



November 15, 2023

This newsletter may interest particular those related to persons related directly or indirectly to Grace and Clifford Retson. My genealogy website is located at <http://www.retson.ca/retsongenealogy.html>

Find a Grave Find A Grave <https://www.findagrave.com/>

This month made several edits to children of William Rankin Retson have been made in order to connect these children to their parents William Rankin Retson and Mary Beatrice Clifford. This requires the person who submitted the original memorial to accept the edits. At the time of this writing all but Bill Junior have been edited. Members of genealogy clubs tend to be the original creators of memorials because they are located in the community of the cemetery and take a photo of the grave. This ensures that the correct cemetery is chosen. I have opened up a file at <https://www.retson.ca/retsonvirtualcemetery.pdf> to place all the graves on one site. At the moment only the first 3 generations have been completed and more will be added each week.

The Retson Line Genealogy Research Part 2

Returning to the Retson Line Genealogy Research, we pick up at the 1891 census.

1891 Scotland Census (George and William)

In 1891 census William is living with his family of origin headed by George Retson.

| First name(s) | Last name | Relationship | Marital status | Sex | Age | Birth year | Occupation | Birth place |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|----------|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| George | Retson | Head | Married | Male | 42 | 1849 | Mole catcher & farmer | Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland |
| Mary | Retson | Wife | Married | Female | 39 | 1852 | - | Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland |
| Margaret | Retson | Daughter | - | Female | 18 | 1873 | Dairymaid | Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland |
| Jane | Retson | Daughter | - | Female | 16 | 1875 | - | Fenwick, Ayrshire, Scotland |
| Mary | Retson | Daughter | - | Female | 13 | 1878 | Scholar | Fenwick, Ayrshire, Scotland |
| John | Retson | Son | - | Male | 11 | 1880 | Scholar | Fenwick, Ayrshire, Scotland |
| George | Retson | Son | - | Male | 9 | 1882 | Scholar | Fenwick, Ayrshire, Scotland |
| William | Retson | Son | - | Male | 7 | 1884 | Scholar | Fenwick, Ayrshire, Scotland |
| Annie | Retson | Daughter | - | Female | 4 | 1887 | - | Fenwick, Ayrshire, Scotland |

In 1891 census John Retson, father of George is living with his daughter Agnes:
John Retson Age 82 Estimated Birth Year abt 1809 Relationship Head Where born Kendal, Westmoreland, Civil parish Fenwick, County Ayrshire Address Main St No 23 Occupation Retired Molecatcher

John Retson 82 Head

John Retson, father of George dies later that year (See death registration). From the death registration we see that he was born in 1809 [Death November 11, 1891 – 82 years], that he was married to Jane Hamilton, and That his parents were John Retson and Ann Bateman. The marriage of John Retson and Ann Bateman took place in Kendal, Westmoreland, England on 26 Jun 1809 which we take from England, Select Marriages, 1538-1973 FHL Film Number 1471686.

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1891. DEATHS in the Parish of Fenwick in the County of Ags.

| 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 Attendant by whom certified. | Signature & Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Death occurred. | When and where Registered, and Signature of Registrar. |
|-----|--|--------------------------------------|------|----------|--|---|---|---|
| 16 | John Wall Agricultural Labourer 1. Married to Jane Southfield | 1891. October 1 P.M. Fenwick | M. | 83 years | Alexander Wall Farmer (Deceased) Agnes Wall Mrs. Southfield (Deceased) | Causes of Death 1 year 7 months Relieved by J.C. Smith P.P. Fenwick | Alexander Wall Son Southfield Lanarkshire | 1891. October 21st Fenwick Wm. Brown Registrar. |
| 17 | David Marshall Widower of Anne Marshall | 1891. October 19 P.M. Fenwick | M. | 40 years | Thomas Marshall Farmer (Deceased) Ann Marshall Mrs. Marshall (Deceased) | Relieved by J.C. Smith P.P. Fenwick | Robert Marshall Fenwick Wm. Brown Registrar. | 1891. October 31st Fenwick Wm. Brown Registrar. |
| 18 | John Retson Widower of Jane Hamilton | 1891. November 11 P.M. Fenwick | M. | 82 years | John Retson Agricultural Labourer (Deceased) Ann Retson Mrs. Bateman (Deceased) | Old Age No Medical Attendance | George Retson Son Present | 1891. November 11th Fenwick Wm. Brown Registrar. |

Wm. Brown Registrar.

Thus, we think of our line of Retsons as Scottish, the family had only lived in Scotland since 1809. According to Great Uncle John (brother to our grandfather William), John and Ann eloped across the border in Scotland. But their marriage actually took place in West Kendall, England. Their first child was born in Kendall, England in August 1809 allowing for less than 2 months post-marriage gestation. Their second child James was born on 11 Sep 1811 in Scotland.

1881 Scotland Census for George Retson

Returning to William Retson and his father George, The 1881 census for William's father, living in Fenwick, shows the absence of William who was born in 1884.

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The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the

| Civil Parish of | Quoted Name of Parish of | School Board District of | Parliamentary Borough of | Township of | Police District of | Village or Hamlet of | | | |
|--------------------|--|--------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Fenwick | Fenwick | Fenwick | | | | Fenwick | | | |
| No. of Houses | ROAD, STREET, No. and No. of NAME of HOUSE | NUMBER of HOUSES | NAME and Surnames of each Person. | RELATION to Head of Family. | AGE as to Marriages. | AGE as to Birthdays. | Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION. | WHERE BORN. | Notes with reference to 1. 2. 3. 4. |
| 36 | Main St. | 1 | Mary Montgomery | Head | 61 | 61 | Out-door Worker | Agshire England | 2 |
| 37 | Do. | 1 | Margaret Montgomery | Head | 60 | 60 | | Do Fenwick | 2 |
| 38 | Do. | 1 | William Allan | Head | 40 | 40 | Retired Carpenter | Do Stair | 2 |
| 39 | Do. | 1 | Robert Ritchie James Ritchie Ellen Henderson | Head Wife Daughter | 36 32 28 | 36 32 28 | Chemist Housekeeper | Do Glasgow Do Do Do Perth | 2 |
| 40 | Do | 1 | James Greenhalgh | Head | 57 | 57 | Plowman | Do Inverness | 3 |
| 41 | Do | 1 | John Hugh Jane John William | Head Wife Son Daughter Son | 77 77 72 6 2 | 77 77 72 6 2 | Plowman Scholar | Do Fenwick Do Glasgow Do Drilly Do Fenwick Do Do | 3 |
| 42 | Do | 1 | George Retson Mary Margaret John Jane John Jane James William | Head Wife Daughter Son Daughter Son Daughter Son Daughter | 44 44 29 6 3 1 2 | 44 44 29 6 3 1 2 | Farmer Farmer Scholar | Do Fenwick Do Do Do Do Do Do Do Do Do Do Do Do Do Do | 3 |
| Total of Houses... | | 6 | Total of Males and Females... | | 7 | 12 | Total of Windows... | | 14 |

NOTE.—Draw the pen through each of the words of the headings as are inappropriate.

1881 Scotland Census for John Retson (registration number 613, Electoral District 7, Household 2, line 10)

John Retson, Father of George in 1881 is living in Lintmill, Sorn Parish, allegedly age 70 with his wife Jane age 69 and daughter Agnes age 27. He is said to be a farmer of 9 acres. He is said to be born in Kendall, Westmorland

| Household Members (Name) | Age | Relationship |
|--------------------------|-----|--------------|
| John Retson | 70 | Head |
| Jane Retson | 69 | Wife |
| Agnes Retson | 27 | Daughter |

1871 Scottish Census For George Retson

Shows George and Wife Mary McManus living alone in Sorn

George Retson

Marriage year 1871

Marriage date 29 Dec 1871

Marriage place Sorn, Ayr, Scotland

Spouse's name Mary McManus

1871 Scottish Census for John Retson (Father of George)

John Retson Age 61 Estimated Birth Year abt 1810 Spouse's Name Jane Retson
Where born England Registration Number 613 Registration district Sorn Civil parish Sorn
County Ayrshire Address Lintmill Occupation molecatcher & Farmer Of 9 Arable acres ED 7
Household schedule number 4 Line 7 Roll CSSCT1871_115

| Household Members | Age | Relationship |
|-------------------|-----|--------------|
| John Retson | 61 | Head |
| Jane Retson | 60 | Wife |
| Janet Retson | 20 | Daughter |
| Agnes Retson | 17 | Daughter |
| William Hendry | 1 | Grandson |

1861 Scottish Census for John Retson (Father of George)

In 1861 John Retson, father of George is separated from family, is at work as a mole catcher at work at farm of Alexander Watson, Greenfield, Eaglesham, Renfrewshire, Scotland

| Name | Relationship | Marital status | Sex | Age | Birth year | Occupation | Birth place |
|------------------|--------------|----------------|--------|-----|------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Alexander Watson | Head | Married | Male | 52 | 1809 | Farmer of 3500 acres land employing 5 shepherds | Carmichael, Lanarkshire, Scotland |
| Jean Watson | Wife | Married | Female | 47 | 1814 | Farmers wife | Eaglesham, Renfrewshire |
| Jean Watson | Daughter | Unmarried | Female | 18 | 1843 | Dairy maid | Eaglesham |
| James Taylor | Servant | | Male | 15 | 1846 | Shepherd | East Kilbride, Lanarkshire |
| John Retson | Servant | Married | Male | 50 | 1811 | Mole trapper | England |

Jane Retson and George Retson (age 2) in the 1861 Scotland Census

Wife Jane (Jean jane Hamilton) age 49 is back at Lintmill with the rest of the family

| Name | Age | Relationship |
|----------------|-----|--------------|
| Jane Retson | 49 | Head |
| Jane Retson | 22 | Daughter |
| Janet Retson | 10 | Daughter |
| Thomas Retson | 8 | Son |
| Agnes D Retson | 6 | Daughter |
| Mary Retson | 3 | Daughter |

1851 Scottish Census For George Retson (Father of William)

Shows George with mother and family. John husband of Jane is missing in this census without explanation. He may have been entirely missing from the census.

| Name | Relationship | Marital status | Sex | Age | Birth year | Occupation | Birth place |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------|-----|------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Jane Retson | Head | Married | Female | 39 | 1812 | Seamstress | Mauchline, Ayrshire, |
| Jane Retson | Daughter | Unmarried | Female | 12 | 1839 | At home | Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland |
| John Retson | Son | Unmarried | Male | 9 | 1842 | Scholar | Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland |
| William Retson | Son | Unmarried | Male | 7 | 1844 | At home | Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland |
| James Retson | Son | Unmarried | Male | 5 | 1846 | - | Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland |
| George Retson | Son | Unmarried | Male | 2 | 1849 | - | Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland |
| Janet Retson | Daughter | Unmarried | Female | 0 | 1851 | - | Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland |

1841 Scottish Census, for John Retson (Father of George)

John Retson's wife Jean/Jane (Hamilton). Note birth year inaccurately reports his birth year as 1811

| First name(s) | Last name | Sex | Age | Birth year | Birth place |
|---------------|-----------|--------|-----|------------|--------------------|
| John | Retson | Male | 30 | 1811 | England |
| Jean | Retson | Female | 25 | 1816 | Ayrshire, Scotland |
| Margaret | Retson | Female | 7 | 1834 | Ayrshire, Scotland |
| Anne | Retson | Female | 4 | 1837 | Ayrshire, Scotland |
| Jean | Retson | Female | 2 | 1839 | Ayrshire, Scotland |
| John | Retson | Male | - | - | Ayrshire, Scotland |

Tritton Ancestors

While not of as much interest to many work continues on our distant ancestral roots. I attempt to add more of these roots as time permits. Files will be updated as new information comes along. The Trittons were English Ancestors who migrated to Massachusetts as part of the Great Migration of the 1630s. More information can be found at <https://www.retson.ca/tritton.pdf> .

Additions to <http://www.retson.ca/retsongeneology.html> since October 1, 2023

Retson Ancestors <http://retson.ca/retson.pdf>

Clifford Ancestors <https://www.retson.ca/clifford.pdf>

Atkinson Ancestors <https://www.retson.ca/atkinson.pdf>

Tritton Ancestors <https://www.retson.ca/tritton.pdf>

This newsletter was sent to individuals who have expressed an interest in this genealogy at some time. If you do not wish to receive future updates, please email me at jretson@shaw.ca and indicate so.