



Clan Weir

We are likely direct descendants of Clan Weir, whose ancestral home is at Blackwood, in Lesmahagow Parish, Lanarkshire.

Most of the surnames found among our Scottish ancestors align with Scottish clans. However, in most instances, our ancestors with some surname did not live anywhere close to where the lands of the corresponding clan were, minimizing the likelihood that we had any ancestral ties to that clan.

To date, I have found two exceptions. We are direct descendants of Jannet Cathcart, who lived a short distance from Killochan Castle, Dailly Parish, Ayrshire, the ancestral home of Clan Cathcart.

- For more about our possible ties to Clan Cathcart, see [Clan Cathcart of Killochan Castle](#).

It is my working hypothesis for the ancestry of Jemima Russell Wasson's mother, Jean Swan, that we are also direct descendants of at least three generations of Weirs who lived on Auchren in Lesmahagow Parish, Lanarkshire. Auchren was once one of the farms that made up Clan Weir's land holdings in Lesmahagow Parish.

Clan Weir

Clan Weir traces its origins to the de Vere name and family, and in particular, to Radulphus (Ralph) de Vere, the first de Vere recorded in Scotland. He had lost his right to the Earldom of Oxford when he opposed England's Henry II. De Vere had been a follower of Conan IV, the Duke of Brittany who made a claim to the English throne as a great grandson of Henry I. When Henry II conquered Brittany, Conan and his followers fled to Scotland. De Vere gave his allegiance to King William I of Scotland, a.k.a. William the Lion, and they were briefly captured together at the Battle of Ainwick in 1174. Conan married the sister of King William I, and the king awarded Ralph de Vere vast lands in Lanarkshire, where his descendants established themselves.

The next four generations of de Veres, now Weirs, included Walter, born around 1190, Walter's son Radulphus, born in 1225, Radulphus' son Thomas, born around 1256, and Thomas' son Richardus, born in 1280.

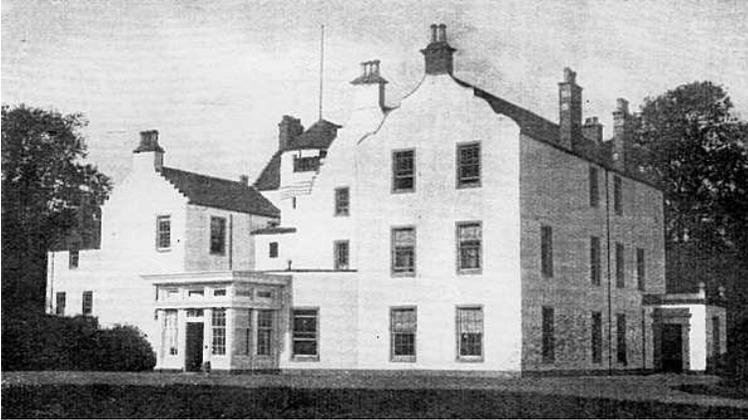
Richardus had a son Thomas Weir, who lived from 1310-1371. According to a 1314 charter of Kelso Abbey, "This Thomas Weir is the first recorded proprietor of the lands of Blackwood". That Thomas was only four struck me as odd, but 1314 is the year that his father died, and Thomas was the natural heir. Kelso Abbey was founded by King David I of Scotland in about 1113 at Selkirk, but it was moved to Kelso in 1229, where some of its ruins stand today. Donations that the de Veres made to the abbey are documented at least as far back as 1200.

More generations of Weirs followed. Thomas had a son Buan, born in 1340. Buan's son was Rothaldus, born in 1368.

Rothaldus, the 1st Laird of Blackwood, was Bailie (a magistrate) of Lesmahagow from 1398 to 1400. In 1400, the abbey granted Rothaldus half of the church lands of Blackwood, Dermoundyston, Stonebyres, and Archtyfardle and all of Mossmyne, in exchange for an annual fee. The Weirs had been at Blackwood since at least 1314 at this point. Weirs at Stonebyres, Archtyfardle and Mossmyne were descendants of the Weirs at Blackwood, and Stonebyres in fact had once been part of Blackwood.



Blackwood House



Blackwood House

The son of Rothaldus was Thomas, born about 1400, and the 2nd Laird of Blackwood. The next three generations included Robert, Robert's son Thomas, and Thomas' son James.

A feud erupted between the Weirs of Blackwood and their cousins at Stonebyres in the 1500s. This reportedly ended with the Stonebyres cousins swearing allegiance to the Weirs of Blackwood.

The lands of Stonebyres at one point not only included Stonebyres Estate, but also Verehills, Greenrig, Taithee, Over Audinleck, Damfillan, Borland, Auldton, Hill, Cultershogle, Leelaw, Neuk of Leelaw, Mossmyne, Brae, Moat, Moatyett, Boghill, Bog, Auchren and other farms. (Annals of the Parish of Lesmahagow, 1864).

It has been reported that all the Weirs in Lesmahagow Parish were part of this extended family. Our Weir family ties are through Auchren.



Stonebyres House was owned by the Weir family until 1845, when the Weirs left the house. It was demolished in 1934.

The Weirs have been recognized by the Court of the Lord Lyon, King of Arms, Edinburgh, Scotland as well as the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs as a clan. However, Clan Weir currently does not have a known chief.

Although the Weirs were their own clan, they were also closely tied to Clan Douglas. This included through a *manrent*, a type of contract where the Weirs pledged to serve Clan Douglas in exchange for protection. For this reason, the Weirs are also regarded as a sept to Clan Douglas.

Our Possible Ties to Clan Weir

My research into the ancestry of Jean Swan, the mother of Jemima Russell Wasson, is considered a working hypothesis. Although I believe that the available evidence supports my conclusion that Samuel Swan and Christian Wilson were her parents, there is always the possibility that a better-fitting birth record or some other confirming detail has been lost to the ages.

Researching parts of Samuel Swan's ancestry has been somewhat easier because of the repetition of names, appropriateness of ages, the geographic focus, and the fact that several generations have ties to Auchren, a farm near the village of Lesmahagow in Lesmahagow Parish and once part of the holdings of the Weir family through their Stonebyres Estate. This includes four generations of Weirs in our family tree.

- For more about Jean Swan's ancestry, see [The Russells and Swans of Lanarkshire, Scotland](#).

The earliest known Weirs in our tree are William Weir and his father John Weir. They were both named in William's June 30, 1700 record of marriage to Jonat Brown. It identifies John Weir as being of Auchren, which puts his son there as well.

William Weir and Jonat Brown's daughter Marion Weir was born in Douglas Parish and baptized November 1, 1733. Marion went on to marry Samuel Swan. Samuel was born to Thomas Swan and Mary Stewart at Auchren, and was baptized in Lesmahagow Parish on September 29, 1723. When Thomas married Mary in 1713, she was from Auchren, having been born there, and Thomas was from nearby Bankhead.

We have four known generations of Weirs in our family tree, at least three of which had lived at Auchren for some time. Auchren was a Clan Weir holding for a long time through their Stonebyres Estate.

We also are connected to Auchren through Mary Stewart, her father John, and her son Samuel Swan. Other than having Auchren in common, the Stewarts and Swans do not have known family ties to the Weirs in the available parish church registries before Samuel Swan married Marion Weir in Douglas Parish, Lanarkshire.



This 1755 map shows the village of Lesmahagow, Bankhead and Auchren in Lesmahagow Parish, Lanarkshire. Hill, Boghill, Bog and Auldton (Old Town) were also among the Weir family holdings through their Stonebyres Estate.



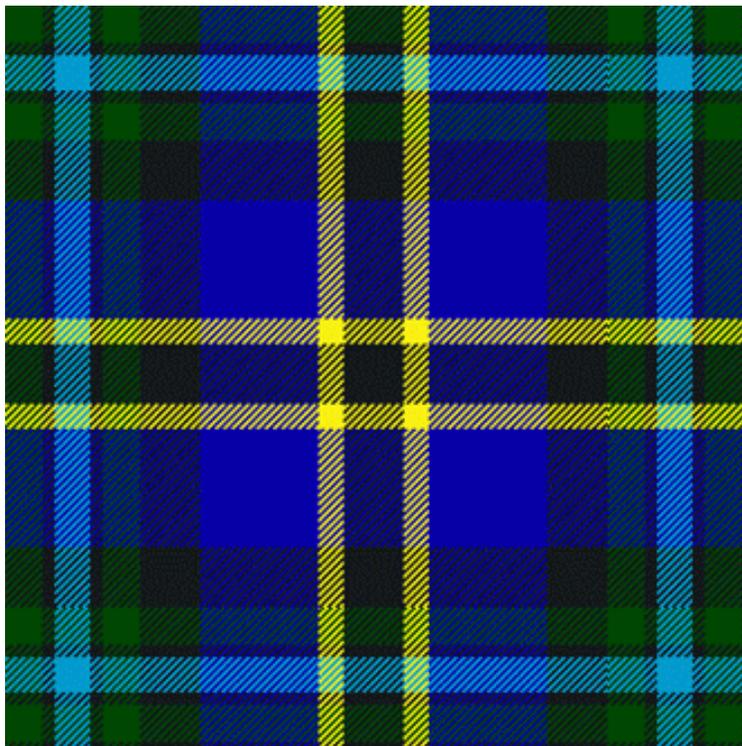
Auchren in 2012

Clan Weir Paraphernalia

The crest of Clan Weir features an azure boar standing upon a red and white chapeau. It includes the motto “Vero Nihil Verius”, which means “Nothing truer than truth”.



Clan Weir Crest



Weir Modern Tartan



Weir Ancient Tartan

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