

Our Bell Ancestors

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<https://www.retson.ca/bell.pdf>
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Bell Context

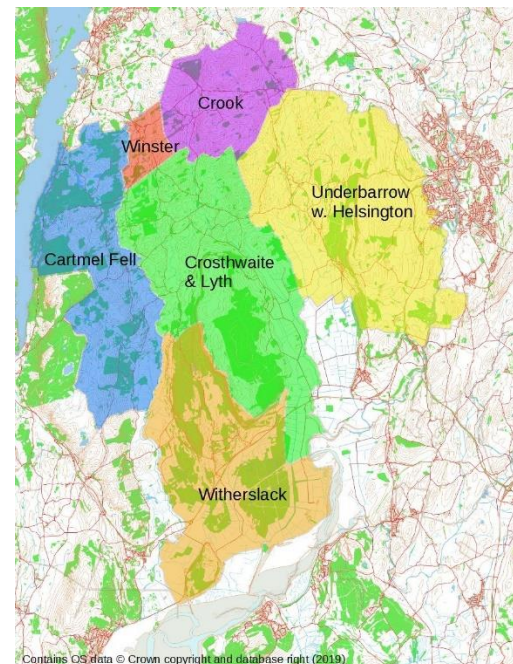
The earliest Bell found to date is Richard Bell born in Westmorland England in 1650. The end of the Bell name in our line came with Margaret Bell (1748- 1818) who married William Tarn prior to marrying Richard Ratson Retson.

1. Richard Bell bp 1650 Crosby Garrett, Westmorland, England, m. Isabel Granger¹ . She was born at Borough under Stainmore, Westmorland in 1652. They had at least on child,
2. James Bell b. 1670, m. Maryann Garnett 12 May 1690 Parish of Crosthwaite & Lyth, Westmorland, England, d. Sep 1766 Parish of Crosthwaite & Lyth, Westmorland, England

2. James Bell 1670 – 1766 Maryanne Garnett 1690 -

James Bell was born about 1670. He was baptized in the Priory Church, Cartmel, Lancashire, England on 27 Feb 1670. The maps below show both Cartmel where he was baptised as well as well as Pardshaw where his son Stephen was buried as well as the Parish of Crosthwait and Lyth.

He married Maryanne Garnett May 12, 1690, in the Parish of Crosthwaite & Lyth², Westmorland, England.



¹ Unsourced family tree, Ancestry

² <https://www.crosthwaiteandlyth.co.uk/>

They had the following children,

- i. James Bell bp 14 Jun 1691 Parish of Crosthwaite & Lyth, Westmorland, England
- ii. Robert Bell bp 26 Dec 1694 Parish of Crosthwaite & Lyth, Westmorland, England
- iii. Jennet Bell bp Parish of Crosthwaite & Lyth, Westmorland, England
3. iv. Stephen Bell bp 15 Sep 1704 Parish of Crosthwaite & Lyth, Westmorland, England, m. Mary Turner
29 Apr 1739 Kendall, Westmorland, England,

James died about 1766 in the Parish of Crosthwaite & Lyth, Westmorland, England

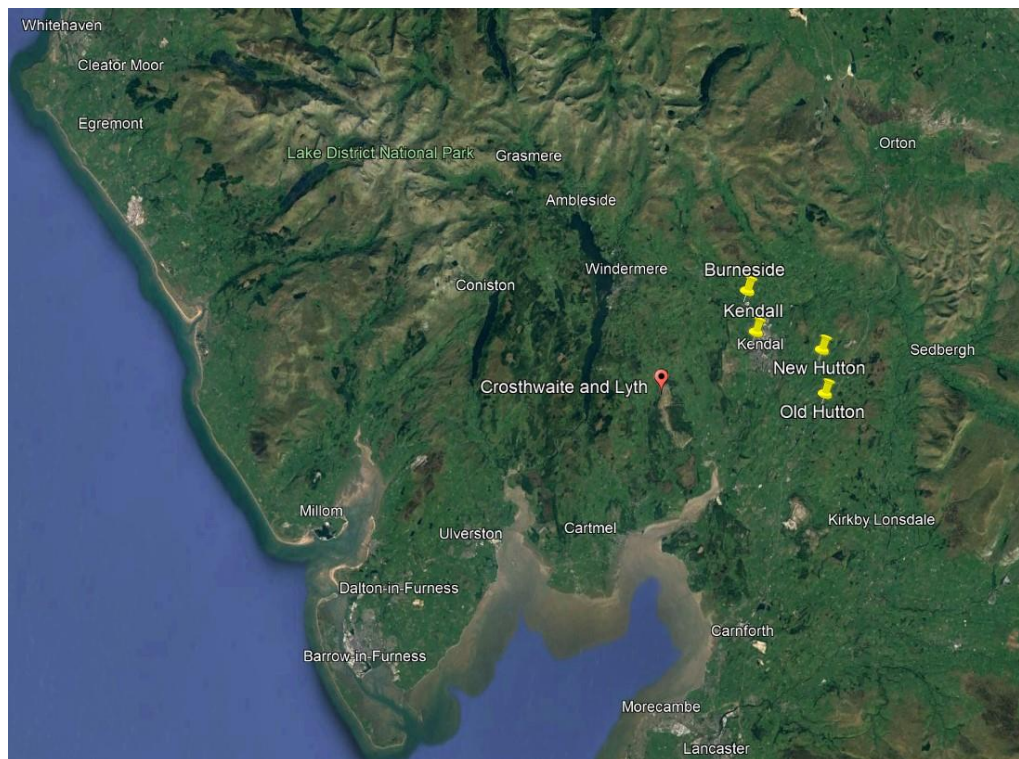
3. Stephen Bell 1704-1779 Mary Turner 1714 - 1802

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Bell-37262>

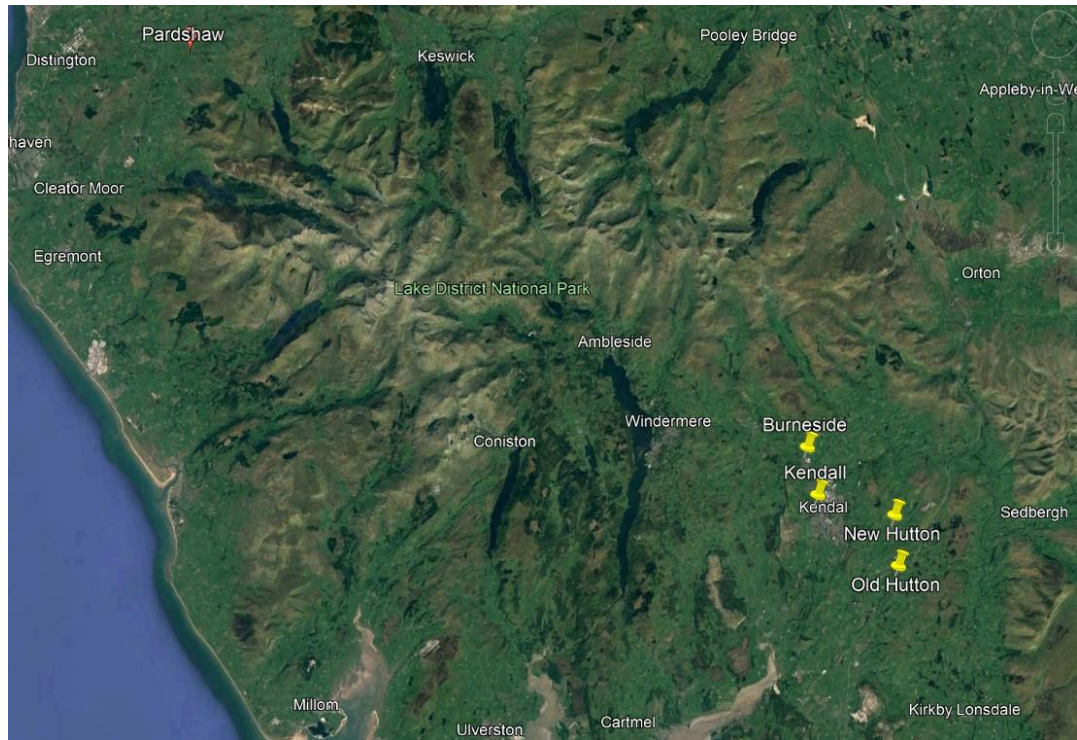
<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Turner-41340>

Stephen Bell was baptised 15 Sep 1704 in the Parish of Crosthwaite & Lyth, Westmorland, England. He married Mary Turner April 29, 1739, in Kendall, Westmorland, England. He was buried in Pardshaw, Cumberland, England on February 02 Feb 1779.

The Parish of Crosthwaite and Lyth border lies 5 miles west of Kendal, 5 miles north of Grange-over-Sands and 3 miles south of Bowness-on-Windermere. The equivalent distances from Crosthwaite village are 5½ miles to Kendal, 11 miles to Grange, 6 miles to Bowness and 11 miles to the M6. The Westmorland damson is a lovely local food, grown in the picturesque orchards of the Lyth Valley. It is used to make a wide range of items such as jam, chutney, puddings and gin. It is a member of the plum family and is thought to be a type of Shropshire prune (possibly the Blue Violet) but improved by the unique conditions in Westmorland and pollination by the wild Bullace and Sloe. There are damsons in other parts of the British Isles, but the flavour of the smaller Westmorland damson is said to be second to none.



The Priory Church of Cartmel, dedicated to St. Mary the Virgin and St. Michael, has a rich history dating back to its founding in 1190 by William Marshal, the 1st Earl of Pembroke. By 1670, the church had already experienced significant events, including the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1536, which led to the surrender of the priory by its community of ten canons. After the dissolution, the priory church continued to serve as the parish church of Cartmel. In 1640, George Preston of Holker substantially repaired the church after it had been neglected for nearly a century following the dissolution of the priory. This suggests that by 1670, the church would have been in a restored state, continuing to serve the community of Cartmel.



<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Bell-37262>

Stephen Bell was baptised September 15, 1704, in the Parish of Crosthwait & Lyth, Westmorland England He married Mary Turner about Aril 29 1739 in Kendall, Westmorland. (Archdeaconry of Richmond, England, Church of England Marriage Bonds, 1611-1861: Mary Turner Marriage Bond Age: 21, Birth Date: abt 1717 Marriage Bond Date: 29 Apr 1738 Marriage Bond Place: Westmorland, England, Spouse: Stephen Bell. She died about 1802

They had 8 children,

- i. Susan Bell Bef. 08 Jul 1739 Crosthwaite and Lyth, Westmorland, England
- ii. Marian Bell Bef. 03 Nov 1740 Crosthwaite and Lyth, Westmorland, England
- iii. Elizabeth Bell bef. Crosthwaite and Lyth, Westmorland, England
- iv. James Bell Bef. 25 Jun 1744 Crosthwaite and Lyth, Westmorland, England
- v. Stephen Bell Jun 1746 Crosthwaite and Lyth, Westmorland, England
4. vi. Margaret Bell b. 1748 Crosthwaite and Lyth, Westmorland, England m. William Tarn, m. Richard Ratson d. 14 Sep 1818 Kendall Westmorland, England
- vii. Robert Bell Bef. 25 Nov 1749 Crosthwaite and Lyth, Westmorland, England
- viii. Jennet Bell Bef. 22 Mar 1751 Crosthwaite and Lyth, Westmorland, England

Stephen Bell was buried in Pardshaw, Cumberland, England On February 2, 1779. The record of his death was recorded in a Quaker meeting minutes as being of Egremont. It appears that Stephen was a Quaker. The Quakers, also known as the Religious Society of Friends, were founded in the mid-17th century in Ulverston, England. They found fertile ground in Northern England in 1651 and 1652, building a base there from which they moved south, first to London and then beyond. Around 1779, the Quakers in Northern England were a small but influential group. They were known for their pacifism, egalitarianism, and opposition to slavery. They were also involved in various social and political reforms, including prison reform, education, and the abolition of the slave trade.

4. Margaret Bell 1748- 1818 Richard Ratson 1760 -

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Bell-37261>

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Ratson-2>

Margaret Bell, daughter of Stephen Bell and Mary Turner was baptised June 12, 1748, in the Parish of Crosthwaite & Lyth, Westmorland. She married William Tarn April 20, 1771, in Kendal, Westmorland, England³.

By him she had the following children,

- i. William Tarn b. 9 Feb 1772 New Hutton, Westmorland, England, m. Dinah Parrington, 11 Jan 1806 Kendal, Westmorland, England, United Kingdom
William and Dinah were cousins. William's grandfather and Dinah's mother were siblings, d. Oct 1856 Kendal, Westmorland, England
- ii. Stephen Tarn b. 1775 New Hutton, Westmorland, England, United Kingdom, Elizabeth Hinde 29 Jul 1799 Kendal, Westmorland, England, United Kingdom (Holy Trinity Parish Church) d. 9 Jul 1835 Kendal, Westmorland, England, United Kingdom.

Her first husband, William Tarne died on 20 May 1778. She then married John Ratson (<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Ratson-2>) September 28, 1778, in Kendal Westmorland, England, record of a marriage in the Kendal Parish records as follows:

Rich Ratson, widower, Hutton, Mgt. Tarne, widow, New Hutton, Sept 27, 1778.

There is a death of Elizabeth Ratson who was buried in New Hutton on May 12, 1778. It is speculated that this was the first wife of the Richard. Richard subsequently married the widow Margaret Tarne. Richard Retson who died in Kendal Westmorland on 06 Jul 1818 was stated to be 78 which would have Richard born about 1731. Richard Ratson, son of Richard Rattson and Margaret Millburn was baptised on Nov 30, 1760, in Kendal, Westmorland, England.


Richard and Margaret had another 5 children as recorded from the Kendal Parish Baptismal Records:

5. i. John of Richd and Margt Ratson, July 25, 1779, at New Huttonⁱ m. Ann Bateman 26 Jun 1809 Kendall, Westmorland, d. 1842 Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland
- ii. James of Richd and Margaret Ratson, Rawhead, Nov 15, 1781, at New Hutton, Westmoreland, m. Elizabeth Agnes Mullard 1880 Kendal Westmorland, England, d.
- iii. Miles of Richd and Margrt Ratson, Rawhead, b. abt Jan 17, 1785, at New Hutton, England, m. Marion Gilchrist, d. 07 Mar 1863 Lanark, Scotland
 - I. Miles Ritson b. 28 Oct 1828 Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire, Scotland
 - II. James Ritson b. 25 Jun 1832 Lesmahagow, Lanarkshire, Scotland, m. Jessie Henderson Lindsay, d. 1901 Scotland
 - III. Helen Ritson
- iv. Thos. of Richd, and Margaret Ratson, Jan. 13, 1788, at New Hutton, England, m. Elizabeth Jackson 26 Mar 1811 Kendal, Westmorland, England, d. 01 Dec 1855 Kendal, Westmorland, England

³ Ancestry.com, England, Select Marriages, 1538-1973 (Ancestry.com Operations, Inc.), Ancestry.com. <https://www.ancestry.ca/discoveryui-content/view/916724:9852>; Margrat Bell in the England, Select Marriages, 1538-1973 England, Select Marriages, 1538-1973 Name:


Margrat Bell Marriage Date: 1771 Marriage Place: Kendal, Westmoreland, England Spouse: William Tarn FHL Film number: 1471686 Reference ID: 2:3K7LRR6

v. Elizabeth Ratson b. 1794 d. 10 May 1818 in Kendall, Westmorland at age 26 (birth calculated from age and date of death)

6th great grandfather
 **James Bell**
 b: 1670
 d:

Paternal grandfather
 **William Rankin Retson**
 b: 22 Feb 1884
 Townhead, Fenwick, Ayrshire, Sc
 d: 14 Jul 1975
 Bible Hill, Colchester County, Nov

Margaret died 14 Sep 1818 at Kendal, Westmoreland, England. Richard predeceased her on July 06, 1818.


5th great grandfather
 **Stephen Bell**
 b: Bef. 15 Sep 1704
 Parish of Crosthwaite & Lyth, We
 d:

Father
 **George Clifford Retson**
 b: 19 Dec 1912
 Bible Hill, Colchester, Nova Scoti
 d: 17 Feb 1997
 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S

Appendices


Abbreviations

b. born
 married
 bp baptised
 d. died m.

4th great grandmother
 **Margaret Bell**
 b: 12 Jun 1748
 Parish of Crosthwaite & Lyth, We
 d: 14 Sep 1818
 Kendal, Westmoreland, England

Self
 **James Clifford Retson**
 b: 28 Jul 1948
 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S
 d:

Source

3rd great grandfather
 **John Ratson**
 b: Abt 25 Jul 1779
 New Hutton, Westmorland, Engla
 d: 1842
 Som, Ayrshire, Scotland


General Resources

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/England_Genealogy

2nd great grandfather
 **John Retson**
 b: Aug 1809
 West Kendal, Westmoreland, Eng
 d: 11 Nov 1891
 Low Fenwick, Ayrshire, Scotland

Websites

<https://www.crosthwaiteandlyth.co.uk/>

Great grandfather
 **George Retson**
 b: 09 May 1848
 Som, East Ayrshire, Scotland
 d: 01 Dec 1910
 Gardrum Farm, Fenwick, Scotlan

ⁱ Source Information Ancestry.com. England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014. Original data: England, Births and Christenings, 1538-1975. Salt Lake City, Utah: FamilySearch, 2013 Jhn Ratson in the England, Select Births and Christenings, 1538-1975 Text-only collection
 Name: Jhn Ratson Gender: Male Baptism Date: 25 Jul 1779 Baptism Place: Kendal, Westmorland, England Father: Richd Ratson Mother: Mgt Ratson FHL Film Number: 973139 While the online version is text only, I accessed microfilm 973139 at local Family History Center in Kenora on Wednesday and viewed the original microfilm