

Our Hamilton Ancestors
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Hamilton Context

This file which is located at <http://retson.ca/hamilton.pdf> is currently being divided with descendants of Hamilton being located at <http://retson.ca/hamiltondescendants.pdf>. I am currently working on ancestors before James Hamilton born in 1758.

This file concerns the Hamilton Ancestors of Scotland who ended with the marriage of Jean (Jane Hamilton) to John Retson in March 14 1834.

1. William Hamilton

William Hamilton born 1730 m. Agnes Paterson d. 06 Apr 1803 Piccadilly, England

There children included

2. James Hamilton b. Scotland Abt. 1763

2. James Hamilton 1758 - 1843 Sarah Howat 1758 - 1851

James Hamilton was born at Berryhills, Sorn, Ayr, Scotland on 27 Dec 1758. He died at New Street, Sorn on 31 Dec 1843. He married Sarah Howat. on Aug 05, 1785 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland. She was born on Dec 27, 1758 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland.

James Hamilton and Sarah Howat had the following children:

3. i. William Hamilton b. 19 Dec 1785 in Elderholm, Parish of Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland. D. ? m. Margaret Templeton on 31 May 1807 Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland.
 - ii. Andrew Hamilton b. 22 Jul 1787
 - iii. James Hamilton 1789
 - iv. William Hamilton 1792
 - v. David Hamilton 1799
 - vi. Matthew Hamilton 26 Jul 1801

Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland¹

Sorn (Scottish Gaelic: Sorn, meaning a kiln) is a small village in East Ayrshire, Scotland. It is situated on the River Ayr. It has a population of roughly 350. Local services include: a pub, a church, a general store, a motorbike shop and a television shop. There is also a village hall and a bowling green and primary school. Sorn is known for its success in the Britain in Bloom competition. In 2004 it won gold in the "Small Villages" category and has previously won, amongst other awards, the "Highly Commended Certificate" a number of times in the 1980s. Sorn is also the first village in Scotland where all parking is off road parking.

3. William Hamilton 1785 - Margaret Templeton 1780 -

William Hamilton, son of James and Sarah Hamilton was born on 19 December 1785 in Elderholm, Parish of Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland. He married Margaret Templeton. 31 May 1807 Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland. Their Children included

4. Jean Hamilton b. 27 Aug 1811 in Mauchline, Ayrshire, Scotland, d. 22 Apr 1886 at Lintmill, Sorn, Ayrshire, m. John Retson on 14 Mar 1834 at Ayr, Parish of Sorn. Scotland.

4. Jean Hamilton 1811 – 1886 John Retson 1809 - 1891

Jean Hamilton, daughter William and Margaret (Templeton) Hamilton, was born in 27 Aug 1811 in Mauchline, Ayrshire, Scotland². She died at Lintmill, Sorn, Ayrshire on 22 Apr 1886. She married John Retson son of John Retson and Ann Bateman on 14 Mar 1834 at Ayr, Parish of Sorn. Scotland. He was born about Aug 1809 in West Kendal, Westmoreland. England. He died on Nov 11, 1891 in Low Fenwick, Ayrshire, Scotland. In 1851 she was living without her husband in Lint Mill, Sorn.³

Their children included,

- i. Margaret Retson b. 14 May 1834 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland; m. Alexander Thomson 3 Jul 1863 Woodhead of Gilmiln, Sorn; d. 16 Jan 1883 Thomsons land, Baillieston, Old Monkland, Lanark
- ii. Anne Retson b. 5 Sep 1836 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland; m. William Hendry Reid, 13 Apr 1855, Lintmill, Sorn, Catrine; d. 24 Nov 1884 St Cuthbert St., Catrine

¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sorn>

² Jean Hamilton, Scotland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950, database, Ancestry.com accessed September 3 2018

³ I could not find him in 1851 census so possibly his name was simply missed

- iii. Jane Retson b. c. 1839 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland; m. Alexander Fraser Hamilton, 23 Mar 1868, Lintmill, Sorn, Ayr, Scotland; d. 05 Aug 1873 at age 34 at 30 Townholm, Kilmarnock.
- iv. John Retson b. 5 Feb 1841 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland; m. Jane P. Russell 13 Apr 1866 High Church, Paisley, Renfrew, Scotland; d. 05 Jun 1901 Auldon, New Sneddon, Paisley
- v. William Retson b. 2 Nov 1843 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland; m. Elizabeth Bradley 27 Jul 1866 Kirkmichael, Ayr; d. 13 Oct 1900 Halliday Hill, Dalton, Dumfriesshire.
- vi. James Retson b. 12 Dec 1845 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland; m. Mary Anne Cunningham, daughter of Alexander Cunningham & Mary Fisher 5 June 1868 in West-Town, Sorn, Ayrshire;
- vii. George Retson b. 6 Apr 1848 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland; m. Mary McManus, 31 Dec 1871 d. 1 Dec 1910
- viii. Janet Retson b. 4 Dec 1850 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland; m. William Hendry , 5 Jun 1871 Sorn Parish; d. 1 Apr 1909 50 East St. Darvel, Ayr
- ix. Anne Thomas Bateman Retson b. 9 Jun 1852, in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland; m. Agnes Jamieson 10 Dec 1879, Lintmill, Sorn Parish; d. 21 Jul 1921 Partick, Glasgow, Lanark
- x. Agnes Dodds Retson b. 29 Mar 1854 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland. 4 Nov. 1923
- xi. Mary Retson b. 26 Feb 1857, in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland; m. Robert Murdoch Gebbie 31 Jul 1879 Lintmill, Sorn

Mauchline, Ayrshire, Scotland ⁴

Mauchline is a town and civil parish in East Ayrshire, Scotland. In the 2001 census Mauchline had a recorded population of 4,105. The town lies by the Glasgow and South Western Railway line, 8 miles (13 km) east south east of Kilmarnock and 11 miles (18 km) north east of Ayr. It is situated on a gentle slope about 1 mile (1.6 km)) from the River Ayr, which flows through the south of the parish of Mauchline.

Mauchline became something of a stronghold for the Covenanter movement. The village has at some point been a centre for quarrying sandstone, clock making, box-work, and the production of curling stones. Robert Burns, Scotland's National Poet came to live on the outskirts of the village at Mossgiel farm in 1784. Many of his poems are believed to have been written whilst he was there, notably *The Holy Fair*, *To a Mouse*, and *Holy Willie's Prayer*. Many of his poems were directed towards the perceived hypocrisy of the Church. The Church was particularly fanatical in Mauchline, which conflicted with the liberal attitude of Burns and his friends. The minister in Burns's time was the Rev William Auld of Old Helenton near Symington, South Ayrshire.

Burns made many friends (his wife Jean Armour was born in Mauchline) and a lot of enemies whilst in Mauchline, many of whom are buried in the kirkyard: "Holy Wullie" Willie Fisher, the Reverend William "Daddy" Auld, John Richmond, "Clockie" Brown and notably Gavin Hamilton his best friend. The plaque which marks Hamilton's grave was only placed there in 1919 by the Partick Burns Club. Gavin Hamilton had stated that he wanted no headstone, probably due to his run-ins with the Church in Mauchline. On one occasion Burns encountered Wilhelmina Alexander whilst walking through the grounds of Ballochmyle and this led to his famous song 'The Bonnie Lass of Ballochmyle.'

⁴ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mauchline>, accessed 3 September 2018

Robert gave shelter to Adam Armour, his wife's brother, following an incident in which Agnes Wilson, a maid at Poosie Nancie's, was driven out of the village by Adam, aged 15, and a group of 'Auld Licht' friends. Burns wrote Adam Armour's Prayer that describes the incident.

Abbreviation

- b. born
- m. Married
- d. died

Sources

Durie, Bruce, Scottish Genealogy, 3rd Edition, Stroud, Gloucestershire: The History Press, 2012