

Our Bell Ancestors

By
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Last revised at
<https://www.retson.ca/bell.pdf>
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Bell Context

This file waits for confirmation that Margaret Bell is the wife of (1) William Tarn or Tarne and subsequent Richard Retson by which she had the progenitor of our line.

1. James Bell b. 1670, m. Maryann Garnett 12 May 1690 Parish of Crosthwaite & Lyth, Westmorland, England, d.

1. James Bell 1670 – Maryanne Garnett 1690 -

James Bell was born about 1670. He married Maryanne Garnett May 12 1690 in the Parish of Crosthwaite & Lyth, Westmorland, England,

They had the following children,

2. Stephen Bell Bef. 15 Sep 1704 Parish of Crosthwaite & Lyth, Westmorland, England, m. Mary Turner 29 Apr 1739 Kendal, Westmorland, England, d. Abt 1802

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

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.

Crosthwaite derives its name from the old Scandinavian word, "thwaite", meaning a clearing in a forest or a piece of land, which has been enclosed. This was blended with "Cross", which may reflect the earlier Christian connections with the Irish or Angle missionaries of the sixth or seventh century. The Norsemen also gave the Lyth Valley its name; "hlith" means sloping hillside 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 great in Eton Mess. 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.

Westmorland damsons grow mainly in and around the Lyth and Winster valleys, south-west of Kendal in the English Lake District. The orchards of the Lyth Valley are unique, surrounding each small farmstead and growing along every hedgerow in the valley.

At some time in April, exactly when depending on the weather, the orchards and hedgerows become snow white with blossom - a wonderful sight to see. The fruit ripens in September and is sold from roadside stalls and in local shops.

Originally damsons came from the area around Damascus, hence the name. Some say the Crusaders brought back damson stones to try in England. Damson trees are often found around sites of Roman camps - perhaps the

Romans introduced them to Britain. Damson stones were found in a bag round the waist of a 4000 year-old 'Ice Man' uncovered recently in the Alps. Damson stones have been excavated at the Viking Yorkick centre at York.

2. Stephen Bell 1704 -1802 Mary Turner

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. He died about 1802

Mary Turner in the Archdeaconry of Richmond, England, Church of England Marriage Bonds, 1611-1861

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, Parish as it Appears: Kendal, Westmorland. 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
- 3.** 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

3. Margaret Bell 1748- 1818? Richard Ratson 1760 -

There is a record of a marriage in the Kendal Parish records as follows:

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

There are unsourced family trees that has this Margaret as Margaret Bell who previously married a William Tarn or Tarne. 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.

This Margaret Bell, daughter of Stephen Bell and Mary Turner, was baptised 12 Jun 1748 in the Parish of Crosthwaite & Lyth, Westmorland.

She married William Tarn or Tarne in 1771.¹ 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

¹ 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

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>) 28 Sep 1778 in Kendal Westmorland, England.

Richard Ratson, son of Richard Rattson and Margaret Millburn was baptised on Nov 30, 1760 in Kendal, Westmorland, England.

Richard and Margaret's children as recorded from the Kendal Parish Records:
Baptism:

4. iii. 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
 - iv. James of Richd and Margaret Ratson, Rawhead, Nov 15 1781 at New Hutton, Westmoreland, m. Elizabeth Agnes Mullard 1880 Kendal Westmorland, England, d.
 - v. 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
5. vi. 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
 - vii. Elizabeth Ratson b. 1794 d. 10 May 1818 in Kendall, Westmorland at age 26 (birth calculated from age and date of death)


Source

Websites


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

General Resources


6th great grandfather

 **James Bell**
 b: 1670
 d:


5th great grandfather

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

4th great grandmother

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


3rd great grandfather

 **John Ratson**
 b: Abt 25 Jul 1779
 New Hutton, Westmorland, Engla
 d: 1842
 Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland

2nd great grandfather

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

Great grandfather

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

Paternal grandfather

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

Father

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

Self

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

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