

The Ballantyne roadblock

by James Michael Fleming

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

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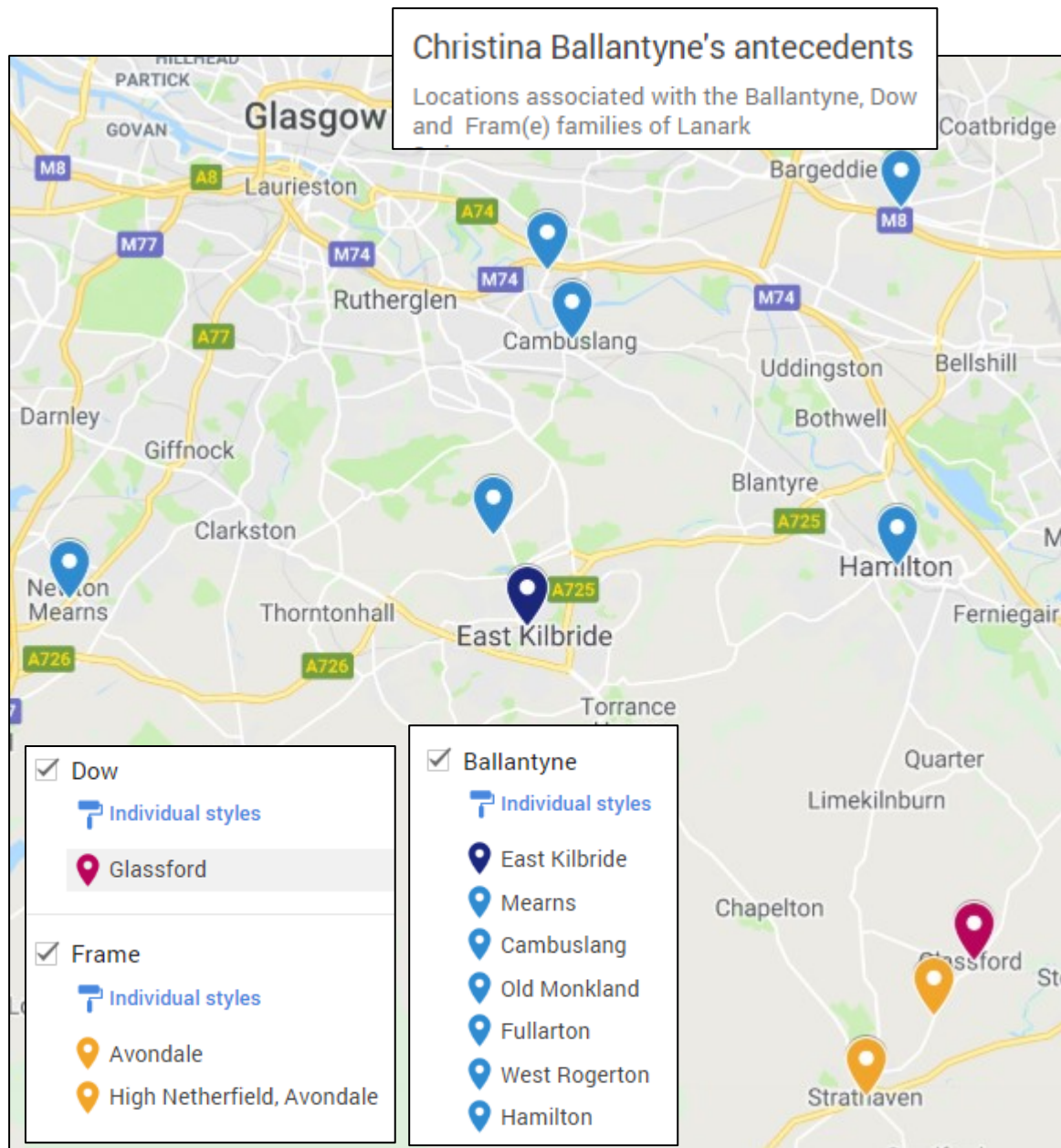
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My research into the family of Christina Ballantyne¹ hit a roadblock some years ago. Her daughter (Margaret Scott Ballantyne) married Charles Fleming and migrated to Australia in 1883 but I had not been able to identify Christina's parents. Now, however, I have managed to overcome this roadblock thanks to a DNA hint from Ancestry.com followed by good old-fashioned genealogical investigation.

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¹ The spelling of the surname in old records was not settled. Variations included Ballantine, Ballentyne, Ballantin and even Ballatyne and (as we shall see later) Ballenden. Our family has consistently used Ballantyne in recent decades.

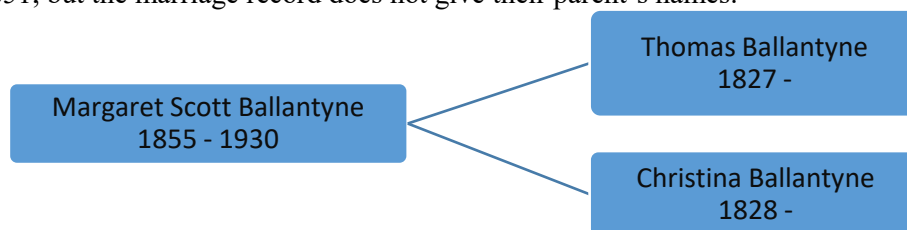


Map of Lanark showing key places in the lives of the Ballantyne, Dow and Frame families

What we knew of Christina Ballantyne

The birth certificate for Margaret Scott Ballantyne (born 6 Jan 1855 at Kirkton in East Kilbride) gives her parents as Thomas Ballantyne (a baker who was born at East Kilbride ca 1827) and Christina nee Ballantyne (who had been born at Muirhead of Hamilton ca 1828). The couple had been married in 1851 at Muirhead of Hamilton and had two previous children, 1 boy and 1 girl.

Christina Ballantyne and Thomas Ballantyne were married at Mearns in Renfrew, Scotland on 20 July 1851, but the marriage record does not give their parent's names.



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The 1861 census records the family (as “Ballatyne”) at Cambuslang (see graphic at right). Their third child, Margaret Scott, is now 6 years old. The two older children are named as Christina (9) and Thomas (7). There is also a younger daughter: Helen (4) and a baby (described as a boarder) named Robert Guille².

The 1871 census (no graphic shown) finds them at Old Monkland. This is nearby where Margaret’s future husband (Charles Fleming) lived. Her father Thomas Ballantyne is described as a widower. His household also contains his son Thomas (17) and daughters Christina (19), Margaret (16), Helen (14) and Jean (8). So, his wife Christina Ballantyne must have died sometime between 1863 and 1871.

DNA hint from Ancestry.com

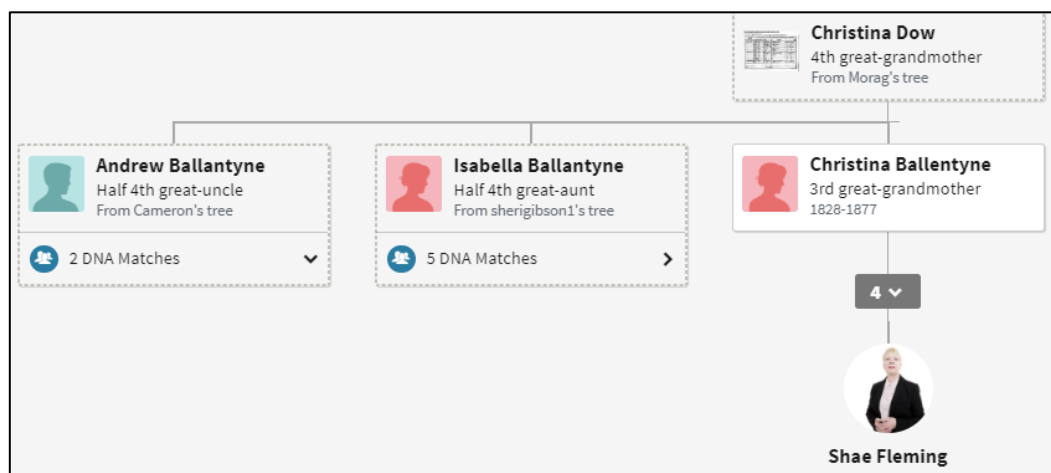
In 2019 my sister Shae submitted an autosomal DNA sample to Ancestry.com for analysis. Some of the DNA match results suggested that Christina Ballantyne was a daughter of Christina Dow.

This hint is based on Ancestry’s Thrulines’ tool that analysed seven DNA matches - 5 relate to descendants of Isabella Ballantyne and two to descendants of Andrew Ballantyne, both of whom are said to be siblings of our GGG-grandmother, Christina Ballantyne.

Ancestry indicates that Andrew, Isabella and Christina were children of Christina Dow. Note, however, that not all of the trees for the people whose DNA matches ours show Christina Dow as an ancestor. Ancestry has identified her as the ultimate ancestor by looking through other people’s family trees.

1861 Scotland Census	
View Record	
Name	Christina Ballatyne
Age	35
Estimated Birth Year	abt 1826
Relationship	Wife
Spouse's Name	Thomas Ballatyne
Gender	Female
Where born	Hamilton, Lanarkshire
Registration Number	627
Registration district	Cambuslang
Civil parish	Cambuslang
County	Lanarkshire
Address	Bushyhill On Glasw & Handn Rd
ED	1
Household schedule number	14
Line	9
Roll	CSSCT1861_93
Household Members	
Name	Age
Thomas Ballatyne	34
Christina Ballatyne	35
Christina Ballatyne	9
Thomas Ballatyne	7
Margaret Ballatyne	6
Helen Ballatyne	4
Robert Guille	11 Mo

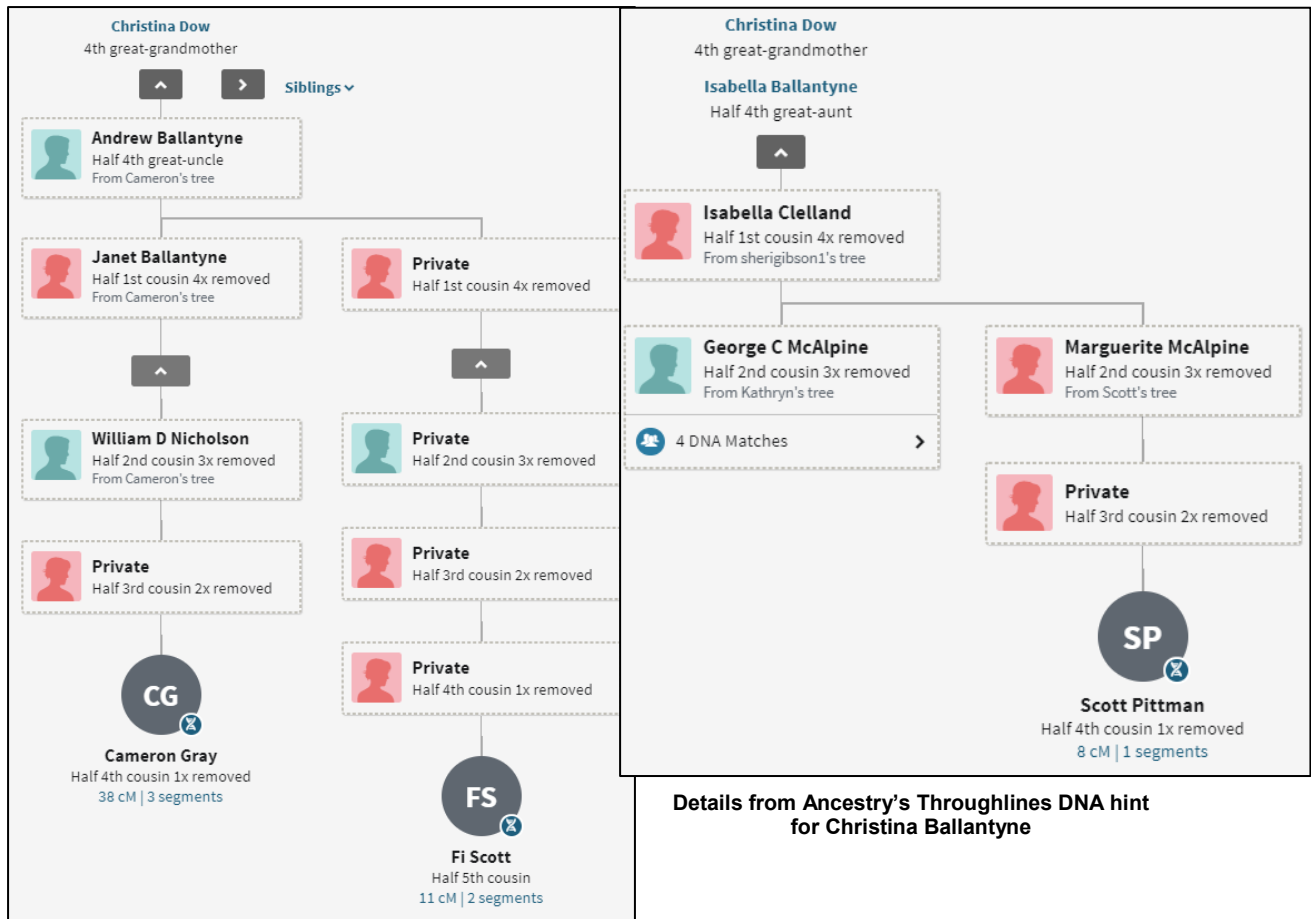
Thomas and Christina Ballantyne and family on the 1861 census at Cambuslang



Ancestry's Thrulines DNA hint for Christina Ballantyne

² A look at the original record shows that this should be Yuill, not Guill. The Yuill surname was fairly common around Hamilton.

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The relevant DNA matches relate to descendants of Andrew Ballantyne, Marguerite McAlpine and George Clelland McAlpine. Sheri Gibson's and Morag Cameron's trees claim that the McAlpines descended from Isabella Ballantyne. They also show Andrew and Isabella to be Christina's siblings.

The DNA matches are:

- Descended from **Andrew Ballantyne**
 - Cameron Gray (38cM) – does not know Andrew Ballantyne's parents
 - Fi Scott (11cM) – private tree
- Descended from Isabella Ballantyne
 - Through her daughter Isabella Clelland (m McAlpine)
 - Scott Pittman (8cM) – does not know **Marguerite McAlpine's** parents
 - Kathryn Lalla and her mother Cynthia Smith Price (each 11cM) – doesn't know the parents of **George Clelland McAlpine** (but Sheri Gibson's tree does – see below)
 - Sisters Sheri Gibson (25cM) and Holly Adams (9cM) – Holly Adams doesn't know the parents of **George Clelland McAlpine**; Sheri Gibson's tree traces him back through his mother Isabella Clelland (m McAlpine) and her mother Isabella Ballantyne (m Clelland) to Christina Dow and William Ballantyne

A number of other trees on Ancestry.com (in addition to Sheri Gibson's tree) identify Christina Dow as the wife of William Ballantyne and the mother of Andrew Ballantyne and Isabella Ballantyne. These include the Cameron-Costain, Sommerville, Kennedy, Martyn Payne, Booth, Anderson, Bazncaz, Martin, Allan-McFarland and Cameron trees. The few that I checked all identify Christina Dow's parents as James Dow and Helen Frame. The following graphic is from the Cameron tree by Morag Cameron.

The Ballantyne roadblock

The screenshot shows the Ancestry.com profile for Christina Dow. The header includes her name, birth date (1801), birth location (Avondale, Lanarkshire, Scotland), and death date (21 APR 1877, Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland). Below the header are tabs for LifeStory, Facts, and Gallery. The Facts tab is selected, showing a timeline of events from 1801 to 1836. The Sources tab shows various records including the 1841, 1851, 1861, and 1871 Scotland Censuses, and Ancestry Family Trees. The Family tab shows her parents, James Dow and Helen Frame, and her children, including William Ballantyne, Andrew Ballantyne, James Ballantyne, Helen Ballantyne, Isabel Ballantyne, Christina Ballantyne, William Ballantyne, Catherine Ballantyne, Janet Ballantyne, John Ballantyne, George Ballantyne, Margaret Ballantyne, and Elizabeth Ballantyne.

Year	Event	Location	Source
1801	Birth	Avondale, Lanarkshire, Scotland	4 Sources
1805	Birth of Sister Catherine Dow	Avondale, Lanarkshire, Scotland	
1818	Marriage	15 Mar 1818 • Glassford, Lanarkshire, Scotland	1 Source
1821	Birth of Son Andrew Ballantyne	ab 1821 • Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland	
1822	Birth of Son James Ballantyne	ab 1822 • Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland	
1825	Birth of Daughter Helen Ballantyne	ab 1825 • Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland	
1825	Birth of Daughter Isabel Ballantyne	1825 • Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland	
1827	Birth of Daughter Christina Ballantyne	ab 1827 • Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland	
1829	Birth of Son William Ballantyne	ab 1829 • Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland	
1830	Birth of Daughter Catherine Ballantyne	ab 1830 • Lanarkshire, Scotland	
1833	Birth of Daughter Janet Ballantyne	ab 1833 • Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland	
1834	Birth of Son John Ballantyne	ab 1834 • Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland	
1836	Birth of Son George Ballantyne	ab 1836 • Hamilton, Lanarkshire, Scotland	

Christina Dow's children according to a tree by Morag Cameron

But I didn't know whether the people who had identified Christina Dow as an ancestor of Andrew, Isabella and Christina were correct in that conclusion. While we have a hint, we need to use reliable genealogical techniques to check this conclusion.

Genealogical evidence

The most reliable genealogical evidence for a person's parents is normally their birth, death or marriage certificate. But, as I mentioned earlier, Christina's marriage record does not provide her parent's names because it is a church record; civil registration of marriages (and the associated marriage certificates) was not introduced into Scotland until 1855, four years after her marriage.

Christina's death

So, I decided to look for her death certificate. As I outlined above, the 1861 census records her at Cambuslang with her husband and children but she is absent from the family record on the 1871 census where her husband is described as a widower. His is recorded as a baker on both censuses.

Christina had apparently died sometime between 1863 (when her daughter Jean was born) and 1871. Her death certificate records that she died at Fullarton (just 1 kilometre from Cambuslang) from a strumous abscess on her thigh on 8 March 1867. There is no doubt that this is the correct death certificate because it records that her widower, Thomas Ballantyne, was a baker.

Importantly, Christina's death certificate states that her parents were William Ballantyne (farmer) and Christina Dow. The Ancestry hint has been proved correct and the roadblock overcome.

Further research

It is a common experience to find that one gets a saloon run after passing a roadblock; and that is also the case with this one. Now that I had found the names of Christina's parents, it was fairly straightforward to identify all of her grandparents and three of her great-grandparents.

Christina Ballantyne's mother's side

We know that Christina was born at Muirhead of Hamilton ca 1826-28 (from her daughter's birth record and corroborated by the 1861 census record). Her death certificate narrows the search window down to July to August 1826 (it gives her age at death as 40 years and 8 months).

Despite the narrow search window and knowing her parent's names, I can't find a birth record for Christina Ballantyne; or, indeed, for any of her siblings.

1841 census for Christina

In 1841, Christina would have been about 13 to 15 years old. There are just two female Christian³ Ballantynes on the 1841 census, one at faraway Roxburgh and one at nearby East Kilbride. We know that Christina's daughter Margaret was later born at East Kilbride. I therefore think the East Kilbride record is the more likely one.

West Rogerton	1	Andrew Struthers	65	Female	yes
	1	Janet Cameron	25	F & S	yes
	1	Christina Ballantyne	15	F & S	yes
	1	William Wilson	15	M & S	yes

Christina Ballantyne on the 1841 census

This Christina is a 15-year-old female servant living with farmer Andrew Struthers, his wife and daughter at West Rogerton. There are two other servants: Janet Cameron (25) and William Wilson (15). (It may be that Janet Cameron is the head of a sub-household on the farm – perhaps a separate cottage where the servants live.)

1851 census for Christina

Christina married her husband at Mearns in July 1851, three months after the recording of the 1851 census. At the time of the census she was recorded as living at Waterfoot Farm, Mearns where she was employed as a 23-year-old dairy maid by farmer James Mather and his wife Margaret.

Her betrothed was recorded as a 24-year-old baker who boarded at Kilbride Road, Mearns with Robert Ritchie and his wife Mary.

Christina's family

It is remarkable that Christina Ballantyne was separated from her family on both the 1841 and 1851 censuses. She was living away from home and working as a female servant at just 15 years of age in 1841. So, where was her family at that time?

³ The first names Christina and Christian are used interchangeably in Scottish records. For all intents and purposes, they are the same name.

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All records of Christina agree that she was born at Muirhead of Hamilton. Her parents are recorded there on the 1841 census along with eight children (as the Ballanden family). The parents are William (a farmer aged 50) and Christian (40), with children Helen 16, Isabel 14, William 12, Kathrin 11, Janet 9, John 7, George 5 and Margaret 2. It is feasible that such a large family would find it necessary to put a teenage daughter out to work.

The 1851 census records Christina under her maiden name Dow (born ca 1801 in Glasgow) as a widow farming 40 acres at Muirhead, Hamilton. It lists her children as Isabillie (26), Janet (18), Margret (12) and Bethia (8). Helen, William, Kathrin, John and George (who were all listed with her in 1841) are not living with her ten years later. Her husband William must have died before the 1851 census but after 1843 when his daughter Bethia was born. In fact, as we shall see later, he died on 6 March 1842.

Household No.	Name of Street, Place, or Row, and Name or No. of House	Name and Surname of each Person who abode in the house, on the Night of the 30th March, 1851	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Sick, or Infirm, or Dead
					Male	Female			
13	Muirhead	Christany Dow	Head	Widow	29		Farmer of 40 Acres	Southshire Glasgow	
		George Ballantyne	Son	12	12		Scholar	Do Hamilton	
		Isabillie Do	Daughter	Mar	26		House Servant	Do Do	
		George Cleland	Visitor	Mar	30		Mason	Do Lismagour	
		George Do	Grand son		1			Do Hamilton	
		Janet Ballantyne	Daughter	U	18		House Servant	Do Do	
		Margret Do	Daughter		12		Scholar	Do Do	
		Bethia Do	Daughter		8		Scholar	Do Do	

The Ballantyne (Dow) family at Hamilton in 1851

The Clelland connection

The 1851 household also includes a “visitor”, George Clelland (a mason aged 30) and a one-year-old boy named George Clelland who is described as a grandson of the head of the household, “Christany” Dow. Could this George Clelland be the origin of the surname Clelland in the ancestry of several of the DNA matches?

Yes, he could. The 1861 census has a record for a family headed by 42-year-old mason George Clelland and his wife Isabella (aged 34) who had been born at Hamilton. They have four children, including Christina 9, Elisabeth 7, Isabella 5 and Janet 1. Their older brother George (from the 1851 census) must have died in the meantime.

Where is Andrew Ballantyne?

The Ancestry.com hint indicated that Christina Ballantyne was Christina Dow’s daughter and that she had (at least) two siblings: Isabella and Andrew. But where is Andrew?

Our research has located Christina Dow and her daughter Isabella on both the 1841 and 1851 censuses. That research has confirmed the information on Sheri Gibson’s Ancestry family tree that Isabella’s married name was Clelland (Clelland).

The 1841 and 1851 censuses list the following children for William Ballantyne and Christina Dow:

- 1841 – Helen, William, Kathrin, John and George;
- 1851 – Elizabeth (or Bethia); and
- Both 1841 and 1851 – Isabella, Janet and Margaret.

Christina Ballantyne was listed elsewhere for both censuses. Was Andrew also listed elsewhere?

William Ballantyne and Christina Dow were married at Glassford on 15 March 1818 but their oldest known child listed above is Helen who was born in 1825. So, it is feasible that there was an older brother who could have been away working in both 1841 and 1851, like his sister Christina.

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Andrew Ballantyne was born in 1821. The 1841 census records him as a 20-year-old agricultural labourer living with 75-year-old farmer Andrew Mackie and his family at Hamilton. The 1851 census records him as a 30-year-old quarrier from Hamilton, living at Hamilton with his wife Barbra and four children.

The genealogical evidence is there to support the DNA-based hint supplied by Ancestry's Throughline tool.

Christina Ballantyne's mother: Christina Dow

Christina Dow is recorded on the 1861 census as a 60-year-old farmer's widow in Lanark with her daughter Janet 25 and lodgers John McDowell 25, John Boyd 25, John S Greive 11 and William Martin 18. She is also recorded on the 1871 census as a 67-year-old publican in Hamilton with her daughter Elisabeth 28. Both censuses record that Christina had been born at Glassford, Lanarkshire.

Christina Ballantyne nee Dow died at Hamilton on 21 Apr 1877, aged 76 years. The death certificate gives her parents as James Dow (farmer) and Helen Dow, both deceased.

No.	Name and Surname, Rank or Profession, and whether Single, Married, or Widowed.	When and Where Died.	Sex.	Age.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Cause of Death, Duration of Disease, and Medical Attendants by whom certified.	Signature & Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Death occurred.
130	Christina Ballantyne, publican, widow of William Ballantyne Farmer.	1877, April, twenty-first, 3h. 20. m. a.m., Limekilnburn, parish of Hamilton.	F	76	James Dow Farmer. Helen Dow M.S. (both deceased).	Chronic Bronchitis, as certified by M.B. Robertson, M.B. &c. Hamilton.	George Ballantyne, Son, present.

1877 death certificate of Christina Ballantyne nee Dow

James Dow and Helen Frame

Christina's parents both lived into their eighties. They appear in both the 1841 and 1851 censuses living as retired farmers at High Netherfield. Their son Thomas Dow runs the 40-acre farm and lives with his family at West Netherfield. Another son John (aged 45) is recorded as an agricultural labourer living at nearby Netherfield Cottage in 1841.

The 1841 census (see below) gives Helen's name as "Elen Fram". She was buried in the local churchyard on 23 Sep 1852 as Helen Frame, spouse of James Dow late farmer in Netherfield.

		James Dow	25	F. S.
		Helen Hamilton	25	F. S.
Netherfield Cottage	1	John Dow	45	Ag. Lab.
		Elizabeth do	40	
		Isabella do	20	
		James do	15	
		Marianna do	8	
		William do	4	
		John do	1	
High Netherfield	1	James do	71	
		Elen Fram do	71	

James Dow and his wife Helen (Elen) Frame (Fram) on the 1841 census at High Netherfield

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The birth, death and marriage registers of the nearby Avondale Parish record several generations of the Frame family. Helen Frame was born at Blackmass on 18 Nov 1867 and baptised at Avondale four days later. Her father was John Frame. There are several John Frames who could possibly be her father; John was by far the most popular name for Frame boys. He may be the one who married Elizabeth Wilson at Avondale in 1763. He may have been baptised at Avondale in 1740, father John.

William Dow and Catherine Johnston

James Dow's death certificate records that he died on 15 April 1856 (aged 88) and that his parents were William Dow and Catherine nee Johnston, both deceased. The certificate was certified in writing by his son William Dow.

Surname and Name. (Rank or Profession, and Condition, whether Married or Single, Widower or Widow.)	When and where Died, with Hour of Death.	Sex.	Age.	Parents' Names, and Rank, Profession, or Occupation.	Cause of Death, and how long Disease continued.—Medical Attendant by whom certified, and when he last saw deceased.	Burial Place. Undertaker, or other Person, by whom certified.	Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant, if out of the House in which the Death occurred.
<i>Dow</i>	<i>1856</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>William Dow</i>	<i>Cerebral</i>	<i>Church yard</i>	<i>William Dow</i>
<i>James</i>	<i>April</i>	<i>Male</i>		<i>Bright</i>	<i>to wit</i>	<i>Strathaven</i>	<i>Son</i>
<i>Farmer</i>	<i>Fifteenth</i>			<i>(deceased)</i>	<i>as certified by</i>	<i>as certified by</i>	
	<i>7h. 30m. A.M.</i>				<i>G. Foulart</i>	<i>Andrew McEachie</i>	
				<i>Catherine Dow</i>	<i>Surgeon</i>	<i>Gravedigger</i>	
<i>(Widower)</i>	<i>Northfield Cottage</i>			<i>maiden name</i>	<i>she was deceased</i>		
	<i>Avondale</i>			<i>Johnston (deceased)</i>	<i>April 11th</i>		

1856 death certificate of James Dow

Christina Ballantyne's father's side

The 1841 census record for the Ballantyne (Ballenden) family at Hamilton describes Christina's father William as a farmer aged 50. The 1851 census describes his wife, Christina Dow, as a farmer's widow.

William died on 6 March 1842 and was buried in Glassford cemetery (see gravestone below). His wife Christina Dow was interred in the same grave 35 years later.

The Parish Register for Glassford records William Ballantyne's baptism on 21 June 1789, fifteen days after his birth. His parents were Andrew Ballantyne and Isabell Young. They resided at Howmains.



Gravestone for William Ballantyne and his wife Christina Dow in Glassford cemetery.

Andrew Ballantyne and Isabell Young

The only other information that I have managed to find for William Ballantyne's parents is the East Kilbride Parish Register record of their marriage on 29 June 1783. Isabell came from the neighbouring parish of Blantyre. The marriage was witnessed by Alison Loyon and Mar^t Warnock, both of East Kilbride.

Conclusion

We now have a collection of evidence that, when considered as a whole, supports the conclusion that Andrew, Isabella and Christina Ballantine were siblings. They were born at Hamilton in about 1821, 1826 and 1827 respectively. We know that they were closely related based on the DNA evidence. We know that they were siblings because we have eliminated other possible origins through examination of the Scottish census records.

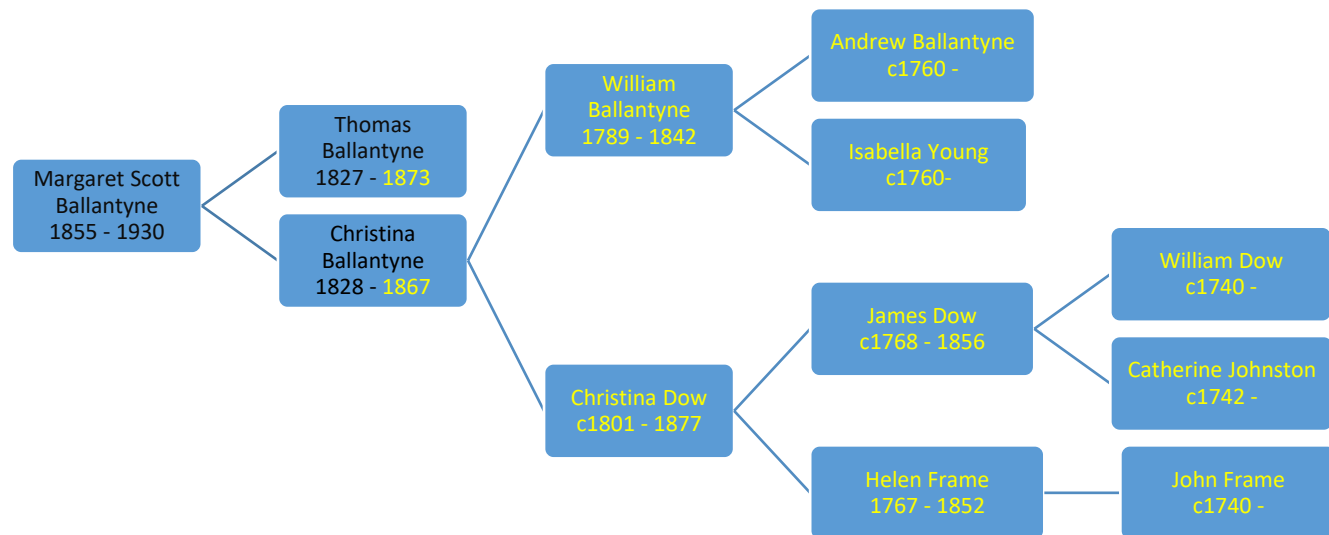
So, this research has, thanks to the hints provided by the DNA matches, allowed us to discover nine new names on our family tree. Our GGG-grandmother Christina Ballantyne was a daughter of **William Ballantyne** (1789 – 1842) and **Christina Dow** (ca 1801 – 21 Apr 1877).

William Ballantyne's parents were **Andrew Ballantyne** of East Kilbride (ca 1760 – after 1795) and **Isabella Young** of Blantyre (ca 1760 – after 1795).

Christina Dow's parents were **James Dow** (ca 1768 – 1856) and **Helen Frame** (1767 – 1852), both of Avondale.

James Dow's parents were **William Dow** (ca 1740 – before 1768) and **Catherine Johnston** (ca 1742 -).

Helen Frame's father's name was **John Frame** (ca 1740 -).



Pedigree chart showing new information in yellow text

Postscript

At Renfrew on 21 July 1851, Christina Ballantyne (1826 – 1867) married Thomas Ballantyne (1826 – 1873), a baker. Since they had the same surname, could they have been cousins? I will examine that question and the antecedents of Thomas Ballantyne in a separate essay, *My Tangled Ballantynes*.



Ballantyne family gravestone in Glassford Cemetery, Glassford, Lanarkshire.

Source: Findagrave: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/129629899>

This cemetery has over ten Ballantyne headstones.

Erected by
ELIZABETH BALLANTYNE
In memory of her father
WILLIAM BALLANTYNE
Who died 6 March 1842
Aged 51 years
Also her mother CHRISTINA DOW
Who died 21st April 1877
Aged 76 years
Also the above
ELIZABETH BALLANTYNE
Wife of JAMES BRYSON who died
At Limekilnburn 27 March 1883
Aged 41 years