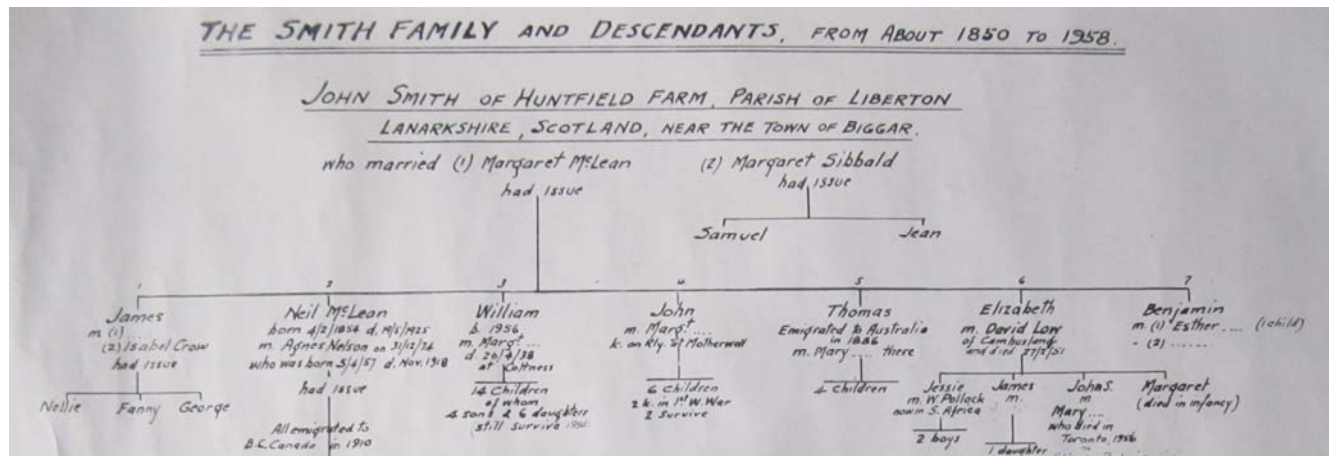


## The Smith Family of Libberton, Lanarkshire, Scotland

by David Williams, [www.mykidsancestors.com](http://www.mykidsancestors.com)

The starting point for our research on the Smith families of Libberton was the detailed family tree created by James T. O. Hepburn (1875-1967), who was married to Margaret McLean Smith (1880-1965). This tree was headed by "John Smith of Huntfield Farm in the Parish of Libberton".

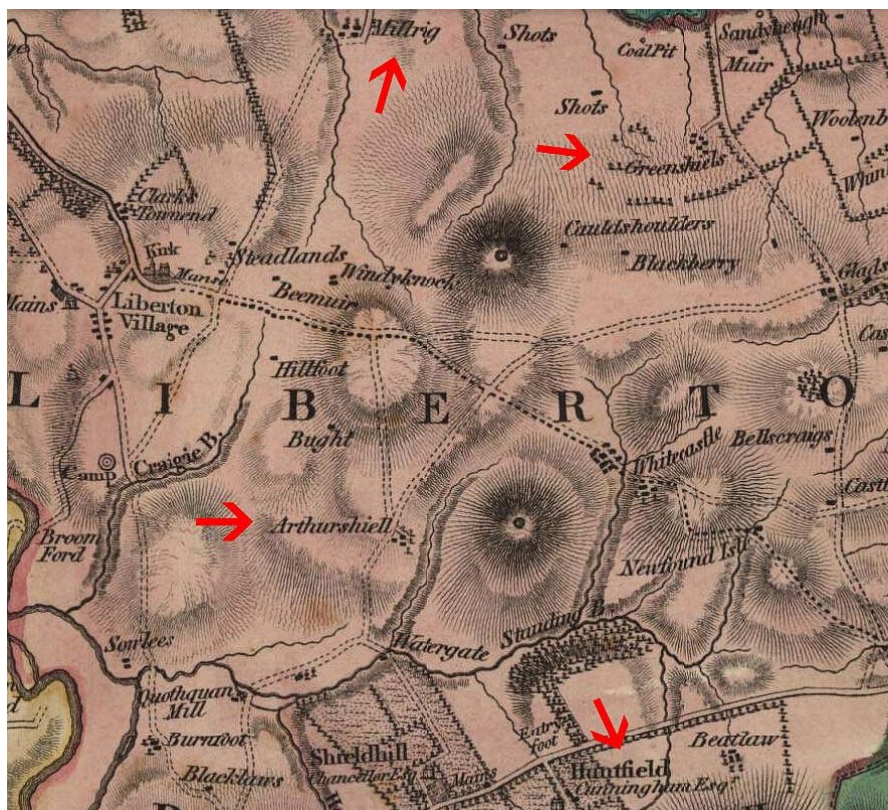


James' tree was last drawn about 1958, well before personal computers and the Internet made family research a lot easier for the average person. In recent years we have uncovered three earlier generations of this family that lived and died in the Parish of Libberton and added many details about the people in the tree.

The John Smith (1822- a.1891) that James Hepburn refers to can be found at Huntfield farm in the 1861 census with his wife Margaret McLean and three of their children. He is labelled as being 'of Huntfield farm' by James Hepburn, probably because James' father-in-law Neil McLean Smith (son of John) was born there. John Smith was actually born and raised at Arthurshiels farm where his father James (1783-1868) was a tenant farmer. John spent the latter part of his life (after his second marriage) farming near Climpy in Carnwath Parish. John may have only spent about 17 or 18 years at Huntfield.

John's father, James, was born in Libberton Parish and was probably living at Millrig (a.k.a. Millridge) when he married Elizabeth Russell in 1805. Their first son was born at Millrig which is the next farm to the West of Greenshiel(d)s farm where Elizabeth was born. Interestingly, John's first wife Margaret McLean can also be found at Greenshiels in the 1841 and 1851 census reports. She was probably born there as well, as her parents were married there.

The four Libberton farms mentioned above can be found on the 1816 Forrest map to the right.



John and Margaret McLean had 7 children.

- i. JAMES SMITH was born about 1852 in Biggar, Lanarkshire, Scotland. He married (1) JANE BRASH on 31 Dec 1877 in Carnwath, Lanarkshire, Scotland, daughter of John Brash and Agnes Lawson. She was born in 1853. She died on 31 May 1889 in Govan, Lanarkshire, Scotland. He married (2) ISABELLA CUTHBERTSON on 09 Jan 1891 in Govan, Lanarkshire, Scotland, daughter of James Cuthbertson and Frances Tennant. She was born about 1856 in Carnwath, Lanarkshire, Scotland.
- ii. NEIL MCLEAN SMITH was born on 04 Feb 1854. He died on 19 May 1925. He married AGNES MORRISON NEILSON on 31 Dec 1874 in West Calder, Midlothian, Scotland, daughter of David Neilson and Jane Kerr. She was born on 05 Apr 1857 in Bothkennar, Sterling, Scotland. She died on 03 Nov 1918 in Nanaimo, BC (Died of Influenza).
- iii. WILLIAM SMITH was born on 19 Mar 1856 in Huntfield Farm, Liberton, Lanark. He died on 26 Apr 1938 in Templegill, Coltness, Wishaw. He married MARGARET WATSON on 02 Jul 1875 in Cambusnethan, Lanarkshire, Scotland, daughter of William Watson and Janet Edgar. She was born in 1856 in Crossford, Lanarkshire, Scotland. She died on 08 Sep 1913 in Libberton, Lanarkshire, Scotland (Coltness Mains farm).
- iv. JOHN SMITH was born on 24 Jun 1858 in Libberton, Lanarkshire, Scotland. He died on the railway at Motherwell. He married AGNES GIRDWOOD on 02 Feb 1883 in Carluke, Lanarkshire, Scotland, daughter of John Girdwood and Christiana Blakley. She was born on 31 Oct 1861 in Carluke, Lanarkshire, Scotland.
- v. THOMAS SMITH was born on 04 May 1862 in Huntfield Farm, Liberton, Lanark. He married MARY JARVIE in Australia.
- vi. ELIZABETH SMITH was born about 1863 in Carnwath, Lanarkshire, Scotland. She died on 27 Feb 1951. She married DAVID LOW. He was born in Cambustlang, Glasgow, Scotland.
- vii. BERNARD COOK SMITH was born on 15 Oct 1864 in Huntfield, Liberton, Lanark, Scotland. He married (1) ESTHER. He married (2) UNKNOWN.

John had a brother named William who moved to Ontario, Canada in 1863. In June of 1864 John's wife Margaret wrote a letter to William to provide the latest local and family news. A copy was provided to me by one of William's descendants. The following is a transcript of that letter;

*Huntfield June 28th 1864*

*Dear Friends I daresay you will be worrying for a letter before this reaches you, I would have written sooner but your Father wished me to wait till after the Anniversary before I wrote, he was not in this year although quite well, he is very stiff I thought he would not go, he was over here seeing James about a fortnight ago I never saw him in better spirits Mr Brown has never paid the corn yet, John sent him a letter & he promised as usual, but that is all, John is speaking about threatening him, but it will have no effect as he is nearly over. Mr French, Burnhouse has come down with a terrible rash this spring with 4200£ of debt a great many working people & tradesmen are sufferers by him & it is expected that Mr Brown will not be long behind him John quite forgot to ask about changing the bills you wrote about but he will see & send you word in the next letter there is only a very little expense*

*at sending you the papers as it is the paper we have read ourselves so that there is only the postage extra we have had a great deal of trouble in our Family since you left us I had severe illness in the month of February & was for two months in bad health I had a billious fever which laid me up for three week I had not been so ill since the first summer we were here I was hardly better when James was taken ill & he has had a very narrow escape with his life he had overheated himself sowing manure for the turnips & had lain down without his clothes & caught cold we took no thought of anything but a severe cold but after he had been getting worse for some time we sent for the doctor & he told us he was in very great danger he sent for Dr Stark & they had a consultation & they told us afterward that it would have given them no surprise at all though he had died before morning - he is now much better & I do hope that he will get away from it, I was at Biggar on Sunday we had*

a very good anniversary Mr Sinclair of Greenock in the forenoon & Mr Riddle of Moffat in the afternoon they were both good but I liked Mr

Riddle exceedingly well he is indeed an able Minister the collections are a few shillings less this year I thought they would have been much less than usual as there are many of the farmers very hard up at present we were all at William Russells as usual on Monday they were all inquiring for you, James Grey will write you ere long, I will send word how we all are, he was visiting Mrs Jackson yesterday morning she is very far gone, her breast was cut and broke out again, she is suffering great pain & cannot speak above her breath, the pain is kept down as much as possible with laudunum but even it loses its effect Mr Blair has accepted the call to Carnwath Mr Robert MacMoran preached in Carnwath free church on Sunday, & I gave great satisfaction, he is to be licensed next week there is no word of our church building this summer I rather think it will stick yet as there is a good deal of opposition in the congregation so that they cannot get on

the farms of Greenshields & Gladstone have been let to a Fifeshire Farmer he had come from a Karse farm & is very much disappointed, he had put only 7 cows on the whole & some 7s.6d horse, it is not known whither he will ever stock it or not Carwood is still unlet, he never could get rent Cowbrough offered for it, Crops are looking well but grass is bad this season there has been a great deal of trouble & death among cattle this spring hardly a farm but has some dead. James Hodge had 3 greys died & a cow hardly living we have had more trouble among ours than all the years we have been here put together but none died, a great deal of stiffness almost every where, some of ours have been touched with it we have a park at Climpy this year & plenty of grass in it, the cattle are thriving fine John is going up tomorrow to see them 2 of the horse are in it as we have no park at Shieldhill this year your Fathers house is still smoking a little but he wishes me to say that they are very comfortable I remain Yours M Smith  
Dont be long in writing.

Pg 4

Pg 1

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Dont be long in writing

Shieldhill June 28<sup>th</sup> 1864  
Dear Friend I assure you will be wearying for a letter before this reaches you, I would have written sooner but your Father wished me to wait till after the Anniversary before I wrote, he was not in this year although quite well, he is very stiff & thought he would not go, he was over here seeing James about a fortnight ago I never saw him in better spirits Mr Brown has never paid the corn yet, John sent him a letter & he promised as usual, but that is all, John is speaking about threatening him, but it will have no effect as he is nearly over Mr French, Brown house has come down with a terrible crash this spring with £2000 of debt a great many working people & strong men are sufferers by him & it is expected that Mr Brown will not be long behind him John quite forgot to ask about the changing the bills you ~~write~~ wrote about but he will see & send you word in the next letter there is only a very little expense

at sending you the papers as it is the paper  
 we have read ourselves so that there is only  
 the postage extra we have had a great  
 deal of trouble in our Family since you  
 left us I had a severe illness in the month of  
 February & was for two months in bed  
 I then had a bilious fever which laid me out  
 for three weeks I had not been so ill since  
 since the first Summer we were here I was  
 hardly better when James was taken ill &  
 he has had a very narrow escape with his  
 life he had overheated himself sowing manure  
 for the turnips & had lain down without  
 his clothes & caught cold we took no thought  
 of any thing but a severe cold but after  
 he had been getting worse for some time we sent for  
 the doctor & he told us he was in very great dan-  
 ger he sent for Dr. Clark & they had a can-  
 dillation & they told us afterwards that  
 it would have given ~~us~~ <sup>them</sup> no surprise at  
 all though he had died before morning -  
 he is now much better & I do ~~think~~ <sup>hope</sup> he  
 will get away from it, I was at Biggar  
 on Sunday we had a very good anniversary  
 Mr. Blair of Greenock in the forenoon  
 & Mr. Riddle of Moffat in the afternoon  
 they were both good but I liked Mr.

Riddle exceedingly well he is indeed  
 an able Minister the Collections are  
 a few shillings less this year though  
 they would have been much less than  
 usual as there are many of the farmers  
 very hard up at present we were at  
 Burnfoot as usual on Monday they were  
 all inquiring for you, James & I will  
 write you ere long, I will send word  
 how we all are, he was visiting Mrs. Jack-  
 son yesterday morning she is very far  
 gone her Breast was cut & broke out  
 again, she is suffering great pain &  
 cannot speak above her breath, the pain  
 is kept down as much as possible with  
 Laudanum but even it does not effect  
 Mr. Blair has accepted the call to Carnwath  
 Mr. Robert MacMoran preached in Carnwath  
 Free Church on Sunday & gave great satis-  
 faction, he is to be licensed next week  
 there is no word of our Church building this  
 summer I rather think it will stick yet  
 as there is a good deal of opposition in the  
 congregation so that they cannot get on

Margaret also wrote to her brother-in-law William in January 1868 to inform him of his father's death. That letter reads;

Huntfield Jan'y 31st 1869

My Dear Friends

I again sit down to write to you to inform you of the death of your Father I did not think when I just wrote that his end was so near as we thought then that he might be spared months in the helpless state in which he was, as he was not sick & had little pain, but after that he sunk gradually & the nearer the end the quicker, I was over in a cart to see him the Tuesday before he died he was very much weak but quite collected I read to him the 14th chapter of John, Let not your heart be troubled believe in God believe also in me, I asked him if he heard me, every word he said, Mr James & Mrs Russel came from Burnfoot to

see him he was exceedingly glad to see them I asked about the farm James has got, when I came away he held my hand long in his, & said that he never expected to see me again, a lending to my long severe illness, I said that if he was spared a little I would come again, & see him, if I was not very much the worse of being out, no he said for I feel I am sinking rapidly, truly there is but a step between me & death he had no pain, but resless, & his hand which was not paralyzed clutching

the bedclothes, after that he spoke little to anyone, & on Friday about two o'clock a great change took place, John had been with him all night but had come home

about 10 o'clock to tell the boys about their work, when Jean seeing how ill he was sent over Joe Bertram to bring him quick, by the time he got over your Father was heightened a little but he never spoke after, nor knew any of them John was almost constantly with him after that till he died, on Saturday night he became very disturbed & continued so till about 5 o'clock when he after seemed worn out, & he lay till about 3 o'clock on Sunday 12 Jany when he passed quietly away to join the throng before the throne of God & Lamb for Ever where washed in our Redeemers Blood we trust to meet him & others gone before &

worship him in white robes & palms in our hands forever \_\_\_\_\_ the funeral was well attended we sent out 80 letters & there were a number of personal invitations the greater part of whom attended Jean is in the house yet, but Robert Black who was married to Jean Russel wishes her to come & help him, his wife died two or three years ago & it was her dying wish that he should try & get Jean as soon as she was free, he offers her a room but then with him, for her furniture rent free coals food & clothing & to place as much in the bank at his death as make her independent for life so we advised he to go as I have no doubt he will make her comfortable

Thun Field Jany 31<sup>st</sup> 1868  
My Dear Friends! I again sit down  
to write to you to inform you of the  
death of your Father I did not think  
when I last wrote that his end was  
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see him he was exceedingly glad to see  
them & asked about the young man  
has got, when I came away he laid my  
hand long in his, & said that he never  
expected to see me again, alluding to  
my long severe illness, I said that I  
would never see him again, I said that  
if he was spared a little I would come  
again, & see him, if I was not very  
the worse of being out, he said for  
I feel I am sinking rapidly, truly  
there is but a step between me & Dea.  
he had no pain, but restlessness, & his  
hand which was not paralyzed  
clutching the bed clothes, after that  
he spoke little to any one, & on Wed-  
-day about two o'clock a great change  
took place, John had been with  
him all night but had come home  
about ten o'clock, to tell the boys  
about their work, when Jean de-  
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Bertram to bring him quick, by  
the time he got over your Father  
was brightened a little but he never  
spoke after, nor knew any of them  
John was almost constantly with him  
after that till he died on Friday  
he became very distressed & continued  
so till about 5 o'clock when he  
seemed worse out, & he lay till about  
8 o'clock on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June when  
he passed quietly away to join the  
Throng before the throne of God  
& the Lamb for Ever where we  
in our Redeemers Blood we trust to  
meet him rather gone before &

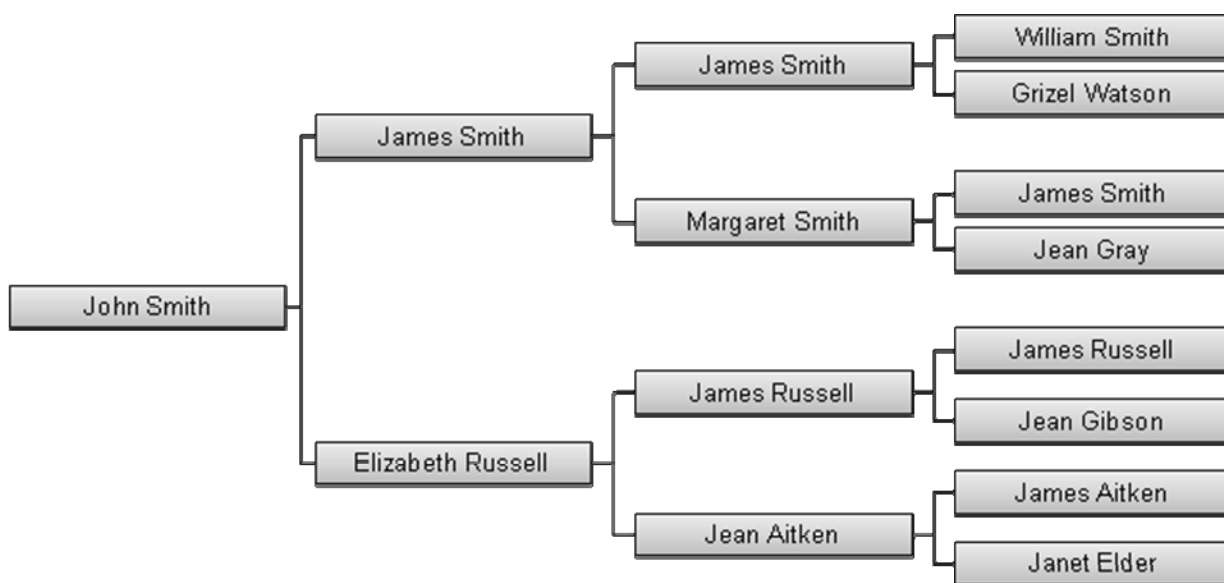
worship him in white robes & spoken  
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but I ben with him, for her furni-  
-ture rent free coals food & clothing  
& to place as much in the bank  
at his death as make her independent  
for life. So we advised her to go as she  
I have no doubt he will make her comfortable

Margaret referred to two family members in her letters. In the first instance, James, could be her brother-in-law or her son who was about 16 at the time. Brother-in-law James was at Westfield Farm in 1861 which way adjacent to Arthurshield in the direction of Huntfield. Margaret also mentions Jean who was her unmarried sister-in-law.

Margaret (McLean) Smith died in 1869. John remarried in 1870 to Margaret Steele Sibbald, daughter of Sammuel Sibbald and Jean Grey. John and Margaret had two children;

- i. SAMUEL SMITH was born on 23 Oct 1871 in Greenwell, Carnwath, Lanark, Scotland.
- ii JANE GRAY SMITH was born on 05 Feb 1874 in Greenwell, Carnwath, Lanark, Scotland.

**John Smith's Pedigree**



**James Smith and Elizabeth Russell**

As mentioned before, James Smith (1783-aft.1861) and his wife Elizabeth Russell (1778-1851) were both baptised in Libberton Parish but James was born just over the line in Carnwath parish. James baptism record states:

"July 13 1783. James Smith indweller in Newbigging Milln and Margaret Smith his spouse all of this parish had a son Baptised named James."

Elizabeth's registration states:

" Jan 11 1778 James Russel shoemaker in Greenshields and Jean Aitkin his spouse had a daughter baptised named Elizabeth."

James and Elizabeth were married in Libberton;

"June 21 1805 James Smith and Elizabeth Russel both in this parish after regular proclamation were married."

They had 7 children according to the Libberton parish records; James (b.1807), Jean (1809), Margaret (1811), William (1814), Thomas (1817), Margaret (1820) and John (1822). The older five were all born at Millrigg or Millridge Hill, the second Margaret's birthplace is not listed and John, the youngest, was born at Arthurshiels farm.

James and Elizabeth can be found in the 1841 Scottish census at Arthurshiels with five of their children. There is a sixth child in the home, Betsey, who is actually a grandchild. Betsey is still with the family in 1851 (as Elisabeth). It is a bit of a mystery who her parents were. She is not listed in the OPRs but she is listed in the census as born in Libberton. We don't have a marriage or offspring for the oldest son James and the only other reasonable choice would be an illegitimate child for Jean.

James, with children Jean and John and granddaughter Elisabeth, is still at Arthurshiels in 1851 and by 1861 it is just James and daughter Jean there. James died 12 Jan 1868 at Arthurshiels. His death registration confirms that he was the widower of Elizabeth Russell, son of James and Margaret Smith.

### **James Smith and Margaret Smith**

James Smith (1754) was born at Quodquan in Libberton Parish. Quodquan or later Quothquan is a village in the Southwest of the parish that may have been a collection of residences that supported a farm of the same name that lies a little further west. There were a number of Smiths that lived in the area including a John who was the schoolmaster. There is also a farmstead north of the town called Quothquan Mills in the direction of Arthurshiels so it is not possible to pinpoint where our James Smith was born.

His wife Margaret Smith (1757) was born at Hogscastle (a.k.a. Oggs Castle) in the northeast corner of Libberton Parish, which is directly across the Medwin River from Newbigging Miln (mill).

James' baptism is recorded as follows;

"Libertown June 7 1754, William Smith, smith at Quodquan and Grissol Watson his spouse had a son baptised named James witnesses John Smith Schoolmaster in Quodquan and William Gibson tenant there."

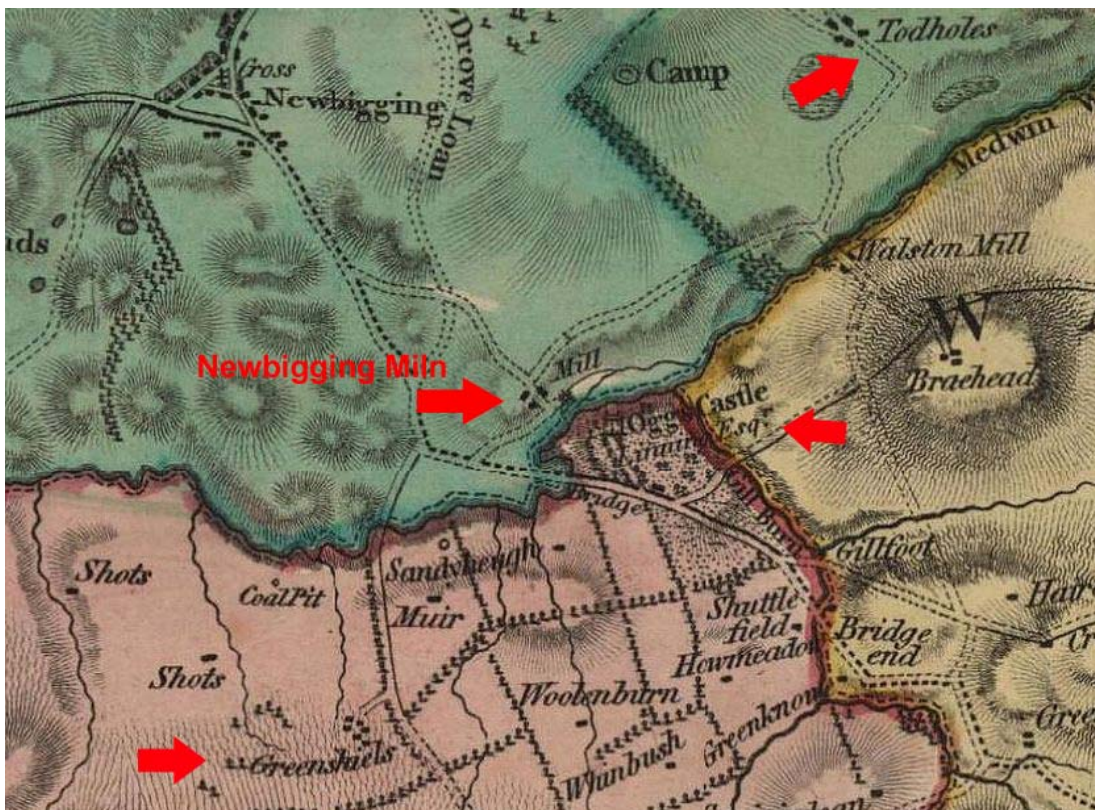
Margaret's baptism entry in the Old Parish Register tells us a fair bit about the family;

"Hogscastle Sept 20, 1757 James Smith tenant at Hogscastle and Jean Gray his spouse had a daughter baptised named Margaret, witnesses John Gray tenant at Todholds & James Gray servant to the said James Smith."

The Gray men noted in the record are presumed to be Uncles or cousins of Margaret. Todholds should actually read Todholes which is Northeast of Oggs Castle in Carnwath parish. Margaret's mother was Jean Gray. Her first husband, John Paterson, was the owner of Oggs Castle who died in 1741. Her son by her first marriage, John Paterson, inherited the farm and owned it until he sold in 1810.



The map below shows the four locations mentioned above. The land in pink is Libberton parish, green is Carnwath and yellow is Walston.



James and Margaret were married in Libberton;

"July 14 1780 James Smith in this parish and Margaret Smith in the parish of Carnwath after regular Proclamation were married."

They had seven children; Janet (1781), James (1783), Elizabeth (1787), William (1788), Jean (1791), John (1793) and Thomas (1796). In all of the children's birth registrations except Thomas', the Smiths are at "Libertown" or Libberton (presumably the farm). The place that Thomas was born which looks to be spelled "Stedline", is shown as "Steadlands" a farm East of the town of Libberton on the 1816 Forrest map above but is called Stidling Mains on Ordnance maps of 1805.

James and Margaret are buried at the Libberton Churchyard, their memorial reading;

*Erected in memory of James Smith in Liberton d. 21.7.1822 aged 77y.  
Margaret Smith his wife d. 15.1.1847 aged 91y. Also Jean their daughter  
d. 10.7.1793 aged 2y.*



### **James Russell and Jean Aitken**

James (1740-1809) was born in the parish of Covington and Thankerton while Jean (1741 ) was born in Carnwath. A marriage registration has not been found for the couple.

James and Jean had 6 children; Janet (1767), James (1769), Jean (1771), Elizabeth (1778), Helen (1781), and William (1786). All of the children were born at Greenshields. Each of the children's baptism record lists James as a shoemaker.

### **William Smith and Grizel Watson**

William was born about 1716 or earlier based on the birth date of his first child, Agnes. A baptism however cannot be found in Libberton or any of the surrounding parishes, in that timeframe. We don't have a birth date for Grizel (also seen as Grissel and Grizzel) but she would have to have been born close to or earlier than William's birthdate.

"May 12th 1738 William Smith and Grizel Watson both of this parish after orderly proclamation were married witnesses John Smith in Libertoun and Robert Watson in Cormiston."

Although John Smith of Libertoun is mentioned as a witness in many of the marriages and baptisms in the parish it would be safe to assume this is William's father. Robert Watson may well be a relative of Grizel but not her father. Cormiston is in the far South of the parish.

William and Grizel had three children baptised in Libberton. Their first child Agnes was born out of wedlock. Her 1734 baptism provides the names of both her grandfathers. This Agnes died in 1742. Another Agnes was baptised in 1752 and James was baptised in 1754. In 1754 William was a blacksmith at Quodquan (the village perhaps).

"Novr 8 1734 William Smith son to John Smith in Qdqn having been guilty of the sin of fornication with Grizel Watson daughter of George Watson in mains of Shieldhill had a daughter baptised called Agnes witnesses Robert Black weaver in Arthurshield and John Somervill workman in mains of Shieldhill."

### **James Smith and Jean Gray**

James (b.1721) and Jean (b.1725) were married in Libberton;

"Hogscastle Decr 27 1745 James Smith son to John Smith tenant in Libertoun and Jean Gray relict of John Paterson of Hogscastle were after orderly proclamation married witnesses James Paterson tenant in Carnwath and John Scott tenant in Libertoun."

They had 9 children; Agnes (1747), Elizabeth (1748), James (1749), Andrew (1751), Hugh (1752), Robert (1754), Alexander (1756), Margaret (1757) and George (1759).

### **James Russell and Jean Gibson**

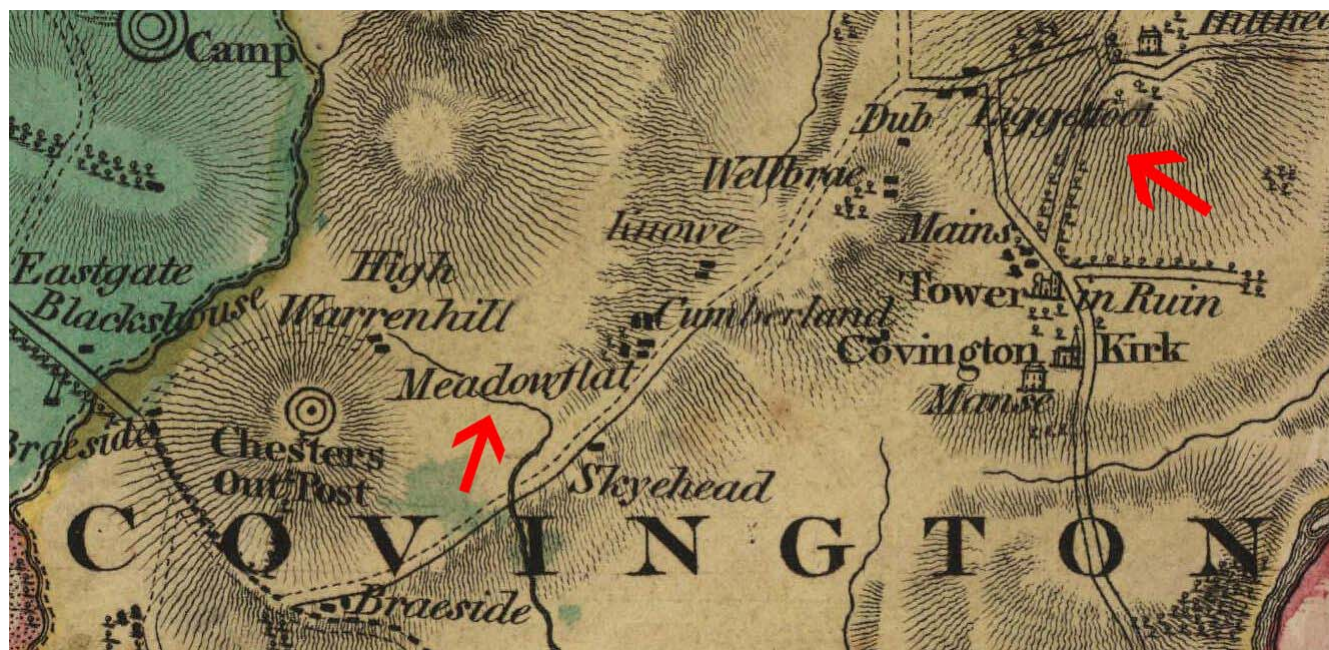
James (1715) and Jean (1713) were married at Libberton.

"10 Dec 1736 James Russel in the parish of Walstown and Jean Gibson in this parish after orderly proclamation were married , witnesses Thomas Weir and Thomas Clelland tenants in Qdgn"

Qdqn in this record is a short form for Quodquan or later Quothquan.

James and Jean were said to have had three children, William (1733) , Elizabeth (1738) and James (1740). A baptism for William has not been found which is not surprising as the date that some researchers suggest was before James and Jean were married. The birthplace they list is Glasgow which seems a bit odd. The later two children can be found on the same page of baptisms in Covington and Thankerton parish. Elizabeth was born at

Meadowflat and James at Ligatefoot (Leggatfoot on modern maps). James Sr. was listed as a shoemaker in both registrations.



### **James Aitken and Janet Elder**

James was baptised in Carnwath parish on 29 Sep 1711. His wife Janet Elder was born in the same parish 9 Jul 1713 to William Elder and Agnes Somervell and baptised on the 12th.. James and Janet had two children James (1738) and Jean (1741). Baptism were registered in Carnwath parish on 18 Jun and 4 Jan respectively. No marriage registration has been found for James and Janet.