

My tangled Ballantynes

by James Michael Fleming

© 2019



Jim Fleming is a retired Customs Manager and lives on Sydney's lower north shore. He began researching his family history in 1983 and has been a member of the Society of Australian Genealogists for 35 years. Aside from genealogy he enjoys travelling and sings baritone in two choirs.

Researching: Bowen, Flowerdew, Gardner, Gordon, Grady, Hanrahan, Jolliffe, Kemp, Kessey, Murphy, Poulton, Press and so many more!

Website: <http://jimfleming.id.au/up/index.htm>

I am regularly updating my website, so Like my Facebook page to keep up to date. Click the icon below.

Find us on 

My tangled Ballantynes

By James Michael Fleming

Until recently, my research on the Ballantyne¹ family was stalled at a roadblock. Having got around that obstacle (see *The Ballantyne roadblock*), I moved on to undertake additional research on this family. That research could be fairly described as untangling the Ballantynes, because the documentary trail for the genealogist is a real tangle.

The tangle is caused by the fact that Christina Ballantyne (whose ancestry I explored in *The Ballantyne Roadblock*) married Thomas Ballantyne. This prompts the question: was Christina Ballantyne related to Thomas Ballantyne before their marriage? Were they cousins?

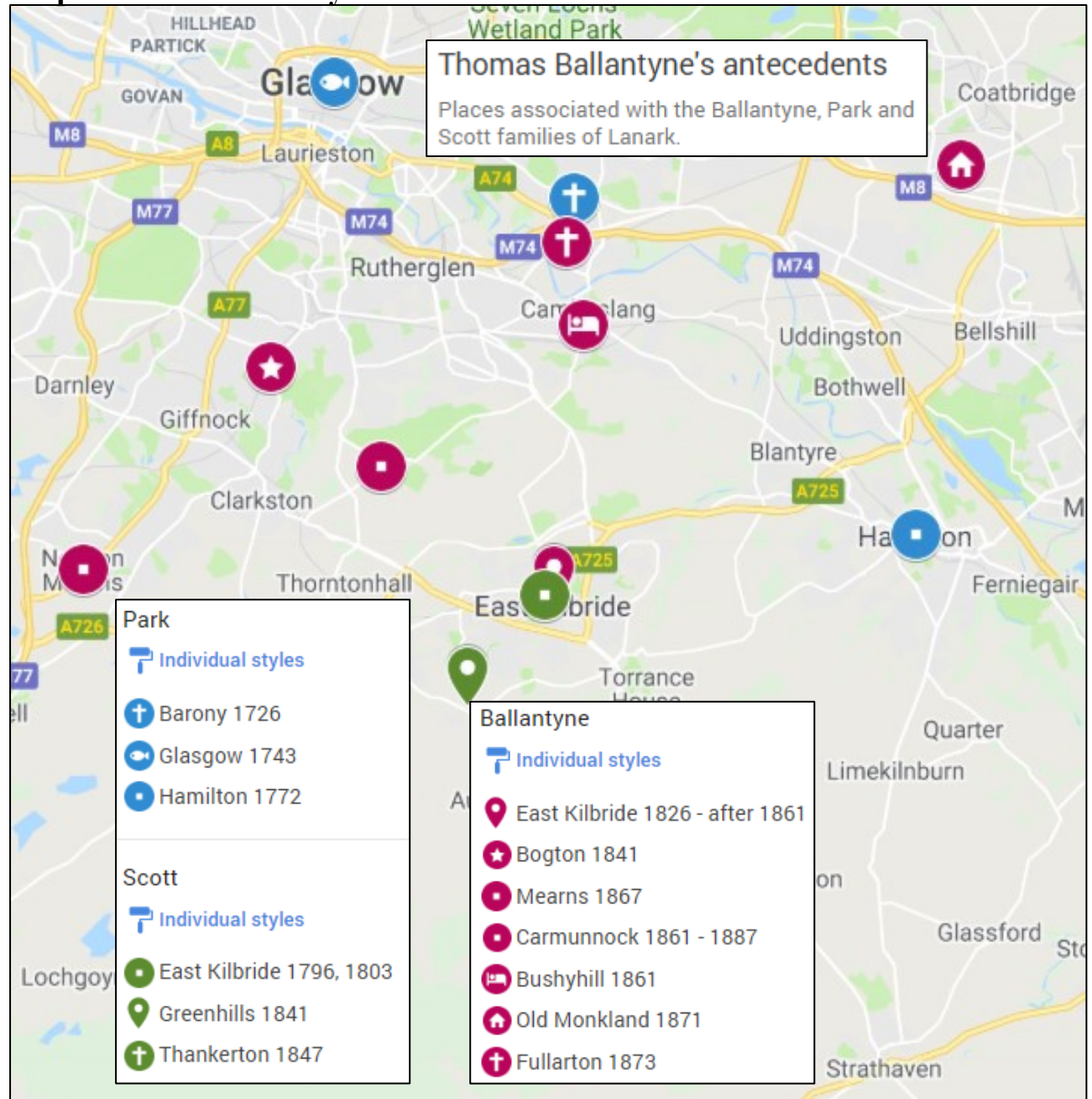
This is an outline of my efforts to untangle my tangled Ballantynes.

Contents

Map of Thomas Ballantyne's antecedents.....	3
What we knew of Thomas Ballantyne	4
Further Research.....	4
Thomas Ballantyne (1826 – 1873)	4
Thomas Ballantyne's mother's side	6
Margaret Scott (1803 – 1887).....	6
William Scott (c1769 – 1847) and Margaret Craig (c1776 -).....	7
Thomas Ballantyne's father's side	8
Thomas Ballantyne (1799 – 1887)	8
Thomas Ballantyne (c1771 – before 1851)	9
Jean Park (1772 – 1867).....	9
Peter Park (1743 -) and Janet Hamilton.....	10
Peter Park (c1700 -) and Agnes McClean.....	10
Summary	11
Were they cousins?.....	12

¹ The spelling of the surname in old records was not settled. Variations included Ballantine, Ballentyne, Ballentine, Ballatyne and even Ballenden. Our family has consistently used Ballantyne in recent decades.

Map of Thomas Ballantyne's antecedents



Map of Lanark showing key places in the lives of the Ballantyne, Park and Scott families

My tangled Ballantynes

In the 1861 census, Thomas and Christina were recorded as a married couple aged 34 and 35 respectively, living at Bushyhill in the parish of Cambuslang. He was a bread baker who had been born at East Kilbride. Their daughter Margaret Scott Ballantyne was by then 6 years old and her older siblings were shown to be 9-year-old Christina (named for Christina's mother, Christina Dow) and 7-year-old Thomas (named for Thomas's father, Thomas Ballantyne senior). Margaret was named for her father's mother, Margaret Scott.

Thomas was recorded on the 1871 census as a 44-year-old widower baker from East Kilbride living at Ashforth's Land in the parish of Old Monkland.

Thomas Ballantyne	Head	Male	44	Baker	Do. East Kilbride
Christina Do.	Wife	Female	35		Do. Bushyhill
Thomas Do.	Son	Male	19	Cloth Lapper (Calender Worker)	Do. Do.
Margaret Do.	Daughter	Female	16	Cotton Mill Worker	Do. Do.
William Do.	Do.	Male	14	Scholar	Do. Do.
James Do.	Do.	Male	8	Do.	Do. Do.

Thomas Ballantyne at Old Monkland, 1871 census

He died two years later, on 27 March 1873 at Causeyside, Tollcross in the parish of Old Monkland. He was survived by both his parents. His son (Thomas) provided the information for his death certificate that states that he was 46 years old, the widower of Christina Ballantyne and the son of Thomas Ballantyne (mason) and Margaret Ballantyne nee Scott.

Thomas	1873	Male	46	Thomas
Ballantyne	March	Widower		Ballantyne
Baker (formerly)	Twenty seven			Mason
	26 P.M.			
Widower of				Margaret
Christina	Causeyside,			Ballantyne
Ballantyne	Tollcross			M.S. Scott

Death Certificate for Thomas Ballantyne, 27 March 1873, at Fullarton parish of Old Monkland

The certificate gives the cause of death as chronic alcoholism but this was changed to apoplexy following a postmortem examination carried out by Dr Robert Steven Singer.

The 1851, 1861 and 1871 census records all agree with the death certificate that Thomas had been born at East Kilbride in late 1826 or early 1827. Armed with that information, and his parents' names, I located his birth record in the East Kilbride parish register. It records his parents' names and states that he was born on 26 July 1826 at Lickperwick (East Kilbride) and was baptised on 6 August. As we shall see later, his grandparents (Margaret Scott's parents) lived at Greenhills, which is at one end of Lickperwick Road.

Thomas Ballantyne	born 26 July 1826	at Lickperwick	Do. Mary Scott
-------------------	-------------------	----------------	----------------

Thomas Ballantyne's birth record at East Kilbride, 26 July 1826

Thomas Ballantyne's mother's side

There is no census record of Thomas living with his parents. For the very first census in 1841 he is recorded as a 15-year-old living with the family of farmer James Semple at Hamilton. At this time, his parents (Thomas Ballantyne and Margaret nee Scott) were living at Bogton in East Kilbride. His father, Thomas senior (more about him later), was a 40-year-old labourer² and his mother Margaret was 35 years old. They had their four youngest children living with them: Mary (8), James (6), Agnes (3) and Peter (1). Their three older children were living elsewhere. Thomas, as we have seen, was with the Semple family. His sister Margaret (16) and brother William (13) were both living with their Scott grandparents at Greenhills, 35 miles from East Kilbride (see below in the section for William Scott and Margaret Craig).

1	Thomas Ballantyne	40	Labourer
	Margaret Do	35	
	James Do	6	
	Peter Do	1	
	Mary Do	8	
	William Do	13	

Thomas Ballantyne's parents (Thomas Ballantyne and Margaret Scott), 1841 census at Bogton in East Kilbride

Margaret Scott (1803 – 1887)

Margaret Scott lived into her eighties. She was recorded as a 47-year-old living at East Kilbride with her husband and four children in the 1851 census. The next census, in 1861, records her as a 57-year-old laundress living at Carmunnock in East Kilbride with her husband and daughter Agnes (aged 22, a seamstress). They shared a household with William Wood and his large family. The same three people are recorded together on both the 1871 and 1881 censuses at Carmunnock. The latter census describes their daughter Agnes (aged 40) as an “imbecile”.

Thomas Ballantyne	Head	Mar	47	Builder	Laurel Street E. Kilbride
Margaret Ballantyne	Wife	Mar	57	Laundress	Laurel Street E. Kilbride
Agnes Ballantyne	Daughter	Unm	22		Laurel Street E. Kilbride

Thomas and Margaret Ballantyne on the 1881 census at Carmunnock with Agnes

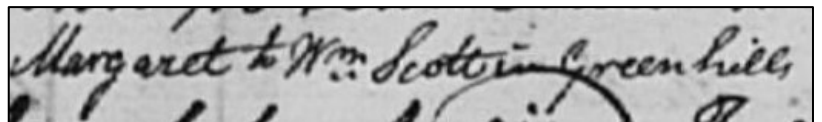
Both of Agnes' parents died in 1887. It was probably fortunate that she had pre-deceased them in 1883. Her cause of death was recorded as epilepsy.

Margaret Ballantyne nee Scott died from senile decay at Bankhead, Carmunnock on 27 January 1887. Her husband, who outlived her, was described as a mason, formerly a farmer. The information on the death certificate was provided by her grandson, Andrew Shearer.

Margaret Ballantyne	1887	27	84	William Scott	Senile decay	Andrew Shearer
	January		years	Farmer	2 years	Grandson
	Tuesday seventh			(deceased)	as certified by	
married to	8 h. o. m. a. m.			Margaret Scott	W. A. Macfarlane	86 Whitelock Street
Thomas Ballantyne	Bankhead			m. B. Craig	L. & C. P. H. & S. S. S. S.	Glasgow
mason	Carmunnock			(deceased)	Bundy	
formerly Farmer						

The Death Certificate for Margaret Ballantyne nee Scott, 27 January 1887

Margaret's death certificate states that her parents were William Scott (farmer) and Margaret Scott nee Craig. Her birth is recorded at Greenhills in the East Kilbride parish register on 17 April 1803.



Margaret Scott's baptism record on 17 April 1803 is squeezed between, two other entries in the register and provides the barest details – her mother, Margaret Craig is not even mentioned

² We shall see later that this is not necessarily inconsistent with his son's death certificate which said that he was a mason.

My tangled Ballantynes

William Scott (c1769 – 1847) and Margaret Craig (c1776 -)

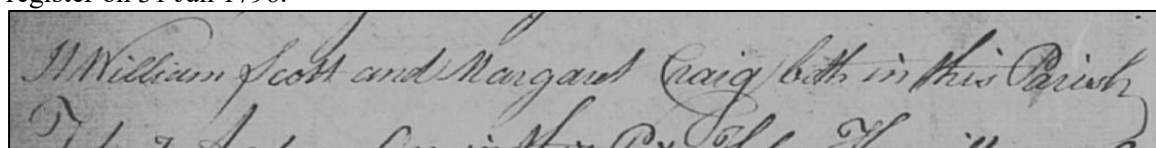
Margaret's parents (William Scott and Margaret Craig) are only recorded on one census. In 1841 they were farming at Greenhills in East Kilbride and housing their grandchildren (Margaret and William Ballantyne) and John McCallum, an agricultural labourer.

PLACE Here insert Name of Village, Street, Square, Close, Court, &c.	HOUSES Uninhabited or Building Inhabited	NAME and SURNAME, SEX and AGE, of each Person who abode in each House on the Night of 6th June.		OCCUPATION Of what Profession, Trade, Employment, or whether of Independent Means.	WHERE BORN	
		NAME and SURNAME	AGE Male Female		Parish	County
Greenhills		William Scott	70	Farmer	G	-
		Margaret Scott	65		G	
		John McCallum	20	Ag. Lab.	G	
		Margaret Ballantyne	15	G. L.	G	
		William Ballantyne	12	Ag. Lab.	G	

William Scott and his wife Margaret nee Craig on the 1841 census at Greenhills in East Kilbride

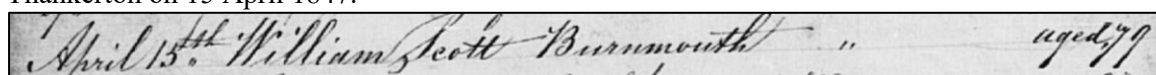
The neighbouring farms were run by James Scott and Thomas Shearer. James Scott is most probably their son who had been born at East Kilbride on 1 July 1807. Thomas Shearer may have been related to the informant on their daughter's 1887 death certificate (Andrew Shearer).

The marriage of William Scott and Margaret Craig had been recorded in the East Kilbride parish register on 31 Jan 1796.



The marriage record for William Scott and Margaret Craig at East Kilbride on 31 January 1796

William Scott's death (aged 79) is recorded in the register of the nearby parish of Covington and Thankerton on 15 April 1847.



The burial record for William Scott on 15 April 1847 at Covington and Thankerton

His wife, Margaret Scott nee Craig (who had been born at Killinde, Lanark) is described on the 1851 census as "formerly a farmer's wife", aged 75. She is living at Greenhills with another farmer's widow: Janet Baird aged 77. Her son, James Scott, is the head of an adjacent household that comprises his wife, 11 children and 3 servants living on a 100-acre farm at Greenhills.

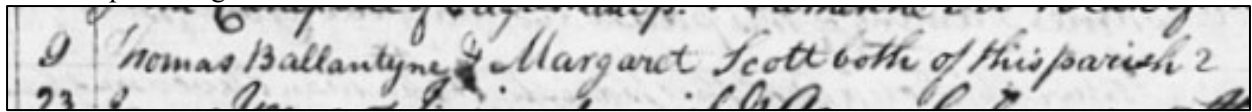
Greenhills	Margaret Scott	W	1	75	Formerly Farmer's Wife	Killinde
	Janet Baird	W	1	77	do do	Resum Thankerton

The 1851 census record for Margaret Scott nee Craig at Greenhills, East Kilbride

Margaret Scott nee Craig is not recorded on the 1861 census, but I have been unable to identify her death certificate among the plethora of other Margaret Scotts and Margaret Craigs.

Thomas Ballantyne's father's side

As we have seen, the Death Certificate of Thomas Ballantyne (1826 – 1873) names his parents as Thomas Ballantyne (mason) and Margaret nee Scott. Their marriage is recorded in the East Kilbride parish register on 9 November 1823.

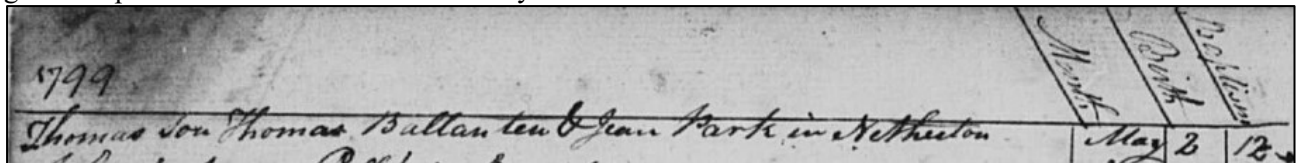


The 1823 marriage record for Thomas Ballantyne and Margaret Scott at East Kilbride

The baptism register for that parish records the birth of eight children over the next 17 years. Thomas and Margaret were recorded on the 1841 census at East Kilbride with the youngest four children (see image above, under the section for Margaret Scott). Thomas's age (40) implies that he was born about 1801. This is confirmed by his records on the 1851, 1861, 1871 and 1881 censuses, which all indicate that he had been born at East Kilbride.

Thomas Ballantyne (1799 – 1887)

The baptism register for East Kilbride actually records his birth on 2 May 1799 at Netherton. It gives his parents' names as Thomas Ballantyne and Jean Park.



The baptism record for Thomas Ballantyne on 12 May 1799 at East Kilbride

This information is confirmed by his death certificate. He died at 88 years of age from "decay of nature" on 14 September 1887 in the Greenock Poorhouse, having survived his wife by just eight months. The certificate provides the additional information that his father had been a farmer.

Thomas	1887	M. 88	Thomas Ballantyne	Decay of nature	Robert Gardiner
Ballantyne	September	Greenock	Farmer	As certified by	
Labourer	8h. 10m. p.m.		1 deceased	Amelia E. Irvine	Labourer
Widower of	Greenock Poorhouse		John Ballantyne	L.R.C.P. & R.C.P.	
Margaret Scott	Greenock Poorhouse		M. S. Park		
	Married residence		[deceased]		
	Carmunnock etc.				

The Death Certificate for Thomas Ballantyne on 14 September 1887 at Gourrock parish, Renfrew

Thomas Ballantyne was described as a mason on his son Thomas's death certificate (1873) and his wife's death certificate (1887). His own 1887 death certificate describes him as a labourer. Earlier documents list different occupations for him. How can we be sure that all of these documents relate to the same person?

- 1841 census – labourer at Bogton, East Kilbride
- 1851 census – agricultural labourer, Mullben, East Kilbride
- 1861 census – mason, Carmunnock
- 1871 census – builder, Carmunnock
- 1873 DC for son - mason
- 1881 census – builder, Carmunnock
- 1887 DC for wife - mason

The list reveals that Thomas progressed through a range of related occupations throughout his life. It is noteworthy that his son William was recorded as a mason on the 1851 census. This set of occupations is consistent with him having progressed from an agricultural labourer into the building trade, along with his son.

My tangled Ballantynes

Thomas Ballantyne (c1771 – before 1851)

I was unable to find a birth record for Thomas Ballantyne or a marriage record for him and Jean Park. Nevertheless, there are baptism records at East Kilbride for nine children born between 1795 and 1816, including their son Thomas Ballantyne in 1799 (listed above). The eldest son was named James, indicating that the father of this Thomas Ballantyne was probably James Ballantyne.

The family was recorded farming at “Hairimus” in East Kilbride on the 1841 census.

PLACE	HOUSES	NAME and SURNAME, SEX and AGE, of each Person who abode in each House on the Night of 6th June.		OCCUPATION	WHERE
		NAME and SURNAME	AGE		
Here insert Name of Village, Street, Square, Close, Court, &c.	Uninhabited or Building		Male	Of what Profession, Trade, Employment, or whether i./ Independent Means.	If Born in Scotland, State Parish & County or otherwise
Hairimus	1	Thomas Ballantyne	70	Farmer	Y
		Jan Do	65		Y
		James Do	40		Y
		John Do	24		Y
		John Do	10		Y
		Elizabeth Craig	20	Wife	Y

The 1841 census record for Thomas Ballantyne and Jean nee Park at Hairimus, East Kilbride

His wife was listed on the 1851 census as a widow, but I cannot find a death record for Thomas Ballantyne. It is noteworthy that the surviving East Kilbride burial registers do not extend past 1838, so the record seems to be lost.

Jean Park (1772 – 1867)

Thomas Ballantyne’s widow is recorded on the 1851 census as a 78-year-old living with the family of her son John Ballantyne at “Hair Myres” in East Kilbride. This record states that she had been born at Hamilton.

Hair Myres	John Ballantyne	Head	M.	78	Farming (4 7/10 acres)	Perthshire, Co. Kilbride
	Elizabeth Do	Wife	M.	75		Do. Do.
	Thomas Do	Son	M.	40		Do. Do.
	Jean Do	Mother	Widow	78		Do. Hamilton
	James Do	Son	M.	35	Farm. Serv.	Do. Co. Kilbride
	John Do	Son	M.	20	General Serv.	Do. Do.
	Patrick McLean	Serv.	M.	22	Farm. Serv.	Argyllshire, Mull

The 1851 census record for Jean Ballantyne nee Park at Hair Myres, East Kilbride

That information is confirmed in her 1861 census record, where she was recorded as a farmer’s widow who lived alone at High Markethill, East Kilbride.

High Markethill	James Shearer	Son	M.	10	Scholar	Perthshire, Co. Kilbride
do	Jean Ballantyne	Head	W.	88	Farmer's Widow	do. Hamilton

The 1861 census record for Jean Ballantyne nee Park at High Markethill, East Kilbride

Jean Ballantyne nee Park lived to the remarkable age of 95 years. She died at Mearns, Renfrew on 21 November 1867. The informant, her grandson John Ballantyne, recorded that her parents were Peter Park (auctioneer) and Janet nee Hamilton.

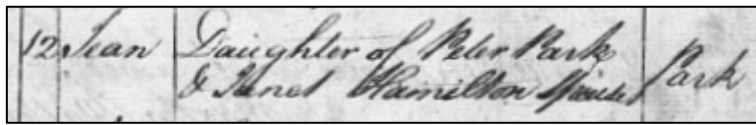
My tangled Ballantynes

Single, Married, or Widowed.				Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.
Lease	1864	1st	9th	Peter Park
Wid. Baptism	November		11th	Questionnaire
	Twenty-first			Deceased
	O. H. Thro.			
Andrew J.	at			Sanct Park
Thomas Baptism	October			Mrs. Samuel W.
Elaine				Deceased

The Death Certificate for Jean Ballantyne nee Park on 21 November 1867 at Mearns parish, Renfrew

Peter Park (1743 -) and Janet Hamilton

Sure enough, Jean Park's baptism record at Hamilton on 12 July 1772 confirms the parent details on her death certificate.



Baptismal record for Jean Park on 12 July 1772 at Hamilton

There is no surviving record of other children of the marriage of the auctioneer Peter Park and Janet Hamilton. I cannot find their marriage record or a death record for either of them but it is very likely that they died before the first census in 1841.

Without any further information, any search for the birth record of Peter Park and Janet Hamilton needs to be wide. They could have been born anytime between 1720 and 1760.

There are baptism records for 19 Janet Hamiltons born during that period in the parish of Hamilton alone! It is not possible to identify which one is ours.

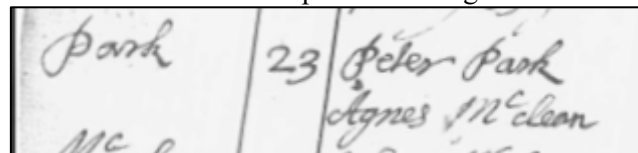
Nevertheless, there is only one surviving baptismal record in the whole of Scotland for a Peter Park during that period. He was baptised on 15 December 1743 at Glasgow, having been born two weeks earlier. His parents were Peter Park and Agnes McClean.



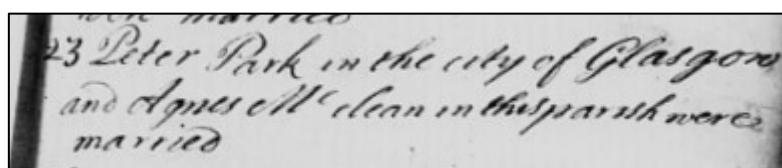
Baptismal record for Peter Park on 15 December 1743 at Glasgow

Peter Park (c1700 -) and Agnes McClean

Peter Park and Agnes McClean had been married at Agnes' parish of Barony on 23 December 1726. The banns were also recorded in Peter's parish at Glasgow.



Banns record for Peter Park and Agnes McClean on 23 December 1726 at Glasgow



Marriage record for Peter Park and Agnes McClean on 23 December 1726 at Barony

My tangled Ballantynes

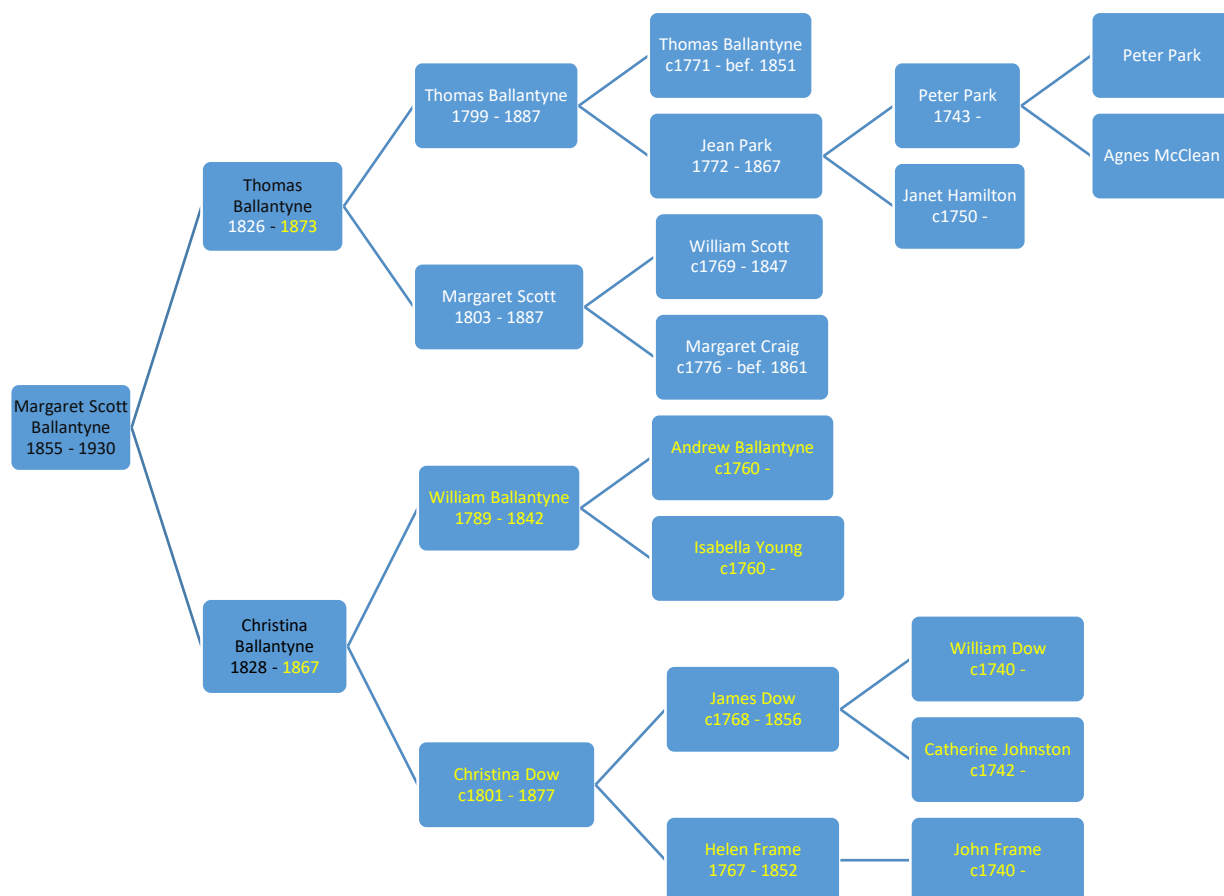
Peter Park and Agnes McClean had five children baptised in the Glasgow parish between 1831 and 1843: Margaret 1731, Elizabeth 1732, Agnes 1734, William 1740 and Peter 1743). They may have had other children in the first five years of their marriage who did not survive long enough to be baptised.

Summary

This research has allowed us to discover ten new ancestors. Thomas Ballantyne's parents were **Thomas Ballantyne (1799 – 1887)** and **Margaret Scott (1803 – 1887)**. His grandparents were: **Thomas Ballantyne (c1771 – before 1851)** and **Jean Park (1772 – 1867)**; and **William Scott (1769 – 1847)** and **Margaret Craig (c1776 – before 1861)**.

Jean Park's parents were: **Peter Park (1743 -)** and **Janet Hamilton**. Her Park grandparents were probably **Peter Park** and **Agnes McClean**.

So, this essay *My tangled Ballantynes*, documents the discovery of ten new ancestors. When combined with the nine new ancestors documented in *The Ballantyne Roadblock*, that is a total of 19 new ancestors discovered during May 2019.



What we now know of both Ballantyne branches.

The black text is our original knowledge, while yellow text is what I found after overcoming *The Ballantyne roadblock* and the white text is the information documented in this essay, *My Tangled Ballantynes*.

Were they cousins?

That brings us to the question of whether the two Ballantyne clans were related. Were Thomas Ballantyne and Christina Ballantyne cousins before their marriage in 1851?

There is no direct evidence that they were related. The earliest ancestor on the paternal line was Thomas' grandfather, Thomas Ballantyne (c1771 – before 1851). The earliest ancestor on the maternal line was Christina's grandfather, Andrew Ballantyne (c1760 -).

Thomas Ballantyne (on the paternal line) and his wife Jean (nee Park) had 9 children all born at East Kilbride between 1795 and 1816. In 1841 he was a 70-year-old farmer at Hairimus (Hair Myers), East Kilbride. He does not appear on the 1851 census. I have not found a birth, marriage or death record for him.

Andrew Ballantyne (on the maternal side) and his wife Isabella Young had seven children all born at Glassford between 1786 and 1795. It appears that both he and his wife died before 1841 because they were not recorded on that census. I have not found their birth or death records, but their marriage is recorded in the East Kilbride parish register on 29 June 1783. This record indicates that Isabella Young came from the nearby parish of Blantyre.

So, both Ballantyne families were located at East Kilbride. I estimate that (maternal) Andrew was born about 1760 and (paternal) Thomas about 1770.

The following Ballantyne family members aged over 60 years were recorded as living nearby East Kilbride in the 1841 census:

- c1760 - Arthur (aged 81) – Lesmahagow (17 miles away) & wife Helen
- c1764 - James (aged 77) – Glassford (9 miles) with wife Margaret (78)
- **c1771 - Thomas (aged 70) – East Kilbride with wife Jean – our paternal Thomas**
- c1771 - John (aged 70) – Bothwell (8 miles) & wife Ann (60)
- c1773 - James (aged 68) – Covington & Thankerton (30 miles) with wife Margaret (69)
- c1776 - James (aged 65) – Cambusnethan (15 miles) & wife Elizabeth (60)
- c1776 - Alen Crack (aged 65) – Libberton (30 miles)

There are very few baptism records for these areas in the relevant time period (except for Bothwell where there seems to have been several Ballantyne families).

The surviving records do not establish any relationship between any of the Ballantyne men mentioned above. Those records do indicate, however, that the Ballantyne name was common in this area of Lanark, as it was in nearby Glasgow.

It appears that (maternal) Andrew Ballantyne originated from East Kilbride (where he was married in 1783) and then lived for many years in nearby Glassford. Meanwhile, (paternal) Thomas Ballantyne was a farmer at East Kilbride all his life.

It is unlikely that they were brothers; otherwise the older Andrew would have inherited the farm at East Kilbride, not the younger Thomas. It is possible that Thomas's father was an older brother of Andrew; or an uncle; or a cousin.

Based on this reasoning, (maternal) Andrew could have been (paternal) Thomas's uncle at best; or a cousin. That would mean that the closest relationship that could have existed between Thomas Ballantyne and Christina Ballantyne before their marriage was second cousin once removed. But it is more likely that any relationship was more distant than that.