Licence [both signed names]. Witnesses - John Weir & William Hastings.

GV Aghagaskin 1858/59

No 18

a John Johnston

b Henry Johnston

c Richard Johnston

Registered death at Aghagaskin 9 July 1881

Richard Johnston male married aged 70 years, Carpenter, Old Age no medical attendant not certified: Informant - Henry Johnston, brother present at death, Aghagaskin 14 July 1881.

GV revisions

John Sturgeon took over the farms of Richard Johnston & Henry Johnston about 1884 - a new house was built on the site in 1893.

Notes for HANNA WEIR:

1st Magherafelt Presbyterian baptisms MIC1P/450/1

1810 April 21 Hanna of William Weir, Ballynocher

Note - her father William Weir is recorded as having died 1809 on Johnston family headstone. This stone was erected posthumously so the date may not be accurate.

Castledawson Presbyterian - Communicants and families of the congregation c. 1848

Ballynocker

No 10: Margaret Weir & Hanna [her] sister

Marriage record 1846 confirms her father as William Weir

Hanna Weir aged 28 spinster, Ballynocher dau of William Weir, farmer

Death recorded 25 Sept 1895, Aghagaskin - Hannah Johnstone female, aged 85 years, widow of a farmer from pneumonia 4 days certified: Informant - John Sturgeon - son in law present at death, Aghagaskin 24 Oct 1895:

Children of RICHARD JOHNSTON and HANNA WEIR are:

- i. BESS⁵ JOHNSTON, b. 09 Jun 1848.

Notes for BESS JOHNSTON:

Magherafelt 1st P baptisms

CR3/13/A/1A: 1848 - June 9: Baptised Bess of Richard Johnston & Hanna Weir, Aghagaskin

- ii. JAMES JOHNSTON, b. 08 Sep 1850.

Notes for JAMES JOHNSTON:

Magherafelt First Presbyterian Church Registers

CR3/13/A/1A: 1850 Sept 8: Baptised James of Richard Johnston & Hannah Weir, Aghagaskin

9. iii. MARY ANN JOHNSTON, b. 24 Feb 1855.

6. JOHN⁴ JOHNSTON (*JAMES³, THOMAS², MATTHEW¹*) was born Abt. 1799 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt, and died 28 Sep 1865 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt. He married MARGARET KNIGHTLY 21 Apr 1834 in Magherafelt Church of Ireland.

Notes for JOHN JOHNSTON:

GV Aghagaskin 1858/59

No 18

a John Johnston

b Henry Johnston

c Richard Johnston

VAL/12/B/34/18B (1864 - 1878) GV revision books:

Aghagaskin

John Johnstone replaced by James Johnstone c. 1868 usually an indication of farm being taken over after death.

Registered death

28 September 1865, Aghagaskin: John Johnstone male, widower, aged 66 years, farmer of Typhus fever 10 days uncertified & fever 21 days 2/11/65: Informant James Johnston present at death, Aghagaskin:

Note - James Johnston was probably son of John Johnston.

Notes for MARGARET KNIGHTLY:

Also Keatly

Children of JOHN JOHNSTON and MARGARET KNIGHTLY are:

10. i. JAMES⁵ JOHNSTON, b. 13 Sep 1835, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt.
11. ii. WILLIAM JOHNSTON, b. 07 Jan 1836, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; d. 13 Jun 1911.
- iii. BENJAMIN JOHNSTON, b. 05 Aug 1849, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; d. 09 Dec 1934, Craigvale, Ontario, Canada.

Notes for BENJAMIN JOHNSTON:

Magherafelt CI MIC1/1A/1: Baptised 5 Aug 1849 Benjamin of John & Margaret Johnston of Aghagaskin in presence of Archy Bradley; Margaret Bradley & Abraham Knightly/Keatly

Possible death:

Ontario deaths:

Benjamin Johnstone

09 Dec 1934

Son of John Johnston & Margaret Keatly

Craigvale, Ontario, Canada

Age: 78

Generation No. 5

7. BENJAMIN⁵ JOHNSTON (*BENJAMIN⁴, JAMES³, THOMAS², MATTHEW¹*) was born 02 Apr 1828 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt, and died 11 Jan 1895 in Bendigo, Victoria, Australia. He married JANE MCNEICE 24 Feb 1854 in Castledawson Presbyterian Church¹, daughter of JOHN MCNEICE and ELIZABETH MCCOOL. She was born 20 Aug 1831 in Toberhead, Co Derry, and died 25 Dec 1892 in Bendigo, Australia.

Notes for BENJAMIN JOHNSTON:

MIC/1/1A/1 Magherafelt Church of Ireland christening

1828: April 2 Benjamin of Benjamin Johnston, Aghagaskin, weaver

Emigrated on board Star of the South Assisted Emigration scheme from Liverpool 24 April 1857 arrived Melbourne 5 August 1857

[Book 11 page 446]

Benjamin Johnston aged 28

Jane Johnston aged 24

Death certificate 11 Jan 1895 names children

Jane dead

Elizabeth dead

John dead

Elizabeth 32

Mary Ann 30

Benjamin 28

John 26

James 24

Eaglehawk, Emu Plains, White Hills and Sandhurst are all part of Bendigo now but back in the 1850s would have been small settlements surrounding Bendigo. This was a gold mining area. I wondered if Benjamin would have been a miner. Buried White Hills cemetery

Notes for JANE MCNEICE:

Castledawson P baptism [MIC 1P/90]

20 Aug 1831 Jean of John Meniss Toberhead, Maghera.

Jane Johnston died Sunday 25th December 1892, Bendigo aged 56 years - interred White Hills cemetery: Section C1.

According to death record died in East Melbourne Hospital aged 60 years.

Father unknown and Mother unknown. It appears that the family did not give the information about her death. This often happened if someone died in hospital a distance from their home. Someone in the hospital probably gave information for the death certificate.

The Bendigo Advertiser Monday 2 January 1893 page 2

In Memoriam

Johnston – In affectionate remembrance of Jane, the beloved wife of Benjamin Johnston who departed this life on 24th December 1892, aged 59 years.

She was so long with pain oppressed;

It wore her strength away;

It made her long for endless rest,

Which never can decay.

Weary days and night (sic) were appointed unto me.

I cried unto the Lord, and He heard me.

Inserted by her loving children.

Children of BENJAMIN JOHNSTON and JANE MCNEICE are:

- i. JANE⁶ JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1855, Ireland.

Notes for JANE JOHNSTON:

Jane - Death records mother's maiden name "McNiece"

- ii. ELIZA JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1856, Ireland.

Notes for ELIZA JOHNSTON:

Elizabeth Johnston – Birth records mother's maiden name as "McNiece".

There is a death for an Elizabeth Johnstone, which could be this Elizabeth if she did not marry:

Elizabeth Johnstone aged 59 years d. 1939, (No. 6876) in Melbourne - father unknown and mother unknown.

- iii. JOHN JOHNSTON, b. 1860.

Notes for JOHN JOHNSTON:

John Johnston is the first child born in Australia that I could find and he was born in 1860. Birth records mother's maiden name as McNeice.

- iv. ELIZABETH JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1861.

- v. MARY ANN JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1864.

Notes for MARY ANN JOHNSTON:

Mary Ann - Birth records mother's maiden name as "McNeece".

- vi. BENJAMIN JOHNSTON, b. 1866.

- vii. HENRY JOHN JOHNSTON, b. 1869.

Notes for HENRY JOHN JOHNSTON:

Henry John - Birth records mother's maiden name as "MacNeece". Could not find a marriage record for this Benjamin. Death records mother's maiden name as "McNeill".

- viii. JAMES JOHNSTON, b. 1871.

Notes for JAMES JOHNSTON:

James - Birth records mother's maiden name as "McNeice".

8. WILLIAM⁵ JOHNSTON (*BENJAMIN⁴, JAMES³, THOMAS², MATTHEW¹*) was born Abt. 1833 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt, and died 01 Jan 1908 in Killyneec, Magherafelt. He married MATILDA MCKNIGHT 23 Jun 1884 in Magherafelt 1st Presbyterian Church, daughter of HUGH MCKNIGHT. She was born Abt. 1850.

Notes for WILLIAM JOHNSTON:

Magherafelt 1st P marriages [CR/13/B/3]

No 176

23 June 1884 William Johnston full age bachelor farmer of Kilmore son of Benjamin Johnston farmer to Matilda McKnight full age spinster of Anaghmore dau of Hugh McKnight farmer: Witnesses - John[?] & Jane McKnight

Probate of the Will of William Johnston late of Killyneec County Londonderry Farmer who died 1 January 1908 granted at Londonderry to William John Duncan and William Davison Farmers. Probate granted 22 Feb 1909:

Will of James Johnston died 1 Jan 1908, Killyneec

I leave & bequeath to my son John all I possess with the proviso that he pay £100 to my daughter Jane & is to support my wife as long as she lives. 10sh per year to the Presbyterian Church at Castledawson.

Exors - William John Duncan, Killinie & William Davison

17 April 1907

x mark of Wm Johnston

Effects £309: 5sh

Household £5

Stock £46

Freehold £256-5sh

Castledawson CI graveyard

Erected in memory of Jane Johnston who departed this life 14th January 1874 aged 76 years and her husband Ben Johnston died January 1879 and their son William died January 1908. In loving memory of Annie Johnston died 20th April 1963 and her husband John Johnston son of William Johnston died 4th December 1972.

Notes for MATILDA MCKNIGHT:

1911 census Killyneec

Matilda Johnston head P 61 widow married 27 years 2 children 2 alive

Jane Lennox dau 26 married under one year

John Johnston son 22 farmer single

Samuel Lennox son in law 29 married

Registered death

7 Jan 1923 Killyneec, Magherafelt DD: Matilda Johnston female widow aged 73 years old housekeeper of weak heart certified: Informant John Johnston son present at death Killyneec, 25 Jan 1923.

Children of WILLIAM JOHNSTON and MATILDA MCKNIGHT are:

12. i. JOHN⁶ JOHNSTON, b. 15 Sep 1887, Killyneece, Magherafelt; d. 04 Dec 1972.
13. ii. JANE JOHNSTON, b. 04 Apr 1885, Killyneece, Magherafelt; d. 10 Feb 1964.

9. MARY ANN⁵ JOHNSTON (*RICHARD⁴, JAMES³, THOMAS², MATTHEW¹*) was born 24 Feb 1855. She married JOHN STURGEON 28 Feb 1882 in Magherafelt 1st Presbyterian Church, son of JAMES STURGEON and MARY ARRELL. He was born 21 Mar 1847, and died in Allegheny, Pennsylvania.

Notes for MARY ANN JOHNSTON:

1855: Feb 24 Baptised Mary Anne of Richard & Hanna Johnston, Aghagaskin

Witnesses – Henry Johnston, Bess Johnston, Sarah Macky.

Note: witness to christening - Henry Johnston, probably brother of Richard

Notes for JOHN STURGEON:

Castledawson P baptisms

21 March 1847 (Blank) of James Sturgeon & Mary Jane Orrile of Tubberhead

(I take this unnamed child to be John Sturgeon)

Mentioned in his father's will 1889

Magherafelt 1st P marriages [CR/13/B/3]

No 166: 28 Feb 1882

John Sturgeon full age bachelor farmer Toberhead farmer son of James Sturgeon farmer to Mary Ann Johnston full age spinster of Aghagaskin daughter of Richard Johnston farmer:

Witnesses - Wm Wilson & Mary McKeown

Belfast Newsletter Feb 27th 1896

Magherafelt Petty Sessions

Sergeant Hughes, Magherafelt summoned John Sturgeon of Aghagaskin for having an unjust beam & scale in his possession it being 5 ounces off balance. Defendant was fined 2sh 6d and costs.

1901 census Aghagaskin, Londonderry

John Sturgeon aged 45 farmer P

Mary Sturgeon aged 43

Maggie E Sturgeon aged 16

James J Sturgeon aged 13

Ricahrd Sturgeon aged 10

Annie Sturgeon aged 8

1910 census Greentree, Allegheny, PA

John Sturgeon age 60 born Ireland

Mary Ann wife aged 55

Margaret dau 24

James son 22

Richard son 20

Anna dau 19

Andrew Daubin 14 born Ireland

Children of MARY JOHNSTON and JOHN STURGEON are:

- i. MARGARET E⁶ STURGEON.

Notes for MARGARET E STURGEON:

GRONI online index has a Bessy Sturgeon born 25 Mar 1888 (Could be Margaret Elizabeth Sturgeon)

- ii. JAMES J STURGEON, b. 01 Oct 1886.

Notes for JAMES J STURGEON:

GRONI birth index

- iii. RICHARD STURGEON, b. 28 Dec 1889.

Notes for RICHARD STURGEON:

GRONI online births index

iv. ANNE STURGEON, b. 31 Jan 1892.

Notes for ANNE STURGEON:

GRONI online births

10. JAMES⁵ JOHNSTON (*JOHN*⁴, *JAMES*³, *THOMAS*², *MATTHEW*¹) was born 13 Sep 1835 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt. He married MARY STEWART 26 Aug 1870 in Magherafelt Church of Ireland, daughter of ABRAHAM STEWART. She was born in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt.

Notes for JAMES JOHNSTON:

Magherafelt CI MIC1/1A/1

Bapt 13 Sept 1835 James son of John & Margaret Johnston, Aghagaskin, farmer

Mentioned in will of Henry Johnston as 'James Johnson of Aghagaskin son of my brother John'.

1865 - Jas Johnston informant to death of John Johnston, Aghagaskin [probably son & father]

Married St Swithin's CI 26 August 1870

James Johnston full age bachelor farmer of Aghagaskin son of John Johnston farmer to Mary Stewart full age spinster of Aghagaskin dau of Abraham Stewart farmer x her mark: Witnesses - Robert Stewart & Ellen Stewart.

Griffiths Valuation revision books

VAL/12/B/34/18B (1864 - 1878)

Aghagaskin: number 17 John Johnston struck off c. 1868 & replaced by James Johnston

GV revisions

Jas Johnston replaced by Wm Johnston [his brother] in Aghagaskin about 1884

1901 & 1911 census Jas & Mary Johnston, Aghagaskin

Children of JAMES JOHNSTON and MARY STEWART are:

- i. MARY⁶ JOHNSTON, b. 13 May 1872.
- ii. BENJAMIN JOHNSTON, b. 10 Dec 1874.
- iii. JOHN JOHNSTON, b. 08 Jan 1877.
- iv. WILLIAM JOHNSTON, b. 15 Apr 1879.
- v. JAMES JOHNSTON, b. 14 Nov 1880.
- vi. THOMAS JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1885.
- vii. ABRAHAM JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1887.
- viii. HUGH JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1890.

11. WILLIAM⁵ JOHNSTON (*JOHN⁴, JAMES³, THOMAS², MATTHEW¹*) was born 07 Jan 1836 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt, and died 13 Jun 1911. He married MARGARET MCKNIGHT 04 Mar 1864 in Magherafelt Church of Ireland, daughter of THOMAS MCKNIGHT.

Notes for WILLIAM JOHNSTON:

MIC/1/1A/1 Magherafelt Church of Ireland registers

1836 Born 7 Jan baptised 19 March William of John & Margaret Johnston, Aghagaskin, farmer

1901 census Aghagaskin

Wm Johnston head aged 63 Carpenter

VAL/12/B/34/18D [1884-1893]

GV revisions

Replaced James Johnston [his brother] in Aghagaskin about 1884.

1901 census Aughagaskin

Wm Johnston head CI 63 md carpenter

Mgt Johnston wife 50

Mgt Stewart dau 32 md

Sarah Johnston dau 30

Mgt Stewart g-dau 5

WILL PRONI

William Johnston Aghagaskin, carpenter, who died 13 Jun 1911 granted LD 2 July 1919 to James Johnston, farmer. Effects £51, 10sh

Notes for MARGARET MCKNIGHT:

In his will of 1887 Henry Johnston of Aghagaskin left a legacy of £5 to 'Peggy' Johnston wife of my nephew William Johnston.

1911 census Aghagaskin

Mgt Johnston head CI 68 widow

Margaret Stewart CI dau 39 married 14 years 6/2 alive

Sarah Johnston dau 35

James Johnston son 31

Sarah Stewart g-dau 4

Children of WILLIAM JOHNSTON and MARGARET MCKNIGHT are:

- i. SARAH JANE⁶ JOHNSTON, b. 26 Aug 1868, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt.

Notes for SARAH JANE JOHNSTON:

GRONI births index

- ii. JOHN JOHNSTON, b. 16 Jul 1873, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt.

Notes for JOHN JOHNSTON:

GRONI births index

- iii. JAMES JOHNSTON, b. 08 May 1877, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt.

Notes for JAMES JOHNSTON:

GRONI births index

14. iv. MARGARET JOHNSTON, b. 27 Apr 1867, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; d. Aghagaskin, Magherafelt.
- v. THOMAS JOHNSTON, b. 19 Jan 1865, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt.

Notes for THOMAS JOHNSTON:

GRONI births index

Generation No. 6

12. JOHN⁶ JOHNSTON (*WILLIAM⁵, BENJAMIN⁴, JAMES³, THOMAS², MATTHEW¹*) was born 15 Sep 1887 in Killyneece, Magherafelt, and died 04 Dec 1972. He married ANNIE MCKNIGHT 16 Feb 1915 in Maghera Methodist Church. She died 20 Apr 1963.

Notes for JOHN JOHNSTON:

GRONI index births: Mother's maiden name given as McNight

Castledawson CI Gravestone

In loving memory of Annie Johnston died 20th April 1963 and her husband John Johnston son of William Johnston died 4th December 1972.

John Johnston informant of mother's death cert 1923.

Notes for ANNIE MCKNIGHT:

Marriage Index

16 Feb 1915 Maghera Methodist Church

John Johnston & Annie McKnight

Children of JOHN JOHNSTON and ANNIE MCKNIGHT are:

- i. LILY⁷ JOHNSTON, b. 1915; d. 23 Sep 2010.
- ii. WILLIAM JAMES JOHNSTON, b. 1917; d. 19 Jan 1989, Castledawson.
- iii. JOHN JOHNSTON, b. 1918; d. 09 Dec 1988, Killyneece, Magherafelt.
- iv. ANNA MARY JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1923; d. 20 Aug 2011; m. MCDOWELL; d. 1976.

13. JANE⁶ JOHNSTON (*WILLIAM⁵, BENJAMIN⁴, JAMES³, THOMAS², MATTHEW¹*) was born 04 Apr 1885 in Killyneece, Magherafelt, and died 10 Feb 1964. She married SAMUEL LENNOX 13 Jan 1911 in Curran Presbyterian Church, son of ROBERT LENNOX and JANE LENNOX. He was born 13 Aug 1881, and died 03 Feb 1975.

Notes for JANE JOHNSTON:

GRONI index births

Mother's maiden name given as McNeight

Castledawson P graveyard

In loving memory of

Jeannie Lennox

Died 10 Feb 1964 aged 78 years

And her husband Samuel

Died 3 Feb 1975 aged 93 years

Also their son Robert James

Died 11 Nov 1989 aged 73 years

And his wife Marion

Died 14 Dec 1999 aged 75 years

Notes for SAMUEL LENNOX:

GRONI index births

Samuel Lennox, Magherafelt 13 Aug 1881 son of Robert & Jane Lennox

1901 census Aughrim [Ballyronan]

Saml Lennox aged 19 CI was farm servant to John Fulton, farmer, widower of Aughrim

1911 census Killynecce

Matilda Johnston Head P aged 61 years Married 27 years 2 children 2 alive

Jane Lennox dau aged 26 married less than one year

John Johnston son aged 22 farmer

Samuel Lennox son-in-law aged 29 years labourer

Children of JANE JOHNSTON and SAMUEL LENNOX are:

15. i. WILLIAM J⁷ LENNOX, b. 19 Dec 1911.

- ii. ROBERT JAMES LENNOX, b. Bet. Jan - Mar 1916; d. 11 Nov 1989.

Notes for ROBERT JAMES LENNOX:

Buried Castledawson P with his parents

Also their son Robert James

Died 11 Nov 1989 aged 73 years

And his wife Marion

Died 14 Dec 1999 aged 75 years

Cannot find on GRONI online index.

Is in the IGI index of Irish births Jan-Mar 1916 Magherafelt

14. MARGARET⁶ JOHNSTON (*WILLIAM⁵, JOHN⁴, JAMES³, THOMAS², MATTHEW¹*) was born 27 Apr 1867 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt, and died in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt. She married ABRAHAM STEWART 20 Dec 1894.

Notes for MARGARET JOHNSTON:

GRONI births index

1901 census Aughagaskin

Wm Johnston head CI 63 md carpenter

Mgt Johnston wife 50

Mgt Stewart dau 32 md

Notes for ABRAHAM STEWART:

Married St Swithin's CI Magherafelt. 20 Dec 1894

Abraham Stewart full age bachelor lab of Aughagaskin son of William Stewart farmer to Margaret Johnston full age spinster of Aughagaskin dau of William Johnston farmer:
Witnesses - John Stewart & Mary Anne Sturgeon.

Not in 1901 or 1911 census Derry

Children of MARGARET JOHNSTON and ABRAHAM STEWART are:

- i. MARGARET⁷ STEWART, b. Abt. 1896.

Notes for MARGARET STEWART:

1901 census Aghagaskin

Wm Johnston head CI 63 md carpenter

Mgt Johnston wife 50

Mgt Stewart dau 32 md

Mgt Stewart g-dau 5

- ii. SARAH STEWART, b. Abt. 1907.

Notes for SARAH STEWART:

1911 census Aghagaskin

Mgt Johnston head CI 68 widow

Margaret Stewart CI dau 39 married 14 years 6/2 alive

Sarah Stewart g-dau 4

Generation No. 7

15. WILLIAM J⁷ LENNOX (*JANE⁶ JOHNSTON, WILLIAM⁵, BENJAMIN⁴, JAMES³, THOMAS², MATTHEW¹*) was born 19 Dec 1911.

Notes for WILLIAM J LENNOX: GRONI birth Index

Children of WILLIAM J LENNOX are:

- i. NOEL⁸ LENNOX.
- ii. JANET LENNOX.
- iii. JAMES LENNOX.
- iv. JENNIFER LENNOX.

Endnotes

1. Castledawson Presbyterian Church, MIC1P/90/1.

APPENDIX TWO: THE DESCENDANTS OF ALEXANDER WEIR

Descendants of Alexander Weir

Generation No. 1

1. ALEXANDER² WEIR (*JOHN*¹) was born in Ballynocher, Magherafelt.

Notes for ALEXANDER WEIR:

Anna McDowell nee Johnston had Alexander Weir as head of the Ballynocher family.

1766 religious census for parish of Magherafelt

Alex'r Weir dissenter

Weir Genealogy on the origins of Weir family (tradition)

John Weir moved from Dalserf, Scotland in 1644 to Derry as pastor of Presbyterian Church. Captured & imprisoned - died in prison 1646. No confirmation of relationship.

Alex Weir Dalserf to Derry 1688 died in battle 1690 at Carrickfergus. Brother of John Weir Dalserf to Derry 1688 in war. Family tradition has this John Weir as progenitor.

A John Weir is recorded in the 1740 Protestant Householders' List for the parish of Magherafelt. It is likely that he is the father of Alexander Weir in the 1766 religious returns for the parish.

Children of ALEXANDER WEIR are:

2. i. WILLIAM³ WEIR, b. Ballynocher, Magherafelt; d. Bet. 1809 - 1810, Ballynocher, Magherafelt.
3. ii. JOHN WEIR, b. Ballynocher, Magherafelt; d. Tamnadeese.

Generation No. 2

2. WILLIAM³ WEIR (*ALEXANDER², JOHN¹*) was born in Ballynocher, Magherafelt, and died Bet. 1809 - 1810 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt. He reputedly married HANNAH.

Notes for WILLIAM WEIR:

Castledawson Presbyterian gravestone

Erected by John Johnston in memory of John Weir who departed this life 6 March 1870 aged 85 years

Also William Weir died 1809 Ballynougher

(Note - John Johnston inherited John Weir's farm in Tamnadase. William Weir appears to have been the uncle of John Weir and grandfather of John Johnston).

1831 census Ballynocker

Wm Weir 2m/4f [6 Presbyterians]

It is possible that this was Wm Weir junior

Notes for HANNAH:

Weir genealogy has Hanna wife of William Weir (1764-1809)

Children of WILLIAM WEIR and HANNAH are:

4. i. ALEXANDER⁴ WEIR, b. Abt. 1795, Ballynocher, Magherafelt; d. 16 Sep 1880, Ballynocher, Magherafelt.
5. ii. JANE WEIR, b. Abt. 1796, Ballynocher, Magherafelt; d. 14 Jan 1871.
6. iii. JOHN WEIR, b. Abt. 1804, Ballynocher, Magherafelt; d. 11 Mar 1872, Ballynocher, Magherafelt.
- iv. ELIZA WEIR, b. 16 Apr 1805, Ballynocher, Magherafelt; m. HENRY JOHNSTON, 02 Mar 1832, Castledawson Presbyterian; b. Abt. 1806, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; d. 16 Dec 1887, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt.

Notes for ELIZA WEIR:

Castledawson P baptisms

26 April 1805 Eliza dau of William Weir, Ballynougher, Magherafelt

Married 1832 Castledawson Presbyterian: March 2 Henry Johnston to Bess Wier in presence of John Wier; Wm Wier, Mrs George Duncan & Sam Winchester

I take Wm Weir & John Weir to be her brothers

Notes for HENRY JOHNSTON:

Castledawson P register marriages (MIC1P/90/1)

1832: March 2 Henry Johnston to Bess Wier in presence of John Wier; Wm Wier, Mrs George Duncan & Sam Winchester

No issue appears to have been forthcoming from this marriage:

Henry Johnston, Aghagaskin was informant of death of Richard Johnston who died 1881 Aghagaskin husband of Hanna Weir: Henry was described as his brother thus confirming their father as James.

Will of Henry Johnston died 16 Dec 1887

Effects £85

Aughagaskin, Magherafelt

To James Johnston son of my brother Benjamin £20

To James Johnston Aghagaskin son of my brother John £5 & half crop in the garden; half the turf; half furnishing and a further £12

To Peggy Johnston wife of my nephew William Johnston of Aughagaskin £5

Foreign missions of the Church of Ireland £10

Exors - Richard Dalrimple, Magherafelt & James Weir of Ballynoger

NOTE: Exor of will dated 1887 was James Weir of Ballyknocker whom I take to be a relation through marriage: Henry's brother Richard Johnston married Hanna Wier & his brother Benjamin Johnston married Jane Weir.

The James Weir who was exor of his will was recorded in the 1901 census for Ballynocker

James Weir 1901 census aged 52 farmer & widower

Head of household was William Hastings aged 82 [uncle of James Weir although he is listed as a servant]. James Weir's father appears to have been John Weir who married Jane Hastings in 1843. I assume therefore that John Weir was the brother of Hanna Weir Johnston & Jane Weir Johnston.

Registered death of Henry Johnston

16 December 1887 Aghagaskin, Henry Johnston male widower aged 81 years farmer of Bronchitis chronic; no medical attendant: Informant Mary Milliken, x her mark present at death, Aghagaskin, 2 Jan 1888.

- v. MARGARET WEIR, b. 23 Jan 1808, Ballynocher, Magherafelt.

Notes for MARGARET WEIR:

Castledawson P baptisms: 23 Jan 1808 Margaret dau of William Weir, Ballynougher, Magherafelt

Castledawson Presbyterian - Communicants and families of the congregation c. 1848

Ballynocker

No 10: Margaret Weir & Hanna [her] sister

7. vi. HANNA WEIR, b. 21 Apr 1810, Ballynocher, Magherafelt; d. 25 Sep 1895, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt.
- vii. WILLIAM WEIR.

Notes for WILLIAM WEIR:

1831 census Ballynocker

Wm Weir 2m/4f [6 Presbyterians]

Most likely this is William Weir junior. He appears to have been a witness to the marriage of his sister Bess Weir to Henry Johnston in 1832.

Married Castledawson P 1832

March 2 Henry Johnston to Bess Wier in presence of John Wier; Wm Wier, Mrs George Duncan & Sam Winchester

3. JOHN³ WEIR (*ALEXANDER*², *JOHN*¹) was born in Ballynocher, Magherafelt, and died in Tamnadeese.

Notes for JOHN WEIR:

Anna McDowell family tree has John Weir (died aged 95) as brother of William Weir of Ballynocher. No date of death forthcoming.

Not named in 1778 rental Salters (D654/R/4/2A)

No 7. Robert Love & partners 44a, 3 r, 37p rent £16-4-1 expiration 1779

1779-1783 rental (D654/R/4/2B)

Robert Love

Thos Rogers

John Weir

Partners sharing 13a-8r-2p

1795 rental (D654/R4/3A)

No2. John Weir 13-1-8 rent £6-4-0

1796 (D654/R4/3B) ibid

1797 (D654/R4/4) ibid

1800 rental (D654/R4/5)

No 6. John Weir & James Rogers rent £6-13-5

1812 rental (D654/R4/8)

John Weir 17a, 2r, 25 p rent £13-4-0 lease 13 years

1814 rental Tamnadase D4108/4/3/1 Salters' estate (no 6)

No 6. John Weir 17 a, 2r, 25 p rent £13:4:10

1831 census

John Wier 4males/1females 1 female servant

5 Presbyterian 1 RC

Child of JOHN WEIR is:

- i. JOHN⁴ WEIR, b. Abt. 1785; d. 06 Mar 1870, Tamnadeese.

Notes for JOHN WEIR:

Anna McDowell family tree has John Weir son of John Weir. States John Weir died 1863 - end of line & no issue - land passed to John Johnston.

This is based on family tradition but also supported by the following documentary evidence.

Gravestone has John Weir died 6 March 1870 aged 85 years (c.1785-1870)

Registered death

6 March 1870 Tamnadace John Weir male bachelor aged 85 years
Homoplegia 17 years right side uncertified no medical attendant -
Informant - John Johnston present at death Tamnadace 24 March 1870

Griffiths revision books VAL12/B/34/18B (1864-1878)

Tamnadeese: No 2. John Weir stroked out and John Johnston inserted 1876

Manor of Sal rental 1869-1871 D4108/4/4/1

Inside this volume PLU rates

Tamnadeese No16 - John Weir stroked out replaced by John Johnston,
Cartright's return (March 1871)

Generation No. 3

4. ALEXANDER⁴ WEIR (*WILLIAM³, ALEXANDER², JOHN¹*) was born Abt. 1795 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt, and died 16 Sep 1880 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt. He married RACHEL SPEERS Abt. 1827. She was born Abt. 1808, and died 16 Nov 1888 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt.

Notes for ALEXANDER WEIR:

Castledawson P communicants 1848

Ballynocher

No 11. Alex'r Weir & Rachel (wife)

Manor of Sal rental 1869-1871 D4108/4/4/1

No 19 Ballynocher pages 33-34

19. John & Alexander Weir £12-13-0

Castledawson Presbyterian Graveyard GI

Alexander Weir

Born 1793

Age: 86

Date of Death: 1879

WEIR [Limestone headstone] In memory of Alexander Weir born 1793, died 1879. Also of Elizabeth Weir, wife of Robert Weir who died 3rd March 1903 aged 72 years. Also the above named Robert Weir who died 13th December 1913 aged 75 years.

Registered death

16 Sept 1880 Ballynoger: Alexander Weir male married farmer aged 85 years of chronic bronchitis & old age uncertified no medical attendant: Informant Robert Weir x his mark Ballynoger in attendance.

Note - Robert Weir was the son of Alexander Weir

NB - there is a difference between the details on the headstone and the civil death certificate. The headstone was probably erected posthumously.

Notes for RACHEL SPEERS:

Registered death

16 Nov 1888 Ballynoger: Rachel Weir female widow of Alexander Weir aged 80 years of Cancer of hand and arm: Informant - Robert Weir son present at Ballynoger.

Children of ALEXANDER WEIR and RACHEL SPEERS are:

- i. WILLIAM⁵ WEIR, b. 19 Sep 1828, Ballynocher, Magherafelt; m. MARY SMITH, 30 Apr 1852, Castledawson Presbyterian; b. Abt. 1834, Castledawson.

Notes for WILLIAM WEIR:

Castledawson P baptisms: 19 Sept 1828 Wm Weir son of Alexr Weir Ballynoger, M'felt

Castledawson P church

Married 30 April 1852

William Weir aged 23 bachelor labourer of Ballynochter son of Alexander Weir farmer to Mary Smith aged 18 spinster of Castledawson dau of John Smith, farmer: Witnesses - Anne Smyth & Hugh Nelson

Notes for MARY SMITH:

Married 30 April 1852 (Magherafelt) Ireland Civil marriages

William Weir aged 23 son of Alexander Weir to Mary Smith aged 18 dau of John Smith

- ii. MARY WEIR, b. 02 Mar 1832, Ballynocher, Magherafelt.

Notes for MARY WEIR:

Magherafelt P [MIC 1P/450/1]

Baptised 2 March 1832 Mary dau of Alexander Weir, Ballynoger

- iii. JAMES GLASGOW WEIR, b. 11 Oct 1835, Ballynocher, Magherafelt; d. Apr 1897, Pennsylvania; m. ANNIE PORTER.

Notes for JAMES GLASGOW WEIR:

Castledawson Presbyterian MIC/1P/90

Baptised 11 Oct 1835 James Glasgow Weir son of Alexander Weir & Rachel Spear Ballynocher (note - Glasgow name came from the name of the minister of

Weir, James Glasgow 1835 - 1897

Born in Castle Dawson, Londonderry, Ireland the third of eight children born to Alexander Weir and Rachel Speer. He immigrated to Pittsburgh in 1857 and apprenticed as a wagon maker. By 1860 he had established his own wagon manufacturing business.

He married Annie Porter and the couple had twelve children.

He bought 100 acres in O'Hara Township and raised his family in the country while managing his Pittsburgh business.

His workshop was burnt to the ground during the Railroad Strike on 22 July 1877 and again during the Homestead Steel Strike of 1892.

He was involved in the incorporation of Greenwood Cemetery and was elected to the Allegheny County Board of Commissioners 3 times.

In April of 1897 he died of consumption.

Notes for ANNIE PORTER:

Birth: 1840, Scotland

Death: Feb. 10, 1914

Crafton

Allegheny County

Pennsylvania, USA

Weir, Annie W. Porter

1840 - 1914

Annie was the daughter of George Porter and his wife W. Stuart of Warren Township, Trumbull County, Ohio. She married James G. Weir and established a fine home in O'Hara Township, supporting her husband in his wide social and business life. Although she had 12 children, between the years 1862 and 1877 she lost 6 of them to diseases such as typhoid and scarlet fever. In the process, she became a nurse for her family and other local families suffering the same wrenching losses.

She died in Crafton at the home of her daughter Lula Weir Loring on February 10, 1914 at age 73 years 11 months and 9 days of a cerebral

hemorrhage. Born in Scotland according to interment records. Lot owned by James G. Weir.

Her funeral was at the home of her son George on Kittanning pike in O'Hara Towns

- iv. ROBERT WEIR, b. 04 May 1838, Ballynocher, Magherafelt; d. 13 Dec 1913; m. (1) ELIZABETH REYNOLDS, 03 Dec 1863, Magherafelt Church of Ireland; b. Abt. 1831; d. 03 Mar 1903; m. (2) ELIZA PARK, 29 May 1907, Moneymore 1st Presbtyerian Church; b. Abt. 1866.

Notes for ROBERT WEIR:

Manor of Sal rental 1869-1871 D4108/4/4/1

No 19 Ballynocher pages 33-34

15. Robert Weir £4-11-6

1901 census Ballynocker

Robert Weir head aged 60 farmer

Eliza Weir wife aged 60

Samuel Speers nephew 18

1911 census Ballynocker

Robert Weir head aged 74 farmer

Elizabeth Weir wife 45 married 3 years no children

Death

Robert Weir

Oct - Dec 1913

Magherafelt, Ireland

Age:75

Birth Year (Estimated):1838

Volume Number: 1

Page Number:492

Will of Robert Weir Ballynocker died 13 Nov 1913

Appoints exors John Walsh & wife Elizabeth Weir

To wife all lands in Ballynocker & Aghagaskin & also my houses with gardens in the town of Castledawson.

To Mr Wm Adamson Manager Nothern Bank Magherafelt £100

To Martha Redfern Aghagaskin £15

Nov 16th 1912

Codicil

Revokes £100 to Mr Adamson 14 Jan 1913

x his mark

Witnesses - Robert McMullan Law Clerk Magherafelt & Wm Porter farmer Magherafelt

Plaintiff - Elizabeth Weir

Defendants -

Rachel Speers & Radcliffe Weir

Lot One - farm 4a, 37 p on which he resided - £62:10sh

Lot Two - 3 dwelling houses village of Castledawson in fee simple £200

Lot Three - 4 lots Bogland Ballynocker, Aghagaskin & Toberhead 13a, 7p
£85

Household £6

£353

Castledawson P graveyard

WEIR [Limestone headstone] In memory of Alexander Weir born 1793, died 1879. Also of Elizabeth Weir, wife of Robert Weir who died 3rd March 1903 aged 72 years. Also the above named Robert Weir who died 13th December 1913 aged 75 years.

Notes for ELIZABETH REYNOLDS:

WEIR [Limestone headstone] Elizabeth Weir, wife of Robert Weir who died 3rd March 1903 aged 72 years.

Notes for ELIZA PARK:

Emerald Ancestors marriage index.

1911 census Ballynocker

Robert Weir head aged 74 farmer

Elizabeth Weir wife 45 married 3 years no children

8. v. RADCLIFFE WEIR, b. 02 Mar 1841, Ballynocher, Magherafelt; d. 27 Feb 1926, Fayette, Pennsylvania.
- vi. JOHN WEIR, b. 23 Dec 1843, Ballynocher, Magherafelt; d. 1892, Pennsylvania.

Notes for JOHN WEIR:

Castledawson P

Baptised March 29 1844

John son of Alex'r Weir & Rachel Spier Ballynocher born 23 Dec 1843

Weir, John 1843 - 1892

John was the brother of James Glasgow Weir, both being children of Alexander and Rachel Weir.

A general laborer in Allegheny City during the early 1870s, he joined his brother's carriage making business. He helped rebuild the manufacturing house after the fire of 1877, when it moved to 9th and Penn Avenue in Pittsburgh. In February 1892, the same year his brother Gamble was poisoned, John died in Uniontown of bronchitis.

9. vii. RACHEL WEIR, b. Abt. 1847, Ballynocher, Magherafelt.
- viii. GAMBLE WEIR, b. 23 Feb 1850, Ballynocher, Magherafelt; d. 15 Jan 1892, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Weir, Gamble

1849 - 1892

The son of Alexander and Rachel Speer Weir and the brother of James Glasgow Weir.

He was born in Ireland about 1849. He immigrated on 15 June 1869 on the "City of London" and became the Superintendent of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police.

He died in Pittsburgh in 15 January 1892, a victim of poisoning. Two people were arrested after arriving in Staten Island, New York, one of whom was the woman whose house he boarded at in Pittsburgh for a number of years. The house rented by the two suspects in New York was full of jewelry and diamonds, even though they were working class people

and all of the furniture in the home was identified as belonging to Gamble Weir.

5. JANE⁴ WEIR (*WILLIAM³, ALEXANDER², JOHN¹*) was born Abt. 1796 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt, and died 14 Jan 1871. She married BENJAMIN JOHNSTON Abt. 1827, son of JAMES JOHNSTON. He was born Abt. 1802 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt, and died 23 Jan 1879 in Killyneece, Magherafelt.

Notes for JANE WEIR:

Gravestone

Jane Johnston died 14 Jan 1871 aged 76 years [est birth 1796]

Cannot locate death record in civil registration.

Notes for BENJAMIN JOHNSTON:

Magherafelt CI [MIC/1/1A/1]

Baptism: April 2nd 1828 Benjamin of Benjamin Johnston, Aghagaskin, weaver

Magherafelt CI

Confirmations 1824 [out of sequence]

No 92 – Ben Johnson, Aghagaskin

Note baptism of son Henry Johnston 1839 Aghagaskin; daughter Mary Johnston baptised 1842 address Glenmaquill.

Registered death

23 Jan 1879, Killyneece: Benjamin Johnston male married aged 77 years, farmer of Bronchitis uncertified, no medical attendant; Informant William Johnston x his mark, Killyneece.

Note - informant William Johnston was probably his son.

Note - Benjamin Johnston was a widower

Children of JANE WEIR and BENJAMIN JOHNSTON are:

10. i. BENJAMIN⁵ JOHNSTON, b. 02 Apr 1828, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; d. 11 Jan 1895, Bendigo, Victoria, Australia.
- ii. JOHN JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1829, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; d. 16 Dec 1905, Tamnadase.

Notes for JOHN JOHNSTON:

Belfast Newsletter 26 Feb 1861 page 3

Moneymore Farming Society

Awards - Ploughing

1st prize and silver cup - Mr John Johnston, Aughagaskin (plough held by himself)

John Johnston died 1905 unmarried and no issue. He inherited John Weir's property. This John Johnston erected a headstone in memory of John Weir (his first cousin once removed) and William Weir (whom I take to be his maternal grandfather).

Headstone Castledawson CI

Erected by John Johnston in memory of John Weir who departed this life 6th March 1870 aged 85 years. Also William Weir who died 1809, Ballynougher.

The above John Johnston, Tamnadace died 16 Dec 1905.

Registered death

16 Dec 1905 Tamnadace John Johnston male bachelor aged 80 years farmer of Bronchitis & Cardiac disease 21 days certified: Informant George Watterson present at death Tamnadace: 20 Dec 1905.

His farm in Tamnadace was taken over by George Watterson 1904 and John Kane 1907

- iii. NANCY JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1831, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; d. Jan 1879; m. DANIEL KERR, 25 Mar 1848, Curran Presbyterian Church; b. Abt. 1820.

Notes for NANCY JOHNSTON:

Marriage cert 1848

Nancy Johnston aged 17 spinster of Glenmaquill dau of Ben Johnston,

Notes for DANIEL KERR:

Curran Presbyterian Church MIC1P/338/B1-3

Married 25 March 1848: Daniel Kerr aged 28 Widower & farmer son of Andrew Kerr farmer to Nancy Johnston aged 17 spinster of Glenmaquill dau of Ben Johnston, Farmer: Witnesses - William Moor or Doore & Nancy Stewart.

11. iv. WILLIAM JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1833, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; d. 01 Jan 1908, Killyneece, Magherafelt.
- v. JAMES JOHNSTON, b. 10 Dec 1834, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; d. 12 Jan 1898.

Notes for JAMES JOHNSTON:

Magherafelt CI [MIC/1/1A/1]

Baptism

1834 Dec 10th Jas of Benj & Jane Johnston, Aghagaskin, farmer

Received £10 from will of his uncle Henry Johnston 1887 'to Jas Johnston son of my brother, Benjamin'.

Unmarried - no issue

- vi. HENRY JOHNSTON, b. 22 Mar 1839, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt; d. 1925, Bendigo, Australia.

Notes for HENRY JOHNSTON:

Castledawson P [MIC1P/90/1]

1839: Born 22 March baptised May 14 Henry of Benjamin Johnston & Jane Weir, Aghagaskin

- vii. MARY JOHNSTON, b. 23 Mar 1842, Glenmaquill.

Notes for MARY JOHNSTON:

Castledawson P [MIC1P/90/1]

1842: Aug 24 Mary daughter of Benjamin Johnston & Jane Weir of Glenmaquill was received into the church by baptism, born March 23rd 1842

6. JOHN⁴ WEIR (*WILLIAM³, ALEXANDER², JOHN¹*) was born Abt. 1804 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt, and died 11 Mar 1872 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt. He married JANE HASTINGS 14 Apr 1843 in Castledawson Presbyterian, daughter of JOHN HASTINGS. She was born Abt. 1823 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt, and died 12 Sep 1907 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt.

Notes for JOHN WEIR:

I take John Weir who married Jane Hastings as one of the witnesses to marriage of Richard Johnston. William Hastings was John Weir's brother in law.

Marriage register 1st P Magherafelt [CR13/B/1]

No 11: 6 Feb 1846 Richard Johnston, 34, Bachelor, carpenter of Aghagaskin son of James Johnston, Land Surveyor to Hanna Weir aged 28 spinster, Ballynocher dau of William Weir, farmer by Licence [both signed names]. Witnesses - John Weir & William Hastings.

Castledawson Presbyterian - Communicants and families of the congregation c. 1848

Ballynocker

No 9: John Weir & Jane [wife]

In GV for Ballynocker 1858

Griffiths revision book VAL/12/B/34/18B 1864-1878

John Weir replaced by James Weir 1868/1869 (so John Weir died between 1864-1869).

[James Weir replaced by Jane Weir c. 1882]

Manor of Sal rental 1869-1871 D4108/4/4/1

No 19 Ballynocher pages 33-34

19. John & Alexander Weir £12-13-0

Registered death

11 March 1872 Ballynoger: John Weir married man farmer aged 68 years of mania 13 years & epileptic weakness 13 weeks: Informant Jane Weir x her mark present at death Ballynoger.

Note - the informant was probably John Weir's wife.

Notes for JANE HASTINGS:

1901 census Ballynocher

Jane Weir head P 70 widow farmer

Abraham Weir son 42 nm lab

Alexander Weir son nm lab

William Weir grandson 23 lab

Not in 1911 census

Name removed from Griffiths Valuation Ballynocher c. 1911 replaced by William Weir

Possible Death

Jane Weir

Jul - Sep 1907

Magherafelt, Ireland

Jul - Sep 1907

Age: 84

Birth Year (Estimated): 1823

Volume Number 1 Page Number: 475

Will of Jane weir died 12 Sept 1907 widow & farmer of Ballynocker Effects £209

Probate 18 June 1909

Exors John Marwood & Jas Garvin

Property to son Abraham Weir & my son Alexander Weir & my grandson William Weir in equal share:

Son John Weir £1

Son James Weir £1

Dau Esther Weir £1

Son Robert Weir £1

Signed 2 April 1901 x her mark

Jane Weir died 12 Sept 1907 aged 70 years at Ballynocher

Freehold registered land of 9 acres

Household £5

Stock £42

Land £162

Children of JOHN WEIR and JANE HASTINGS are:

12.
 - i. JAMES⁵ WEIR, b. 15 Jun 1848, Ballynocher, Magherafelt; d. 19 May 1925, Ballynocher, Magherafelt.
 - ii. ABRAHAM WEIR, b. Abt. 1859, Ballynocher, Magherafelt; d. Aft. 1911.

Notes for ABRAHAM WEIR:

1901 census Ballynocher aged 42

1911 census Ballynocher

William Weir head P aged 35 farmer single

Abraham Weir uncle aged 58 Lodger

- iii. ALEXANDER WEIR, b. Bet. 1855 - 1860, Ballynocher, Magherafelt; d. 28 Apr 1909, Ballynocher, Magherafelt.

Notes for ALEXANDER WEIR:

1901 census Ballynocker aged 40 unmarried

Possible Death

Alexander Weir

Apr - Jun 1909

Magherafelt, Ireland

Age:54

Birth Year (Estimated):1855

Mother's Maiden Name:

Volume Number: 1

Page Number: 568

Probate of the Will of Alexander Weir late of Ballynocker County Londonderry Farmer who died 28 April 1909 [aged 54 years] granted at Londonderry to George Hammond and John Mawhinney Farmers.

Will of Alexander Weir farmer of Ballyknocker died 28 April 1909 probate 18 June 1909

Effects £197, 10sh

All I possess to my nephew William Weir Ballynogher proviso that he pay £30 to my brother Robert Weir's son William Weir Ballynogher payable when he reaches 21 years of age:

Exors - George Hammond & John Mawhinney Ballynogher

Mark of Alexander Weir 28 Nov 1908

Freehold registered land fee simple ILC

Household £5

Stock £30

Freehold £162-10

Note - the first William Weir mentioned appears to have been the son of James Weir & Letitia Bradley born 1876.

- 13. iv. ROBERT WEIR, b. Ballynocher, Magherafelt.
- v. ESTHER WEIR, b. Ballynocher, Magherafelt.

Notes for ESTHER WEIR:

Will of Jane H Weir

To dau Esther Weir £1

Signed 2 April 1901 x her mark (Jane Hastings Weir).

- 14. vi. JOHN WEIR, b. Jun 1844, Ballynocher, Magherafelt.

7. HANNA⁴ WEIR (*WILLIAM³, ALEXANDER², JOHN¹*) was born 21 Apr 1810 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt, and died 25 Sep 1895 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt. She married RICHARD JOHNSTON 06 Feb 1846 in Magherafelt 1st Presbyterian Church, son of JAMES JOHNSTON. He was born Abt. 1810 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt, and died 09 Jul 1881 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt.

Notes for HANNA WEIR:

1st Magherafelt Presbyterian baptisms MIC1P/450/1

1810 April 21 Hanna of William Weir, Ballynocher

Note - her father William Weir is recorded as having died 1809 on Johnston family headstone. This stone was erected posthumously so the date may not be accurate.

Castledawson Presbyterian - Communicants and families of the congregation c. 1848

Ballynocker

No 10: Margaret Weir & Hanna [her] sister

Marriage record 1846 confirms her father as William Weir

Hanna Weir aged 28 spinster, Ballynocher dau of William Weir, farmer

Death recorded 25 Sept 1895, Aghagaskin - Hannah Johnstone female, aged 85 years, widow of a farmer from pneumonia 4 days certified: Informant - John Sturgeon - son in law present at death, Aghagaskin 24 Oct 1895:

Notes for RICHARD JOHNSTON:

Marriage register 1st P Magherafelt [CR13/B/1]

No 11: 6 Feb 1846 Richard Johnston, 34, Bachelor, carpenter of Aghagaskin son of James Johnston, Land Surveyor to Hanna Weir aged 28 spinster, Ballynocher dau of William Weir, farmer by Licence [both signed names]. Witnesses - John Weir & William Hastings.

Registered death at Aghagaskin 9 July 1881

Richard Johnston male married aged 70 years, Carpenter, Old Age no medical attendant not certified: Informant - Henry Johnston, brother present at death, Aghagaskin 14 July 1881.

GV revisions

John Sturgeon took over the farms of Richard Johnston & Henry Johnston about 1884 - a new house was built on the site in 1893.

Children of HANNA WEIR and RICHARD JOHNSTON are:

- i. BESS⁵ JOHNSTON, b. 09 Jun 1848.

Notes for BESS JOHNSTON:

Magherafelt 1st P baptisms

CR3/13/A/1A

1848 - June 9: Bess of Richard Johnston & Hanna Weir, Aghagaskin

- ii. JAMES JOHNSTON, b. 08 Sep 1850.

Notes for JAMES JOHNSTON:

Magherafelt First Presbyterian Church Registers

CR3/13/A/1A

1850 Sept 8: James of Richard Johnston & Hannah Weir, Aghagaskin

15. iii. MARY ANN JOHNSTON, b. 24 Feb 1855.

8. RADCLIFFE⁵ WEIR (*ALEXANDER⁴, WILLIAM³, ALEXANDER², JOHN¹*) was born 02 Mar 1841 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt, and died 27 Feb 1926 in Fayette, Pennsylvania. He married CHARLOTTE BROWN Abt. 1866. She was born 1843, and died 1902.

Notes for RADCLIFFE WEIR:

Baptised Castledawson P

1841

Radcliffe Weir

1904 made a visit home as he was listed as a passenger on board the ship Columbia sailed Londonderry 12 Sept 1904 aged 63 a US citizen. In 1912 his name was listed with his sister Rebecca Speers in a dispute over Alexander Weirs will.

Ellis Island database

Radcliffe Weir, US citizen, widower aged 63 sailed Sept 12 1904 on board the Columbia to NY from Derry. Destination - Pittsburg

Nearest relation - Sister Mrs E Allen 31 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburg.

FIND A GRAVE

BIOGRAPHY

Birth: Mar. 2, 1841

Death: Feb. 27, 1926

Weir, Radcliffe

Radcliff Weir was born in Castle Dawson, County Derry, Ireland on March 2, 1841 to Alexander Weir and Rachel Speer. He was the brother of John, James and Gamble Weir who are all buried in Section 4. He immigrated in 1865 aboard the ship "Star of the West", landing in New York City on December 8, 1865. Shortly after that, he married his wife Charlotte Brown. Their first known child, John, was born in 1867. In all, they raised at least 8 children, some of whom are also in the family plot.

Radcliff appears in the 1870 Directory of Pittsburgh and Allegheny Cities as a drayman, living at 64 3rd Avenue. By 1874 he owned an ice house, which grew into a substantial business. The last he appears along with advertising his business, the Cold Spring Ice Company, was in 1882.

Sometime between then and 1900 he moved to Stewart Township, Fayette County. He died in Ohio at age 84 of heart failure and arterio sclerosis on February 27, 1926. He was interred on March 2, 1926, following his wife and 4 of his children to the plot.

Greenwood cemetery

Sharpsburg (Allegheny County)

Allegheny County

Pennsylvania, USA

Notes for CHARLOTTE BROWN:

BIOGRAPHY (Find a Grave)

Weir, Charlotta

1843 - 1902

Charlotta Brown was born in Castle Dawson, County Derry, Ireland, according to at least one researcher. Her parents are not known, and we don't know when she immigrated, but in the 1880 Pittsburgh census she and husband Radcliff have 5 children and the oldest is a son, John R., who was born about 1867 in PA.

The plot contains 4 other children, so she may have had up to 9 children in all.

In 1900 she and Radcliff were living in Stewart Township, Fayette County with their youngest surviving son, Robert.

Charlotta died in Allegheny City at age 59 of pneumonia. She was interred on October 26, 1902.

Children of RADCLIFFE WEIR and CHARLOTTE BROWN are:

- i. JOHN R⁶ WEIR, b. Abt. 1867, Pennsylvania; d. 1950.

Weir, John R.

1867 - 1950

John R. Weir was the son of Radcliff and Charlotta Weir. He was the oldest known child of the couple to survive, appearing in the 1880 census as a 13 year old.

In 1910 he lived in Pittsburgh's 13th Ward at #616 Oakwood Street with his wife Sarah and daughter Sarah, age 3.

In 1920 he lived in Knoxville and the couple had added another daughter Evaline, age 7.

They lost another daughter, Mary Evaline, in 1908.

John was interred in 1950.

- ii. CHARLOTTE WEIR, b. Abt. 1869, Pennsylvania; m. WILLIAM G CORRISTON, 20 Nov 1890, Uniontown, Fayette, Pennsylvania; b. Abt. 1864.

Notes for CHARLOTTE WEIR:

Aged 11 in the 1880 census Pittsburgh

Notes for WILLIAM G CORRISTON:

Married 20 Nov 1890 Uniontown, Fayette, PA aged 26 son of Hugh & Marcy Correstan

- iii. ROBERT L WEIR, b. Abt. 1875, Pennsylvania.

Notes for ROBERT L WEIR:

1880 census Pittsburgh

Robert L Weir aged 5 born Pennsylvania

- iv. ANNIE B WEIR, b. Abt. 1878, Pennsylvania.

Notes for ANNIE B WEIR:

1880 census Pittsburgh

Annie B Weir aged 3 born Pennsylvania

- v. ELIZABETH WEIR, b. Abt. 1880, Pennsylvania.

Notes for ELIZABETH WEIR:

1880 census Pittsburgh

Elizabeth Weir aged 0 born Pennsylvania

- vi. RACHEL WEIR, b. 1871; d. 1878.

Notes for RACHEL WEIR:

Birth: Sep. 1, 1871 Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, USA

Death: Aug. 26, 1878, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, USA

Rachel Weir was a child of Radcliff and Charlotta Weir. Born in 1871, she would have been the 3rd of 9 known children to the couple. She died in Pittsburgh on August 26, 1878 at age 2 of scarlet fever. Her brother Alex died on August 13th of diptheria, and the day before she died, her brother James died of scarlet fever.

- vii. ALEXANDER GAMBLE WEIR, b. 1872; d. 1878.

Notes for ALEXANDER GAMBLE WEIR:

Birth: Mar. 5, 1872 Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, USA

Death: Aug. 13, 1878 Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, USA

Alexander Gamble Weir was the young son of Radcliff and Charlotta Weir of Pittsburgh, named after Radcliff Weir's family members. He was born on March 5, 1872.

At age 5 he suffered from diphtheria and died on August 13, 1878. He was interred on August 14, 1878, starting two horrendous weeks in which his parents lost 3 children. His is the first stone on the right in a set of 4 stones.

viii. JAMES G WEIR, b. 1875; d. 1878.

Notes for JAMES G WEIR:

Birth: Jul. 24, 1875 Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, USA

Death: Aug. 25, 1878 Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, USA

James G. Weir was the young son of Radcliff and Charlotte Weir. He succumbed to scarlet fever and was buried on the same day that he died. He was the second of 3 children in the family to die during a two week period, dying only 12 days after his brother Alex. The tombstone is very worn, and another name seems to be written, but it cannot be made out with any certainty

ix. MARY ANN WEIR, b. 1886; d. 1889.

Notes for MARY ANN WEIR:

Find A Grave

Mary Anne Weir (5 May 1886 - 19 March 1889) Pittsburg

Buried Greenwood Cemetery, Sharpsburg, Allegheny, PA.

9. RACHEL⁵ WEIR (*ALEXANDER⁴, WILLIAM³, ALEXANDER², JOHN¹*) was born Abt. 1847 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt. She married SAMUEL SPEERS 24 Apr 1877 in Castledawson Presbyterian, son of WILLIAM SPEERS and JANE MCCOOL. He was born 1842 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt, and died in Ballynocher, Magherafelt.

Notes for RACHEL WEIR:

OAP claim 1917

Mrs Rachel Speers nee Weir

Daughter of Alexander Weir & Rebecca Speers of Ballynocker

1851 census found

Rachel Weir 4 years

Notes for SAMUEL SPEERS:

Castledawson P baptisms 28 April 1847 for William Spier & Jane Macool of Ballynocker was baptised:

Samuel born in 1842.

Informant of his father's death in 1872

1911 census in Ballynocker

Samuel Speer head P aged 69 farmer

Rachel wife 63 married 34 years 8/6 alive

Nancy dau 33 single

Samuel son 28

James son 27 (stone mason)

Rachel dau 23

John Gamble Speer son 21

Mary Speer grand-dau 2

Children of RACHEL WEIR and SAMUEL SPEERS are:

- i. NANCY⁶ SPEERS, b. 22 Jan 1878.

Notes for NANCY SPEERS:

GRONI births index - Nancy Speer (mother Weir)

- ii. ROBERT SPEERS, b. 14 Nov 1880.

Notes for ROBERT SPEERS:

GRONI births index - Robert Speer (mother Weir)

- iii. WILLIAM SPEERS, b. 14 Nov 1880.

Notes for WILLIAM SPEERS:

GRONI births index - William Spears (mother Weir)

- iv. SAMUEL SPEERS, b. 30 Dec 1882.

Notes for SAMUEL SPEERS:

GRONI births index - Samuel Speer (mother Weir)

- v. JAMES SPEERS, b. 13 Jun 1885.

Notes for JAMES SPEERS:

GRONI births index - James Speers (mother Weir)

- vi. JOHN SPEERS, b. 11 Feb 1888.

Notes for JOHN SPEERS:

GRONI births index - John Speere (mother Weir)

Twin of Rachael

1911 John Gamble Speer aged 21 Ballynocker with parents

- vii. RACHEL SPEERS, b. 11 Feb 1888.

Notes for RACHEL SPEERS:

GRONI births index - Rachael Speere (mother Weir)

Twin of John

viii. GAMBLE SPEERS, b. 28 Jan 1890.

Notes for GAMBLE SPEERS:

GRONI births index - Gamble Speers (mother Weir)

10. BENJAMIN⁵ JOHNSTON (*JANE⁴ WEIR, WILLIAM³, ALEXANDER², JOHN¹*) was born 02 Apr 1828 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt, and died 11 Jan 1895 in Bendigo, Victoria, Australia. He married JANE MCNEICE 24 Feb 1854 in Castledawson Presbyterian Church¹, daughter of JOHN MCNEICE and ELIZABETH MCCOOL. She was born 20 Aug 1831 in Toberhead, Co Derry, and died 25 Dec 1892 in Bendigo, Australia.

Notes for BENJAMIN JOHNSTON:

MIC/1/1A/1 Magherafelt Church of Ireland christening

1828: April 2 Benjamin of Benjamin Johnston, Aghagaskin, weaver

Emigrated on board Star of the South Assisted Emigration scheme from Liverpool 24 April 1857 arrived Melbourne 5 August 1857

[Book 11 page 446]

Benjamin Johnston aged 28

Jane Johnston aged 24

Death certificate 11 Jan 1895 names children

Jane dead

Elizabeth dead

John dead

Elizabeth 32

Mary Ann 30

Benjamin 28

John 26

James 24

Eaglehawk, Emu Plains, White Hills and Sandhurst are all part of Bendigo now but back in the 1850s would have been small settlements surrounding Bendigo. This was a gold

mining area. I wondered if Benjamin would have been a miner. Buried White Hills cemetery

Notes for JANE MCNEICE:

Castledawson P baptism [MIC 1P/90]

20 Aug 1831 Jean of John Meniss Toberhead, Maghera.

Jane Johnston died Sunday 25th December 1892, Bendigo aged 56 years - interred White Hills cemetery: Section C1.

Jane Johnston:

According to death record died in East Melbourne Hospital aged 60 years.

Father unknown and Mother unknown to informant.

Children of BENJAMIN JOHNSTON and JANE MCNEICE are:

- i. JANE⁶ JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1855, Ireland.

Notes for JANE JOHNSTON:

Jane - Death records mother's maiden name "McNiece"

- ii. ELIZA JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1856, Ireland.

Notes for ELIZA JOHNSTON:

Elizabeth Johnston – Birth records mother's maiden name as "McNiece".

There is a death for an Elizabeth Johnstone, which could be this Elizabeth if she did not marry:

Elizabeth Johnstone aged 59 years d. 1939, (No. 6876) in Melbourne - father unknown and mother unknown.

- iii. JOHN JOHNSTON, b. 1860.

Notes for JOHN JOHNSTON:

John Johnston is the first child born in Australia that I could find and he was born in 1860. Birth records mother's maiden name as McNeice.

- iv. ELIZABETH JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1861.
- v. MARY ANN JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1864.

Notes for MARY ANN JOHNSTON:

Mary Ann - Birth records mother's maiden name as "McNiece".

- vi. BENJAMIN JOHNSTON, b. 1866.
- vii. HENRY JOHN JOHNSTON, b. 1869.

Notes for HENRY JOHN JOHNSTON:

Henry John - Birth records mother's maiden name as "MacNiece". Could not find a marriage record for this Benjamin. Death records mother's maiden name as "McNeill".

- viii. JAMES JOHNSTON, b. 1871.

Notes for JAMES JOHNSTON:

James - Birth records mother's maiden name as "McNeice".

11. WILLIAM⁵ JOHNSTON (*JANE⁴ WEIR, WILLIAM³, ALEXANDER², JOHN¹*) was born Abt. 1833 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt, and died 01 Jan 1908 in Killyneecce, Magherafelt. He married MATILDA MCKNIGHT 23 Jun 1884 in Magherafelt 1st Presbyterian Church, daughter of HUGH MCKNIGHT. She was born Abt. 1850.

Notes for WILLIAM JOHNSTON:

Magherafelt 1st P marriages [CR/13/B/3]

No 176: 23 June 1884 William Johnston full age bachelor farmer of Kilmore son of Benjamin Johnston farmer to Matilda McKnight full age spinster of Anaghmore dau of Hugh McKnight farmer: Witnesses - John[?] & Jane McKnight

Probate of the Will of William Johnston late of Killyneecce County Londonderry Farmer who died 1 January 1908 granted at Londonderry to William John Duncan and William Davison Farmers. Probate granted 22 Feb 1909:

Will of James Johnston died 1 Jan 1908, Killyneecce

I leave & bequeath to my son John all I possess with the proviso that he pay £100 to my daughter Jane & is to support my wife as long as she lives. 10sh per year to the Presbyterian Church at Castledawson.

Exors - William John Duncan, Killinieccce & William Davison

17 April 1907

x mark of Wm Johnston

Effects £309: 5sh

Household £5

Stock £46

Freehold £256-5sh

Castledawson CI graveyard

Erected in memory of Jane Johnston who departed this life 14th January 1874 aged 76 years and her husband Ben Johnston died January 1879 and their son William died January 1908. In loving memory of Annie Johnston died 20th April 1963 and her husband John Johnston son of William Johnston died 4th December 1972.

Notes for MATILDA MCKNIGHT:

1911 census Killyneese

Matilda Johnston head P 61 widow married 27 years 2 children 2 alive

Jane Lennox dau 26 married under one year

John Johnston son 22 farmer single

Samuel Lennox son in law 29 married

GRONI registered death

7 Jan 1923 Killyneese, Magherafelt DD: Matilda Johnston female widow aged 73 years old housekeeper of weak heart certified: Informant John Johnston son present at death Killyneese, 25 Jan 1923.

Children of WILLIAM JOHNSTON and MATILDA MCKNIGHT are:

16. i. JOHN⁶ JOHNSTON, b. 15 Sep 1887, Killyneese, Magherafelt; d. 04 Dec 1972.
17. ii. JANE JOHNSTON, b. 04 Apr 1885, Killyneese, Magherafelt; d. 10 Feb 1964.

12. JAMES⁵ WEIR (*JOHN⁴, WILLIAM³, ALEXANDER², JOHN¹*) was born 15 Jun 1848 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt, and died 19 May 1925 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt. He married LETITIA BRADLEY 30 Nov 1875 in Magherafelt Church of Ireland. She was born Abt. 1850, and died 03 Sep 1894 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt.

Notes for JAMES WEIR:

Castledawson Presbyterian baptisms

1848 James of James Weir & Jane Hastings [mistake - should be John]

Will of Henry Johnston of Aghagaskin 1887 - exor James Weir Ballynougher

(Jas Weir was a nephew of Jane Weir who married Benjamin Johnston brother of Henry Johnston of Aghagaskin)

1911 census Ballynocher

James Weir head P 62 farmer widower

James Weir son 26 farmer married

Mary Weir dau-in-law married 3 years 2 children

Richard Weir son 20

John Weir grandson 2

Elizabeth Weir grand-dau 1

WILL INDEX

James Weir

Date of Death : 19 May 1925

Date of Grant : 5 July 1926

Registry : Londonderry

Effects : Effects £97 0s 0d

Full Abstract :

Weir James of Ballynoghger county Londonderry farmer died 19 May 1925 Probate Londonderry 5 July to Richardson Weir and Robert Houston farmers. Effects £97.

Notes for LETITIA BRADLEY:

Birth estimated from death entry.

GRONI online death

Letitia Weir died 3 Sept 1894 aged 44 years (Magherafelt)

Children of JAMES WEIR and LETITIA BRADLEY are:

- i. WILLIAM⁶ WEIR, b. 17 Jan 1876, Ballyheifer, Magherafelt.

Notes for WILLIAM WEIR:

Registered birth 17 Jan 1876 Ballyheifer William male son of James Wier farmer Ballyheifer & Letitia Wier formerly Bradley: Informant James Wier, father Ballyheifer 27 Jan 1876.

William Weir was born shortly after the marriage.

I think it is this William Weir who received his uncle Alexander Weirs farm from his will 1908 [died 1909]. He was to give his cousin William Weir £30 as a legacy from the will when he turned 21 years.

1901 census Ballynocher

William Weir head P aged 35 farmer single

Abraham Weir uncle aged 58 Lodger

- ii. JOHN WEIR, b. 28 May 1877, Ballyheifer, Magherafelt.

Notes for JOHN WEIR:

GRONI online index births (mother Bradley)

- iii. JANE WEIR, b. 18 Jan 1879.

Notes for JANE WEIR:

GRONI online index births (mother Bradley)

- iv. ALEXANDER WEIR, b. 19 Apr 1883.

Notes for ALEXANDER WEIR:

GRONI online index births 13 April 1881 (mother Bradley)

- 18.
 - v. JAMES WEIR, b. 19 Apr 1883; d. 10 Jul 1917, Ballynocher, Magherafelt.
 - vi. SAMUEL WEIR, b. 28 May 1885.

Notes for SAMUEL WEIR:

GRONI online index births 28 May 1885 (mother Bradley)

- vii. ABRAHAM WEIR, b. 03 Jan 1887; d. Probably Canada; m. JANE ELIABETH WILLIS, 07 Jun 1911, Toronto, Ontario.

Notes for ABRAHAM WEIR:

GRONI online index births 3 Jan 1887 Abraham Wier (mother Bradley)

Emigrated to Canada

Married Toronto, York, Ontario

7 June 1911 Abraham Weir aged 24 son of Jas Weir & Letitia Bradley to Jane Elizabeth Willis aged 24 dau of Robt Willis & Jemmina Surphlis.

(Ontario Marriages 1869-1927 IGI)

- viii. RICHARDSON WEIR, b. 24 Apr 1889; d. 29 Oct 1889.

Notes for RICHARDSON WEIR:

GRONI online index births 24 April 1889 (mother Bradley)

Death

Richason Weir died 29 Oct 1889 (less than one year old) Magherafelt

- ix. RICHARDSON WEIR, b. 11 Oct 1890.

Notes for RICHARDSON WEIR:

GRONI index births (mother Bradley)

- x. ESTHER WEIR, b. 21 Jun 1894.

Notes for ESTHER WEIR:

GRONI online index births 21 June 1894 (mother Bradley).

Possibly known as Letitia Weir (1901 census Ballynocher aged 6 and 1911 census aged 16)

13. ROBERT⁵ WEIR (*JOHN⁴, WILLIAM³, ALEXANDER², JOHN¹*) was born in Ballynocher, Magherafelt. He married SARAH JANE PICKERING 05 Aug 1892 in Magherafelt 1st Presbyterian Church, daughter of RICHARD PICKERING and SARAH STEWART. She was born 25 May 1871 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt.

Notes for ROBERT WEIR:

Married 1st P Magherafelt 5 Aug 1892: Robert Weir full age bachelor farmer of Ballynougher son of John Weir farmer to Sarah Jane Pickering full age spinster of Aughagaskin dau of Richard Pickering farmer. Witnesses - James Hammond & Lizzie Lennox.

Mentioned in mother's will 1907

1901 census Scotland Old Monkland, Coatsbridge, Lanarkshire

Robert Weir head aged 34 Furnace Filler born Ireland

Sarah Jane wife 29

William son 6 born Ireland

Jane dau 2 born Old Monkland

Alexander Weir boarder 19 Iron Foundry labourer born Ireland

1911 family in Ballynocker

Robert Weir head P aged 44

Sarah Jane Weir aged 39 married 18 years 5 children 3 alive

William Weir son aged 16

Jane Weir dau aged 13 born Scotland

Sarah Weir age 9

Possible Will PRONI

Will Robert Weir, Ballynocker, farmer died 29 Dec 1944 probate LD 2 May to William Hastings Weir & Richard Weir farmers. Effects £412, 8, 9

GRONI Index

Died 30 Dec 1944 aged 77 Robert Weir

Notes for SARAH JANE PICKERING:

Marriage cert says Sarah Jane dau of Richard Pickering farmer.

Surname can also be Pickram/Pickrim etc

Children of ROBERT WEIR and SARAH PICKERING are:

- i. WILLIAM⁶ WEIR, b. 17 Feb 1893, Ballynocher, Magherafelt.

Notes for WILLIAM WEIR:

To receive £30 legacy from will of his uncle Alexander Weir's will of 1908 [died 1909] to be paid by William Weir Ballynocker son of James Weir by Letitia Bradley.

Possible marriage - Castledawson

21 June 1929 William Hastings Weir full age bachelor, labourer of Ballynougher son of Robert Weir farmer to Mary Elizabeth Leacock spinster aged 18 of Glenmaquill dau of William Leacock, farmer: Witnesses - Wm Heatley & Eliza J Bowman.

- ii. JANE WEIR, b. 21 Feb 1899, Old Monkland, Lanarkshire, Scotland.

Notes for JANE WEIR:

Registered birth Scotland

Jane Weir born 1.30pm 21st Feb 1899 Gartacherie(?) Coatbridge, dau of Robert Weir Furnace Filler & Sarah Jane Weir M/S Pickering married 5 Aug 1892 Magherafelt, Derry. Informant Robert Wier father present at birth Coatbridge 13 March 1899.

Possible marriage - Castlesdawson P

4 Nov 1931 John Magaw full age bachelor farmer of Ballinagarve son of George Magaw farmer to Jean weir full age spinster of Ballynougher dau of Robert Weir farmer: Witnesses - Silas Magaw & Lettie Weir

- iii. SARAH WEIR, b. 17 Nov 1901, Ballynocher, Magherafelt.

Notes for SARAH WEIR:

GRONI index births (mother Pickering)

- iv. SARAH WEIR, b. 01 May 1893, Ballynocher, Magherafelt; d. Bef. 1901.

Notes for SARAH WEIR:

GRONI index births (mother Pickering)

Probably died in Scotland as I cannot locate in GRONI online death index Magherafelt 1893-1901 search.

14. JOHN⁵ WEIR (*JOHN⁴, WILLIAM³, ALEXANDER², JOHN¹*) was born Jun 1844 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt. He married ELIZA MCMASTER 10 Apr 1874 in Castledawson Presbyterian, daughter of HUGH MCMASTER and ANN MCCOOL. She was born Abt. 1848.

Notes for JOHN WEIR:

Castledawson P marriages

10 April 1874 John Weir full age bachelor farmer of Ballynocker son of John Weir to Eliza McMaster spinster of Toberhead dau of Hugh McMaster farmer:

Wit - James Weir & Eliza McMaster.

Hugh McMaster will of 1887 mentions daughter Eliza Weir

NB - This John Weir fits perfectly as the son of John Weir by Jane Hastings so I have attached him as their son on FTM. See baptism below.

Castledawson Presbyterian baptisms

Baptised 8 Jan 1845 born June 1844

John of John Weir & Jane Hasty [Hastings] of Ballynocher

The family appear to have been in Toberhead 1901 [ages are slightly out but 1901 census is not accurate for the ages of people].

1901 Toberhead

Weir	John	52	Male	Head	Presbyterian
Weir	Eliza	52	Female	Wife	Presbyterian
Weir	Hugh	17	Male	Son	Presbyterian
Weir	Lizzie	16	Female	Dau	Presbyterian

Notes for ELIZA MCMASTER:

Mentioned in will of Hugh McMaster 1887 as daughter Eliza Weir

Children of JOHN WEIR and ELIZA MCMASTER are:

- i. JOHN⁶ WEIR, b. 06 Dec 1876.
- ii. MARY JANE WEIR, b. 01 Feb 1880, Shanemullagh.

Notes for MARY JANE WEIR:

GRONI index births (mother McMaster)

IGI says born in Shanemullagh

- iii. HUGH WEIR, b. 01 Jun 1883; m. MINNIE HARGEN, 15 Apr 1911, Toronto, Ontario.

Notes for HUGH WEIR:

GRONI index births (mother McMaster)

Ontario Marriages

15 April 1911 Toronto

Hugh Weir aged 28 son of John Weir & Eliza McMaster to Minnie Hargen aged 25 dau of Alexander Hargen & Eliza Turner.

Notes for MINNIE HARGEN:

Ontario Marriages

15 April 1911 Toronto

Minnie Hargen aged 25 dau of Alexander Hargen & Eliza Turner.

- iv. ELIZABETH WEIR, b. 12 Jan 1885.

Notes for ELIZABETH WEIR:

GRONI index births (mother McMaster)

- v. ANNIE WEIR, b. 15 Apr 1878.

Notes for ANNIE WEIR:

GRONI index births (mother McMaster)

15. MARY ANN⁵ JOHNSTON (*HANNA⁴ WEIR, WILLIAM³, ALEXANDER², JOHN¹*) was born 24 Feb 1855. She married JOHN STURGEON 28 Feb 1882 in Magherafelt 1st Presbyterian Church, son of JAMES STURGEON and MARY ARRELL. He was born 21 Mar 1847, and died in Allegheny, Pennsylvania.

Notes for MARY ANN JOHNSTON:

1855: Feb 24 Mary Anne of Richard & Hanna Johnston, Aghagaskin

Witnesses – Henry Johnston, Bess Johnston, Sarah Macky

Note: witness to christening - Henry Johnston, probably brother of Richard

Notes for JOHN STURGEON:

Castledawson P baptisms

21 March 1847 Blank of James Sturgeon & Mary Jane Orrile of Tubberhead

(I take this to be John Sturgeon)

Mentioned in his father's will 1889

Magherafelt 1st P marriages [CR/13/B/3]

No 166: 28 Feb 1882

John Sturgeon full age bachelor farmer Toberhead farmer son of James Sturgeon farmer to Mary Ann Johnston full age spinster of Aghagaskin daughter of Richard Johnston farmer:

Witnesses - Wm Wilson & Mary McKeown

Belfast Newsletter Feb 27th 1896

Magherafelt Petty Sessions

Sergeant Hughes, Magherafelt summoned John Sturgeon of Aghagaskin for having an unjust beam & scale in his possession it being 5 ounces off balance. Defendant was fined 2sh 6d and costs.

1901 census Aghagaskin, Londonderry

John Sturgeon aged 45 farmer P

Mary Sturgeon aged 43

Maggie E Sturgeon aged 16

James J Sturgeon aged 13

Ricahrd Sturgeon aged 10

Annie Sturgeon aged 8

1910 census Greentree, Allegheny, PA

John Sturgeon age 60 born Ireland

Mary Ann wife aged 55

Margaret dau 24

James son 22

Richard son 20

Anna dau 19

Andrew Daubin 14 born Ireland

Children of MARY JOHNSTON and JOHN STURGEON are:

- i. MARGARET E⁶ STURGEON.

Notes for MARGARET E STURGEON:

GRONI online index has a Bessy Sturgeon born 25 Mar 1888 (Could be Margaret Elizabeth Sturgeon)

- ii. JAMES J STURGEON, b. 01 Oct 1886.

Notes for JAMES J STURGEON:

GRONI birth index

- iii. RICHARD STURGEON, b. 28 Dec 1889.

Notes for RICHARD STURGEON:

GRONI online births index

- iv. ANNE STURGEON, b. 31 Jan 1892.

Notes for ANNE STURGEON:

GRONI online births

Generation No. 5

16. JOHN⁶ JOHNSTON (*WILLIAM⁵, JANE⁴ WEIR, WILLIAM³, ALEXANDER², JOHN¹*) was born 15 Sep 1887 in Killyneece, Magherafelt, and died 04 Dec 1972. He married ANNIE MCKNIGHT 16 Feb 1915 in Maghera Methodist Church. She died 20 Apr 1963.

Notes for JOHN JOHNSTON:

GRONI index births

Mother's maiden name given as McNight

Castledawson CI Gravestone

In loving memory of Annie Johnston died 20th April 1963 and her husband John Johnston son of William Johnston died 4th December 1972.

John Johnston informant of mother's death cert 1923.

Notes for ANNIE MCKNIGHT:

Marriage Index

16 Feb 1915 Maghera Methodist Church

John Johnston & Annie McKnight

Children of JOHN JOHNSTON and ANNIE MCKNIGHT are:

- i. LILY⁷ JOHNSTON, b. 1915; d. 23 Sep 2010.
- ii. WILLIAM JAMES JOHNSTON, b. 1917; d. 19 Jan 1989, Castledawson.
- iii. JOHN JOHNSTON, b. 1918; d. 09 Dec 1988, Killyneece, Magherafelt.
- iv. ANNA MARY JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1923; d. 20 Aug 2011; m. MCDOWELL; d. 1976.

17. JANE⁶ JOHNSTON (*WILLIAM⁵, JANE⁴ WEIR, WILLIAM³, ALEXANDER², JOHN¹*) was born 04 Apr 1885 in Killyneece, Magherafelt, and died 10 Feb 1964. She married

SAMUEL LENNOX 13 Jan 1911 in Curran Presbyterian Church, son of ROBERT LENNOX and JANE LENNOX. He was born 13 Aug 1881, and died 03 Feb 1975.

Notes for JANE JOHNSTON:

GRONI index births

Mother's maiden name given as McNeight

Castledawson P graveyard

In loving memory of

Jeannie Lennox

Died 10 Feb 1964 aged 78 years

And her husband Samuel

Died 3 Feb 1975 aged 93 years

Also their son Robert James

Died 11 Nov 1989 aged 73 years

And his wife Marion

Died 14 Dec 1999 aged 75 years

Notes for SAMUEL LENNOX:

GRONI index births

Samuel Lennox, Magherafelt 13 Aug 1881 son of Robert & Jane Lennox

1901 census Aughrim [Ballyronan]

Saml Lennox aged 19 CI was farm servant to John Fulton, farmer, widower of Aughrim

1911 census Killynecce

Matilda Johnston Head P aged 61 years Married 27 years 2 children 2 alive

Jane Lennox dau aged 26 married less than one year

John Johnston son aged 22 farmer

Samuel Lennox son-in-law aged 29 years labourer

Children of JANE JOHNSTON and SAMUEL LENNOX are:

19. i. WILLIAM J⁷ LENNOX, b. 19 Dec 1911.
- ii. ROBERT JAMES LENNOX, b. Bet. Jan - Mar 1916; d. 11 Nov 1989.

Notes for ROBERT JAMES LENNOX:

Buried Castledawson P with his parents

Also their son Robert James

Died 11 Nov 1989 aged 73 years

And his wife Marion

Died 14 Dec 1999 aged 75 years

Cannot find on GRONI online index.

Is in the IGI index of Irish births Jan-Mar 1916 Magherafelt

18. JAMES⁶ WEIR (*JAMES⁵, JOHN⁴, WILLIAM³, ALEXANDER², JOHN¹*) was born 19 Apr 1883, and died 10 Jul 1917 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt. He married MARY MARLIN 06 Mar 1908 in Magherafelt 1st Presbyterian Church, daughter of WILLIAM MARLIN and MARY SEMPLE. She was born 23 Mar 1882.

Notes for JAMES WEIR:

GRONI online index births 19 April 1883 (mother Bradley)

1911 census Ballynocher

James Weir head P 62 farmer widower

James Weir son 26 farmer married

Mary Weir dau-in-law married 3 years 2 children

Richard Weir son 20

John Weir grandson 2

Elizabeth Weir grand-dau 1

PRONI WILL

Letters of Admin of James Weir junior, late of Ballynocker, LD, farmer, died 10 July 1917 granted LD to Mary Weir, widow, Ballynocker. Effects £260, 10sh

Notes for MARY MARLIN:

GRONI online birth index

Possibly from Aghagaskin

Children of JAMES WEIR and MARY MARLIN are:

- i. JOHN⁷ WEIR, b. 30 Jan 1909, Ballynocher, Magherafelt.

Notes for JOHN WEIR:

GRONI index births (mother Marlin)

- ii. ELIZABETH WEIR, b. 18 Feb 1910, Ballynocher, Magherafelt.

Notes for ELIZABETH WEIR:

GRONI index births (mother Marlin)

- iii. ANNIE WEIR, b. 03 Sep 1912, Ballynocher, Magherafelt.

Notes for ANNIE WEIR:

GRONI index births (mother Marlin)

Generation No. 6

19. WILLIAM J⁷ LENNOX (*JANE⁶ JOHNSTON, WILLIAM⁵, JANE⁴ WEIR, WILLIAM³, ALEXANDER², JOHN¹*) was born 19 Dec 1911.

Notes for WILLIAM J LENNOX:

GRONI birth Index

Children of WILLIAM J LENNOX are:

- i. NOEL⁸ LENNOX.
- ii. JANET LENNOX.

- iii. JAMES LENNOX.
- iv. JENNIFER LENNOX.

Endnotes

1. Castledawson Presbyterian Church, MIC1P/90/1.

APPENDIX THREE: DESCENDANTS OF JOHN MCNEICE

Descendants of John McNeice

Generation No. 1

1. JOHN¹ MCNEICE

Notes for JOHN MCNEICE:

McNiece & its many variants can also be an Irish name:

In 1734 Jon Johnston of Johnston's Bridge was rewarded £5 for apprehending Dennis McNiece, a proclaimed Tory [robber] who was executed at Downpatrick Lent Assizes [ANT/4/1/3 page 70].

1740 Protestant Householders - no McNeice or variant in parish of Maghera:

Daniel Backhouse of Toberhead conveyed part of his farm to his son Edward Backhouse in 1757. Witnesses to this deed were Morgan Wilson of Lemnaroy, farmer & John McNeesh of Toberhead, weaver.

This is the first recorded instance of McNeice or variant in Toberhead, Maghera so I assume that John McNeice was the patriarch of this family.

There is a further and future McCool connection. John McNeice was witness the lease drawn up by Daniel Backhouse in 1757. Daniel Backhouse's wife was Sarah McCool.

The above John McNeice's grandson, also John McNeice was married to Eliza McCool. Eliza McCool was great granddaughter of Daniel Backhouse by Sarah McCool.

There is an interesting headstone to be found in Castledawson Church of Ireland graveyard:

McNEISS: Here lieth the body of Mary McNeiss aelies Lambard who departed this life Nov 24th 1804 aged 73years.

This gives Mary Lambard McNeiss a vital range of c. 1732-1804. She would fit perfectly as the wife of John McNeice, weaver, of Toberhead of the deed 1757, however, this is very speculative and not proven.

Lambard is an uncommon surname but I did note the following emigrants:
Ship Westpoint from LD to NY 11 March 1806: Robert Lambert aged 26, farmer,
Castledawson

Ship Westpoint from LD to NY May 1811 - John Lambert.

There is also another headstone in Castledawson that fits as brother to Mary Lambert:
LAMBERT: Here lies the body of Edward Lambert who dept this life June 22 1808 aged 83 years [giving a lifespan of c. 1725-1808].

1839 voters' list County Derry
Joseph Lambert of Drumlamph was a £10 freeholder.

The origins of the McNiece family:
I have found no evidence that the McNiece family of Toberhead were Quaker in origin, however that does not preclude that earlier members of the family were linked with the Society of Friends.

In the 1740 Protestant Householders survey in the parish of Termoneeny, Daniel McNish was a head of household. It is possible given location and naming patterns that this Daniel was the father of John McNiece of Toberhead, the weaver. Maghera parish and Termoneeny parish are contiguous. There was an early Quaker meeting in Dunlady, which was in Termoneeny parish and close connections between the Quakers of Dunlady and Toberhead, which could explain why we find John McNiece in Toberhead in 1757. Gabriel McCool & James McCool brothers from of Toberhead received a certificate of commendation from the meeting at Dungaldy upon their emigration to America in 1725.

Children of JOHN MCNEICE are:
2. i. THOMAS² MCNEICE.
3. ii. DANIEL MCNEICE.

Generation No. 2

2. THOMAS² MCNEICE (JOHN¹)

Notes for THOMAS MCNEICE:
1831 head of household Tubberhead
No 45 Thos McNeice 2 households 3 males 6 females 9 Presbyterians

I take this to be Thomas McNeice senior.

It also seems likely to me that Thomas McNeice [senior] was married to a Jane. Both John McNeice [married Eliza McCool] & Thomas McNeice [married Susannah Scott] named a daughter Jane.

The only other McNeice family in Toberhead in 1831 was headed by Daniel McNeiss senior:
1831 census Toberhead
Daniel McNeiss head 3males/3females 6 Presbyterian.

Daniel McNeice senior had a son baptised in Castledawson Presbyterian Church:
14 July 1806 Daniel of Daniel Menise, Toberhead.

1827 Tithe book Toberhead
Danl McNeese senior had a farm of 12a, 2roods

Daniel McNeese junior had a farm of 5a, 2roods

Daniel McNeice [senior] of Toberhead was a witness to a lease drawn up in 1796 between Hugh Beaton, Toberhead, famer of the one part and John Gilmore, Co Tyrone farmer, concerning lands in Broagh and that part of Toberhead East quarter and North Division of Toberhead [Volume 503 page 414; memorial number 324609].

McNeice of Toberhead appear to be one family, the numbers were small, and I can only conclude that Daniel McNeice & Thomas McNeice both in the 1831 census were brothers [a less likely scenario is that they were first cousins].

Who then was their father?

Here again we rely on the Registry of Deeds for additional information. Daniel Backhouse of Toberhead conveyed part of his farm to his son Edward Backhouse in 1757. Witnesses to this deed were Morgan Wilson of Lemnaroy, farmer & John McNeesh of Toberhead, weaver.

This is the first recorded instance of the surname McNeice in Toberhead and one can only conclude that John McNeice was the progenitor of the McNeice family of Toberhead. I suspect but cannot prove that he is the father of Daniel & Thomas McNeice of 1831 census but weight of evidence supports this hypothesis.

Children of THOMAS MCNEICE are:

4. i. JOHN³ MCNEICE, b. Abt. 1791, Toberhead, Co Derry; d. Abt. 1831, Toberhead, Co Derry.
5. ii. THOMAS MCNEICE, d. Aft. 1870.

3. DANIEL² MCNEICE (*JOHN*¹)

Notes for DANIEL MCNEICE:

1831 census Toberhead

Daniel McNeiss head 3males/3females 6 Presbyterian.

Daniel McNeice senior had a son baptised in Castledawson Presbyterian Church:
14 July 1806 Daniel of Daniel Menise, Toberhead.

1827 Tithe book Toberhead

Danl McNeese senior had a farm of 12a, 2roods

Daniel McNeese junior had a farm of 5a, 2roods

Daniel McNeice [senior] of Toberhead was a witness to a lease drawn up in 1796 between Hugh Beaton, Toberhead, famer of the one part and John Gilmore, Co Tyrone farmer, concerning lands in Broagh and that part of Toberhead East quarter and North Division of Toberhead [Vol 503 page 414; memorial number 324609].

Child of DANIEL MCNEICE is:

- i. DANIEL³ MCNEICE, b. 14 Jul 1806.

Notes for DANIEL MCNEICE:

Daniel McNeice senior had a son baptised in Castledawson Presbyterian Church:
14 July 1806 Daniel of Daniel Menise, Toberhead.

Generation No. 3

4. JOHN³ MCNEICE (*THOMAS², JOHN¹*) was born Abt. 1791 in Toberhead, Co Derry, and died Abt. 1831 in Toberhead, Co Derry. He married ELIZABETH MCCOOL Bet. 1824 - 1828, daughter of ARCHIBALD MCCOOL and SARAH BACKHOUSE. She was born Abt. 1792 in Toberhead, and died 28 Jan 1874 in Toberhead.

Notes for JOHN MCNEICE:
D4480/1/5

States the following:
John McNeice died 1831 married 1824
Archibald born 1825; Jane born 1827

[Note - dates for children are slightly out - Archibald was baptised 1829 and Jane 1831. I suspect then that the date of marriage is slightly out - I would place marriage c. 1826. Miss Betty McCool was a witness to the marriage of Robert McMaster to Jean McCool 20 March 1825 & I think this is the future Mrs John McNeice]

Sarah McCool held possession & McNeice lived with her [his mother in law] but never got possession & died at his father's.

1831 head of household Tubberhead
No 45 Thos McNeice 2 households 3 males 6 females 9 Presbyterians

Note in this household resided two families headed by Thomas McNeice. According to the documentation in D4480/1/5 John McNeice died at his father's house in 1831. For that reason I believe that Thomas McNeice was John McNeice's father. In addition John McNeice named his first son Archibald after his father in law Archibald McCool. Likewise Thomas McNeice [married Susanna Scott] named his first son Archibald, and for me this indicates that Thomas & John were brothers. Seems likely that John & Thomas McNeice were sons of the Thomas McNeice of the 1831 census.

Notes for ELIZABETH MCCOOL:
Elizabeth McCool married firstly John McNeice c. 1824 and secondly William Morton 1834 in Maghera CI.

D4480/1/4
Morton Papers - Document dated c. 1862
At bottom of page scribbled - Wm Morton aged 55 his wife 68 or so - near 70

This would give William Morton an approximate birth date of c. 1807 and his wife Elizabeth c. 1792-1794.

GRONI search deaths
Died 28 Jan 1874 Toberhead Elizabeth Morton female married aged 82 years farming, died of chronic diarrhoea 3 weeks uncertified no medical attendant. Informant Archy McNeice xhis mark present at death Toberhead, 19 March 1874

Children of JOHN MCNEICE and ELIZABETH MCCOOL are:
i. ARCHIBALD⁴ MCNEICE, b. 10 Aug 1829, Toberhead, Co Derry.

Notes for ARCHIBALD MCNEICE:

Castledawson P baptism [MIC 1P/90]

10 Aug 1829 Arch'd of John McNiss of Toberhead, Maghera.

His mother Elizabeth McNeice remarried Wm Morton. Archy McNeice was the informant to death of Elizabeth Morton.

D4480/1/4

Letter dated Aug 11th 1862 from Wm Morwood, Halftown, Castledawson to Mr John Morton, Belfast.

Dear friend, please let your uncle William Morton know that I saw Archy McNeice this day & he told me he had a letter from you; he wants no law. Let your uncle come home - he is willing to give him a residence or leave his case to two men.

Died 28 Jan 1874 Toberhead Elizabeth Morton female married aged 82 years farming, died of chronic diarrhoea 3 weeks uncertified no medical attendant. Informant Archy McNeice xhis mark present at death Toberhead, 19 March 1874

Cannot locate his death in the indexes (emigrated?)

6. ii. JANE MCNEICE, b. 20 Aug 1831, Toberhead, Co Derry; d. 25 Dec 1892, Bendigo, Australia.

5. THOMAS³ MCNEICE (*THOMAS², JOHN¹*) died Aft. 1870. He married SUSANNA SCOTT Abt. 1831. She was born Abt. 1798, and died 04 Sep 1870 in Toberhead.

Notes for THOMAS MCNEICE:

1831 census Toberhead

Thomas McNeese 2 families 3males 6 females 9 Presbyterians

Note - 2 families resided in this household. I am not sure if this Thomas McNeice is the same person who married Susanna Scott. They appear to have married around 1831.

Wife Susanna died 1870 'wife of a farmer' usually an indication that the husband was alive. But no record for a death of Thomas McNeice in the all-Ireland death index.

Notes for SUSANNA SCOTT:

Possibly a sister of Thomas Scott who's daughter Ellen married Samuel Hammond McCool

Death certificate 4 Sept 1870 Toberhead: Susannah McNeice, female, married aged 72 years wife of a farmer died of Old Age and infirmity: Informant John McNeice x his mark, son of deceased, Toberhead present at death: registered 8 Sept 1870

Note - cannot locate the death of Thomas McNeice husband of Susanna.

Children of THOMAS MCNEICE and SUSANNA SCOTT are:

7. i. ARCHIBALD⁴ MCNEICE, b. Abt. 1832, Toberhead; d. 15 Apr 1891, Toberhead.

ii. HANNA MCNEICE, b. 30 Jul 1837, Toberhead.

Notes for HANNA MCNEICE:

Castledawson Presbyterian Church
Date of Birth 30 Jul 1837
Name Hanna MCNIECE
Father: Thomas MCNIECE
Mother: Susanna SCOTT
Date of Baptism 28 Aug 1837

iii. NANCY MCNEICE, b. 03 Apr 1842, Toberhead.

Notes for NANCY MCNEICE:
Castledawson Presbyterian Church
Date of Birth 21 Aug 1839
Name Nancy MCNEICE
Fathers Name Thomas MCNEICE
Mothers name: Susanna SCOTT
Date of Baptism 3 Apr 1842

8. iv. JOHN MCNEICE, b. 21 Mar 1843, Toberhead; d. 18 Jan 1879, Toberhead.
v. JANE MCNEICE, b. Toberhead; m. WILLIAM LILLY, 16 Apr 1851,
Magherafelt 1st Presbyterian Church; b. Aghagaskin, Magherafelt.

Notes for JANE MCNEICE:
Married 1st Magherafelt Presbyterian 16 April 1851 William Lilly, full age, farmer of
Aghagaskin son of John Lilly farmer to Jane McNiece full age of Toberhead daughter of
Thomas McNiece, farmer. Witnesses - James Lennox & Samuel McCool.

Note - the latter witness may be Samuel Hammond McCool of Toberhead who married
Ellen Scott/McNiece of Toberhead in 1849.

Notes for WILLIAM LILLY:
Surname difficult to make out on marriage certificate Lilly or Silly.

vi. MARY MCNEICE, b. Abt. 1833; m. ALEXANDER MILLIKEN, 24 Aug 1868,
Maghera Church of Ireland; b. 31 Jan 1826, Ballynocher, Magherafelt.

Notes for ALEXANDER MILLIKEN:
Castledawson Presbyterian
31 Jan 1826 Alexander of Alexander Milliken, Ballynoger

2nd Ahoghill Presbyterian marriage 17 Nov 1852
Alex'r Milliken full age bachelor weaver of Ballynoghie son of Alexander Milliken weaver
to Margaret McNiece full age spinster of Ballynochie dau of Samuel McNiece, farmer x
her mark. Witnesses Alexander McNiece & James McMillin

Maghera CI marriage 24 Aug 1868:
Alexander Milliken full age widower labourer of Tubberhead son of Alexander Milliken
weaver to Mary McNiece full age spinster Tubberhead dau of Thomas McNiece, farmer:
Witnesses - James and Sarah Marks.

6. JANE⁴ MCNEICE (*JOHN³, THOMAS², JOHN¹*) was born 20 Aug 1831 in Toberhead, Co Derry, and died 25 Dec 1892 in Bendigo, Australia. She married BENJAMIN JOHNSTON 24 Feb 1854 in Castledawson Presbyterian Church¹, son of BENJAMIN JOHNSTON and JANE WEIR. He was born 02 Apr 1828 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt, and died 11 Jan 1895 in Bendigo, Victoria, Australia.

Notes for JANE MCNEICE:

Castledawson P baptism [MIC 1P/90]

20 Aug 1831 Jean of John Meniss Toberhead, Maghera.

Jane Johnston died Sunday 25th December 1892, Bendigo aged 56 years - interred White Hills cemetery: Section C1.

Jane Johnston:

According to death record died in East Melbourne Hospital aged 60 years.

Father unknown and Mother unknown. It appears that the family did not give the information about her death. This often happened if someone died in hospital a distance from their home. Someone in the hospital probably gave information for the death certificate.

The Bendigo Advertiser Monday 2 January 1893 page 2

In Memoriam

Johnston - In affectionate remembrance of Jane, the beloved wife of Benjamin Johnston who departed this life on 24th December 1892, aged 59 years.

She was so long with pain oppressed;

It wore her strength away;

It made her long for endless rest,

Which never can decay.

Weary days and night (sic) were appointed unto me.

I cried unto the Lord, and He heard me.

Inserted by her loving children.

Notes for BENJAMIN JOHNSTON:

MIC/1/1A/1 Magherafelt Church of Ireland christening

1828: April 2 Benjamin of Benjamin Johnston, Aghagaskin, weaver

Emigrated on board Star of the South Assisted Emigration scheme from Liverpool 24

April 1857 arrived Melbourne 5 August 1857

[Book 11 page 446]

Benjamin Johnston aged 28

Jane Johnston aged 24

Death certificate 11 Jan 1895 names children

Jane dead

Elizabeth dead

John dead

Elizabeth 32

Mary Ann 30

Benjamin 28

John 26

James 24

Eaglehawk, Emu Plains, White Hills and Sandhurst are all part of Bendigo now but back in the 1850s would have been small settlements surrounding Bendigo. This was a gold mining area. I wondered if Benjamin would have been a miner?

Buried White Hills cemetery

Children of JANE MCNEICE and BENJAMIN JOHNSTON are:

- i. JANE⁵ JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1855, Ireland.

Notes for JANE JOHNSTON:

Jane - Death records mother's maiden name "McNiece"

- ii. ELIZA JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1856, Ireland.

Notes for ELIZA JOHNSTON:

Elizabeth Johnston – Birth records mother's maiden name as "McNiece".

There is a death for an Elizabeth Johnstone, which could be this Elizabeth if she did not marry:

Elizabeth Johnstone aged 59 years d. 1939, (No. 6876) in Melbourne - father unknown and mother unknown.

- iii. JOHN JOHNSTON, b. 1860.

Notes for JOHN JOHNSTON:

John Johnston is the first child born in Australia that I could find and he was born in 1860. Birth records mother's maiden name as McNeice.

- iv. ELIZABETH JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1861.

- v. MARY ANN JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1864.

Notes for MARY ANN JOHNSTON:

Mary Ann - Birth records mother's maiden name as "McNiece".

- vi. BENJAMIN JOHNSTON, b. 1866.

- vii. HENRY JOHN JOHNSTON, b. 1869.

Notes for HENRY JOHN JOHNSTON:

Henry John - Birth records mother's maiden name as "MacNiece". Could not find a marriage record for this Benjamin. Death records mother's maiden name as "McNeill".

- viii. JAMES JOHNSTON, b. 1871.

Notes for JAMES JOHNSTON:

James - Birth records mother's maiden name as "McNeice".

7. ARCHIBALD⁴ MCNEICE (*THOMAS³, THOMAS², JOHN¹*) was born Abt. 1832 in Toberhead, and died 15 Apr 1891 in Toberhead. He married NANCY MCNEIGHT 01 Jul 1853 in Castledawson Presbyterian, daughter of HUGH MCNEIGHT. She was born Abt. 1833 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt, and died 1914 in Toberhead.

Notes for ARCHIBALD MCNEICE:

Married Castledawson P [MIC1P/90] 1 July 1853

Archy McNiece aged 22 bachelor farmer Toberhead son of Thomas McNeice farmer to
Nancy McNeight 21 spinster Ballynocker dau of Hugh McNeight farmer x her mark:
Witnesses - Robert Carr & Archibald McMaster

Note - Robert Carr was also witness to marriage of Benjamin Johnston to Jane McNeice

Registered death

15 April 1891 Toberhead: Archibald McNiece male married aged 61 years farmer died of
- of the pancreas 6 months certified: Informant Samuel McNiece son present at death,
Toberhead.

Will of Archibald McNiece died 15 April 1891 Effects £45

In Archibald McNiece of Toberhead:

To my son Hugh my farm of land

Son Hugh to pay my son Samuel £100

Son Hugh to give my wife Nancy fair support so long as they live together.

If they cannot live together she is to get one half of the room, the garden behind the
house, the field at the crossroads.

Samuel to be kept at school as much as possible for next 2 years.

Son William is provided for.

6 Oct 1890

Exors John M Morwood of Shanemullagh & Jas Porter of Ballynoger

Notes for NANCY MCNEIGHT:

1911 census Toberhead

Nancy McNeice head P r&w 75 farmer's widow

Samuel McNeice son P r&w 37 Labourer single

Nancy McNeice

Death

Event Date: Oct - Dec 1914

Magherafelt, Ireland

Oct - Dec 1914

Magherafelt

Age: 80

Birth Year (Estimated) 1834

Volume Number:1

Page Number: 533

Children of ARCHIBALD MCNEICE and NANCY MCNEIGHT are:

i. WILLIAM⁵ MCNEICE, b. 01 May 1856, Toberhead; m. NANCY MCCOOL, 28
Sep 1876, Castledawson Presbyterian; b. 14 Feb 1855, Toberhead.

Notes for WILLIAM MCNEICE:

PRONI MIC IP/90/1

Witnesses to marriage 1876 were were Robert McMaster and A.J. McMaster

Not in 1901 or 1911 census returns for Toberhead.

Notes for NANCY MCCOOL:

Castledawson P baptisms

Born Feb 14 1855 baptised 25 May Nancy of William McCool & Mary McKillen,
Toberhead

Not in 1901 or 1911 census for Toberhead.

9. ii. HUGH MCNEICE, b. 24 Sep 1867, Toberhead.
- iii. SAMUEL MCNEICE, b. 04 Sep 1874, Toberhead.

Notes for SAMUEL MCNEICE:
GRONI index births

- iv. JOHN MCNEICE, b. 14 May 1864, Toberhead.

Notes for JOHN MCNEICE:
GRONI index births

- v. ARCHIBALD MCNEICE, b. 04 Jul 1860, Toberhead; d. 1864, Toberhead.

Notes for ARCHIBALD MCNEICE:
Castledawson P baptisms [MIC 1P/90]
Born 4 July 1860 baptised 8 Sept 1860 Archibald of Archibald McNeice & Nancy
McNeight, Toberhead

- vi. ELIZA JANE MCNEICE, b. 10 May 1863, Toberhead; d. 1864, Toberhead.

Notes for ELIZA JANE MCNEICE:
Castledawson P baptisms [MIC 1P/90]
Born 10 May 1863 baptised Sept 2 Eliza Jane dau of Archd McNeice & Nancy McNeight,
Toberhead

- vii. DANIEL MCNEICE, b. 11 Dec 1871, Toberhead; d. 1874, Toberhead.

Notes for DANIEL MCNEICE:
GRONI index

- viii. ARCHY MCNEICE, b. 10 May 1869, Toberhead.

Notes for ARCHY MCNEICE:
GRONI birth index

8. JOHN⁴ MCNEICE (*THOMAS³, THOMAS², JOHN¹*) was born 21 Mar 1843 in Toberhead,
and died 18 Jan 1879 in Toberhead. He married ELIZABETH JANE BLAIR 11 Jan 1869,
daughter of WILLIAM BLAIR. She was born Abt. 1841, and died 1912.

Notes for JOHN MCNEICE:
Castledawson Presbyterian Church
Date of Birth 21 Mar 1843
Name John MCNEES
Fathers Name Thomas MCNEES
Mothers Name Susanna SCOTT
Date of Baptism 12 Apr 1843

Informant on his mother's death certificate 1870

Registered death

11 Jan 1879 Toberhead: John McNiece male married aged 35 years farmer of renal hepatic [?] disease certified: Informant Mary Milliken x her mark present Toberhead.

Note - it seems that Mary Milliken was John McNiece's sister.

Notes for ELIZABETH JANE BLAIR:

1901 census Toberhead

Eliza Jane McNeice head P r&w 60 housekeeper widow

Thomas McNeice son P r&w 25 farmer nm

Margaret McNeice dau P 30 nm

1911 census Toberhead

Elizabeth Jane McNeice head P 71years r&w Farmer's widow

Thomas McNeice son P 37 years Farmer single

Elizabeth Jane McNeice

Death

Oct - Dec 1912

Magherafelt, Ireland

Oct - Dec 1912

Magherafelt

Age: 71

Birth Year (Estimated):1841

Volume Number:1

Page Number:530

Children of JOHN MCNEICE and ELIZABETH BLAIR are:

- i. MARY⁵ MCNEICE, b. 18 Nov 1869, Toberhead.

Notes for MARY MCNEICE:

GRONI index

- ii. SUSANNAH MCNEICE, b. 05 Aug 1872, Toberhead.

Notes for SUSANNAH MCNEICE:

GRONI index births

- iii. ELIZA JANE MCNEICE, b. 01 Apr 1871, Toberhead.

Notes for ELIZA JANE MCNEICE:

GRONI index

- iv. THOMAS MCNEICE, b. 08 Feb 1874, Toberhead.

Notes for THOMAS MCNEICE:

GRONI index births

Possible Death

Name: Thomas Mcneece

Event Type: Death

Event Date: Jul - Sep 1919

Event Place: Magherafelt, Ireland

Registration Quarter and Year: Jul - Sep 1919

Registration District: Magherafelt

Age:45

Birth Year (Estimated): 1874

Volume Number: 1

Page Number: 426

PRONI WILL

Admin estate of Thomas McNeice, Toberhead, farmer died 2 Sept 1919 granted at LD 4 Jan 1920 to Bridget McNeice, Widow. Effects £243, 7, 3

Generation No. 5

9. HUGH⁵ MCNEICE (*ARCHIBALD*⁴, *THOMAS*³, *THOMAS*², *JOHN*¹) was born 24 Sep 1867 in Toberhead. He married MADGE FERRIER 30 Mar 1892 in Magherafelt 1st Presbyterian Church. She was born Abt. 1860, and died 14 Aug 1893 in Toberhead.

Notes for HUGH MCNEICE:

GV revisions Toberhead replaced his father Archibald McNeice 1894

Belfast Newsletter 27 Sept 1895 [concerns right to vote]

Hugh McNiece of Toberhead was claimed for by the Unionists. He proved he was a tenant of a house and lands in that townland for four years past. On cross-examination it appears that his father had made a will in which his mother had been left part of the house and land but witness was not clear on the contents of the will, which was in possession of the executor. His honour allowed the case to stand until will produced.

Listed as Hugh McNeil in the marriage index.

1901 census Toberhead

Hugh McNeice head P r&w 34 farmer widower

Annie McNeice dau P r&w 7 scholar nm

Nancy McNeice mother P r&w 66 House-keeper

Samuel McNeice brother P r&w 25 labourer

1911 census Toberhead

Hugh McNeice head P read only 44 farmer widower

Annie McNeice dau P r&w 17 single

PRONI WILL

Hugh McNeice, Toberhead, farmer died 16 Jan 1946 Admin LD 15 May to Selina McNeice the widow. Effects £185, 10s

Notes for MADGE FERRIER:

Died 1893 (Death index)

Child of HUGH MCNEICE and MADGE FERRIER is:

i. ANNIE FERRIER⁶ MCNEICE, b. 1893, Toberhead; m. GEORGE MARSHALL MCCLEAN, 08 Dec 1915, Magherafelt Civil Registrars Office; b. Abt. 1895, Knockloughrim.

Notes for ANNIE FERRIER MCNEICE:

1911 census Toberhead

Hugh McNiece head P read only 44 farmer widower
Annie McNiece dau P r&w 17 single

Notes for GEORGE MARSHALL MCCLEAN:
Emerald Ancestors marriage database

Endnotes

1. Castledawson Presbyterian Church, MIC1P/90/1.

McNEICE MISCELLANY

Page 1 Lisburn; Lurgan & Grange
Co Antrim & manor of Kilutra in the towne of Lisburne
James McNees 7-12-00
John McNeese 5-08-06
Richard McNeese 2-09-10
James McNeese 2-11-00

MIC 16/6 Ulster Province Quarterly meetings: (marriages & sufferings)
Marriages 1731-1786 (mostly Co Down/Tyrone – Lisburn/Ballinderry)
Searched 276 pages
Page 4 (1732)
Jonas Scott son of William Scott late of Hillsborough & Sarah McNeese of Lurgan
daughter of Daniel McNeese late of Markethill in Co Armagh: Witnesses – Daniel
Badger, James Morton, John Morton.
Book of Sufferings 1748-1809
Co Antrim parish of Glenavy
Year 1754: Issac McNiece had taken from him for tythe by said Higgensen under
Earl of Hertford 40 stooks of oats & 3 stooks barley & 5 stooks wheat & one cock
of hay all worth £1-16 (also in 1755 & 1766)

McNiece Wills All Connor Diocese (T700 pp 331-333)
P 331 will of Conway McNiece of Pigeontown, Glenavy, 1741
Sons Richard & Conway McNiece; daughters Anne and Mary
Dated 6 July 1741
Witnesses – John & Leonora McNiece

Glenavy parish registers
1738 christened 9 Dec Conway son of Conway McNiece
1788 May 19th Conway son of Thomas McNiece

5 Nov 1792 Conway son of John McNiece

BNL Linen-drapers Co Antrim 14 Fe 1769

Conway McNeice

John Balance the NZ| PM – his mother was Mary McNiece, a Quaker; her uncle was Conway McNiece owned property in the area including Ram's Island & Lough Neagh (Ulster Local Studies Volume 15 No 1 Summer 1993).

Quakers are renowned for their pacificism and only rarely do we see evidence of the use of violence amongst members. Disciplinary cases involving violence are rare. In 1682, James McNeese, a member of the Lisburn meeting, had recourse to arms when the tithe monger attempted to seize some of his grain. Quakers refused to pay tithes to the Established Church on religious grounds. When McNeese subsequently refused to condemn his actions the Ulster Province Meeting advised the monthly meeting to '*take care to cleare the truth*' by castigating his unruly behaviour.

Source: 'God's Other Children' – Protestant Non-Conformists & the emergence of denominational churches in Ireland 1660-1700, Richard L Greaves; Stanford University Press; California 1997 p 337

MIC 16/1A Ulster Quarterly meeting

Ballyhagen the 20th 6 month 1692

James McNeece & Margrit Heatherinton having laid their intentione of marriage with one another before this meeting.

MIC 16/29B Index to marriages Lurgan Quaker meeting

P 153

Joseph McNeece of Charlamont meeting & Margret Cristy of Monallen meeting have declared ye intentions of marriage with each other in several publick meetings of ye people called Quakers in the house of John McNeil on ye 17 of ye month called February: witnesses – John McNeece & Joshua McNeece.

APPENDIX FOUR: DESCENDANTS OF ARCHIBALD MCCOOL OF TOBERHEAD

Descendants of Archibald McCool

Generation No. 1

1. ARCHIBALD² MCCOOL (*JOHN*¹) was born Bet. 1680 - 1685 in Toberhead, and died Aft. 1740 in Toberhead.

Notes for ARCHIBALD MCCOOL:

I take Archibald McCool to be the eldest son of John McCool by his first wife. He first appears in Quaker records in 1706 alongside John McCool, probably father and son.

T1062/41/28 & 95 [1706]

Marriage 1706: Nathaniel Hillary, Lurgan & Grizelle Miller, Dunchary -- George Gregg, Archibald McCoole, Ann McWherter & Olive McCoole being appointed to make enquiry.

1706 sufferings Co Londonderry T1062/48

Parish of Maghera

Archibald McCull

John McCull

1708 sufferings Co Londonderry T1062/48

John McCull

Archibald McCull

1709 sufferings LD T1062/48

John McCool

Archibald McCool

1710 sufferings Co LD

Maghera parish

John McCool

Archibald McCool

1734 Lease

Registry of Deeds

Original Lease for Toberhead 1734 East Quarter Division 103 acres; 1r 20p arable & 51 acre boggy

ROD Volume 176 page 49 memorial number 116751

Conolly to Beaton & ors

Registered 17 day April 1755

Lease dated 28 March 1734

Rt Hon Wm Conolly, Dublin of the one part & Samuel Beaton, Hugh Beaton, Archibald McCowl & Daniel Backhouse in the proportion of Vintners - East Quarter Division 103 acres; 1r 20p arable & pasture and 51 acres, 2r, 16p boggy - natural lives and lives of Archibald McCowl eldest son of John McCowl of Toberhead; John Backhouse, son of said Daniel Backhouse & John McCracken son of Robert McCracken of Grange in said proportion: £14 annual rent; renewal of life £7.

Witnesses - Marcus McCausland, Deasey [Daisy] Hill, L'Derry & Geo Tiney, Dublin, Gent Signed in presence of and sealed - Marcus McCausland & James Marley 7 Sept 1754

1740 Protestant Householders' Maghera parish

Arch. McCoule

Child of ARCHIBALD MCCOOL is:

2. i. JOHN³ MCCOOL, b. Abt. 1710.

Generation No. 2

2. JOHN³ MCCOOL (ARCHIBALD², JOHN¹) was born Abt. 1710.

Notes for JOHN MCCOOL:
Registry of Deeds

Original Lease for Toberhead 1734 East Quarter Division 103 acres; 1r 20p arable & 51 acre boggy

ROD Volume 176 page 49 memorial number 116751

Conolly to Beaton & ors
Registered 17 day April 1755

Lease dated 28 March 1734

Rt Hon Wm Conolly, Dublin of the one part & Samuel Beaton, Hugh Beaton, Archibald McCowl & Daniel Backhouse in the proportion of Vintners - East Quarter Division 103 acres; 1r 20p arable & pasture and 51 acres, 2r, 16p bogg - natural lives and lives of Archibald McCowl eldest son of John McCowl of Toberhead; John Backhouse, son of said Daniel Backhouse & John McCracken son of Robert McCracken of Grange in said proportion: £14 annual rent; renewal of life £7.

Witnesses - Marcus McCausland, Deasey [Daisy] Hill, L'Derry & Geo Tiney, Dublin, Gent
Signed in presence of and sealed - Marcus McCausland & James Marley 7 Sept 1754

Note:

The John McCool mentioned in this deed cannot be the John McCool junior son of John McCool senior of Toberhead as he had emigrated to Delaware in USA well before this deed was drawn up. The deed was signed by Archibald McCool in 1734 - this Archibald first appears in the Quaker records in 1706 alongside John McCool the progenitor of the McCools of Toberhead. Therefore, I take Archibald McCool who signed the deed of 1734 to be the eldest son of John McCool of Toberhead by his first marriage. Archibald McCool remained behind in Ireland whilst all of his siblings emigrated. So, the Toberhead McCools descend from this Archibald McCool whom we find in Toberhead in the 1740 Protestant Householders' survey.

The McCools of Toberhead appear to have been only one family so we are not talking about large numbers [especially as the majority of the original family emigrated to the USA].

I surmise therefore that the John McCool mentioned as the father of Archibald McCool, the life in the 1734 lease, was the son of Archibald McCool of the 1740 Protestant Householders survey. It will be noted that Archibald McCool, the life in the lease, was described as the eldest son of John McCool, and I suspect he was just a child at the time of the lease in 1734.

So the records indicate the line of descent for the McCool family residing in Toberhead as follows:

Generation One: John McCool progenitor [Married twice; 2nd wife called Olivia].

Generation Two: Archibald McCool, eldest son of the above, by his first wife, took lease of 1734 and listed in 1740 Protestant Householders' survey.

Generation Three: John McCool, named in the lease of 1734, probably eldest son of the said Archibald.

Generation Four: Archibald McCool, eldest son of John, life in the lease of 1734 [married by a priest in 1760 and disowned by the Quakers as a result]. Died 1827.

Generation Five: Archibald McCool [c. 1765-1828] eldest son of Archibald McCool married Sarah Backhouse & John McCool c.1775-1865].

It is from the latter John McCool that the remaining McCools descend in Toberhead.

I realise that there is a degree of speculation involved here but this line of descent is our best working hypothesis. I am certain though that all McCools in Toberhead are of the one family.

Children of JOHN MCCOOL are:

3.
 - i. ARCHIBALD⁴ MCCOOL, b. Bef. 1733, Toberhead; d. Toberhead.
 - ii. JANET MCCOOL.

Notes for JANET MCCOOL:

MIC/16/43

Discipline/removals Quakers page 10

Whereas Jennet McCool was educated in the profession of us the people called Quakers & did sometimes frequent our religious meetings but for want of minding that divine principle which was sufficient to have preserved her hat been prevailed upon to suffer herself to commit that uncleanness of Fornication & hath born a Bastard we do therefore hereby disown the said Jennet McCool to be of our society untill she come to witness that Godly sorrow which worketh true repentance which that the Lord may Mercifully Grant her is our sincere desire. Given forth at our men's meeting held in Antrim the 15th of the 10th month 1760.

Note:

Since this case was to be found on the same page of disciplines as that of Archibald McCool one might assume that Jennet McCool was a sister of said Archibald.

Generation No. 3

3. ARCHIBALD⁴ MCCOOL (*JOHN*³, *ARCHIBALD*², *JOHN*¹) was born Bef. 1733 in Toberhead, and died in Toberhead.

Notes for ARCHIBALD MCCOOL:

Book of Sufferings, 1759 [MIC16/6 Q5/3 1748-1809 Ulster Province/Quarterly meetings]

Maghera parish: Archibald McCoole had taken from him for thythes by John Hagan by the taker under Thomas Bernard priest of the parish of Maghera 12 stooks of oats with some hay worth 7shillings.

MIC16/43 - 1758

Minutes of a men's meeting held at Morgan Wilson's, near Toberhead 21 of 5th month 1758:

Toberhead members - Archibald McCool

Quaker Minutes 1760

This meeting being informed that Edward Backhouse, Arch'd McCool and Olive Wilson otherwise McCaghy have joyned in marriage with persons not professing with us: John McMunn & Morgan Willson are desired to draw suitable testimonys against their transgressions and bring them to the next men's meeting.

Discipline/removals Quakers page 10

Whereas Archibald McCool was educated in the profession of people called Quakers & did sometime frequent our religious meetings but for want of a faithful adherence to the Dictates of that Devine Principle which was sufficient to have preserved hath been prevailed on to suffer himself to be joined in marriage by a Priest to a Woman of a different profession, we do thereby Disown the said Archibald McCool to be of our society untill he come to witness that Godly sorrow which worketh true repentance which that the Lord may Mercifully grant him is our sincere desire. Given forth at a men's meeting held in Antrim ye 27th of ye 7th month 1760.

Note:

Archibald McCool married some time around the year 1760. He inherited the family farm. In the tithes book of 1827 the farm was in the possession of John & Archibald McCool jun contiguously. Divided into 2 lots of 10 acres 2 rood each number 1452 and 1453 in the Maghera tithe book [FIN/5/A/212]. I have concluded that John & Archibald were both sons of Archibald McCool senior & therefore brothers (they were contemporaries and in possession of the McCool farm).

Children of ARCHIBALD MCCOOL are:

4. i. ARCHIBALD⁵ MCCOOL, b. Bet. 1761 - 1765; d. Aug 1827, Toberhead.
5. ii. JOHN MCCOOL, b. Abt. 1775, Toberhead; d. 25 Mar 1865, Toberhead.

Generation No. 4

4. ARCHIBALD⁵ MCCOOL (ARCHIBALD⁴, JOHN³, ARCHIBALD², JOHN¹) was born Bet. 1761 - 1765, and died Aug 1827 in Toberhead. He married SARAH BACKHOUSE, daughter of EDWARD BACKHOUSE. She was born Bet. 1761 - 1771, and died Abt. 1840.

Notes for ARCHIBALD MCCOOL:

Bellaghy Lease Book (766 pages) page 762

Toberhead: Samuel Beaton & Co for part Tubberhead containing 103-1-20

(arable/pasture) & 50-1-16 (bog) from Nov 1733 for lives renewable forever: renewed to Kennedy Hutchinson & ors 1779 - for lives of Archibald McCool, Archibald McCool jun & John Henderson.

Bellaghy Lease Book (D1062/1/5) 1779

Lives in Toberhead lease then being Archibald McCool senior one of the lives in the original lease & Archibald McCool junior - whose life was inserted by virtue of a power of attorney as recited in this rent in the room of John McCracken & John son of Kennedy Henderson of C:Dawdon)

Marginal note inserted - eldest son of the said Archibald McCool senior aforesaid)

Archibald McCool senior died in August 1827 (and the life of Robert Peel Dawson eldest son of George Robert Dawson has been nominated in his stead). The lives then would be John Henderson of Castledawson, Archibald McCool junior & Robert Peel Dawson.

Archibald McCool jun died in Oct 1828

John Henderson died 20 May 1832

Tithe Book Maghera FIN/5A/212

Tubberhead [Nos 1402-1459]

1452 - John McCool 10 a 2 r [tithe 13sh 3d]

1453 - Archibald McCool 10a 2r [tithe 14s 6d]

Will of Archibald McCool dated 27 July 1827 (D4480/1/1)

In the name of God, Amen

I Archibald McCool Senior of Toberhead in the county of Londonderry.

I will that my body be buried in a decent but not expensive manner

My will is that after my death my family shall not separate during their mother's life
Mention of son Samuel providing bed and bedding for family members upon death of their mother or upon marriage whichever should come first.

They being otherwise provided for by the last will of the late Edward Backhouse their grandfather

To my son Samuel McCool I do give and deliver all my lands and real property in Toberhead aforesaid and to his heirs male or female forever together with all my personal and chattle property of what kind forever subject nevertheless to bequests to his sisters aforesaid and to the payment of all my just debts.

And in case my son Samuel die without lawful heirs then in that case I give my lands to Mr James Mawhinney at present of Coran Innkeeper in trust for the purpose hereafter mentioned that is to say to sell and dispose of my lands aforesaid and the money & proceeds arising therefrom to be divided between my daughters and thier heirs share and share alike:

I appoint Mr Francis Morton of Ballynogher & James Anderson of Toberhead my executors

27 day of July 1827

Archibald McCool

Note:

In his will of 1827 farm and land to son Samuel. Mentions daughters unnamed. Calls himself Archibald McCool senior. Son Archibald McCool junior died the following year in 1828 (lease book).

Will of Archibald McCool Toberhead probated Derry diocese 1837. Perhaps the delay was because the will was contested.

NAI reference IWR/1837/F/249

Will transcript Derry Diocese of Archibald McCool 1837 [4/236/29]

Archibald McCool of Toberhead Co Derry died 27 October 1827; will dated 21 July 1827

In Trust of Jas Mawhinney of Curran, Innkeeper. Exors - Francis Morton, Ballynocker & Jas Anderson, Toberhead, PT Castledawson; proved Con Court of Derry April 1837.

All testators lands/real estate/ should the son Saml die without heirs (sell same?) to testators daughters & heirs

Note:

The exor of the will Francis Morton is listed in Ballynogher in the 1831 census with 7 males 4 females (11 Presbyterians). Archibald McCool's daughter Elizabeth married firstly John McNeice and secondly William Morton.

Notes for SARAH BACKHOUSE:

Sarah's father Edward Backhouse had been raised as a Quaker but was disowned for having married at a Presbyterian meeting house.

1831 census [MIC5A/8B]

No 40: Sarah McCool 2m/4f 6P [widow of Archibald McCool]

Morton Papers D4480/1/5

Sarah Backhouse or McCool died about 1840

Children of ARCHIBALD MCCOOL and SARAH BACKHOUSE are:

6.
 - i. ELIZABETH⁶ MCCOOL, b. Abt. 1792, Toberhead; d. 28 Jan 1874, Toberhead.
 - ii. SAMUEL MCCOOL.

Notes for SAMUEL MCCOOL:
Mentioned in his father's will 1827.

No further mention in records.

May have died without lawful issue as will of Archibald McCool senior stated:

And in case my son Samuel die without lawful heirs then in that case I give my lands to Mr James Mawhinney at present of Coran Innkeeper in trust for the purpose hereafter mentioned that is to say to sell and dispose of my lands aforesaid and the money & proceeds arising therefrom to be divided between my daughters and their heirs share and share alike:

Archie McCool had at least 4 daughters:
2 daughters married McMaster, one married Stone and one married McNiece.

- iii. JANE MCCOOL, b. Abt. 1800; d. Bef. 1864; m. ROBERT MCMASTER, 20 Mar 1825, Castledawson Presbyterian Church; b. Abt. 1798; d. 18 Feb 1886, Toberhead.

Notes for JANE MCCOOL:
Husband Robert McMaster was widower upon his death 1886.

Looks like Jane McMaster nee McCool died before the onset of civil registration of deaths 1864 (searched GRONI online death registration 1864-1885 and no returns).

They may not have had any children as informant on Robert's death certificate was his nephew and namesake Robert McMaster.

Notes for ROBERT MCMASTER:
Castledawson P [MIC1P/90]
Married 20 March 1825 Robert McMaster to Jean McCool: present Miss Betty McCool.

[Note - I believe this Betty McCool married John McNiece shortly after this but no marriage is recorded in Castledawson register].

Morton Papers D4480/1/5
Mentions the two McMasters [Hugh & Robert McMaster in GV Toberhead].

Hugh & Robert McMaster were two brothers who married two sisters.

1831 census has Hugh & Robert McMaster in Tubberhead (sic).
No 37: Hugh McMaster 1 family 2m/1f 3P
No 39: Robt McMaster 1 family 2m/1f 3P

Proof that Hugh & Robert were brothers was found in the death certificate of Robert McMaster, 1886.

Registered death 18 Feb 1886 Toberhead Robert McMaster male widower aged 88 years farmer of chronic bronchitis - no medical attendant -Informant Robert McMaster x his mark nephew present at death Toberhead, registered 22 Feb 1886.

Robert McMaster the informant was son of Hugh McMaster of Toberhead

- 7. iv. ANN MCCOOL, b. Abt. 1807, Toberhead; d. 22 Feb 1869, Toberhead.
- 8. v. PEGGY MCCOOL, b. Abt. 1808; d. Bef. 1849.
- vi. ARCHIBALD MCCOOL, b. Toberhead; d. Oct 1828, Toberhead.

Notes for ARCHIBALD MCCOOL:

Archibald McCool styled himself 'senior' in his will of 1827. Son Archibald McCool junior is not mentioned in the will so it is possible that he was provided for or possibly he was already ill as he died the following year (Oct 1828).

5. JOHN⁵ MCCOOL (*ARCHIBALD⁴, JOHN³, ARCHIBALD², JOHN¹*) was born Abt. 1775 in Toberhead, and died 25 Mar 1865 in Toberhead.

Notes for JOHN MCCOOL:

Inherited the McCool family farm in Toberhead [his brother Archibald McCool inherited the Backhouse farm].

Named a son Samuel Hammond McCool - was John McCool's wife named Hammond?

In the tithes book of 1827 the farm was in the possession of John & Archibald McCool contiguously. Divided into 2 lots of 10 acres 2 rood each number 1452 and 1453 in the Maghera tithe book [FIN/5/A/212]. I have concluded that John & Archibald were brothers given that they were contemporaries and in possession of the McCool farm.

1831 census Toberhead

John McCool 4males/4females 1fem servant 9 Presbyterians

Note - no Archibald McCool in 1831 census as he as deceased in 1828

Freeholders' records c.1839 PRONI [D834/1]

No 172: John McCool £10 freeholder

1848 Membership of Castledawson Presbyterian.

Toberhead

John McCool

Archibald

Mary Ann

Sarah

Eliza

Registered death

5 March 1865, Toberhead: John McCool, widowed, farmer aged 89 years of old age/infirmity uncertified: Informant Archibald McCool present at death, Toberhead,

Note - Archibald McCool was the son of John McCool:

1876 Landowners of Ireland

John McCool Reps of: Toberhead, Castledawson 22a, 1r, 39 p [£3, 2sh valuation]

Children of JOHN MCCOOL are:

- i. ARCHIBALD⁶ MCCOOL, b. Abt. 1804, Toberhead; d. 27 Mar 1876, Toberhead.

Notes for ARCHIBALD MCCOOL:

Erected a headstone in Castledawson Presbyterian graveyard:

McCOOL

Erected by Archibald McCool of Toberhead in memory of his father John McCool who departed this life 25 March 1865 aged 90 and also the above mentioned Archibald McCool who departed this life 27 March 1876 aged 71.

Will of Archibald McCool written 13 Oct 1874 - he died 27 March 1876

To brother William McCool 'home field'

To sister Eliza McCool remainder of farm

To John McCool son of my brother Samuel McCool the farm on Eliza's death if he comes home [otherwise she has power to will to whom she pleases].

Registered death Magherafelt

27 March 1876 Toberhead

Archy McCool male Bachelor aged 71 farmer diseased bladder certified - Informant Eliza McCool x her mark present at death Toberhead 30 March 1876.

- ii. ELIZABETH MCCOOL, b. Abt. 1820, Toberhead; d. 04 Feb 1898, Toberhead.

Notes for ELIZABETH MCCOOL:

Inherited farm from her brother Archibald McCool 1876 will

Informant on her brother's death certificate 1876 (Archy McCool)

Listed in GV revisions until 1890 replaced by Eliza McCool and then by Hugh McMaster c.1900

Registered death Magherafelt

4 Feb 1898 Toberhead Eliza McCool female spinster 75 years servant chronic inflammation of stomach 1 month certified: Informant Sarah McErlean present at death Toberhead 21 Feb 1895

Informant Sarah McErlean (aged 56) was residing in Toberhead 1901 census with brothers Robert & James and sister Annie

9. iii. SAMUEL HAMMOND MCCOOL, b. Abt. 1818, Toberhead; d. 12 Jul 1876, Elderslie, Bruce, Ontario.
10. iv. WILLIAM MCCOOL, b. 23 Oct 1805, Toberhead; d. 06 Dec 1880, Toberhead.
- v. JOHN MCCOOL, b. 14 Jun 1815, Toberhead.

Notes for JOHN MCCOOL:

Castledawson Presbyterian

Bapt: 14 June 1815 John of John McCool Toberhead

Ordnance Survey Maghera parish

Emigrants 1835

John McCool aged 20 of Toberhead Presbyterian to Van Dieman's Land

- vi. MARY ANN MCCOOL, b. Abt. 1806, Toberhead; d. 1878.

Notes for MARY ANN MCCOOL:

First Name: Mary Ann

Last Name: M'Coul

Year: 1878

Year Of Death: 1878

Registered Quarter/Year: Oct - Dec 1878

Age: 72

Birth Year: 1806

Registration District: Magherafelt

Volume:1
Page:556

- vii. SARAH MCCOOL, b. Abt. 1808, Toberhead; d. 1883.

Notes for SARAH MCCOOL:
Possible death

Death
First Name:Sarah
Last Name:M'Cool
Year:1883
Year Of Death:1883
Registered Quarter/Year:Jul - Sep 1883
Age:74
Birth Year:1809
Registration District:Magherafelt
Volume:1
Page:475

Generation No. 5

6. ELIZABETH⁶ MCCOOL (*ARCHIBALD⁵, ARCHIBALD⁴, JOHN³, ARCHIBALD², JOHN¹*) was born Abt. 1792 in Toberhead, and died 28 Jan 1874 in Toberhead. She married (1) JOHN MCNEICE Bet. 1824 - 1828, son of THOMAS MCNEICE. He was born Abt. 1791 in Toberhead, Co Derry, and died Abt. 1831 in Toberhead, Co Derry. She married (2) WILLIAM MORTON 02 Oct 1834 in Maghera Church of Ireland. He was born Abt. 1807 in Probaby Ballynogher, and died Aft. 1874.

Notes for ELIZABETH MCCOOL:
Elizabeth McCool married firstly John McNeice c. 1824 and secondly William Morton 1834 in Maghera Church of Ireland.

D4480/1/4
Morton Papers - Document dated c. 1862
At bottom of page scribbled - Wm Morton aged 55 his wife 68 or so - near 70

This would give William Morton an approximate birth date of c. 1807 and his wife Elizabeth c. 1792-1794.

GRONI search deaths

Died 28 Jan 1874 Toberhead Elizabeth Morton female married aged 82 years farming, died of chronic diarrhoea 3 weeks uncertified no medical attendant. Informant Archy McNeice xhis mark present at death Toberhead, 19 March 1874

Notes for JOHN MCNEICE:
D4480/1/5
States the following:
John McNeice died 1831 married 1824
Archibald born 1825; Jane born 1827

[Note - dates for children are slightly out - Archibald was bapt 1829 and Jane 1831. I suspect then that the date of marriage is slightly out - I would place marriage c. 1826.

Miss Betty McCool was a witness to the marriage of Robert McMaster to Jean McCool 20 March 1825 & I think this is the future Mrs John McNiece]

Sarah McCool held possession & McNiece lived with her [his mother in law] but never got possession & died at his father's.

1831 head of household Tubberhead

No 45 Thos McNiece 2 households 3 males 6 females 9 Presbyterians

Note in this household resided two families headed by Thomas McNiece. According to the documentation in D4480/1/5 John McNiece died at his father's house in 1831. For that reason I believe that Thomas McNiece was John McNiece's father. In addition John McNiece named his first son Archibald after his father in law Archibald McCool. Likewise Thomas McNiece [married Susanna Scott] named his first son Archibald, and for me this indicates that Thomas & John were brothers. Seems likely that John & Thomas McNiece were sons of the Thomas McNiece of the 1831 census.

Notes for WILLIAM MORTON:

MIC1/201 Maghera Church of Ireland marriages

William Morton to Elizabeth McNiece of this parish Oct 2nd 1834 by licence

[note - checked baptisms 1836-1840 & burials 1839-1845 - no returns but poor microfilm quality]

Toberhead is Maghera parish [Ballynoger is Magherafelt]

Morton papers D4480/1/5 (Land dispute).

Wm Morton married 2 Oct 1834 in Maghera Church by Geo Nealy, curate as per certificate

7 acres arable land & 7 acres bog - freehold

Wm Morton went to America first 1849 - 9 years out returned Oct 1858 - went out again 12 April 1860 - returned again August 1861.

[Searched passenger lists but unable to find William Morton in any list for the above dates].

Archibald McN(eese) before William Morewood offered rood ground & house for your lifetime -- offered £9. Wm (Morton) refused.

D4480/1/4

Morton Papers - Document dated c. 1862

At bottom of page scribbled - Wm Morton aged 55 his wife 68 or so - near 70

This would give William Morton an approximate birth date of c. 1807 and his wife Elizabeth c. 1792-1794.

William Morton was probably one of the Ballynoger Mortons:

William Morton had a nephew John Morton residing in Belfast 1862. So William Morton was still alive in 1862. From the Morton family papers it seems that Andrew Morton left Ballynoger circa 1823 to find work in Belfast which was a busy, growing town. Most likely John Morton of Belfast was his son. Therefore, William Morton must have been the brother of Andrew Morton and they were sons of John 'Jack' Morton according to the family pedigree given by William Stewart.

D4480/1/4 Au6 11 1862

Letter from Wm Morwood Halftown Castledawson to John Morton Belfast telling him to inform his uncle William Morton that Archy McNiece was prepared to give him a residence.

Alive after 1874 as his wife died Jan 1874:

Died 28 Jan 1874 Toberhead Elizabeth Morton female married aged 82 years farming, died of chronic diarrhoea 3 weeks uncertified no medical attendant. Informant Archy McNiece xhis mark present at death Toberhead, 19 March 1874

Children of ELIZABETH MCCOOL and JOHN MCNEICE are:

- i. ARCHIBALD⁷ MCNEICE, b. 10 Aug 1829, Toberhead, Co Derry.

Notes for ARCHIBALD MCNEICE:

Castledawson P baptism [MIC 1P/90]

10 Aug 1829 Arch'd of John McNiss of Toberhead, Maghera.

His mother Elizabeth McNiece remarried Wm Morton. Archy McNiece was the informant to death of Elizabeth Morton.

D4480/1/4

Letter dated Aug 11th 1862 from Wm Morwood, Halftown, Castledawson to Mr John Morton, Belfast.

Dear friend, please let your uncle William Morton know that I saw Archy McNiece this day & he told me he had a letter from you; he wants no law. Let your uncle come home - he is willing to give him a residence or leave his case to two men.

Died 28 Jan 1874 Toberhead Elizabeth Morton female married aged 82 years farming, died of chronic diarrhoea 3 weeks uncertified no medical attendant. Informant Archy McNiece xhis mark present at death Toberhead, 19 March 1874

11. ii. JANE MCNEICE, b. 20 Aug 1831, Toberhead, Co Derry; d. 25 Dec 1892, Bendigo, Australia.

Child of ELIZABETH MCCOOL and WILLIAM MORTON is:

- iii. MALE⁷ MORTON.

Notes for MALE MORTON:

Morton papers D4480/1/5

Morton's wife had one son - died when but a child

7. ANN⁶ MCCOOL (*ARCHIBALD⁵, ARCHIBALD⁴, JOHN³, ARCHIBALD², JOHN¹*) was born Abt. 1807 in Toberhead, and died 22 Feb 1869 in Toberhead. She married HUGH MCMASTER 22 Jan 1830 in Castledawson Presbyterian, son of UNKNOWN MCMASTER. He was born Abt. 1802, and died 09 Jan 1887 in Toberhead.

Notes for ANN MCCOOL:

Castledawson P marriages [MIC1P/90]

22 Jan 1830 Hugh McMaster to Ann McCool in presence of [blank].

Registered death 22 Feb 1869 Toberhead Anne McMaster female married aged 61 years Housekeeping of chronic bronchitis, vomiting of blood 3 years uncertified no medical attendant: Informant Hugh McMaster x his mark present at death Toberhead 4 March 1869.

Notes for HUGH McMASTER:

Castledawson P marriages [MIC1P/90]

22 Jan 1830 Hugh McMaster to Ann McCool in presence of [blank].

Baptisms of children of Hugh McMaster & Ann McCool

Sarah McMaster 1 Aug 1837 bap 17 Jan 1838

Jas McMaster bap 8 March 1840 [must have died young]

Anne McMaster b. 12 April 1842 bap 1 May 1842

Nancy McMaster b. 21 Aug 1849 bap 23 Dec 1849

Jas McMaster b. 9 Dec 1846 pat 9 Dec 1846

Morton Papers D4480/1/5

Mentions the two McMasters [Hugh & Robert McMaster in GV Toberhead].

Robert & Hugh McMaster were brothers. They married two McCool sisters.

Will of Hugh McMaster PRONI

Died: 9 January 1887

Date of Grant: 13 January 1888

Effects £67

Full Abstract :

The Will of Hugh McMaster late of Toberhead County Londonderry Farmer who died 9 January 1887 at same place was proved at Londonderry by Robert McMaster of Toberhead (Magherafelt) and William Johnston of Tamnadace (Magherafelt) both in said County Farmers the Executors.

Summary of Will

Son Robert McMaster all of my property

Legacies:

Dau Ann Jane McMaster £20 and if she marries another £30

Dau Eliza Weir £5

Dau Nancy Speer £5

Exors - Robert McMaster & nephew William Johnstone of Tamnadace

16 Aug 1883

Died 9 Jan 1887

Witnesses - R Gamble & Adam Vance

Probated 9 Jan 1887

Effects £67

Registered death 9 Jan 1887 Toberhead Hugh McMaster male widower aged 85 years Farmer of chronic bronchitis no medical attendant - Informant Robert McMaster son present at death Toberhead 13 Jan 1887.

Children of ANN MCCOOL and HUGH McMASTER are:

- i. SAMUEL⁷ McMASTER, b. 26 May 1831, Toberhead.

Notes for SAMUEL McMASTER:

Castledawson P baptisms [MIC 1P/90]

Baptised 26 May 1831 Samuel of Hugh McMaster Toberhead Maghera

12. ii. ROBERT McMASTER, b. 30 Mar 1833, Toberhead; d. 25 Apr 1916, Toberhead.
13. iii. ARCHIBALD McMASTER, b. Abt. 1835; d. 1870.
- iv. SARAH McMASTER, b. 01 Aug 1837, Toberhead.

Notes for SARAH McMASTER:

Castledawson P baptisms [MIC 1P/90]

Baptised 17 Jan 1837 Sara of Hugh McMaster & Anne McCool, Toberhead

- v. JAMES McMASTER, b. 08 Mar 1840; d. Bet. 1840 - 1845.

Notes for JAMES McMASTER:

Castledawson P baptisms [MIC 1P/90]

Baptised 8 March 1840 James of Hugh McMaster, Toberhead Maghera

Must have died before 1846 as another child was baptised James McMaster to same parents.

- vi. ANNE JANE McMASTER, b. 12 Apr 1842; d. Aft. 1911, Toberhead.

Notes for ANNE JANE McMASTER:

Castledawson P baptisms [MIC 1P/90]

Baptised 12 April 1842 bapt 1 May 1842 Ann of Hugh McMaster Toberhead Maghera

Although baptised as Ann she was mentioned as Ann Jane in the will of her father Hugh McMaster 1887

Listed as Ann J McMaster with her brother Robert McMaster, Toberhead in 1901 census [aged 50] and 1911 census [aged 69]

- vii. JAMES McMASTER, b. 09 Dec 1846.

Notes for JAMES McMASTER:

Castledawson P baptisms [MIC 1P/90]

Born & baptised 9 Dec 1846 James of Hugh McMaster, Toberhead Maghera

14. viii. ELIZA McMASTER, b. Abt. 1848.
15. ix. NANCY McMASTER, b. 21 Aug 1849.

8. PEGGY⁶ MCCOOL (*ARCHIBALD⁵, ARCHIBALD⁴, JOHN³, ARCHIBALD², JOHN¹*) was born Abt. 1808, and died Bef. 1849. She married ROBERT STONE 27 Jul 1834 in Castledawson Presbyterian, son of JAMES STONE. He was born Abt. 1801, and died 12 Dec 1885 in Toberhead.

Notes for PEGGY MCCOOL:

Married 1834 to Robert Stone - son James Stone born c. 1836. She died before 1849 when her widowed husband remarried to Nancy McElroy.

Notes for ROBERT STONE:

Castledawson P marriages [MIC1P/90]

Married 27 July 1834 Robert Stone to Peggy McCool

Present - Archibald Morton, Jane Anderson & Miss Stone.

Morton Papers D4480/1/5

Wm Morton's law suit with Stone dated 1847

[Robert Stone in Toberhead GV 1858].

Robert Stone appears to have remarried 1849

Maghera Presbyterian

Married 10 April 1849 Robert Stone full age widower farmer son of James Stone, farmer to Nancy McElroy spinster of Macknagh daughter of James McElroy farmer:

Witnesses - Richardson McMurray & John Wilson

Registered death 12 Dec 1885 Robert Stone male married aged 84 years farmer of bronchitis chronic 12 years certified. Informant James Stone x his mark son present at death Toberhead, 17 Dec 1885.

Child of PEGGY MCCOOL and ROBERT STONE is:

- i. JAMES⁷ STONE, b. Abt. 1836; d. 31 Oct 1915, Old Town, Bellaghy.

Notes for JAMES STONE:

Informant on his father's death certificate 1885

Never married

1901 census Toberhead

James Stone aged 64 P farmer nm

1911 census Old Town, Bellaghy

James Stone aged 76 P farmer single

Death

Oct-Dec 1915 aged 80 (c1835)

James Stone was a first cousin of Jane McNiece who married Benjamin Johnston (their mothers were sisters McCool).

Registered death 31 Oct Oldtown, Deerpark, Bellaghy James Stone male bachelor 80 years farmer Cardiac disease months certified. Informant Maggie McGaghey present at death Oldtown, Deerpark.

Will of Jas Stone late of Oldtown Bellaghy farmer died 31 Oct 1915 granted at LD to Joseph McKenna farmer 24 Oct 1916. Effects £77, 5sh

9. SAMUEL HAMMOND⁶ MCCOOL (*JOHN⁵, ARCHIBALD⁴, JOHN³, ARCHIBALD², JOHN¹*) was born Abt. 1818 in Toberhead, and died 12 Jul 1876 in Elderslie, Bruce, Ontario. He married ELLEN SCOTT 07 Mar 1849 in Maghera Church of Ireland. She was born Abt. 1827 in Toberhead, and died 10 Jan 1892 in Elderslie, Bruce, Ontario.

Notes for SAMUEL HAMMOND MCCOOL:

Married Maghera Church of Ireland

7 March 1849 Samuel Hammond McCool full age bachelor farmer of Toberhead son of John McCool farmer to Ellen Scott full age spinster of Toberhead dau of Thomas Scott farmer: Witnesses - George Hammond & Thomas Gilmour

Maghera CI Church marriage MIC1/20

March 7 1849 Samuel Hammond McCool of Toberhead to Ellen Scott of Toberhead:

Witnesses - George Hammond & Thomas Gilmour

[Note - is it possible there was a mistake with Ellen's surname - was she McNiece rather than Scott?]

Was Samuel McCool's mother a Hammond?

Several Hammond families are listed in the 1848 communicants register in Castledawson Presbyterian Church

Was George Hammond, witness to the marriage a cousin?

Will of Archibald McCool written 13 Oct 1874 - he died 27 March 1876
To sister Eliza McCool remainder of farm
To John McCool son of my brother Samuel McCool the farm on Eliza's death if he comes home [otherwise she has power to will to whom she pleases].

Castledawson Presbyterian registers has a Samuel McCool and Ellen McNeice having children baptised that looks like this family [note - there is no marriage of a Samuel McCool to an Ellen McNiece in civil registers of marriages 1845 onwards]

Born 10 June 1852 baptised 11 Aug 1852 Susanna dau of Samuel McCool & Ellen McNiece Toberhead

Born June 7 1854 baptised 15 Sept 1854 Mary Jane dau of Samuel McCool & Ellen McNiece Toberhead

Born July 10 1857 baptised 12 Sept 1857 Ellen of Samuel McCool & Ellen McNiece Toberhead

Born Jan 1st 1860 baptised April 8 1860 John son of Samuel & Ellen McCool Toberhead

Born April 1 1863 baptised 10 Aug 1863 Elizabeth dau of Samuel McCool & Ellen McNeice Toberhead

Note - this family emigrated to Bruce, Ontario, Canada

1871 census Elderslie, Bruce, Ontario
Samuel McCool age 51 head Irish born Ireland Church of Scotland married man
Ellen McCool ibid aged 44 (1827)

Ontario Deaths
Died 12 July 1876 aged 58 years Samuel McCool of Elderslie, Bruce, Ontario aged 58
born Londonderry Ireland c. 1818. Spouse - Hellen McCool.

1881 census Canada
Elderslie, Bruce, Ontario
Ellen McCool aged 53 Irish born Ireland widowed weaver C. Prebyterian.
[Ellen McCool aged 22 weaver; John McCool aged 21].

Ontario marriages - 2 Jan 1899
John McCool aged 39 son of Samuel McCool & Helen McNiece to Marguirite McKirdy
aged 30 dau of James McKirdy & Elizabeth Churchill
[Buried Paisley cemetery Bruce County, Ontario]

Paisley cemetery Bruce, Ontario
Samuel McCool d 11 July 1876 aged 58 years & hw
Ellen McCool (McNiece) d. 10 Jan 1892 aged 65 years
Samuel McCool b 1861 died 1952

Notes for ELLEN SCOTT:
Father given as Thomas on marriage certificate to Samuel Hammond McCool.

Was Ellen illegitimate daughter of Thomas McNeice and Susanna Scott of Toberhead?

I believe so - Ellen Scott McNiece.

Children of SAMUEL MCCOOL and ELLEN SCOTT are:

- i. JOHN⁷ MCCOOL, b. 01 Jan 1860, Toberhead; d. 1952, Ontario, Canada; m. MARGUERITE MCCURDY, 02 Jan 1899, Toronto, Ontario; b. Abt. 1869.

Notes for JOHN MCCOOL:

Castledawson P

Born Jan 1st 1860 baptised April 8 1860 John son of Samuel & Ellen McCool
Toberhead

Will of Archibald McCool written 13 Oct 1874 - he died 27 March 1876

To brother William McCool 'home field'

To sister Eliza McCool remainder of farm

To John McCool son of my brother Samuel McCool the farm on Eliza's death if he comes home [otherwise she has power to will to whom she pleases].

John McCool had emigrated as his uncle offered him a farm upon his 'return' to Ireland

Ontario marriages

Married Toronto 2 Jan 1899 John McCool aged 39 son of Samuel McCool and Helen McNiece to Marguirite McKirdy aged 30 dau of James McKirdy & Elizabeth Churchill

Notes for MARGUERITE MCCURDY:

Ontario marriages - 2 Jan 1899

John McCool aged 39 son of Samuel McCool & Helen McNiece to Marguirite McKirdy aged 30 dau of James McKirdy & Elizabeth Churchill
[Buried Paisley cemetery Bruce County, Ontario]

- ii. ELLEN MCCOOL, b. 10 Jul 1857, Toberhead; d. 23 Apr 1947, Tacoma, Pierce, Washington; m. JAMES MCCRARY, 02 Feb 1885, Elderslie, Bruce, Ontario; b. Abt. 1856; d. Aft. 1947.

Notes for ELLEN MCCOOL:

Castledawson P

Born July 10 1857 baptised 12 Sept 1857 Ellen of Samuel McCool & Ellen McNiece
Toberhead

Death entry

Ellen McCrary died 23 April 1947, Pierce, Washington aged 89 years (1858), married dau of Sam McCool & (Blank) McNiece.

Notes for JAMES MCCRARY:

Ontario Marriages

Married 2 Feb 1885 Elderslie, Bruce, Ontario

James McCrary aged 29 son of Neil McCrary & Margaret Andrew to Ellen McCool aged 27 dau of Samuel McCool & Ellen McKeice

Wife listed as married on death cert 1947.

- iii. SUSANNA MCCOOL, b. 10 Jun 1852, Toberhead; m. ROBERT LINDSAY, 12 Jul 1869, Arran, Bruce, Ontario; b. Abt. 1843.

Notes for SUSANNA MCCOOL:

Castledawson P

Born 10 June 1852 baptised 11 Aug 1852 Susanna dau of Samuel McCool & Ellen McNiece Toberhead

Notes for ROBERT LINDSAY:

Married Arran, Bruce, Ontario 12 July 1869

Robert Lindsay aged 26 son of Hugh & Margaret Lindsay to Susan McCool aged 17
dau of Samuel & Ellen McCool

- iv. MARY JANE MCCOOL, b. 07 Jun 1854, Toberhead; m. NEIL MCCRORY, 28 Aug 1876,
Port Elgin, Bruce, Ontario; b. Abt. 1848.

Notes for MARY JANE MCCOOL:

Castledawson P

Born June 7 1854 baptised 15 Sept 1854 Mary Jane dau of Samuel McCool & Ellen
McNiece Toberhead

Notes for NEIL MCCRORY:

Married 28 Aug 1876 Port Elgin, Bruce, Ontario Neil McCrory son of Neil & Magt
McCrory to Mary Jane McCool aged 21 dau of Samuel & Ellen McCool.

- v. ELIZABETH MCCOOL, b. 01 Apr 1863, Toberhead.

Notes for ELIZABETH MCCOOL:

Castledawson P

Born April 1 1863 baptised 10 Aug 1863 Elizabeth dau of Samuel McCool & Ellen
McNiece Toberhead

10. WILLIAM⁶ MCCOOL (*JOHN⁵, ARCHIBALD⁴, JOHN³, ARCHIBALD², JOHN¹*) was born 23 Oct 1805
in Toberhead, and died 06 Dec 1880 in Toberhead. He married MARY MCCALLION 09 Dec
1844 in Castledawson Presbyterian, daughter of WILLIAM MCCALLION. She was born Abt.
1818 in Parish of Ardtrea, and died 05 Mar 1908 in Toberhead.

Notes for WILLIAM MCCOOL:

Castledawson P

Bapt 23 Oct 1805 William of John McCool Toberhead

Castledawson P marriages [MIC 1P/90]

Married Dec 9th 1844

William Macool son of John Macool of Toberhead to Mary McCallion daughter of William
McCallion parish of Ardtrea.

Letters of Admin & Will of William McCool 1880 died 6 Dec 1880: Effects £10

Property to Wife Mary McCool then divided between two sons John McCool & Archibald
McCool

Dau Mary Anne McCool now Mrs Kirkwood

Dau Nancy McCool now Mrs McNiece

Witnesses - Charles McCallin & James McCallin

Registered death

6 Dec 1880 Toberhead: William McCool male married aged 74 years farmer of asthma &
chronic bronchitis no medical attendant: Informant - Mary McCool present at death
Toberhead

Note - Mary McCool was probably his wife.

Belfast Newsletter July 13th 1893

Advertisement for Incumbrancers in the county of court of the City and county of
Londonderry, Division of Magherafelt; Equity side.

Pursuant to a degree to his honour Judge Overend the Recorder of Londonderry made in a suit wherein Alexander Johnston of Magherafelt in the county of LD, Merchant is Plaintiff and Mary McCool, widow and John McCool & Archibald McCool, Farmers all of Toberhead in the county of LD and division of Magherafelt are Defendants:

All persons claiming to be incumbrancers of all that and those the Farm of Land in Toberhead, lately in the possession of William McCool, Deceased and now in the possession of the Defendants containing by estimation eight acres and two roods of arable and pasture and two acres and three roods of bog, Statute measure be the same more or less situate in the Barony of Loughinsholin & Co of LD containing all buildings, fixtures, rights easements, advantages, and appurtenances whatsoever to the said lands and premises appertaining, are on or before the 1st day August 1893 to send by post, prepaid, to the Registrar of said Court at his office, at the courthouse, LD their Christian and surnames, the full particulars of their claims and the nature of their securities held by them or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of said decree.

Every person holding any security for any Incumbrance is to produce the same before the said Registrar at the Courthouse, Magherafelt on Tuesday the 5th September 1893 at 11 o'clock forenoon being the time appointed for adjudicating on Claims and of which sitting all persons interested are hereby required to take notice.

Dated this 30 day of June 1893

Arthur T Farrell, Registrar

Glover & McGuckin, Solicitors for the Plaintiff, Magherafelt

BNL 1st May 1894

JOHNSTON vs M'COOL

This was a motion by the Plaintiff's solicitors (Messrs Glover & McGuckin) to confirm the sale, had on the 22 Feb 1894, to John Esler of Ballylummin, near Ahoghill at £105. The lands in question are situate at Toberhead and contain 11a, 1r and the suit was first instituted to raise the amount of a mortgage there also being two other mortgages on the lands. Mr Harbison, solicitor opposed on behalf of the second mortgagees (executors of Mathew M'Lernon, solicitors) and submitted that £105 was an undervalue and offered on their behalf £140 for the property and to lodge the amount in court. Mr James Brown represented the defendant. His Honour held that £105 was an undervalue, refused to confirm the sale and directed the tenders for the purchase be received by the registrar up to and including Thursday morning first, subject to condition of sale.

PRONI FIN23/4E/18

Landlord Sir Thos Bateson, Bart

Evicted Tenant - Jno & Mary McCool, Castledawson re. farm in Toberhead

Eviction caused by sale of holding to pay off mortgages to amount of £140.

John McCool is sexton of Castledawson Church & lives on the church premises - he has 5 children (13 to 22). Inspector says that this was a freehold although stated to be subject to a rent of 10sh 4 1/2 d

Holding in occupation by Robert McErlane, 10 acres Toberhead

Evicted by creditors - Wm Silly now in occupation - he purchased from R McErlan who gave £140 for the freehold.

John McCool is a strong man although not stout & well able to work. Employed daily at the castle & children all working -- would be glad to get a small holding -- has no means of working land, no capital or live stock.

The misfortune which overtook McCole (sic) was not caused by himself. His father had effected 3 mortgages on this little freehold, one for £60, one for £50 and one for £30 and when he died the place was sold to pay off these debts.

W Hammond 5th March 1907
Not reinstated

REGISTRY OF DEEDS DUBLIN

Toberhead

William McCool to Alexander Johnnton 1880 (50-5-1313)

Mary McCool & ors to Mat McLernon 1886 (13-290-383)

Notes for MARY MCCALLION:

Surname variants in the records

McCallion

McKillen

McAllen

Registered death

5 March 1908 Toberhead: Mary McCool female widow aged 90 years housekeeper of cancer of stomach: Informant Margaret Anderson, present at death Toberhead.

Children of WILLIAM MCCOOL and MARY MCCALLION are:

16. i. MARY ANN⁷ MCCOOL, b. 22 May 1846, Toberhead.
- ii. ESTHER MCCOOL, b. 16 Jun 1849, Toberhead.

Notes for ESTHER MCCOOL:

Castledawson P

27 Sept 1848 Esther dau of Wm McCool & Mary (blank) of Tubberhead: born 16 June 1848

- iii. NANCY MCCOOL, b. 14 Feb 1855, Toberhead; m. WILLIAM MCNEICE, 28 Sep 1876, Castledawson Presbyterian; b. 01 May 1856, Toberhead.

Notes for NANCY MCCOOL:

Castledawson P baptisms

Born Feb 14 1855 baptised 25 May Nancy of William McCool & Mary McKillen, Toberhead

Not in 1901 or 1911 census for Toberhead.

Notes for WILLIAM MCNEICE:

PRONI MIC IP/90/1

Witnesses to marriage 1876 were Robert McMaster and A.J. McMaster

Not in 1901 or 1911 census returns for Toberhead.

17. iv. JOHN MCCOOL, b. 03 May 1863, Toberhead; d. 05 May 1938, Tamnadase.
18. v. ARCHIBALD MCCOOL, b. Abt. 1857, Toberhead; d. Bef. 1939.

Generation No. 6

11. JANE⁷ MCNEICE (*ELIZABETH⁶ MCCOOL, ARCHIBALD⁵, ARCHIBALD⁴, JOHN³, ARCHIBALD², JOHN¹*) was born 20 Aug 1831 in Toberhead, Co Derry, and died 25 Dec 1892 in Bendigo, Australia. She married BENJAMIN JOHNSTON 24 Feb 1854 in Castledawson Presbyterian

Church¹, son of BENJAMIN JOHNSTON and JANE WEIR. He was born 02 Apr 1828 in Aghagaskin, Magherafelt, and died 11 Jan 1895 in Bendigo, Victoria, Australia.

Notes for JANE MCNEICE:

Castledawson P baptism [MIC 1P/90]

20 Aug 1831 Jean of John Meniss Toberhead, Maghera.

1848 Communicants Castledawson P

Toberhead

No 14. Jane M'Nice

Jane Johnston died Sunday 25th December 1892, Bendigo aged 56 years - interred White Hills cemetery: Section C1.

Jane Johnston:

According to death record died in East Melbourne Hospital aged 60 years.

Father unknown and Mother unknown. It appears that the family did not give the information about her death. This often happened if someone died in hospital a distance from their home. Someone in the hospital probably gave information for the death certificate.

The Bendigo Advertiser Monday 2 January 1893 page 2

In Memoriam

Johnston – In affectionate remembrance of Jane, the beloved wife of Benjamin Johnston who departed this life on 24th December 1892, aged 59 years.

She was so long with pain oppressed;

It wore her strength away;

It made her long for endless rest,

Which never can decay.

Weary days and night (sic) were appointed unto me.

I cried unto the Lord, and He heard me.

Inserted by her loving children.

Notes for BENJAMIN JOHNSTON:

MIC/1/1A/1 Magherafelt Church of Ireland christening

1828: April 2 Benjamin of Benjamin Johnston, Aghagaskin, weaver

Emigrated on board Star of the South Assisted Emigration scheme from Liverpool 24

April 1857 arrived Melbourne 5 August 1857

[Book 11 page 446]

Benjamin Johnston aged 28

Jane Johnston aged 24

Death certificate 11 Jan 1895 names children

Jane dead

Elizabeth dead

John dead

Elizabeth 32

Mary Ann 30

Benjamin 28

John 26

James 24

Eaglehawk, Emu Plains, White Hills and Sandhurst are all part of Bendigo now but back in the 1850s would have been small settlements surrounding Bendigo. This was a gold mining area. I wondered if Benjamin would have been a miner?

Buried White Hills cemetery

Children of JANE MCNEICE and BENJAMIN JOHNSTON are:

- i. JANE⁸ JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1855, Ireland.

Notes for JANE JOHNSTON:

Jane - Death records mother's maiden name "McNiece"

- ii. ELIZA JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1856, Ireland.

Notes for ELIZA JOHNSTON:

Elizabeth Johnston – Birth records mother's maiden name as "McNiece".

There is a death for an Elizabeth Johnstone, which could be this Elizabeth if she did not marry:

Elizabeth Johnstone aged 59 years d. 1939, (No. 6876) in Melbourne - father unknown and mother unknown.

- iii. JOHN JOHNSTON, b. 1860.

Notes for JOHN JOHNSTON:

John Johnston is the first child born in Australia that I could find and he was born in 1860. Birth records mother's maiden name as McNiece.

- iv. ELIZABETH JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1861.
- v. MARY ANN JOHNSTON, b. Abt. 1864.

Notes for MARY ANN JOHNSTON:

Mary Ann - Birth records mother's maiden name as "McNiece".

- vi. BENJAMIN JOHNSTON, b. 1866.
- vii. HENRY JOHN JOHNSTON, b. 1869.

Notes for HENRY JOHN JOHNSTON:

Henry John - Birth records mother's maiden name as "MacNiece". Could not find a marriage record for this Benjamin. Death records mother's maiden name as "McNeill".

- viii. JAMES JOHNSTON, b. 1871.

Notes for JAMES JOHNSTON:

James - Birth records mother's maiden name as "McNiece".

12. ROBERT⁷ MCMASTER (*ANN⁶ McCOOL, ARCHIBALD⁵, ARCHIBALD⁴, JOHN³, ARCHIBALD², JOHN¹*) was born 30 Mar 1833 in Toberhead, and died 25 Apr 1916 in Toberhead. He married JANE LESLEY 20 Oct 1882 in Castledawson Presbyterian, daughter of WILLIAM LESLEY. She was born Abt. 1858.

Notes for ROBERT MCMASTER:

Castledawson P baptisms [MIC 1P/90]

Baptised 30 March 1833 Robert of Hugh McMaster Toberhead, Maghera

Mentioned in the will of Hugh McMaster Toberhead 1887 as son Robert McMaster.

Robert McMaster head of household 1901 & 1911 Toberhead [ages of children taken from 1901 and 1911 census returns]

PRONI - will of Robert McMaster

Title : Date of Death : 25 April 1916

Date of Grant : 26 October 1916

Effects £98

Full Abstract :

Probate of the Will of Robert McMaster late of Toberhead County Londonderry Farmer who died 25 April 1916 granted at Londonderry to John Morwood and Samuel Campbell Farmers.

Marriage Castledawson P

20 Oct 1882 Robert McMaster full age bachelor farmer of Toberhead son of Hugh McMaster to Jane Lesley full age spinster of Derrygarve dau of William Lesley farmer:

Witnesses - Jane Leacock & William Johnston

[NB - the witness Wm Johnston was probably his first cousin]

Notes for JANE LESLEY:

Daughter of William Lesley - she was baptised 1858 Castledawson Presbyterian

Children of ROBERT MCMASTER and JANE LESLEY are:

- i. ANNIE⁸ MCMASTER, b. 06 Jun 1884.

Notes for ANNIE MCMASTER:

GRONI birth index

- ii. HUGH MCMASTER, b. 17 Mar 1886; m. HELEN FULTON, 15 Sep 1911, Castledawson Presbyterian; b. Abt. 1881, Glasgow, Scotland.

Notes for HUGH MCMASTER:

GRONI birth index - Hugh McMaster born 17 March 1886

Everafter Gravestone online database - Hugh McMaster married Helen Fulton

Castledawson P marriage

15 Sept 1911 Hugh McMaster full age bachelor farmer of Toberhead son of Robert McMaster farmer to Helen Fulton full age spinster of Broagh dau of Samuel Fulton, farmer: Witnesses - Ezekiel Johnston & Mary Fulton.

Notes for HELEN FULTON:

Everafter Gravestone - Hugh McMaster married Helen Fulton

1911 census Broagh

Robert G Fulton head P r&w 62 farmer single born Co Derry

Ellen Fulton sister 58 single

Maryanne Fulton niece 34 single born Glasgow, Scotland

Helen Fulton niece 30 single born Glasgow, Scotland

1901 Broagh

Joseph Fulton head P r&w aged 73 farmer b. Co Derry

Mary Ann Fulton 78 b Antrim

Robert Fulton son 50

Ellen Fulton dau 45

Fulton Headstone Castledawson

Erected by Joseph Fulton of Broagh in memory of his son Samuel who departed this life 14 May 1889 aged 39 years. Also the above names Joseph Fulton who departed this

life 12 Oct 1905 aged 78 years. And his wife Marianne who departed this life 18 Feb 1907 aged 84 years. Also his son Robert Gamble Fulton who departed this life 8 Dec 1927 aged 79 years. And his dau Ellen Fulton who departed this life 23 June 1933 aged 85 years.

PRONI wills

Letters of Admin Samuel Fulton, Broagh, carpenter died 14 May 1889 granted LD to Joseph Fulton of Broagh farmer the Curator of the Minor children 18 Oct 1889 (effects £14)

- iii. MARY J McMASTER, b. 25 Jul 1888.

Notes for MARY J McMASTER:
GRONI birth index

- iv. ROBERT J McMASTER, b. 08 Nov 1890.

Notes for ROBERT J McMASTER:
GRONI birth index

Castledawson P marriages

23 May 1917 Robert J McMaster full age bachelor farmer of Toberhead son of Robert McMaster farmer to Maggie Evans full age spinster of Derrygarve dau of Henry Evans Building Contractor: Witnesses - Willie Evans & Sara McMaster

- v. SARAH McMASTER, b. 08 Oct 1892.

Notes for SARAH McMASTER:
GRONI birth index

Mother's maiden name given as Esler (mistake - should be Leslie)

- vi. LIZZIE McMASTER, b. 08 Jan 1895.

Notes for LIZZIE McMASTER:
GRONI birth index

Mother's maiden name given as Lealie (typo)

- vii. WILLIAM McMASTER, b. 24 Dec 1896.

Notes for WILLIAM McMASTER:
GRONI birth index

- viii. NANCY McMASTER, b. 13 Sep 1898.

Notes for NANCY McMASTER:
GRONI birth index

Agnes in the 1901 census

- ix. MARGARET McMASTER, b. 15 Jan 1904.

Notes for MARGARET McMASTER:
GRONI birth index

13. ARCHIBALD⁷ McMASTER (*ANN⁶ MCCOOL, ARCHIBALD⁵, ARCHIBALD⁴, JOHN³, ARCHIBALD², JOHN¹*) was born Abt. 1835, and died 1870. He married ELIZA STEWART 03 Apr 1868 in

Castledawson Presbyterian, daughter of JAMES STEWART. She was born Abt. 1847 in Toberhead.

Notes for ARCHIBALD McMASTER:

Castledawson P marriage

3 April 1868 Archibald McMaster full age bachelor farmer of Currin son of Hugh McMaster farmer to Eliza Stewart aged 20 of Toberhead dau of James Stewart farmer:
Witnesses - William Johnston & Rachel Speers.

Name: Archibald Mc Master

Event Type: Death

Event Date: 1870

Event Place: Magherafelt, Ireland

Registration Quarter and Year: 1870

Registration District: Magherafelt

Age:35

Birth Year (Estimated): 1835

Volume Number: 6

Page Number:581

Archibald McMaster appears to have inherited a freehold in Currin [which he left to his daughter Annie McMaster]

Notes for ELIZA STEWART:

Marriage 1868

Eliza Stewart aged 20 of Toberhead dau of James Stewart farmer

Child of ARCHIBALD McMASTER and ELIZA STEWART is:

- i. ANNIE⁸ McMASTER, b. 04 Mar 1869, Currin; d. 1895.

Notes for ANNIE McMASTER:

Will of Annie McMaster, spinster of Curran 1891

Died 18 June 1895

Probated 13 March 1896

Value £48

Freehold land in Curran to my mother 'Eliza Morton'.

At her death to my brother James Morton

If he die before my mother to brother Francis Morton

Uncle Robert McMaster of Toberhead to get £50 one year after my death

Exors: - Jas Stewart & Jas Caldwell

16 May 1895

Witnesses - John Stewart & Jas Caldwell

Everafter Gravestone database

Castledawson Presbyterian Graveyard

Annie McMaster 18 June 1895 aged 26

14. ELIZA⁷ McMASTER (*Ann⁶ McCool, Archibald⁵, Archibald⁴, John³, Archibald², John¹*) was born Abt. 1848. She married JOHN WEIR 10 Apr 1874 in Castledawson Presbyterian, son of JOHN WEIR and JANE HASTINGS. He was born Jun 1844 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt.

Notes for ELIZA McMASTER:

Mentioned in will of Hugh McMaster 1887 as daughter Eliza Weir

Notes for JOHN WEIR:

Castledawson P marriages

10 April 1874 John Weir full age bachelor farmer of Ballynocker son of John Weir to Eliza McMaster spinster of Toberhead dau of Hugh McMaster farmer:
Wit - James Weir & Eliza McMaster.

Hugh McMaster will of 1887 mentions daughter Eliza Weir

NB - This John Weir fits perfectly as the son of John Weir by Jane Hastings so I have attached him as a son to their family tree (see baptism below).

Castledawson Presbyterian baptisms
Baptised 8 Jan 1845 born June 1844
John of John Weir & Jane Hasty [Hastings] of Ballynocher

The family appear to have been in Toberhead 1901 [ages are slightly out but 1901 census is not accurate for the ages of people!].

1901 Toberhead

Weir	John	52	Male	Head	Presbyterian
Weir	Eliza	52	Female	Wife	Presbyterian
Weir	Hugh	17	Male	Son	Presbyterian
Weir	Lizzie	16	Female	Dau	Presbyterian

Children of ELIZA McMASTER and JOHN WEIR are:

- i. JOHN⁸ WEIR, b. 06 Dec 1876.
- ii. MARY JANE WEIR, b. 01 Feb 1880, Shanemullagh.

Notes for MARY JANE WEIR:
GRONI index births (mother McMaster)

IGI says born in Shanemullagh

- iii. HUGH WEIR, b. 01 Jun 1883; m. MINNIE HARGEN, 15 Apr 1911, Toronto, Ontario.

Notes for HUGH WEIR:
GRONI index births (mother McMaster)

Ontario Marriages
15 April 1911 Toronto
Hugh Weir aged 28 son of John Weir & Eliza McMaster to Minnie Hargen aged 25 dau of Alexander Hargen & Eliza Turner.

Notes for MINNIE HARGEN:
Ontario Marriages
15 April 1911 Toronto
Minnie Hargen aged 25 dau of Alexander Hargen & Eliza Turner.

- iv. ELIZABETH WEIR, b. 12 Jan 1885.

Notes for ELIZABETH WEIR:
GRONI index births (mother McMaster)

- v. ANNIE WEIR, b. 15 Apr 1878.

Notes for ANNIE WEIR:
GRONI index births (mother McMaster)

15. NANCY⁷ MCMASTER (*ANN⁶ MCCOOL, ARCHIBALD⁵, ARCHIBALD⁴, JOHN³, ARCHIBALD², JOHN¹*) was born 21 Aug 1849. She married ROBERT JAMES SPEERS 14 Jul 1871 in Castledawson Presbyterian, son of WILLIAM SPEERS. He was born Abt. 1845.

Notes for NANCY MCMASTER:

Castledawson P baptisms [MIC 1P/90]

Born 21 Aug 1849 bapt 23 Dec 1849 Nancy of Hugh McMaster Toberhead Maghera

Marriage

Nancy McMaster full age spinster of Toberhead dau of Hugh McMaster, farmer:

1911

Nancy Speers aged 60 married 39 years 10/8 alive

Notes for ROBERT JAMES SPEERS:

Marriages Castledawson P

Robert James Speers full age bachelor farmer of Bovagh[?] son of William Speers farmer to Nancy McMaster full age spinster of Toberhead dau of Hugh McMaster, farmer:

Witnesses - Adam Johnston & Lizzie Miller or Milliken

Hugh McMaster will of 1887 mentions daughter Nancy Speer.

[Note - it is possible that Robert James Speers was the son of William Speers & Jane McCool who had children baptised in Castledawson P]

1901 census Ballinahone More [also 1911]

Speer	Robert J	50	Male	Head	Presbyterian
Speer	Nancy	48	Female	Wife	Presbyterian
Speer	Annie	25	Female	Dau	Presbyterian
Speer	William	23	Male	Son	Presbyterian
Speer	Hugh	20	Male	Son	Presbyterian
Speer	Agnes	15	Female	Dau	Presbyterian
Speer	John	13	Male	Son	Presbyterian
Speer	Robert	10	Male	Son	Presbyterian
Speer	Edmund	8	Male	Son	Presbyterian
Speer	Caroline	5	Female	Dau	Presbyterian

Robert Jas Speers 65 years old 1911

Children of NANCY MCMASTER and ROBERT SPEERS are:

- i. ANNIE⁸ SPEERS, b. 18 Jun 1872.

Notes for ANNIE SPEERS:

GRONI births index as Spiers (mother McMaster)

- ii. WILLIAM SAVAGE SPEERS, b. 14 May 1874.

Notes for WILLIAM SAVAGE SPEERS:

GRONI births index (mother McMaster)

- iii. ROBERT SPEERS, b. 16 May 1878, Carricknakielt; d. 15 Nov 1878.

Notes for ROBERT SPEERS:

GRONI births index (mother McMaster)

GRONI death index Magerafelt
Robert Speer died 15 Nov 1878 under one year

- iv. HUGH SPEERS, b. 23 Oct 1879, Carricknakielt.

Notes for HUGH SPEERS:
GRONI births index (mother McMaster)

- v. ISABELLA SPEERS, b. 31 Jan 1882.

Notes for ISABELLA SPEERS:
GRONI births index (mother McMaster)

- vi. AGNES SPEERS, b. 20 May 1885.

Notes for AGNES SPEERS:
GRONI births index (mother McMaster)

- vii. JOHN SPEERS, b. 06 Jun 1887.

Notes for JOHN SPEERS:
GRONI births index (mother McMaster)

- viii. ROBERT JAMES SPEERS, b. Abt. 1891.

Notes for ROBERT JAMES SPEERS:
Age based on 1901 census (cannot locate in GRONI online index births)

- ix. EDWARD SPEERS, b. 10 Aug 1892.

Notes for EDWARD SPEERS:
GRONI births index (mother McMasen)

Edmund in 1901 census

- x. CAROLINE SPEERS, b. 16 Aug 1894.

Notes for CAROLINE SPEERS:
Age based on 1901 census

16. MARY ANN⁷ MCCOOL (*WILLIAM⁶, JOHN⁵, ARCHIBALD⁴, JOHN³, ARCHIBALD², JOHN¹*) was born 22 May 1846 in Toberhead. She married SAMUEL KIRKWOOD 16 Nov 1874 in Magherafelt 1st Presbyterian Church. He was born Abt. 1842, and died 18 Mar 1882.

Notes for MARY ANN MCCOOL:
Castledawson P baptisms
22 May 1846 Mary-anne dau of Wm McCool & Mary McCalein of Toberhead born (blank)

1901 census Toberhead
Marianne Kirkwood head 53 weaver widow
Mary McCool mother aged 83 years

1911 census Toberhead
Mary Ann Kirkwood aged 66 widow 3 children 2 alive

Notes for SAMUEL KIRKWOOD:

Death index GRONI

Magherafelt

Samuel Kirkwood 18 March 1882 aged 40 years

Children of MARY MCCOOL and SAMUEL KIRKWOOD are:

- i. ELIZA JANE⁸ KIRKWOOD, b. 06 Apr 1875; m. GEORGE CONVERY, 01 Sep 1909, Saragosa, New York county USA; b. Abt. 1884.

Notes for ELIZA JANE KIRKWOOD:
GRONI online birth index

New York County Marriages
1st Sept 1909

George Convery of Wilton lab aged 25 born Ireland son of John Convery & Sarah Pictertain to Elizabeth Kirkwood of Wilton b. Ireland aged 29 dau of Samuel Kirkwood and Mary McCool. Witnesses - Jas Doole & Cornelia H Chamberlain

Notes for GEORGE CONVERY:
New York County Marriages (see above).

- ii. MARY ANN KIRKWOOD, b. 06 Apr 1875; d. 1875.

Notes for MARY ANN KIRKWOOD:
GRONI online birth index

- iii. MARY ANN KIRKWOOD, b. 18 Nov 1876.
- iv. JOHN ANDREW KIRKWOOD, b. 31 Oct 1880.

Notes for JOHN ANDREW KIRKWOOD:
GRONI online birth index

17. JOHN⁷ MCCOOL (*WILLIAM⁶, JOHN⁵, ARCHIBALD⁴, JOHN³, ARCHIBALD², JOHN¹*) was born 03 May 1863 in Toberhead, and died 05 May 1938 in Tamnadase. He married MARY ANN ANDERSON 01 Sep 1882 in Castledawson Presbyterian, daughter of SAMUEL ANDERSON. She was born Abt. 1858.

Notes for JOHN MCCOOL:

Castledawson P marriages

1st Sept 1882 John McCool aged 29 bachelor farmer of Toberhead son of William McCool farmer to Mary Ann Anderson full age spinster of Toberhead dau of Samuel Anderson, farmer: Witnesses - S Gardiner & Nancy Stewart.

1901 census Castledawson no. 66

John McCool head P read only 40 gen lab married born Co Derry

Mary A wife 43

William son 15

Minnie dau 12

John son 9

Samuel son 7

William Lennox boarder 41 lab

1911 census in Tamnadase [1911 six children/ four alive married 29 years].

John McCool head 50 lab

Mary Ann wife 56

William son 26 single
Samuel McCool son 18
(Mary 24 & John 22 scored out)

Registered death
5 May 1938 Tamndaas John McCool male widower aged 75 years acute cystitis 10 days
& Cardiac failer 2 days certified. Informant Minnie McCool daughter present at death
Tamnadaas 10 May 1938.

Notes for MARY ANN ANDERSON:
Possible death recorded GRONI
Mary McCool 6 Nov 1937 aged 77 years Magherafelt.

Children of JOHN MCCOOL and MARY ANDERSON are:
i. HESTHER⁸ MCCOOL, b. 28 Jul 1883; d. 1883.
ii. WILLIAM MCCOOL, b. 10 Jul 1885.
iii. MARY MCCOOL, b. 24 Nov 1887.

Notes for MARY MCCOOL:
Informant of father's death (Minnie McCool)

- iv. JOHN MCCOOL, b. 24 May 1890.
- v. SAMUEL MCCOOL, b. 20 Jul 1893.
- vi. SARAH MCCOOL, b. 15 May 1896; d. 09 Dec 1897.

18. ARCHIBALD⁷ MCCOOL (*WILLIAM⁶, JOHN⁵, ARCHIBALD⁴, JOHN³, ARCHIBALD², JOHN¹*) was born
Abt. 1857 in Toberhead, and died Bef. 1939. He married ISABELLA EDWARDS 10 May 1889
in Magherafelt². She was born Abt. 1863, and died 27 Dec 1939.

Notes for ARCHIBALD MCCOOL:
Mentioned in father's will.

Letters of Admin & Will of William McCool 1880 died 6 Dec 1880: Effects £10
Property to Wife Mary McCool then divided between two sons John McCool & Archibald
McCool

Cannot locate marriage in Irish civil registration (10 May 1889). Seems that the
marriage was not registered.

Family were in Scotland from at least 1889 when son Archibald was born to 1884 when
Mary Ann was born. In Derry by 1896 when dau Isabella was born.

1901 census in Castledawson (no 58)
Archie McCool head P 35 lab md born Co Derry
Bella wife 30
William son 11
Archie son 9
Mary dau 6
Bella dau 4
Andrew son 1

1911 census in Tamnadeese
Archibald McCool head P 48 lab md born Co Derry
Isabella wife 42 married 19 years 9/7

William son 19 lab born Glasgow
Archibald son 18 lab born Glasgow
Mary dau 16 linen weaver born Derry
Isabella dau 14 Thread winder
Andrews on 11 scholar
Robert son 5
Thomas son 1

Cannot locate death in GRONI online index under McCool 1911-1939

Notes for ISABELLA EDWARDS:

Maiden name from the birth certificates of her children in Scotland & Ireland as cannot locate marriage certificate.

Possible death entry GRONI

27 Dec 1939 Tamnadace Isobel McCool female widow aged 73 years Housekeeper of Gastro Enteritis 3 months & Cardiac failure (sudden), certified. Informant - Violet McCool Grand-daughter present at death Tamnadaas, 3 Jan 1940.

Note - Violet McCool born July-Sept 1918 (IGI irish births index)

Children of ARCHIBALD MCCOOL and ISABELLA EDWARDS are:

- i. WILLIAM⁸ MCCOOL, b. 13 Feb 1890, Charles Street, Glasgow; d. 28 Apr 1917.

Notes for WILLIAM MCCOOL:

Scottish birth record

William McHoul born 13 Feb 1890 at 300 Charles Street, Glasgow son of Archibald McHoul, Copperwork labourer & Isabella McHoul M/S Edwards (married 10 May 1889 Magherafelt). Informant Archibald McHoul x his mark father Feb 28th 1890.

Private William McCool

17220

HLI 2nd battalion (Highland Light Infantry)

died 28 April 1917 aged 27 (Arras memorial)

son of Archie & Isabella McCool of Castledawson, Co LD.

- ii. ARCHIBALD MCCOOL, b. 08 Jun 1891, Glasgow.

Notes for ARCHIBALD MCCOOL:

Scottish birth record

Archibald McHoul born 8 Jun 1891 at 4 Harsis St, Glasgow son of Archibald McHoul, Copper work Labourer & Isabella McHoul M/S Edwards (married 10 May Magherafelt, Ireland). Informant Archibald McHoul x his mark father. June 15th Glasgow.

- iii. MARY ANN MCCOOL, b. 13 Jun 1894, 4 Dunolly Street, Glasgow.

Scottish birth record

Mary Ann McHoul born 13 Jun 1891 3.30pm at 4 Dunolly St, Glasgow dau of Archibald McHoul, Copper work Labourer & Isabella McHoul M/S Edwards (married 10 May Magherafelt, Ireland). Informant Archibald McHoul x his mark father. June 25th Glasgow.

- iv. ISABELLA MCCOOL, b. 20 Dec 1896.

Notes for ISABELLA MCCOOL:

GRONI birth index born 20 Dec 1896

GRONI death index possible death
Bella McCool 30 Oct 1922 aged 24 female Magherafelt DED

- v. ANDREW MCCOOL, b. 01 Sep 1899; d. 18 Mar 1948; m. MARY ANN MCLERNON, 01 Apr 1929, Magherafelt Civil Registrars Office; b. Abt. 1903; d. 05 Apr 1938.

Notes for ANDREW MCCOOL:
GRONI birth index born 1 Sept 1899

Civil death record
Died 18 March 1948 at the District Hospital, Magherafelt, Andrew McCool of Tamnadace, Castledawson, Widow, aged 47 years of Myocardial Degeneration & Chronic Myeloid(?), Leukemia certified: Informant - S Cameron occupier District Hospital, Magherafelt.

Married Magherafelt Civil Registrar's Office, Magherafelt on 1 April 1929 Andrew McCool aged 27 bachelor, Tamnacace, Folder of Cloth in Factory son of Archy McCool, labourer, to Mary Ann McLernon aged 26 spinster of Broagh, Castledawson dau of Felix McLernon, farmer: Witnesses - William & Annie Harte.

- vi. SARAH MCCOOL, b. 13 Jul 1902.

Notes for SARAH MCCOOL:
GRONI birth index born 13 July 1902

- vii. JOHN MCCOOL, b. 28 Aug 1904.

Notes for JOHN MCCOOL:
GRONI birth index born 28 Aug 1904

- viii. ROBERT MCCOOL, b. 12 Feb 1906.

Notes for ROBERT MCCOOL:
GRONI birth index born 12 Feb 1906

- ix. THOMAS MCCOOL, b. 21 Apr 1910, Tamnadace.

Notes for THOMAS MCCOOL:
Thomas McCool son of Archibald McCool labourer & Isabella Edwards of Tamnadace. Informant - Isabella McCool.

Endnotes

1. Castledawson Presbyterian Church, MIC1P/90/1.
2. Information from birth certs in Scotland of children Archibald, Willam & Mary.

APPENDIX FIVE: DESCENDANTS OF ANDREW MORTON

Descendants of Andrew Morton

Generation No. 1

1. ANDREW³ MORTON (*JOHN², ANDREW¹*) was born in Ballynocher, Magherafelt, and died in Ballynocher, Magherafelt.

Notes for ANDREW MORTON:
History of Magherafelt (Maitland)
Overseer of Highways 1720
Andrew Morton

1766 religious survey Magherafelt
Andrew Morton - dissenter

D4480/1/5 Genealogy of the Mortons from 1662 by James Stewart:
Andrew Morton arrived not later than 1662 on the banks of the Moyola near Castledawson in the townland of Ballynogher where he had a very large farm of land (others went further south to Magherafelt, Moneymore & Cookstown). The above named Andrew was succeeded by his son John & he was succeeded by his son Andrew who was great grandfather to the writer.

Child of ANDREW MORTON is:

2. i. JOHN⁴ MORTON, b. Abt. 1760, Ballynocher, Magherafelt; d. Abt. 1853, Ballynocher, Magherafelt.

Generation No. 2

2. JOHN⁴ MORTON (*ANDREW³, JOHN², ANDREW¹*) was born Abt. 1760 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt, and died Abt. 1853 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt.

Notes for JOHN MORTON:
1796 Flax returns Magherafelt
John Morton 3 wheels

1831 census Ballynogher
15: Andw Morton 6m/6f 12 other protestant dissenter
16: Andw Steward 5m/1f 6 other protestant dissenter
17: Jno Morton 1m/1f 2 other protestant dissenter

These were the only families in Ballynogher not RC or Presbyterian. According to Stewart's Morton genealogy the above John (Jack) Morton was a covenanter.

Buried Magherafelt Old graveyard

D4480/1/5 Genealogy of the Mortons from 1662 by James Stewart

John Morton was better known by the Christian name Jack in the locality where he lived - he was a man of might both physically & intellectually. He understood astronomy, dialing and theology. He lived to be 93 years of age and was buried in the old churchyard, Magherafelt in 1853. Above named Jack adhered closely to the Covenanters and died a member of the Church.

Children of JOHN MORTON are:

3. i. MISS⁵ MORTON, b. Ballynocher, Magherafelt.
4. ii. ANDREW MORTON, b. Abt. 1794, Ballynocher, Magherafelt; d. 07 Oct 1882, 12 Unity Street, Belfast.

Generation No. 3

3. MISS⁵ MORTON (*JOHN⁴, ANDREW³, JOHN², ANDREW¹*) was born in Ballynocher, Magherafelt. She married ANDREW STEWART. He died in Ballynocher, Magherafelt.

Notes for MISS MORTON:
Unknown Christian name.

Notes for ANDREW STEWART:
1831 census Ballynoger
15: Andw Morton 6m/6f 12 other protestant dissenter
16: Andw Steward 5m/1f 6 other protestant dissenter
17: Jno Morton 1m/1f 2 other protestant dissenter

Child of MISS MORTON and ANDREW STEWART is:

5. i. JAMES⁶ STEWART, b. Abt. 1823, Castledawson; d. Aft. 1911, Magdala Street, Belfast.

4. ANDREW⁵ MORTON (*JOHN⁴, ANDREW³, JOHN², ANDREW¹*) was born Abt. 1794 in Ballynocher, Magherafelt, and died 07 Oct 1882 in 12 Unity Street, Belfast. He married NANCY HOUSTON. She died Bef. 1882.

Notes for ANDREW MORTON:
D4480/1/5 Genealogy of the Mortons from 1662 by James Stewart
Andrew Morton (son of Jack) removed to Belfast in 1823 (HE Morton writes in red pen 'my grandfather'). Belfast being at that time a thriving little town, where trade was good and trades men were wanted. He lived there all his days and died an old man. He was twice married firstly to Nancy Houston & afterwards to a Belfast lady.

Castledawson Presbyterian register has one entry for a child of Andrew Morton:
Jas Morton son of Andrew Morton Ballynoger baptised 13 April 1822
(This is the only entry for this Andrew Morton so it is possible that this is the same Andrew Morton who moved to Belfast).

1852 Belfast/Ulster Directory
34 Stanhope St (Old Lodge Road)
Andrew Morton, carpenter

1861 Belfast/Ulster Directory
Unity Street (Trinity St to Stanhope St)
12. Andrew Morton, carpenter

Registered death Belfast
7 October 1882 at 12 Unity Street, Andrew Morton male widower aged 88 years
carpenter of Age & Debility 7 months no medical attendant: Informant Jane Morton,
present at death 12 Unity Street 7 Oct 1882

Notes for NANCY HOUSTON:
D4480/1/5 Genealogy of the Mortons from 1662 by James Stewart
Morton family papers state that Andrew Morton's wife was Nancy Houston

Cannot locate her in death index 1864-1882 as Ann or Nancy Morton

Children of ANDREW MORTON and NANCY HOUSTON are:

6. i. WILLIAM⁶ MORTON, b. Belfast.
7. ii. ANDREW MORTON, b. Abt. 1840, Belfast; d. 24 Apr 1892.
8. iii. ESTHER MORTON, b. Belfast.
- iv. JOHN MORTON, b. Belfast; d. 1908, Possibly London.

Notes for JOHN MORTON:
HE Morton refers to John Morton as my father's brother [i.e. his uncle]

D4480/1/5 Genealogy of the Mortons from 1662 by James Stewart (1910)
John Morton died some two years ago.

HE Morton's marginal note refers to this John Morton as my father's
brother (i.e his uncle). Another marginal note says - died in London
unmarried about 2 years ago in 1908.

This John Morton may also have been the nephew of William Morton who
married Eliza McCool nee McNiece.

D4480/1/4
Letter dated Aug 11th 1862 from Wm Morwood, Halftown, Castledawson
to Mr John Morton, Belfast.
Dear friend, please let your uncle William Morton know that I saw Archy
McNiece this day & he told me he had a letter from you; he wants no law.
Let your uncle come home - he is willing to give him a residence or leave
his case to two men.

- v. JANE MORTON, b. Belfast.

Notes for JANE MORTON:
Informant on her father's death certificate 1882 residing 12 Unity St,
Belfast

Generation No. 4

5. JAMES⁶ STEWART (*MISS⁵ MORTON, JOHN⁴, ANDREW³, JOHN², ANDREW¹*) was born
Abt. 1823 in Castledawson, and died Aft. 1911 in Magdala Street, Belfast. He married

MARGARET MCLERNON 04 Dec 1858 in Magherafelt Civil Registrars Office, daughter of THOMAS MCLERNON. She was born Abt. 1839.

Notes for JAMES STEWART:

James Stewart wrote a letter to a Morton relative HEM [Henry Eccleson Morton his first cousin once removed] in 1910 outlining the Morton family history and this provides the spine for the Morton family tree.

1911 census Magdala Street, Belfast

James Stewart RP aged 88 retired estate agent born Castledawson, LD

Margaret Stewart wife aged 72 b. LD married 52 years 10 children 4 alive

Frances Stewart dau 35 b. Castledawson

Elizabeth A Stewart dau 31

Angelina B Stewart dau aged 29

Address in letter July 5th 1910

25 Magdala Street,

Sandhurst Road

Belfast

James Stewart's mother was a Morton but we do not know her first name. James Stewart provides much of the (oral) evidence for the Morton genealogy. We have to treat the tree with caution since it is primarily an oral history.

D4480/2/1 in a letter to HE Morton in 1910:

My grandfather was seized and charged as a United Irishman in 1796 that is Jack Morton but nothing could be proved against him so he was not punished (HE Morton adds in red - my great grandfather). HE Morton also adds after the signature of James Stewart - 86 years of age (giving him a birth date of c. 1824)

D4480/1/5 Genealogy of the Mortons from 1662 by James Stewart

Andrew Morton arrived not later than 1662 on the banks of the Moyola near Castledawson in the townland of Ballynogher where he had a very large farm of land (others went further south to Magherafelt, Moneymore & Cookstown). The above named Andrew was succeeded by his son John & he was succeeded by his son Andrew who was great grandfather to the writer. The above named Andrew was succeeded by his son John better known by the Christian name Jack in the locality where he lived.

Notes for MARGARET MCLERNON:

Age based on 1911 census:

Margaret Stewart wife aged 72 b. LD married 52 years 10 children 4 alive

Children of JAMES STEWART and MARGARET MCLERNON are:

- i. JAMES ALEXANDER S⁷ STEWART, b. 05 Nov 1865.

Notes for JAMES ALEXANDER S STEWART:

James Alexander Smyth Stewart

- ii. JOHN AIKEN STEWART, b. 30 Jan 1868.

Notes for JOHN AIKEN STEWART:

GRONI birth index

- iii. ANDREW C STEWART, b. 15 Aug 1870.

Notes for ANDREW C STEWART:
Andrew Crichton McKenzie Stewart

- iv. GEORGE R D STEWART, b. 10 Apr 1878.

Notes for GEORGE R D STEWART:
George Robert Dawson Stewart

- v. FRANCES DAWSON STEWART, b. 22 Sep 1874.

Notes for FRANCES DAWSON STEWART:
GRONI birth index

- vi. MARY JANE STEWART, b. 18 Mar 1877, Castledawson.

Notes for MARY JANE STEWART:
GRONI birth index

- vii. HANNA STEWART, b. Abt. 1863.

Notes for HANNA STEWART:
1901 census
Hanna M Stewart aged 37 shopkeeper

6. WILLIAM⁶ MORTON (*ANDREW⁵, JOHN⁴, ANDREW³, JOHN², ANDREW¹*) was born in Belfast. He married LUCINDA ECCLESON 10 Jan 1862 in Knockbreda Church of Ireland, daughter of HENRY ECCLESON. She was born Abt. 1840, and died 31 Jan 1882 in 58 Great Victoria Street, Belfast.

Notes for WILLIAM MORTON: Not in 1901 census Ireland

Notes for LUCINDA ECCLESON:
Registered death Belfast
31 Jan 1882
58 Gt Victoria Street, Belfast Lucinda Morton female married aged 42 years wife of an Accountant of Parturition Peritonitis 3 days certified: Informant William Morton widower present at death 58 Gt Victoria Street: 2nd Feb 1882

Children of WILLIAM MORTON and LUCINDA ECCLESON are:

- i. EMILY⁷ MORTON, b. 28 Apr 1864.

Notes for EMILY MORTON:
GRONI online index births

9. ii. HENRY ECCLESON MORTON, b. 23 Apr 1866.
iii. ELLINOR MORTON, b. 07 Mar 1868.

Notes for ELLINOR MORTON:
GRONI online index births

- iv. GEORGINA MORTON, b. 13 Sep 1870.

Notes for GEORGINA MORTON:
GRONI online index births

- v. WILLIAM MORTON, b. 09 Dec 1871.

Notes for WILLIAM MORTON:
GRONI online index births

- vi. LOUISE MORTON, b. 20 Jul 1874.

Notes for LOUISE MORTON:
GRONI online index births

- vii. ESTHER MORTON, b. 25 Nov 1875.

Notes for ESTHER MORTON:
GRONI online index births

- viii. JOHN MORTON, b. 02 Jul 1879.

Notes for JOHN MORTON:
GRONI online index births

7. ANDREW⁶ MORTON (*ANDREW⁵, JOHN⁴, ANDREW³, JOHN², ANDREW¹*) was born Abt. 1840 in Belfast, and died 24 Apr 1892. He married JANE WHEELER MEARNES 12 Sep 1866 in York Street Presbyterian, Belfast, daughter of ANDREW MEARNES. She was born Abt. 1845, and died 10 Dec 1919.

Notes for ANDREW MORTON:

Belfast Morning News 17 Sept 1866

Married 12 Sept in Linenhall St Reformed P Belfast, by the Rev John Boal, Mr Joseph J Hawthorne to Esther dau of Mr Andrew Morton senior both of Belfast

Married 12 Sept in York St P Belfast by Rev Mr Lynd Mr Andrew Morton jun Belfast to Jane Wheeler dau of Mr Andrew Mearns, Sandymount, Dublin

York St Presbyterian Church Belfast MIC 1P/112/2

Married 12 Sept 1866 Andrew Morton full age bachelor Clerk Belfast son of Andrew Morton to Jane Wheeler Mearns full age spinster Belfast dau of Andrew Merans agent (both signed): Witnesses - William Orr & Ellen (?).

City Cemetery Plot

Catherine Mearns d. 19 Nov 1923 aged 71 (1852)

Andrew Morton d. 24 April 1892 aged 50 (1840)

Catherine Mary Morton d. 7 June 1934 aged 47 (1887)

Jane Wheeler Morton d. 10 Dec 1919 aged 74 (1845)

PRONI will

Admin Andrew Morton, Brookvale Tce, Belfast, accountant died 2 April 1892 to Jane Wheeler Morton widow.

1868 Belfast Street Directory

Carlisle Street (Crumlin Rd to Old Lodge Rd)

9. Andrew Morton, bookkeeper

Notes for JANE WHEELER MEARNs:

City Cemetery Plot

Jane Wheeler Morton d. 10 Dec 1919 aged 74 (1845)

Children of ANDREW MORTON and JANE MEARNs are:

- i. ANDREW WHEELER⁷ MORTON, b. 17 Dec 1868, Carlisle Street, Belfast.

Notes for ANDREW WHEELER MORTON:

GRONI online index births

Belfast Morning news

Dec 17 at Carlisle St Belfast the wife of Mr Andrew Morton of a son.

- ii. MARY MEARNs MORTON, b. 1873; d. 30 May 1880, 3 Clifton Tce, Belfast.

Notes for MARY MEARNs MORTON:

GRONI online index births

Belfast Morning News deaths

Morton - May 30 at No3 Clifton Tce, Belfast, Minnie Mearns second dau of Andrew Morton aged 6 years & 7 months. Her remains will be removed for internment in the Borough cemetery on tomorrow (Tues) morning at 9 o'clock

- iii. ELLEN MORTON, b. 1877.

Notes for ELLEN MORTON:

GRONI online index births

- iv. ESTHER HAWTHORN MORTON, b. 1879.

Notes for ESTHER HAWTHORN MORTON:

GRONI online index births

- v. JANE WHEELER MORTON, b. 07 Jan 1882, 3 Clifton Tce, Belfast.

Notes for JANE WHEELER MORTON:

GRONI online index births

- vi. ELIZABETH YOUNG MORTON, b. 1884.

Notes for ELIZABETH YOUNG MORTON:

GRONI online index births

- vii. CATHERINE MARY MORTON, b. 1887; d. 07 Jun 1934.

Notes for CATHERINE MARY MORTON:

GRONI online index births

- viii. CHARLES L N MORTON, b. 1890; d. 1891.

Notes for CHARLES L N MORTON:

GRONI online index births

- ix. WILLIAM MORTON, b. Abt. 1875.

Notes for WILLIAM MORTON:
1901 census returns

- x. JOHN SAMUEL MORTON, b. Abt. 1870; d. 10 Dec 1908.

Notes for JOHN SAMUEL MORTON:
1901 census returns

8. ESTHER⁶ MORTON (*ANDREW⁵, JOHN⁴, ANDREW³, JOHN², ANDREW¹*) was born in Belfast. She married JOSEPH HAWTHORNE 12 Sep 1866 in Linenhall Street Reformed Presbyterian, Belfast, son of JOHN HAWTHORNE.

Notes for ESTHER MORTON:

Belfast Morning News 17 Sept 1866

Married 12 Sept in Linenhall St Reformed P Belfast, by the Rev John Boal, Mr Joseph J Hawthorne to Esther dau of Mr Andrew Morton sen both of Belfast

Married 12 Sept in York St P Belfast by Rev Mr Lynd Mr Andrew Morton jun Belfast to Jane Wheeler dau of Mr Andrew Mearns, Sandymount, Dublin

Notes for JOSEPH HAWTHORNE:

Married 1866 to Esther Morton

Not in 1901 census Ireland

Child of ESTHER MORTON and JOSEPH HAWTHORNE is:

- i. CHRISTINA MORTON⁷ HAWTHORNE, b. 1867; d. 03 Jul 1892.

Notes for CHRISTINA MORTON HAWTHORNE:
GRONI online index births

Generation No. 5

9. HENRY ECCLESON⁷ MORTON (*WILLIAM⁶, ANDREW⁵, JOHN⁴, ANDREW³, JOHN², ANDREW¹*) was born 23 Apr 1866. He married MARY ALICE STEWART 17 May 1899 in Fortwilliam Park Presbyterian, Belfast. She was born Abt. 1876.

Notes for HENRY ECCLESON MORTON:

HEM - this is the Henry E Morton with whom James Stewart carried out the correspondence on the Morton family genealogy (D4480/2/1 & D4480/1/5).

Morton & Stewart were first cousins once removed.

1901 & 1911 census Duncairn, Belfast.

1911 census 2 Glastonbury Avenue, Duncairn, Belfast

Henry Eccleston Morton head aged 44 P Hemstitcher married born Belfast

Mary Alice Morton wife 35 hemstitcher md 11 years 1 child

Charles Morton son aged 11 scholar

Annie Watt servant aged 21

Notes for MARY ALICE STEWART:

1911 census

Mary Alice Morton wife 35

Child of HENRY MORTON and MARY STEWART is:

- i. CHARLES⁸ MORTON, b. Abt. 1900, Duncairn, Belfast.

Notes for CHARLES MORTON: Aged based on 1901 census entry

APPENDIX SIX: CHURCH RECORDS

CHURCH RECORD SEARCH FOR JOHNSTON AND ALLIED FAMILIES

CHURCH OF IRELAND PARISH RECORDS

Magherafelt Church of Ireland (MIC1/1A)

Volume 1

Baptisms 1718-1793

Marriages 1720-1797

Burials 1718-1771

Burials 1717-1718 (one page)

April 11 1717 William son of Francis Johnston buried

Marriages 1720-1732 (one page)

July 7 1724 Alexander McClenachan & Elizabeth Johnston married

July 27 1730 Randal Johnston & Anne Woods married in Church

Christenings 1718-1719 (one page)

Jan 15 1718/19 Anne dau of John Johnston baptised

Burials 1718-19

Francis Johnston buried

Christenings 1719-20

None

Burials 1718-1720

None

Christenings 1720-22

None

Burials 1720-22

None

Christenings 1722-1723

Dec 11 1722

Mary dau of John Johnston baptised

Burials 1722

None

Christenings 1724-1725

Dec 27 1724 Sarah dau of John Johnston baptised

Burials 1722-1724

Dec 29 1723 Ann dau of William Johnston jun'r baptised

Christenings 1725-1726

None

Burials 1724-25

None

Christenings 1726-1727

March 18 1726 John son of John Johnston baptised

Burials 1725-1727

None

Christenings 1727-1728

None

Burials 1727-28

None

Burials 1728-29

None

Christenings 1729-30

None

Marriages 1731-1736

None

Burials 1732-33

May 12 1733 Mary dau of William Johnston jun'r buried

May 17 1733

Alexander son of Randal Johnston buried

May 23 1733 Thomas son of William Johnston jun'r buried

Christenings 1732-34

None

Burials 1734-35

None

Christenings 1734-1736

Nov/Dec 15 1735 Alexander son of Randal Johnston baptised

Burials 1735-36

May 22 1736 Widow Mary Johnston was buried

Marriages 1736-1761

1739 (cut off on reel)

James Taylor & Rose Johnston were married

Burials 1736

23rd (Blank) Wid: Johnston

Christenings 1736-38

None

Burials 1737

None

Burials 1739-1740

27 May 1740 Andrew Johnston of Magherafelt was buried

Christenings 1739 (faded)

Jarvis son of James Lenox of Aghagaskin was baptised

Burials 1740-43 (faded)

None

Christenings 1740

None

Burials 1744-1751

March 29 1750 Mary Lexnox, Aghagaskin buried

Christenings (no date but probably same as burials above)

None

Burials 1752-1758

Feb 24 1757 John Johnston of Magherafelt was buried

Burials 1759-1764

July 28 1759 William Johnston of Kilyfaddy was buried

Feb 12 1763 Randal Johnston of Ballylever was buried

Marriages 1762-1770

None

Christenings (no date)

-al son of John Johnston of Ballylever was baptised

Burials 1764-1767

May 11 1764 Benjamin Redfern of Aghagaskin was buried

Jan 9 1765 Isabella Johnston of Magheraflet was buried

Sept 7 1766 James Lenox of Aghagaskn buried

Christenings (no date)

Mary dau of John Johnston of Ballylever was baptised

Burials 1768-1771

May 11 1771 Esther Johnston of Dunamony was buried

Christenings (no date)

Elizabeth dau of John Johnston was baptised

p.2 John son of John Johnston of Dunamony baptised

p.3 James son of John Johnston of Ballylever was baptised

p.3 – son of Matthew Johnston of Glenmaquill was baptised

Christenings 1762-1763

James son of John Johnston of Ballylever was baptised (1762)

(Jo)hn son of Matthew Johnston of Glenmaquil was baptised (1763)

Christenings 1764-65

Jan 27 1765 William son of Charles Johnston of Ballymochan was baptised

May 4 1765 Mary dau of John Johnston, Glenmaquill was baptised

Christenings 1766-1767

Aprill 11 1766 Rebecca dau of John Johnston of Ballylever was baptised

Dec 1767 Matthew son of John Johnston, Glenmaquill was baptised

Marriages 1793 (only two entries)

None

Christenings (no date but possibly 1767-1769)

Rachel dau of John Johnston of Ballylever (1767)

Anne dau of Jas Johnston of Dunamony was baptised (1768/9)

Christenings June 1769-Feb 1771

July 5 1769 Margaret dau of John Johnston, Glenmaquill was baptised

May 18 1770 Sarah dau of John Lenox of Aghagaskin was baptised

Christenings March 1771-1772

Dec 1771 Gervais son of Gervais Lenox of Aghagaskin was baptised

Marriages 1780-1782

1780 married Aug 19 Michael Johnston of Drum(?), parish of Arboe to Elizabeth Semple of Aghagaskin, Magherafelt, parish of Magherafelt by licence dated 9 Aug 1780

1782 April 23rd Anthony Johnston soldier of the (?) & Catherine Bogs of M'Felt by publishing banns

Christenings 1779-1780

April 1780 Mary Ann dau of Wm & Elinor Johnston of Killyfaddy

Aug 9 1780 Mary dau of James & Elizabeth Johnston, Mulloughboy

Christenings 1781-Jan 1782

Jan 6 1781 Mary dau of And'w & Elizabeth Johnston, Dunnamony

June 22 1781 – son of R|obert & (Blank) Johnston of Magherafelt

Christenings Feb 1782-Jan 1783

Sept 1782 Letitia dau of James & Rose Johnston of Magherafelt

Christenings 1783

Feb 8 1783 John son of Randal & Ann Johnston of Ballyh-

July 29 1783 Elizabeth dau of Andrew & Elizaneth Johnston of Dunnamoney

Christenings 1784-1785

None

Christenings 1786-1787

None

Marriages 1794-1797

April 24 1794 John Hillman of Castledawson & Margaret Johnston of Leitrim were married.

Christenings 1787-1791

None

Christenings 1791-1792

June 17 1792 James son of Thomas Johnston of the Little (?)

July 24 1792 Mathew son of And'w Johnston of Glen(maquil)

Sept 26 1792 Rose dau of Andrew Johnston of Tilly(?)

Feb 1792 Thomas son of Thomas Johnston, Magherafelt.

Magherafelt Church of Ireland

Volume 2

Baptisms: 1799-1822

Marriages: 1799-1827

Burials: 1799-1827

Baptism 23 Oct 1799 Anne d'r of Reinolds Johnston of Hilltown was baptised

Baptism 31 Dec 1799 James son of Patrick Johnston of McGargie was baptised

Baptism 17 April 1800 John son of William Keitley of Aghagaskin was baptised

Burial 25 July 1799 James Johnston of Magherafelt was buried

Baptism 26 Oct 1800 Andrew son of Andrew & Sarah Johnston of McGargie, weaver was baptised

Baptised 27 Jan 1802 William son of Randal & Ann Johnson of Ballyheifer

Baptised 13 March 1803 Thomas son of William & Elizabeth Keitley, Aghagaskin, weaver

Baptised 29 Aug 1803 Matthew of Randal & Ann Johnston, Milltown, Miller

Baptised 23 Sept 1803 Mary Ann dau of William & Sarah Johnston, Killyfaddy, weaver

Baptised March 24 1804 Christina[?] dr of Andrew & Elizabeth Bowman, Aghagaskin, labourer

Baptised 8 June 1804 William son of Robert & Jane Stuart, Aghagaskin, weaver

Baptised 20 June 1804 Anne d'r of Andrew & Elizabeth Johnston, Anamore, weaver

Baptised 10 Feb 1805 Sarah dau of William & Sarah Johnston, Killyfaddy, weaver

Baptised 23 Dec 1805 Abraham of John & Jane Stuart, Aghagaskin, weaver

Baptised 19 April 1807 Samuel son of William Johnston, Killyfaddy

Confirmations 1824 [out of sequence]

No 53 – Jas Johnson, Aghagaskin

No 54 – [Blank] Johnson, ibid

No 92 – Ben Johnson, Aghagaskin

Baptised Nov 1810 [?] son of James Johnston, Ballyheifer

Baptised 14 March 1811 Jane d'r of William Johnston, Killyfaddy

Baptised 9 March 1814 James son of [?] Johnston, Killyfaddy

Baptised 16 Nov 1814 Mary Anne d'r of John Johnston, Magherafelt

Baptised 15 June 1815 Margaret of Hugh Johnston, M'felt

Baptised 23 Feb 1816 Jane d'r of William Johnston, M'felt

Baptised 10 Oct 1816 Jane d'r of Thomas Johnston, Dunane[?]

Baptised 26 April 1817 Joseph son of Hugh Johnston, M'felt

Baptised 12 July 1820 David son of David Johnston, M'felt

Baptised 18 Nov 1820 Margaret Jane d'r of Jos or Jon Bowman, Aghagaskin

Baptised 29 April 1821 John son of John Johnston, M'felt

Baptised 9 June 1822 James son of John Johnsdton of [?]

Baptised 18 Aug 1822 Hanna Jane dau of Hugh Johnston, M'felt

MIC/1/1A/1 Magherafelt Church of Ireland registers

Magherafelt Church of Ireland
Baptisms 1822-1860
Marriages 1822-1834
Burials 1822-30 & 1836-1893
Confirmations 1824

Baptisms 1822-1857

[date ?] James of John Johnston --- farmer

1825

Spet 3 John of William Johnston, Aghagaskin, weaver

1828

April 2 Benjamin of Benjamin Johnston, Aghagaskin, weaver

1829

Feb 21 Margaret of Andrew & Mary Johnston, Aghagaskin, weaver

1832

April 1 John of Andrew & Mary Johnston, Aghagaskin, weaver

1832

Oct 14 Jane of John & Margaret Johnston, Aghagaskin, weaver

1834

Dec 10 Jas of Benj & Jane Johnston, Aghagaskin, farmer

1835

May 24 Marg't of John & Marg't Johnston, Aghagaskin, farmer

1835

Sept 13 James of John & Margt Johnston, Aghagaskin, farmer

1835

Nov'r 1 William of John & Sally Johnston, Magherafelt[?], weaver

1836

Born 7 Jan baptised 19 March William of John & Margaret Johnston, Aghagaskin, farmer

1837

Born Oct 1 baptised Dec 17 Samuel of Matthew & Ann Johnston, Aghagaskin, Blacksmith

1838

Born Jan 7 baptised Dec 2 Andrew of Andrew & Mary Johnston, Aghagaskin, Scutcher

1838

Born Jan 7 baptised 12 July John of William & Sarah Johnston, Aghagaskin, weaver

1839

Born March 24 baptised June 15 John of John & Margaret Johnston, Aghagaskin, farmer

1839

Born July 27 baptised Aug 25 Robert of William & Sarah Johnston, Aghagaskin, weaver

1843

Born March 4 baptised 18 June Elizabeth of John & Margaret Johnston, Aghagaskin,
weaver

1844

Born April 23 baptised June 9 Mary of William Johnston & Catherine Wilson, Aghagaskin

1849

Aug 5 Benjamin of John & Margaret Johnston, Aghagaskin: Witnesses – Archy Bradley,
Mgt Bradley, Ab'm Knightly

1850

Aug 4 1850

Margaret of Andrew & Eliza Johnston, Aghagaskin

Jane of Andrew & Eliza Johnston, Aghagaskin

Witnesses – Ann Lennox, Peggy Lenox, Godfrey Galway

1852

Nov 21 Mary Anne of Andrew & Elizabeth Johnston, Aghagaskin

Witnesses – Mary Davis, Edw Davis, Sarah Gillespie

1854

Aug 20 Anne of John & Margt Johnston, Aghagaskin

Witnesses – Sarah boon, Mary Boon & Abm Knightly

1855

Feb 24 Mary Anne of Richard & Hanna Johnston, Aghagaskin

Witnesses – Henry Johnston, Bess Johnston, Sarah Macky

1857

Aug 5 Andrew & Elizabeth of Andrew & Elizabeth Johnston, Aghagaskin

Witnesses – Richd Davis, Hugh Davis & Rebecca Davis

CHECKED TO 1859

Marriages 1822 –

1822

June 12 Benjamin Redfern & Catherine Johnston both of the parish of Magherafelt by
Banns

1833

James McNeight of this parish & townland of Tillikery[?], weaver, & Catherine Lennox of
Aghagaskin, spinster: 4 Nov 1833 by licence

1834

April 21 John Johnston of this parish & townland of Aghagaskin, farmer & Margaret
Knightly of the same parish and townland, spinster by Lic

Burials 1822-1830

James Johnston, Aghagaskin Dec 8 1827 aged 62

Castledawson Church of Ireland [MIC583/1] 1846- 1885

No 4 Born 17 April 1846 bapt 14 June Jane dau of David Johnston & Isabella Milling,
Castledawson, Shopkeeper

No 18 Born 8 Oct 1846 bapt 1 Nov 1846 [faded]
Catherine of George Johnston Anaghmore & Ann McNeight

No 27 Born 20 March 1847 bapt 25 Oct 1846 Robert of William Johnston Shopkeeper
Castledawson & Sarah Garvin
No 44 Born 12 Oct 1847 bapt 28 Nov Fanny of David Johnston Shopkeeper,
Castledawson & Isabella Milling

Checked to 1885 – these were the only Johnstones.

Castledawson Church of Ireland
Burials 1846-1877 (???)

Destertmartin Church of Ireland [MIC1/16]

Volume 1 Baptisms 1797-1832

331: Ann Johnston of Joseph Johnston & Ann Baxter of Curr born 1 Aug 1816
332: Eliza Johnston of Joseph Johnston & Ann Baxter of Curr born 18 Feb 1824
333: Margaret Johnston of Thomas Johnston & Bess Hogg of Curr born 12 Feb 1820
334: Richard Johnston of Thomas Johnston & Bess Hogg of Curr born 9 April 1822
335: Robert Johnston of Thomas Johnston & Bess Hogg of Curr born 21 Sept 1823
462: Elizabeth Johnston of Thomas Johnston & Bess Hogg of Curr 17 April 1826

Thomas Johnston of Thomas Johnston & Bess Hogg of Curr born 19 April 1829

Marriages 1806-1830
None

Volume 2
Baptisms 1827-1847
Marriages 1832-1845
Burials 1842-1861

Baptisms
1828 Maria Johnston Illegible of Robt[?]

1830 April Thomas of Thomas & Elizabeth Johnston, Curr

1830 Nov 7 John of Henry[?] & [?] Johnston, Crany[?]

1832 March 12 John of Thomas & Elizabeth Johnston

1834 Feb 1 George of Robert & Margt Johnston, Crany

1834 Sept 21 Henry of John & Sally Johnston, Elvry[?]

1837 Dec 3 Robert of Andrew & Jane Johnston, Craney

1839 June 21 Jane of Andrew & Jane Johnston, Lecumpher

1839 July 4 Henry of Henry & Jane Johnston, Craig

1840 Oct 24 John son of John & Rosey Johnston, Lucy[?]

1844 30 June Andrew of [?] & Jane Johnston, Lecumpher

1847 June 27 Matilda[?] of Andrew & Jane Johnston, Lecumper

Castledawson Presbyterian Church MIC 1P/90/1

Checked to 1900

1843 Feb 15

Sarah Jane dau of And Johnston & Mary Johnston of Tillinskery[?] was received into the church by baptism born May 26 1841

1843 Feb 15

Matilda daughter of Thomas McNeight & Martha McNeight of Tillinkery[?] was received into the church by baptism. Born 7 Aug 1841

1843 July 24

Stephen son of Wm Johnston & Sarah Garven of Castledawson was baptised born July 17th died the evening of being baptised. J Radcliffe

1844 March 3

Mary Anne dau of A Johnston of Tilinkery was born Nov 7 1843 bapt 5 March 1844
James son of James Johnston & Mary Garven of Tamnadeese was born 22 Feb 1844

1844 March 29

John son of Alexr Weir & Rachel Spier of Ballynocher was bap born 23 Dec 1843

1844 Oct 27

James son of Macklin Johnston & Sarah Matilda Brown, Tamnadace

1845 April 6

Johnson of Macklin Johnston & Sara Matilda Brown of Tamnadace born April 3rd 1845

1845 May 10

William Chesney son of John Johnston & Mary Mawhinney of Anahorish born Feb 22 1845

Ibid 10th Jas Radcliffe dau of Wm Johnston & Ellen Thompson of Anahorish born Feb 16 1845

1846 Jan 18

William son of Jas Johnston & Mary Garvin of Tamnadace born Jan 5 1846

1847 March 28

Isabella dau of And Johnston & Margaret --- of Tilinkery born 20 May 1846

1848 Feb 13

Sam'l son of Mervyn Johnston & Sarah Matilda Brown of Tamnadace born March 21st 1847

1848 May 14

Richard son of Jas Johnston & Mary Garvin of Tamnadace born April 29 1848

1849 Dec 9

Elizabeth of Andrew Johnston & Mary of Tilinkary

25 Jan 1849 March 7 1849 Margaret of Meclin Johnston & Sarah Matilda Brown of Tamnadace

4 Sept 1850 17 Sept 1850 Samuel of James Johnston & Mary Garvin of Tamnadace

27 May 1850 25 June 1850 Andrew of Thomas Lenox & Mary Johnston – no address

7 Aug 1851 3 Oct 1851 Sarah dau of Solomon Johnston & Eliza Nodwell, Tamnadace

1852 7 Oct/12 Nov Mary Elizabeth of Jas Johnston & Mary Garvin of Tamnadace

July 27 1853 May 20 1854 Joseph of Macklin Johnston & Sarah Brown of Tamnadace

May 11 1854 June 30 Margaret of Solomon Johnston & Eliza Nodwell, Tamnadace

Sept 8 1855 Dec 27 1855 Sarah Ann of Macklin Johnston & Sarah Brown of Tamnadace

Aug 14 1855 Oct 5 1855 John of Solomon Johnston & Eliza Nodwell, Toberhead

Jan 8 1859 Sept 8 1859 Ellen of Macklin Johnston & Sarah Brown Tamnadace

4 July 1861 Oct 10 1861 Alexander of Solomon Johnston & Eliza Nodwell, Tamnadace

Gap 1864-1888

Sept 1st 1886 Jan 15 1889 Mary of Thomas Stewart & Matilda Johnston, Toberhead

Marriages 1845 +

24 Feb 1854 Benjamin Johnston to Jane McNeice [have copy]

13 Jan 1857 Jas Johnston age 28 bachelor farmer of Tamnadace son of William Johnston farmer to Sarah Rogers 22 spinster of Tamnadace dau of – Rodgers, farmer: Witnesses – Mary J Rogers & [?] Rogers
[Poor quality]

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RECORDS

Magherafelt 1st Presbyterian

Baptisms 1771-81 & 1813-1861

Marriages 1769-1782 & 1819-1828 & 1840-44
Visitations books 1823-29 & 1841

Castledawson Presbyterian
Baptisms 1809-1842
Marriages 1805-1840
Communicants 1848

Curran Presbyterian

Lecumpher Presbyterian

Magherafelt First Presbyterian Church Registers

CR3/13/A/1A
Baptismal register 1813-1861 [All Johnstons recorded to 1836]

1815
April 23: Eliza of James Johnston, Magherafelt

1817
April 27: Nancy of James Johnson, Magherafelt

1819
Dec 28: Andrew of John Johnston, Aghagaskin
Dec 28: John of John Johnston, Aghagaskin

1820
28 June: Mecklan of James Johnston of Magherafelt

1822
Feb 25: Robert of John Johnston of Aghaghaskin

1822
March 24: John of John Johnston, Ballymoughan

1822
April 21: Nancy of James Johnston, Magherafelt

1823
Nov 2: Richard of James Johnston of Magherafelt

1824
Sept 11: John of John Johnston Ballymoughan

1825
April 24: Michael of Sam Johnston, Magherafelt

1827
Oct 10: Samuel of John Johnston, Ballymoughan

1827
Oct 15: William of Samuel Johnston, Magherafelt

1829

Mar 13: Eliza of David Johnston, Leckagh

1832

Nov 5: Jane of David Johnston, Megargy

1833

Apr 7: Samuel John of Samuel Johnston & Maria Crooks, Magherafelt

1835

Apr 1: Thomas of William Johnston & Nancy McMaster, Tamnadace

1836

Feb 14: William of James Johnston & Rachel Foster, Killyfaddy

1836

Dec 21: Nancy of David Johnston & Nancy Purdy, B'mulderg

1837

March 7: Jane & Robert Stewart of William Stewart & Eliza Johnston, Aghaghaskin

1842

April 10: Sarah Stewart of Henry Stewart and Bell Johnston, Aghagaskin

1842

Sept 29: John of William Johnston & Sally Dickey, Aghagaskin

1843

July 23: Margaret of Robert Johnston & Margaret Bowman of Aghagaskin

1846

Jan 18: Andrew of William Johnston & Sally Dickey, Aghagaskin

Jan 18: Thomas Bowman of John Bowman and Rachel Farrier, Aghagaskin

1846

Jan 25: John & Mary Stewart of William Stewart & Betty Johnston, Aghagaskin

Jan 25: James Stewart of Henry Stewart & Bell Johnston, Aghagaskin

1846

March 28: John of John Stewart & Ellen Bowman, Aghagaskin

1847

July 18: Andrew & Benjamin Bowman twins of Samuel Bowman & Mary A Redfern, Aghagaskin

1848

June 9: Wilson of Samuel Reynolds & Christian Bowman, Aghagaskin

June 9: Bess of Richard Johnston & Hanna Weir, Aghagaskin

1850

Jan 1: William of William Johnston & Sally Dickey, Aghagaskin

1850

Sept 8: James of Richard Johnston & Hannah Weir, Aghagaskin

CR3/13/E/1 Minister's Visitation Book [1823 & 1829]

Divided into districts [but few townlands mentioned]
Johnstons mentioned but no Benjamin Johnston listed

CR3/13/E/2 Minister's Visitation Book [1841]

Names no addresses – of no real value

CR3/13/B3 Magherafelt First Presbyterian marriages

Married 1884 June 23 – William Johnston full age, Bachelor, farmer of Kilmore son of Benjamin Johnston, farmer to Matilda McKnight, full age, spinster of Aghaghmore, daughter of Hugh McKnight, farmer: Witnesses – John [?] & Jane McKnight

MIC1P/450/1 First Magherafelt Presbyterian registers

Marriages 1769-1782

1774

Feb 27 was proclaimed in order to marriage John Johnston & Agness Miller both in the bounds of this parish.

1775

April 23 was proclaimed in order of marriage Andrew Johnston of the congregation of Tobermore & Elizabeth Johnston of this congregation.

1776

April 14 was proclaimed in order to marriage Matthew Johnston & Ann Cowan both of this congregation & was married the 17th of the same.

1776

April 28 was proclaimed in order to marriage James Johnston of the congregation of Moneymore & Jean Wilson of this congregation.

1782

Feb 24 was proclaimed in order to marriage Robert Cur[?] of the congregation of Coagh & Margaret Johnston of the congregation of Cookstown

1782

May 20 was proclaimed in order to marriage William Badger of this congregation & Martha Johnston of the congregation of Cookstown

Baptisms 1771-1781

1777

April 27 was baptised John Johnston son to Matthew Johnston.

MIC 1P/460/B/1 Magherafelt First Presbyterian Marriages 1819-1828

No Johnston

MIC1P/90/1 Castledawson Presbyterian Church Registers

Marriages 1805-1845

1811

Aug 11 Serg'nt Johnston of the Londonderry Militia to Elizabeth Cunningham in presence of Archibald Young & Thomas Kennedy

1813

March 17 John Wier to Mary McNeight in presence of John Wier, Wm McNeight, Mrs McNeight & Henery Lennox

1814

Jan 12 James Johnston to [Blank] Catherward

1818

Aug 16: James Johnston to Peggy Carvin in presence of John Carvin

1826

Nov 16 Robert Stewart to Betty Johnston in presence of William Johnston

1827

Dec 24 And'w Johnston to Mary Johnston in presence of Thomas Mullin, Alex'r Milliken & Christian Teal

1828

July 22 William Johnston to Nancy McMaster in presence of Sergeant Bond, Frank Huston & [?] Gibson

1832

March 2 Henry Johnston to Bess Wier in presence of John Wier; Wm Wier, Mrs George Duncan & Sam Winchester

1834

July 27: David Johnston to Isabella Millings in presence of William Jonnston & David Duncan

1838

Aug 10 Thomas son of Maywick McKnight of Ballynougher to Margaret daughter of John Johnston, Aghagaskin in presence of Wm Stewart & [?] Lenox

1844

April 29: James Johnston son of [BLANK] to Margaret Hammond daughter of James Hammond, Ballynocher

Baptisms 1809-1835

1806

July 14 Daniel of Daniel Menise, Toberhead

1810

April 21 Hannah of William Weir, Ballynocher, Magherafelt

1824

Nov 12 Solomon of John Johnston, Aghagaskin, Magherafelt

1829

Aug 3 Thomas of William Johnston, Tamindace, Magherafelt

1829

Aug 10 Arh'd of John McNiss Toberhead, Maghera

1830

Oct 31 William of William Johnston, Tamindace, Magherafelt

1832

March 2 Mary of Alex'r Weir, Ballynogher, M'Felt

1834

April 12 William of James Weir, Toberhead, Maghera

1835

Oct 11 James Glasgow Weir of Alexander Weir & Rachel Spiers, Ballynocher

1836

Born April 22nd baptised May 22nd Elizabeth of James Weir & Isabella McNeill, Toberhead

1838

Born Aug 8 baptised Aug 26 John of James Weir & Isabella McNeill, Toberhead

1839

Born 22 March baptised May 14 Henry of Benjamin Johnston & Jane Weir, Aghagaskin

1842

Aug 24 Mary daughter of Benjamin Johnston & Jane Weir of Glenmaquill was received into the church by baptism, born March 23rd 1842

CHECKED TO 1844

COMMUNICANTS & FAMILIES OF THE CONGREGATION 1848

Ballynocher

No 9: John Weir & Jane [wife]

No 10: Margaret Weir & Hanna do/ sister

No 11: Alex'r Weir & Rachel [wife]

Tamandace

No 2. James Johnston & Nancy [wife]

No 3. Mackelin Johnston & Ann Jane [wife]

Toberhead

No 14. James McNice

No Aghagaskin or Killyneese

MIC 1P/338 Curran Presbyterian Church marriages [Maghera]

1848 March 25th Daniel Kerr, aged 28, Widower, Farmer of Slaveigh[?] son of Andrew Kerr, farmer to Nancy Johnston aged 17, Spinster of Glenmaquill, daughter of Ben Johnston, farmer: Witnesses – William Boon[?] & Nancy Stewart.

Married 13 Jan 1911 Curran P

Samuel Lennox, full age, bachelor, Labourer, Tamnadace son of Robert Lennox, labourer to Jennie Johnston full age spinster, Killyniece, daughter of William Johnston, farmer.

Witnesses – Henry Lennox & Fanny McKnight

Lecumper Presbyterian Church records [MIC1P/449]

Marriages 1825-1845

Nov 22 1825 Henry Johnstone & Jane Hartly

Aug 26 1830 Robert Johnston & Jane Taylor

July 1833 John Johnston & Margaret Davidson

June 7 1836 Andrew Johnston & Jane Orr

[No Johnston baptisms in early register]

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS: QUAKER RECORDS

T1062/41/12; 28; 65; 70; 89; 95; 96; 106; 108 Ulster Province Men's Meeting

T1062/36/4 Index to T1062/1-35

T1062/40/1-10 (births Lurgan, Moyallan, Ballyhagan etc). Book of old family records 1709-1816

T1062/44 Portions of birth registers & burials 1753-1809

T1062/48 Book of sufferings Co LD 1706-1711 pages 10, 11a, 11b, 22a, 22b, 23a, 32b, 33a, 42b, 43a, 54a, 65b

D2224/1 Details of losses suffered various Quakers Grange & LD (Toberhead, Dunglady & Coleraine) c. 1686-90

D2224/2 Accounts of losses Quakers Co Antrim & Down at hands of the Irish army 1689 and in county Down at the hands of the English army.

D2224/3 Short account of sufferings Ballyhagan by Irish soldiers 1691

D2224/4 Quaker sufferings at hands of ye Irish (1689) including Maghera and Magherafelt parishes.

D2224/5 Account of losses suffered by Quaker families in co LD, Tyrone, Antrim, Armagh & Carrickfergus at hands of English & Irish soldiers (only about a dozen names)

D1044/38 Catherine Payton of Dudley to Thos Greer of Dungannon re death of William Backhouse c1761

D1044/603 Thos Greer reference to Jas Backhouse, Darlington

D1044/937 1807 Hugh McMaster of Grange

MIC16/1A Quarterly meeting 1674-1693 (T1062/47)

MIC16/1B Quarterly meeting 1694-1823 (T1062/41 1694-1717 & T1062/39 1731-1786 & T1062/46 1717-1750)

MIC16/4 Quarterly meeting contains minister & elder meetings 1758-1764

MIC16/6 Marriages Ulster Province Quarterly meetings: Marriage certificates 1731-1786 (reference Q/5/1) searched 267 pages & Book of Sufferings 1748-1809 (few for LD) ref Q/5/3

MIC16/19 Lisburn Quaker records Index (partial)

Marriages 1766-1808; Births 1781-1814; Burials 1747-1811

MIC16/29B Lurgan meeting Index

Book 1: 1632-1753 BMD's with index

Book 2: 1735-1806 (incomplete)

MIC16/38 Grange near Charlemont 1725-1805 Family record BMD arranged by family (near end of reel)

MIC16/39 Ballyhagan meeting: Family Lists 1680-1814 & Marriage certs 1692-1789

MIC16/43 (1740-1800) Antrim (Toberhead etc) Monthly meeting: Papers relating to births, burials, marriages & disownments 1758-1798 (AM/5/1) Minutes 1740-1800.

Moorhouse Quaker records Cumbria RG16/1243 (1666-1819)

TRANSCRIPTIONS MIC 16/43

REMOVALS/DISCIPLINE CASES:

*Pages 3 & 4: Whereas **Elizabeth Backhouse** was born of parents professing Truth and herself frequented our religious meetings for worship & was reputed one of Our Society's but for want of taking heed to the dictates of that Devine principle which rightly minded would preserve in a becoming conduct in all respects she let out her affections to one of another society & was married by a Priest contrary to the known rules of our Society and wholesome established amongst us by which said misconduct she said Elizabeth Backhouse hath Disunited herself from religious Unity with us until she come to a sence of Sorrow and unfeigned repentance for her said transgression --- which that she may be favoured with is our earnest Desire for her Given forth by Our Men's meeting held at Antrim ye 2 day of ye 7 month 1758.*

I acknowledge the above & I am sorry for it & hope that God will forgive me & that you will receive me again into Unity.

Elizabeth Backhouse

Page 9: Whereas **Edward Backhouse** was educated in the profession of of the People called Quakers & did some time frequent our Meetings for worship but forwant of a faithful adherence to the dictates of that devine principle which was sufficient to have preserved him hath been prevailed to suffer himself to be called in a Presbyterian meeting house & married by a Presbyterian preacher to a woman of a different profession we do hereby disown the said Edward Backhouse to be of our society untill he come to witness that Godly sorrow which worketh true repentance which that the Lord may mercifully grant him is our sincere desire. Given at a men's meeting held at Antrim the 27th of the seventh month 1760.

Page 10: Whereas **Archibald McCool** was educated in the profession of People of us the people called Quakers & did sometimes frequent our religious meetings but for want of faithful adherence to the dictates of that Divine Principle which was sufficient have preserved hath been prevailed on to suffer himself to be joined in Marriage by a priest to a woman of a different persuasion we do thereby Disown said Archibald McCool to be of our Society until he come to witness that Godly sorrow which worketh true repentance which that the Lord may mercifully Grant Him is our sincere desire. Given forth at a Men's Meeting held in Antrim ye 27 of ye 7 month 1760.

Page 10: Whereas **Jennit McCool** was educated in the profession of People of us the people called Quakers & did sometimes frequent our religious meetings but for want of minding that Divine Principle which was sufficient have preserved her hath been prevailed on to suffer himself to commit the uncleanness of Fornication & hath born a Bastard we do therefore hereby Disown the said Jennet McCool to be of our Society until she come to witness that Godly sorrow which worketh true repentance which that the Lord may mercifully Grant her is our sincere desire. Given forth at a Men's Meeting held in Antrim ye 15 of 10th month 1760.

Page 12 Whereas **Daniel Backhouse** was educated in the profession of People of us the people called Quakers & did sometimes frequent our religious meetings but for want of faithful adherence to the dictates of that Divine Principle which was sufficient have preserved him in a due odedience of the divin commandment Honour thy Father & Mother as well as the known rules of our Society hath been joyned in Marriage by a priest to a woman of a different persuasion without his father's consent by which he hath disunited himself from Us the said people until he come to witness that Godly sorrow which worketh true repentance which that the Lord may mercifully Grant Him is our sincere desire, read and approved at the Men's Meeting held in Antrim the 11 of the 3 month 1759:

I acknowledge the Above & am heartily sorry for the same & hope that God will forgive me & that you will receive me into Unity with you again

Daniel Backhouse

Page 13: To friends of Newcastle County Pennsylvania or Elsewhere in America

Dear Friends,

Jane Wilson, widow of Arthur Wilson Deceased having acquainted us that she purposes going to your land & To take her daughter Jane Wilson with her and desiring a certificate. We therefore hereby Certify that the said Jane Wilson the Elder both during her Husband's life & since his decease has been of a sober, orderly conversation & that her daughter Jane Wilson the younger so far as we know hath been of sober conversation & Leaves free from Marriage, Ingagement, & as they both these parts in unity with we recommend them to your brotherly care & Advices & as we are informed **said Jane Wilson the elder is going over on account of a Legacy left her by her Half Brother Jno McCool**, late of your

county, not doubting your friendly Assistance in that or other respects we conclude & remain your loveing friends:

Signed on behalf of our six weeks men & women's meeting held at Grange for Antrim Quarter in the Province of Ulster the 26 of the 3rd month 1763 --

Hanna Bready, Sarah Bready, Mary Wilson, Jane Clark, Ann Clark:

Morgan Wilson, Richard Steer, Samson Bready, Samuel Clark, John Dean, William English, William Gregg, David Hunter, James Robson, William McMullan, John Clark, Thomas Greer.

*Page 33: Whereas **Mary Backhouse** of Toberhead meeting was educated among us people called Quakers but by not regarding enough the dictates of grace in her own heart she let out her affections to a man of another persuasion & was married to him by a Priest or one that goes under that name & by this has disunited herself from us a society we therefore testify against her said proceedings and we cannot have unity with her until she come to a sight of her said transgressions by sincere repentance which is our desire for her –*

Read & approved at a Men's Meeting held in Grange 6 of the 5 month 1770

*Page 33 & 34: Whereas **Sarah Backhouse the younger** of Toberhead meeting was educated by her parents in the profession of us People called Quakers and frequented our religious meetings for worship but by not minding the dictates of grace in her own heart (which would have preserved her) let out her affections to a man of another persuasion & was married by a Priest or one that goes under that name which proceeding being contrary to the good order established among us we therefore think it our duty to testify that she the said Sarah Backhouse hath thereby disunited herself from us as a Society and cannot have unity with her until - don't have page 34!*

(she come to a sight of her said transgressions by sincere repentance which is our desire for her –

Read & approved at a Men's Meeting held in Grange 6 of the 5 month 1770)

MIC 16/43

Minutes of Grange men's meeting 15 of the 3 month 1742

Toberhead meeting is mutch lessened of leate by the deaths of sutch friends as bore a considerable share in the publick charges

At a men's meeting held at Morgan Willson's near Toberhead 21 of 5 month 1758

--- John McMunn jun'r, Archibald McCool, Edw'd Backhouse, John Crawford for Toberhead meeting – ordered to be added to the list of members for attending men's meetings of this quarter.

Note regarding Backhouse family

Daniel Backhouse junior married circa 1759 and was disowned by the Quakers but admitted to Godly sorrow:

I think it is his son Daniel Baccus of Toberhead having a child Sarah bapstised 22 July 1807 in Castledawson Presbyterian Church (MIC 1P/90)

She (Sarah Backhouse) appears to have married Andrew Spear in Castledawson Presbyterian 17 May 1839.

Joseph Backhouse married Esther Pickering 28 April 1821 in Castledawson Presbyterian Church:

Issue – (address Castledawson)

Nancy (3 March 1822)

Archibald (12 May 1824)

Daniel (1 April 1828)

Betty (30 July 1830)

Sarah Jane (born Oct 3rd bapt 22 Nov 1835)

Mary (born Aug 27 bapt 10 Sept 1837)

APPENDIX SEVEN: LAND RECORDS

ESTATE RECORDS

SALTERS' ESTATE RECORDS

D4108/1/15G/1	Rental Salters' portion 1 Nov 1752
D4108/1/15F	List of inhabitants on Salters' estate 1752
D4108/1/16R	A rent roll of estates in Co Derry held by Thos Bateson lease held under the Salters January 1772
D4018/1/16Y	Rental May 1774
D4108/1/	Rent roll Salters 1775
D4108/1/16O	Rental Salters portion 17 Nov 1766
D4108/1/17B	Rental of 1790 (poor condition)
D4108/4/3/1	Rental 1814 (small notebook)
D4108/4/3/2	Rental of 1818
D4108/4/3/3	Rental 1825

D4108/4/3/4	Rental 1828
D4108/1/20N/2	Rental 1827
D4108/1/20N/3	Agents accounts 1827-1837 (rentals also)
D4108/4/3/5	Rental 1830
D4108/1/23A	Manor Court Book 1837
D4108/6/5/1	Agents accounts of rents received 1853-1857
D4108/4/3/6	Rental Manor of Sal 1854 (not a rental/falling apart)
D4108/6/2/a	Report & valuation town of Magherafelt c 1850 (46 pages)
D4108/4/4/1	Manor of Sal rental 1869-1870 (substantial
D654/R/4/2A	Survey of manor of Salters & town of Magherafelt 1778
D654/R/4/2B	Rental Salters' estate 1779-1783
D654/R/4/3A	Rental Salters' estate 1795
D654/R/4/3B	Rental Salters' estate 1796
D654/R/4/4	Magherafelt rental 1797
D654/R/4/5	Magherafelt rental 1800
D654/R/4/8	Magherafelt rental 1812
FIN/10/1/3/193	Salters' estate Andrew Johnston Aghagaskin (1886)
FIN/10/1/3/194	Salters' estate John Johnston Aghagaskin
FIN/10/1/3/195	Salters' estate William Johnston Aghagaskin
FIN/10/1/3/196	Salters' estate William Johnston Killyneese

VINTNERS' ESTATE RECORDS

D1062/1/2	Rent Book Vintners' estate 1838-1882 with details of lease renewals
D1062/1/13	Bellaghy estate renewal of leases commencing 1839
D2094/21	Rent roll Vintners' estate 1718
D2094/29	Rent roll Vintners' estate 1729
D2094/50	Rental Bellaghy estate May 1775 (bad condition)
D2094/51	Rental manor of Vintners May 1776
D2094/75	Rental Vintners' estate 1788, 1789, 1790
D2094/68	Rental Vintners' estate 1781/1782

D2094/78

A rent roll of the manor of Vintners Co Londonderry 1791-93

THE REGISTRY OF DEEDS

COUNTY DERRY SEARCH REGISTRY OF DEEDS²¹⁹

REGISTRY OF DEEDS: Land Index (PRONI reference MIC/7)

Microfilm ref	Volume number	Area covered	Years covered
MIC/7/45	Volume 43	Derry Co.	1708-1738
	Volume 44	Derry Co & City	1739-1810 (part)
MIC/7/46	Volume 44	Derry Co & City	1739-1810
MIC/7/47	Volume 47	Derry Co.	1811-1820
	Volume 48	Derry Co.	1821-1825
	Volume 49	Derry Co.	1826-1828
MIC/7/58	Volume 113	Derry Co.	1828-1832
MIC/7/66	Volume 150	Derry Co.	1833-1835
MIC/7/70	Volume 173	Derry City	1833-1835
MIC/7/71	Volume 173	Derry City cont	1833-1835
MIC/7/76	Volume 197	Derry Co.	1836-1839
MIC/7/87	Volume 245	Derry Co.	1840-1844
MIC/7/374	Volume 293	Derry Co.	1845-1849
MIC/7/390	Volume 345	Derry Co.	1850-1854
MIC/7/396	Volume 369	Derry Co.	1850-1854
MIC/7/406	Volume 395	Derry Co.	1855-1859
MIC/7/422	Volume 441	Derry Co.	1860-1861
MIC/7/436	Volume 482	Derry Co.	1862-1864
MIC/7/456	Volume 531	Derry Co.	1865-1869

²¹⁹ Carried out in the Registry of Deeds, Henrietta Street, Dublin October 2013.

MIC/7/461	Volume 556	Derry Co.	1865-1869
MIC/7/472	Volume 584	Derry Co.	1870-1874
MIC/7/499	Volume 654	Derry Co.	1875-1879
MIC/7/524	Volume 727	Derry Co.	1880-1884
MIC/7/546	Volume 800	Derry Co.	1885-1889
MIC/7/568	Volume 876 & 877	Derry Co.	1890-1894
MIC/7/587	Volume 943	Derry Co.	1895-1899
MIC/7/598	Volume 975	Derry Co (no baronies).	1895-1899
MIC/7/100	Volume 1005	Derry Co	1900-1904
MIC/7/106	Volume 1026	Derry	1900-1904 cont
MIC/7/120	Volume 1077	Derry	1905-1909
MIC/7/145	Volume 1146	Derry	1910-1914
MIC/7/153	Volume 1167	Derry	1910-1914 cont
MIC/7/165	Volume 1212	Derry	1915-1919
MIC/7/170	Volume 1232	Derry	1915-1919

The following registered deeds were searched 2013-2014.

AGHAGASKIN 1708-1899 (Johnston search)

Palmer to Warburton	59: 328: 40740 (1728-29)
Palmer to Palmer	76: 162: 53395 (1733-35)
Johnston to Stewart	247: 419: 162706 (1766)
Johnston to Johnston	673: 346: 4644205 (1813-14)
Fearson to Stewart	684: 495: 470855 (1815)
Wm Keatly to Jn Lennox	59: 157: 1609 (1879)
Wm Knightly to Hugh Stewart	32: 28: 823 (1880)
Jas McClelland to Andw Allen	18: 241: 498 (1881)
Jn Stewart to Saml Stewart	19: 35: 506 (1881)
Jn Stewart to Geo Tipping	17: 65: 445 (1882)
Jas Lennox to And Johnston	2: 13: 31 (1883)
Jn Stewart to Geo Hammond	2: 14: 31 (1883)
Benjamin Boon to Land Comm	9: 24: 25 (1883)
Wm Galway to John Lennox	47: 249: 1303 (1883)
Jas Lennox to Mathew McLernon	44: 21: 1176 (1884)
Maria Cassidy to S Cassidy	54: 270: 1476 (1884)
Andw Johnston to Andw Lennox	34: 198: 1496 (1891)
Jn Sturgeon	46: 196: 1496 (1896)
Jas Johnston	7: 109: 213 (1897)

BALLYNOGHER (BALLYKNOCKER)

Jane Weir	9: 109: 340 (1886)
Jane Weir	17: 90: 595 (1895)

TOBERHEAD (TUBBERHEAD)

Conolly to Marlin	159: 335: 107187 (1752-53)
McCalla to Beaton	203: 29: 133689 (1759)
Backhouse to Backhouse	245: 396: 162365 (1766)
Backhouse to Courtney	298: 29: 196332 (1773)
Wright to Stones	176: 16: 116465 (1775)
Thompson to Henderson	197: 565: 13217 (1758-60)
McCalla to Beaton	203: 29: 133689 (1759)
Wilson to Beaton	203: 31: 133690 (1759-62)
Backhouse to Backhouse	245: 396: 162365 (1766)
Mays to Mays	258: 187: 162701 (1764-68)
Leese to Mase	239: 535: 163006 (1770-73)
Lease to Farrier	285: 382: 188647 (1770-73)
Beaton to Gilmore	503: 414: 324609 (1796)
And'w Ferrier to Ferrier	510: 292: 330906 (1796-98)
Wm Dobbin to Ben Redfern	540: 18: 353963 (1801)
Backhouse & anr to Courtney	298: 29: 196332 (1773)
Strean to Given	330: 629: 225671 (1779-81)
Dobbin to Dobbin	489: 83: 306205 (1793)
Conolly to Beaton & anr	176: 49: 116751 (1755)
Conolly to Johnston & anr	179: 407: 121534 (1755-57)
O'Herson to Reilly	625: 304: 438249 (1810)
Rev Jn Averall to Prendergast	655: 198: 457072 (1812-13)
Otterson to Patterson	692: 358: 475496 (1815)
Spear & anr to Patterson	702: 136: 481247 (1816)
Crocket & anr to Patterson	742: 335: 505470 (1819)
Patterson to Patterson	768: 506: 521241 (1821-22)
Caldwell to Caldwell	877: 319: 582319 (1832-1834)
Stone & ors to Graham	851: 33: 569033 (1832-1834)
Cath Averell to Wm Nelligan	5: 132: 118 (1837)
Jn Henderson to Jas Waddle	13: 275: 348 (1837)
Benj Boon & anr Deed	20: 134: 571 (1840)
Isaac Fleming to John Duncan	20: 246: 584 (1840)
Jas Waddell to Jn Henderson	14: 78: 396 (1841)
Jas Chambers to Edward Stone	6: 280: 178 (1843)
Benjamin Boon to Jn Bates	19: 279: 598 (1846)
Benj Clarke to Jn Bates	3: 219: 86 (1847)
Benjamin Johnston to Jn Bates	5: 205: 147 (1847)
Chas Boon & ors to Jn Bates	7: 61: 19 (1847)
Robt Lee to Jn Bates	9: 62: 252 (1847)
Saml Lawler to Jn Bates	12: 10: 345 (1847)
Eliza Ferryer to Jn Bates	21: 181: 615 (1841-42)
Andw Lee & ors to Thos Lee	22: 226: 596 (1854)
Thos Lee to Wm Brown	23: 204: 619 (1854)
Jn Bates to Jas Morton	28: 108: 749 (1854)
Bates to Belfast Bank	22: 465: 552 (1855)
Jane Bates to Jn Anderson	31: 220: 817 (1856)
Belfast Bank to Wm Simms	16: 85: 402 (1858)
Saml Watson to Jonas Blackhall	7: 33: 160 (1859)
Jane Bates to Andw Allen	6: 151: 145 (1860)
James Courtney to Thos Hunter	20: 130: 504 (1862)
Robt Fleming & ors to Hy Norwich	28: 21: 732 (1864)

Robt Duncan to Isabel Fleming	28: 22: 732 (1864)
Thos Lee to Wm Browne	27: 93: 760 (1870)
Henry Stone to Alex Johnston	1: 263: 26 (1874)
Wm Lee to Rev Robt Brown	12: 170: 342 (1874)
Jn Anderson to Wm Anderson	40: 16: 1130 (1875)
Andw Allen sen to Jn Glover	28: 112: 782 (1876)
Earl Stafford to Cath Fleming	2: 160: 45 (1877)
Earl Stafford to Arthur Fleming	15: 192: 414 (1877)
Thos Lee to Robt Davison	16: 82: 427 (1880)
William McCool to Alex'r Johnston	50: 5: 1313 (1880)
Hy Stone & anr to David Stewart	6: 50: 142 (1882)
Earl Stafford to Averell Watson	21: 246: 578 (1882)
Averal Watson to Thos Ash	21: 248: 578 (1882)
John Campbell to Jas Hutchinson	9: 217: 250 (1883)
Wm McFarland to Andw Allen	17: 137: 476 (1883)
Wm Johnston to Jas Sturgeon	16: 19: 411 (1884)
Jas Sturgeon to Wm Brown	16: 180: 427 (1884)
Arch'd Morrow to Andw Allen	55: 224: 1498 (1884)
Mary McCool to Mat M'Lernon	13: 290: 383 (1886)
Salters' Co to Wm Johnston	9: 128: 243 (1886)
Salters' Co to Wm Johnston	9: 132: 244 (1886)
Salters' Co to Andw Johnston	9: 133: 244 (1886)
Salters' Co to Andw Johnston	9: 134: 244 (1886)
Salters' Co to Jn Sturgeon	17: 92: 482 (1886)
Salters' Co to Jn Johnston	39: 65: 1178 (1886)
Salter's Co to Jn Sturgeon	46: 275: 1437 (1886)
Salters' Co to Wm Johnston	5: 104: 151 (1887)
Geo Tipping to Francis Morton	5: 154: 149 (1898)
Geo Tipping to Francis Morton	6: 265: 200 (1898)
John McCool to Robt McMaster	57: 186: 1833 (1898) could be 54 check

REGISTRY OF DEEDS TRANSCRIPTS FROM PRONI AND REGISTRY OF DEEDS, DUBLIN

AGHAGASKIN DEEDS

JOHNSTON

Volume 44 (1739-1810) Aghagaskin, Salters' portion: Johnston & another to Stewart & another: Book 247; page 419; memorial number 162706

Johnston to Stewart & an'r registered 13 Novr 1766 at 12 at noon:

A memorial of a deed poll or instrument in writing bearing date the eleventh day of March 1765 and made between Mathew Johnston of Aghagaskin in the county of LD, mason on the one part and George Stewart and Johns Stewart his son both of Aghagaskin aforesaid, farmer on the other part whereby after reciting that a marriage was intended to be had between Thomas Johnston son of the said Mathew Johnston and Mary Stewart daughter of the said George Stewart; they the said George Stewart and John Stewart agree to give as and for a marriage portion to the said Mary Stewart that part or parcel of land in the town land of Aghagaskin, then in occupation of John Dobbin containing by estimation eight or nine acres be the same more or less to have and to hold to the said Thomas Johnston, his exors, admons & assigns from the end and determ't (?) of said John Dobbin's lease, which is held and enjoyed under the said George Stewart or John Stewart, he the said Thomas Johnston from thenceforth yielding and paying to the said George Stewart or John Stewart etc yearly rent of five shillings and six pence sterling an acre – and at the expiration of the said George Stewart's lease of the

premises the said Thomas Johnston to have the full tenant right and benefit of renewal and the said writing is executed by the said George Stewart, John Stewart and Mathew Johnston and witnesses by Ezekiel Richardson, scrivener, William Berfoot, Innkeeper and James Redfern, saddler, all of Magherafelt:

Mem witnesses by said James Redfern & Richardson Williams of the City of Dublin, Gent. Mathew Johnston seal; signed, seales and executed in the presence of James Redfern & Rich Williamson

James Redfern sworn before me at Castledawson 24 July 1766, Thomas Graves – and I know the deponent – present Sam Richardson JP & John Downing JP.

JOHNSTON

Volume 47 (1811-1820?) Aghagaskin: Johnston to Johnston: Book 673; page 346; memorial number 464205 (note – very poor quality script and excdeptionally difficult to read).

Deed dated 6 day September 1807 made between Thomas Johnston, Aghagaskin and James Johnston the son of the said Thomas ---

Unto said John Johnston field(?) in the townland of Fallygloon etc

JOHNSTON

ROD Volume 5 memorial number 205

Johnston to Bates registered 27 day March 1847

Memorial of an Indented Deed of Conveyance 5 March 1847

Benjamin Johnston of Glenmaquil, LD, farmer & John Bates of Belfast, Antrim – confirm unto said John Bates said deed, the house formerly occupied by William Lawson together southern portion of the lands situate in Glenmacquill nearly 3 acres plantation Irish as lately occupied by John Johnston & William Lawson together with two fields of land in Toberhead aforesaid of the premises then or lately held by Benj Boon & then in occupation of Edward Marlin & Michael Wallace containing 2 acres of late Irish acres & also two other parcels of Bog in Toberhead aforesaid and also two parcels of bog in Curran in the barony of Loughinsholin, from the first day November then last:

Memorial witnessed by William Henderson, Drumlamph, Land Surveyor & George Young of Cabragh, Termoneeny, farmer both in said county Londonderry:

Ben Johnson <seal>

TOBERHEAD DEEDS

ROD Volume 203 page 29 memorial number 133689

Deed poll of assignment dated 20 Dec 1734 from Thomas McCalla of Toberhead, Vintners' proportion, farmer unto Samuel Beaton of Toberhead aforesaid farmer & wherein it is recited that the said Thomas McCalla, Alex'r Willson, George Stones & George Wright did obtain a deed of a lease for 3 lives renewable forever from Rt Hon Wm Conolly Esq of all that North Division of Toberhead aforesaid – said Thos McCalla was entitled to the one eighth part of the said Northern division & also that said Thomas McCalla did hold another eighth part of North division from Alex Willson one of the said lessees by virtue of a lease from said Alexr Wilson for a term of years of which there then 11 years unexpired from 1st day Nov precedent the date of said deed which made a fourth part of said division & by said deed Thos McCalla for and in consideration therein mentioned – bargain, sell etc unto said Samuel Beaton sole right and title of said eighth part & for and during the full term of 150 years & of the other eighth part held from Alexr Wilson for & during said eleven years.

Said deed of assignment by said Thos McCalla is witnessed by John Allison, farmer of Dunarnon on the Salters' portion and Wm Dickson of Ballymacombsbeg & Jas Higin of Rocktown both on the Vintners' portion, farmers.

Signing & sealing of memorial by Hugh Beaton eldest son and heir at law & executor of the said Samuel Beaton is witnessed by John Allison aforesaid & by Jas York of Dawson's Bridge, Innkeeper:
Hugh Beaton <seal>
Registered 24 Sept 1759

ROD Volume 176 page 16 Memorial number 116465

Wright to Stones

Memorial of a deed poll dated 1 Jan 1736 & enclosed on back of indented deed. Recites lives in lease namely Robert Stones 7th son of George Stones of Currin aged about 14 years; Robert Lees eldest son of John Lees of Toberhead aged 5 years & George McWhirter eldest son of Moses McWhirter of Curran: George Wright half of the 3 parts of the said Northern division to said George Stones.

(1755)

ROD Volume 176 page 49 memorial number 116751 Conolly to Beaton & ors Registered 17 day April 1755

Of a Lease dated 28 March 1734: Rt Hon Wm Conolly, Dublin of the one part & Samuel Beaton, Hugh Beaton, Archibald McCowl & Daniel Backhouse in the proportion of Vintners - East Quarter Division 103 acres; 1r 20p arable & pasture and 51 acres, 2r, 16p bogg - natural lives and lives of Archibald McCowl eldest son of John McCowl of Toberhead; John Backhouse, son of said Daniel Backhouse & John McCracken son of Robert McCracken of Grange in said proportion: £14 annual rent; renewal of life £7. Witnesses - Marcus McCausland, Deasey [Daisy] Hill, L'Derry & Geo Tiney, Dublin, Gent Signed in presence of and sealed - Marcus McCausland & James Marley 7 Sept 1754

ROD Volume 203 p31 memorial number 133690

Deed poll dated 8 Nov 1742 from James Willson grandson and heir of Alex'r Wilson late of Toberhead deceased unto Samuel Beaton of Toberhead farmer - recital of former lease - Alexander Willson entitled to 1/8th North Division of Toberhead. Jas Wilson to sell to said Samuel Beaton. Hugh Beaton eldest son and heir at law and executor of said Samuel Beaton. Registered 24 September 1759.

ROD Volume 245 page 396 memorial number 162365

Backhouse to Backhouse

Memorial of a deed poll bearing date of 1 July 1757 & made between Daniel Backhouse of Toberhead in county of Londonderry of the one part & Edward Backhouse son of the said Daniel Backhouse of the other part - unto the said Edward Backhouse one half of farm in Toberhead:

Said deed is executed by said Daniel Backhouse & witnessed by Morgan Willson of Lemnaroy in county Londonderry, farmer & John McNeesh of Toberhead aforesaid weaver:

Memorial witnessed by said Francis Morton, Theadeus Williams of Bellagherty in said county Gent.

Edward Backhouse <seal>

Reg 29 Oct 1766

ROD Volume 298 page 29 Memorial number 196332

Backhouse & an' r to Courtney

Deed of lease bearing date 19 & 20 day of April 1773 made between Thomas Backhouse & Daniel Backhouse of Toberhead, county Londonderry, farmers of the one part &

Joseph Courtney of New Ferry, County Londonderry --- sum of £140 stg did grant, bargain, convey unto said Courtney said proportion lands in Toberhead aforesaid then in possession of the said Thomas Backhouse & Daniel Backhouse containing by estimation 12a, 2r, 36 p arable/pasture & 8 acres tubury in Manor of Vintners during natural lives of Archibald McCool, Jno Backhouse & Thos McCracken & survivor or survivors of them.

Memorial witnessed by William McNeil Bay of Coolbane, county Londonderry, Gent; John Henderson of Bellaghy, Co Londonderry, Innkeeper & Bernard McGuckin city of Dublin writing Clerk:

Registered 4 June 1773

ROD Volume 503 p414 memorial number 324609

Beaton to Gilmore

12 July 1796 Hugh Beaton Toberhead & John Gilmore Aghaduey Co Tyrone farmer concerning lands in Broagh and that part of Toberhead East Quarter & North division of Toberhead: Witnesses – Robert Holmes, Esq Co Tyrone and Daniel McNees of Co Londonderry. 1796

Volume 692 p358 memorial number 475496

1815: William Beaton Otterson of Maghera Gent & Robert Patterson of Gracefield Esquire sum of £3700 for North Quarter & Lower Quarter or division Tuberhead. Hugh Beaton granduncle of said William Beaton Otterson, lands also Derganagh & Curragh.

Volume 702 p136 memorial number 481247

1816: between Solomon Speer, Dublin, Barrister & Wm Beaton Otterson, Maghera

1880: Volume 50 memorial number 5

McCool to Johnston 1 Oct 1880

Indenture of mortgage dated 25 Sept 1880 made between William McCool of Toberhead, farmer and Alexander Johnston of Magherafelt, merchant concerning farm 8a, 2r arable and 3r bog.

1884: Volume 16 memorial number 19

Johnston to Sturgeon

7 March 1884 William Johnston formerly of Magherafelt Grocer but now of Belfast & William Morwood, Ballynougher farmer trustee of will of Eliza Ferryer deceased of the one part and James Sturgeon of Toberhead farmer. Wm Johnston & Wm Morwood trustees conveyed to said Jas Sturgeon 5a, 1r, 30p Toberhead.