

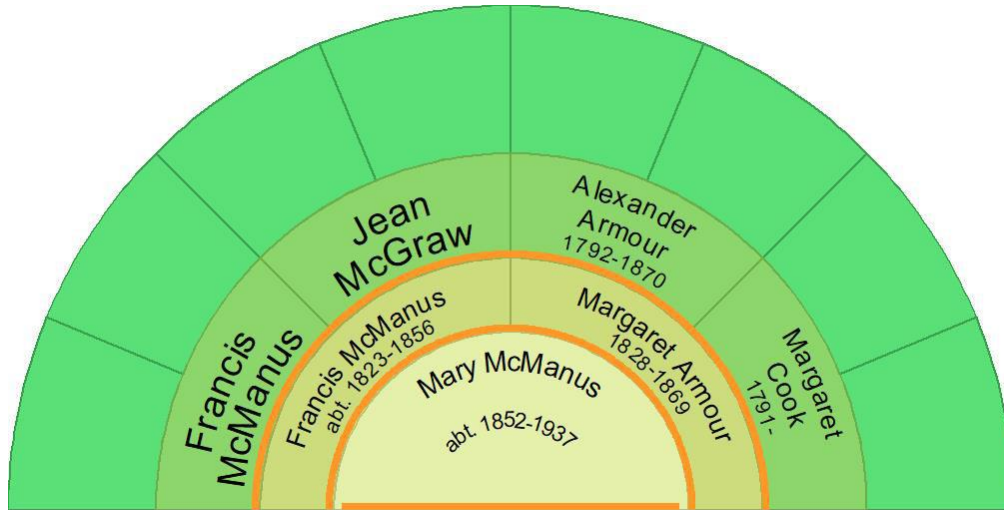
# Our McManus Ancestors

by  
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Last Revised at  
<https://www.retson.ca/mcmanus.pdf>  
February 29, 2024

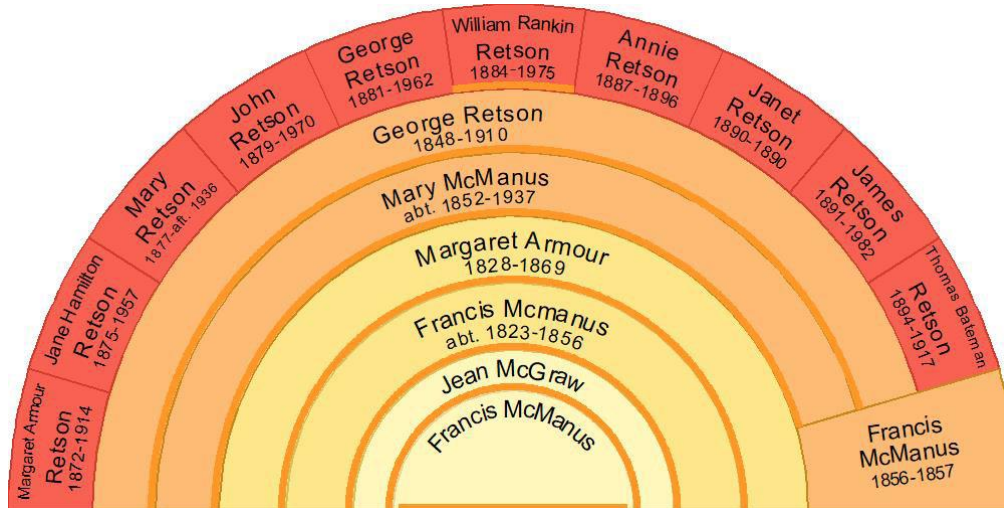
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## McManus Ancestors



## McManus Descendants



Other McManus descendants can be found at <http://www.retson.ca/mcmanusdescendants.pdf>

## McManus Context

The McManus family was Scottish family who never came to Canada. The name in our family ended with the marriage of Mary McManus to George Retson on December 31 1871. The earliest McManus found to date is her grandfather Francis McManus date unknown. They lived in Scotland from at least the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century to 1937.

## **1. Francis McManus and Jean McGraw**

Francis McManus married Jean McGraw. They had the following child:

2. i. Francis McManus b. abt1832, d. 24 May 1856 in Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, m Margaret Armour, on Sep 15, 1851 in Sorn, Ayr, Scotland. k, on Sep 15, 1851 in Sorn, Ayr, Scotland. She was born on Jul 29, 1828 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland. She died on Apr 20, 1869 in St Cuthbert St. Catrine.

## **2. Francis McManus 1832 – 1856 Margaret Armour**

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/McManus-2680>

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LRHX-SKZ>

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Armour-595>

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LRHX-WHL>

Francis McManus was son of Francis McManus (a soldier) and Jean (McGraw) McManus. He was born about 1832. He died 24 May 1856 at Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, usual residence 26 North Woodside Road, age 24years, described as a Coal miner or an Iron Stone Miner. Cause of death, Disease of shoulder joint and Phthisis, buried High Churchyard, Glasgow.

Their children include,

3. i. Mary McManus ABT 1852 Sorn
- ii. Francis McManus 07 Jul 1856 Milton, Glasgow, Lanark, Scotland. He died 2nd August 1857 at 22 North Woodside Road, Glasgow, male age 13 months, Cause of death Measles. Father Francis died before the birth of his son Francis McManus.

## **3. Mary McManus abt 1852- 1937 George Retson**

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/9MSV-5TL>

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/McManus-887>

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/9MSV-5T6>

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Retson-15>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/215471745/george-retson>

Mary McManus, daughter of Francis and Margaret McManus, was born about 1852 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland.

In the 1861 Census at age 10, she is residing with Alexander Armour her maternal grandfather at 8 St Cuthbert St. Sorn Ayrshire. I have not been able to locate 1871 census

In 1871 Census at age 19 she is residing with her uncle David Armour at St Cuthbert Street Sorn, Ayrshire Scotland <sup>1</sup>

She married George Retson on 31 Dec 1871 in United Presbyterine Church, Catrine, Sorn Parish Ayrshire, Scotland. He was born on Apr 06, 1848 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland. He died on Dec 01, 1910 in Gardrum Farm, Fenwick.

In the 1881 Census, age 29 Mary is residing at Main St. Fenwick with husband George 32, and children, Margaret 8, Jane 6, Mary 3 and John 1 along with 20 year old servant Jessie Watt.

In 1891 census Mary age 39 is residing at Town Head Farm with Husband George age 42, and children, Margaret 18, Jane 16, Mary 13 and John 11, George 9, William 7, and Annie 4.

In 1901 age 49, she is residing at Gardum, with husband George age 52, and children, Margaret (Maggie) 28, Jane 26, Mary 24 and John 21, James 9 and Thomas 6. George who would was now 19, lived at Molemounted Farm, Galston as a General Farm worker. William 17 resided at Cousin's home at Glaisnock Old Cumnock Town St as a Flesher Apprentice<sup>2</sup>.

Daughter Janet was born 22 Aug 1890, died 1 month later on 24 Sep 1890 of Pneumonia, Annie had died on 05 Jan 1896 at age 8.

Three more children would die premature deaths, Margaret in 1914 by Drowning, Thomas 1917 in World War 1 battle field and George in 1962 by waking into a vehicle on a trip back to Scotland forgetting about traffic driving on the other side of the road from Canada.

John emigrated to Canada arriving in Halifax aboard Siberian on 22 Apr 1902. William followed, leaving at age 19 on 25 Apr 1903 from Glasgow, Scotland for Halifax, Canada on board the Mongolian. A George Ritson is listed as a passenger on the Ivernia from Liverpool England to Boston Massachusetts in the Canadian Passenger List arriving 16 Jan 1908 and later he in a passenger along with James Retson on board the Orthia on 27 May 1911. George reports on a later census that he entered Canada in 1907. James returned to Scotland. Margaret came to Canada and married Alexander George Archibald in 19 January 1914 and died 18 December at Glenelg, St Mary, Nova Scotia. The husband remarried and had several children.

William and Mary Retson children:

- i. Margaret Armour Retson b. 13 December 1872; m. Alexander George Archibald 19 Jan

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<sup>1</sup> 1871 England, Wales & Scotland Census, Catrine, Sorn Ayrshire findmypast transcript accessed February 29 2024

<sup>2</sup> Scotland. 1901 Scotland Census. Reels 1-446. General Register Office for Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland. Parish: Old Cumnock; ED: 3; Page: 34; Line: 3; Roll: CSSCT1901\_235, (Ancestry.com), Ayrshire Registration Number:610A

1914 in Bible Hill, Colchester County; died 19 Dec 1914 in Glenelg, Guysborough, Nova Scotia, Margaret responded to an invitation of Alexander George Archibald, a relative of the wife of brother William Rankin, Beatrice Clifford to Canada in 1913. They married in January 1914 at age 42 and she died by drowning in December 1914. He subsequently remarried Belva MacDonald and had 6 children from 1921 to 1929

ii. Jane Hamilton Retson A.K.A Jean b. 5 March 1875 in High Fenwick, Ayrshire, Scotland, d. 31 Oct 1957, Prestwick, Ayrshire, Scotland, m. John Brown, widower, raised his children a boy and girl. Son was called in WW1. Daughter was Wee Jean Brown.

iii. Mary Retson b. 26 April 1877 in High Fenwick, Ayrshire, Scotland m. Rev. Andrew Burns, widower. Son Andrew by first wife became a doctor and married an actress who was also a singer. She came to Canada during WW2 and stayed before divorcing Andrew and headed off to Caribbean.

iv. John Retson b. 7 April 1879 High Fenwick, Ayrshire, Scotland, d. 23 Aug 1970 Truro, Colchester County, Nova Scotia, Canada m. Bessie Jane "Jennie" Johnson 22 Jan 1913 at Truro, Colchester County, Nova Scotia, Canada

v. George Retson b. 2 December 1881 at Townhead, Fenwick, Ayrshire, m Mary Edith Taylor, on Nov 14, 1912. d. 1962 on a trip to Scotland when he failed to remember that cars travel on the other side in Scotland.

vi. William Rankin Retson b. 22 February 1884 at Townhead, Fenwick, Ayrshire, Scotland, d. 14 Jul 14, 1975 in Bible Hill, Colchester County, Nova Scotia, Canada, m. Beatrice Mary Clifford, on Dec 25, 1907 in Onslow, Colchester County, Nova Scotia.

vii. Annie Retson b. 14 Mar 1887 in Low Fenwick, Ayrshire, Scotland, d. 5 Jan 1896 at age of 8 years

viii. Janet Retson b. 22 August 1890 in Fenwick, Ayrshire, Scotland, d. 24 Sep 1890 of pneumonia age 1 month 2 days

ix. James Retson born 15 November 1891 Gardrum, Fenwick, Ayrshire Scotland, d. 1982 m. Elizabeth Beattie (b. Sep 08, 1898, d. Jan 1974.)

x. Thomas Bateman Retson b. 23 February 1894 in Fenwick, Scotland, killed in Action 26th November 1917 in France, Private 33278, 1st Battalion, Cameronians (Scottish Rifles). Aged 23. enlisted Ayr, resident Beith. Son of Mary McManus Retson, of The Manse, Fenwick, Kilmarnock, and the late George Retson. Commemorated on TYNE COT MEMORIAL, Zonnebeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium. Panel 68 to 70 and 162 and 162A. also at Fenwick War Memorial [The war memorial stands beside the road which at the time of transcription was being reconstructed and the memorial was in a dirty state due to this. The memorial is inscribed on three sides. The top section names those from World War 1 with Regiments and the lower section those from World War 2, Confirmation granted at Kilmarnock 13 February to Mary Retson or Burns, Wife of Rev. Andrew Burns, Fenwick his sister.

Two other sisters Jane (Jean) and Mary also married late both as second wives to their respective husbands and neither had their own children.

We all die eventually. We generally expect parents to die before their children, and older siblings to predecease their younger siblings. Mary McManus Retson experienced a great deal of death. Her father and brother died while she was only 4 so she would only have faint memories of these individuals. She lost her daughter Annie, age 9 in 1886, her daughter Janet, age 1 month in 1890, her daughter Margaret, age 42 in 1914, and her son Thomas, age 23 in 1917.

Obviously certain deaths would have more impact than others. Margaret died in Canada less than a year after emigrating to Canada. She could not attend her funeral. She also lost the comfort of three sons who also emigrated to Canada, John George and William.

She died on Mar 29, 1937 at the age of 85 at 15 St. Ninians Road, Prestwick, Scotland.<sup>3</sup>

Her son George died as a result of a (1959, 79) at the age of 75.

## **Sources**

Durie, Bruce, *Scottish Genealogy*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed Stroud, Gloucestershire: The History Press, 2009  
Epperson, Amanda, *The Family Tree Scottish Genealogy Guide*: Cincinnati, Ohio, 2018

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<sup>3</sup> 1937 Deaths in the District of Monkton Prestwick, County of Ayrshire, informant son James Retson, East Riggs, Annan