



The McNeils of Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland

The records for our McNeil ancestors led to Glasgow, but not much further than that due to limits on the information available in the Scottish records, a remarriage that occurred in Canada, and inconsistent information found across a number of U.S. records.

Ellen C. McNeil was born in Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Scotland, and married Samuel Sawyer in Fort Edward, Washington County, New York before 1860. We are direct descendants of Samuel and Ellen McNeil Sawyer. For that reason, I wanted to find information on the ancestry of Ellen C. McNeil.

It proved to be somewhat challenging, as some of the most specific information I had to start with about Ellen – her birthdate as provided in her obituary – did not match any other records that I found about her. Fortunately, there were some factors in the information I found that allowed me to piece together her parents, siblings and how Ellen ended up in the United States.

I was less successful in researching her parents' ancestry. There just was not enough information in the Scottish parish records that allowed me to comfortably take the research back another generation.

Initial Research

Because Samuel was already in Washington County by the 1850 U.S. Census, I reasoned that he must have met Ellen in the county. That in turn suggested that there might be other Scotland-born McNeils in the county. A search turned up a pair of brothers that fit the bill. James was reportedly born about 1836 and Duncan about 1840 in Scotland, and both lived in Fort Edward for the 1860 U.S. Census, although the last name spelled 'Mcniel' in the census. They were living with a Jane and Anna Sanders.

I searched the 1841 U.K. Census records and found only one Duncan McNeil in Scotland whose birth year was reasonably consistent with the 1860 U.S. Census record. Born in August 1839, he would have been 20 at the time of the 1860 U.S. Census. He also had a brother named James

who was born in 1833 and would have been 26 at the time of the 1860 U.S. Census. The Duncan record matched; the James record was a little off.

Do	Jean McNeil	34	cotton weaver	2
	John Do	10		4
	Jean Do	8		4
	James Do	6		4
John Do	Helen McNeil	2		4
	Duncan Do	1		4

The 1841 U.K. Census record for Jean (Jane) McNeil and her household

90	612	632	Jane Sanders	52	f	Womenshire	✓	111	111	Scotland
91			James McNeil	24	m	Womenshire	✓			Scotland
92			Duncan	21	m	Sawyer	✓			Scotland
93			Anna Sanders	15	f	Womenshire	✓			Canada

The 1860 U.S. Census record for Jean (Jane) McNeil, now Jane Sanders, and her household. Note that the record does not indicate that James, Duncan and Anna are her children, so when I first came across this record, I incorrectly assumed that James and Duncan were lodgers.

In addition, according to the 1841 U.K. Census record, they had a sister who would have been 22 at the time of the 1860 U.S. Census.

130	111		Samuel Sawyer	30	m	France	✓	50		Canada &
			Ellen	22	f	Womenshire	✓			Scotland

The 1860 U.S. Census record for Samuel Sawyer and his wife Ellen (Helen) McNeil Sawyer

Her name? Helen Clark McNeil, born August 12, 1837 in Barony Parish, Glasgow.

Is Helen Clark McNeil the same person as Ellen C. McNeil?

The Helen/Ellen variation, like Jean and Jane, is a routine variation in Scottish names.

Middle names are rare in the older records, but Helen has one, and Clark is consistent with the initial C.

The names, birth order and approximate ages of James, Ellen and Duncan in Fort Edward in 1860 are consistent with James, Helen and Duncan in the 1841 U.K. Census record.

The only historic location detail we had about Ellen was that she was born in Glasgow, Scotland. Helen McNeil's birth record and the 1841 U.K. Census put her birth in Glasgow.

Samuel and Ellen named one of their sons James Duncan, the names of Helen's brothers who served in the Civil War.

The only significant discrepancy is that Helen's birth record indicates that she was born August 12, 1837, whereas Ellen's obituary indicates that she was born March 26, 1840. The 1860 U.S. Census indicates that she would have been born in 1837-1838. 1870 and 1880 U.S. Census records, however, suggest that she was born in 1839-1840. There was a similar discrepancy for John (Jemima) Wasson between his Jones County, Iowa records and his Scottish birth record.

**OBITUARY OF MRS. ELLEN
SAWYER.**

Mrs. Ellen Sawyer was born in Glasgow, Scotland, March 26, 1840, and died in Cedar Rapids, Ia., January 27, 1905. Mrs. Sawyer was converted and joined the M. E. church at 12 years of age. At 18 years of age she was married to Samuel Sawyer in the state of New York, and moved to Wyoming, Iowa, in 1850. Three children were born to them; all of whom are living. They are Elvin S. Sawyer of Mechanicsville, Iowa, Duncan J. Sawyer of Campbell, Cal., and Mrs. Carrie E. Miller of 511 Second avenue east. She died at the home of the latter after only two days of serious illness, the immediate cause of her death being a stroke of paralysis. Mr. Sawyer died at Audubon, Iowa, about fourteen years ago. About seven years ago Mrs. Sawyer moved to Cedar Rapids, and for the last two years has made her home at her daughter's, Mrs. Miller. The funeral was held from the residence, 511 Second avenue, at 1 o'clock this afternoon, Rev. B. J. Clark of the First U. B. church preaching the sermon. Interment at Oak Hill cemetery.

Ellen C. McNeil Sawyer's obituary, Cedar Rapids Gazette, January 30, 1908

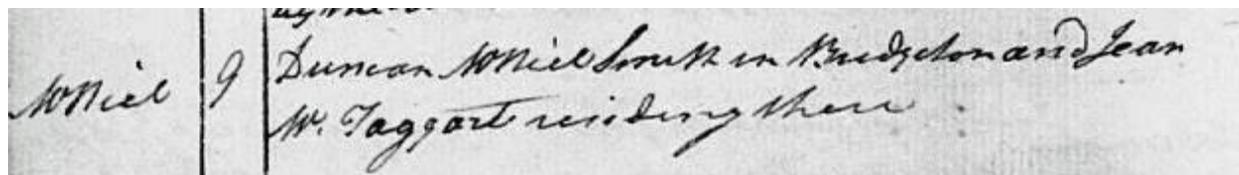
I felt I was onto something with this connection, so I fleshed out the family in Scotland, and then worked my way forward from there.

Our McNeil Ancestry

This is what I have concluded to date about Ellen C. McNeil, her parents and siblings, and how she got from Scotland to the United States.

Marriage

Duncan McNeil, a blacksmith, married Jean (Jane) McTaggart on October 9, 1825 in Bridgeton, Barony, Glasgow, Scotland.



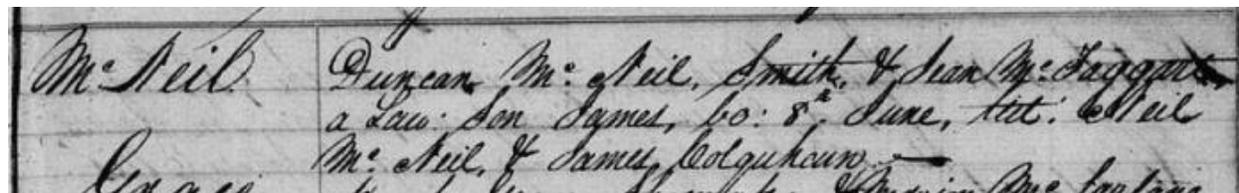
A handwritten record on a piece of paper with a vertical line. On the left side, the name 'McNeil' is written. To its right, the number '9' is written. Further right, the text reads: 'Duncan McNeil Smith in Bridgeton and Jean Mc. Taggart residing there.'

"McNeil, [October] 9 [1825], Duncan McNeil, Smith in Bridgeton, and Jean McTaggart residing there" [sic]

Children

I found birth records for seven children.

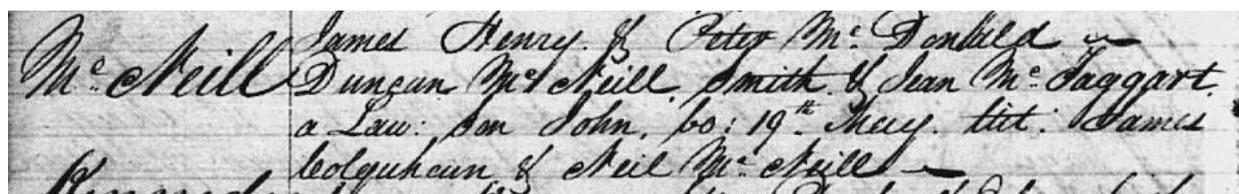
James McNeil was born on June 8, 1827 in Glasgow. He died February 5, 1832 in Gorbals, Glasgow.



A handwritten record on a piece of paper with a vertical line. On the left side, the name 'McNeil' is written. To its right, the text reads: 'Duncan Mc. Smith, & Jean Mc. Taggart a Law. Son James, bo: 8th June, tit: McNeil Mc. Smith, & James Colquhoun.'

"McNeil, Duncan McNeil, Smith, & Jean McTaggart, a Law[ful] Son James, born 8th June, Wit[nesses] Neil McNeil & James Colquhoun." [sic]

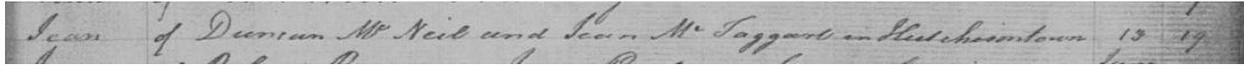
John McNeil was born May 19, 1829 in Glasgow, likely in Gorbals.



A handwritten record on a piece of paper with a vertical line. On the left side, the name 'McNeil' is written. To its right, the text reads: 'James Henry & Peter Mc. Donald & Duncan Mc. Smith, & Jean Mc. Taggart a Law. Son John, bo: 19th May, tit: James Colquhoun, & Neil Mc. Smith.'

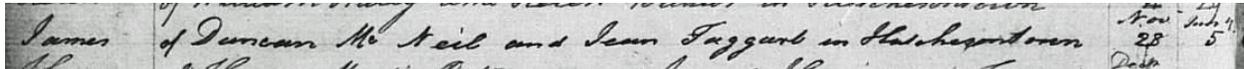
"McNeil, Duncan McNeil, Smith, & Jean McTaggart, a Law[ful] Son John, born 19th May, Wit[nesses] James Colquhoun & Neil McNeil." [sic]

Jean (Jane) McNeil was born on May 13, 1831 in Hutchesontown, Gorbals, Glasgow.



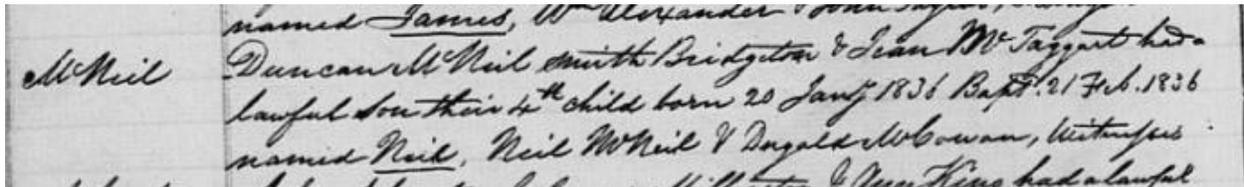
"Jean, of Duncan McNeil and Jean McTaggart in Hutchesontown, [born May] 13 [1831 and baptized May] 19" [sic]

James Clark McNeil was born on November 28, 1833 in Hutchesontown, Gorbals, Glasgow.



"James, of Duncan McNeil and Jean McTaggart in Hutchesontown, [born] Nov 28 [and baptized] January 5 [1834]" [sic]

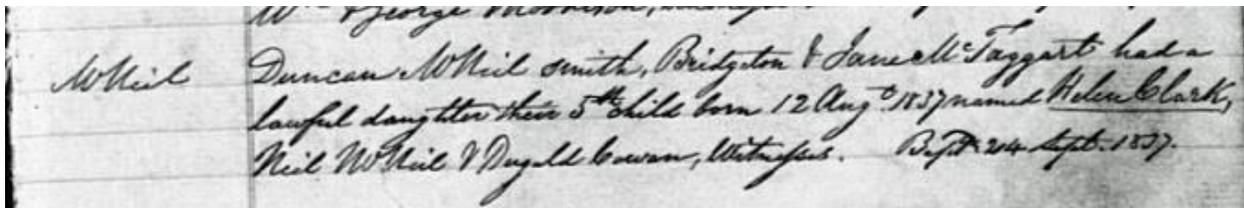
Neil McNeil was born on January 20, 1836 in Bridgeton, Barony, Glasgow.



"McNeil, Duncan McNeil, Smith, Bridgeton & Jean McTaggart had a lawful son their 4th child born 20 Jan'y 1836, Bapt[ized] 21 Feb. 1836 named Neil. Neil McNeil & Dugald McCowan, witnesses." [sic]

Although the record notes that Neil was their fourth child, he was Duncan and Jean's fifth-born child. However, their first son James had died in 1832, so Neil was their fourth living child.

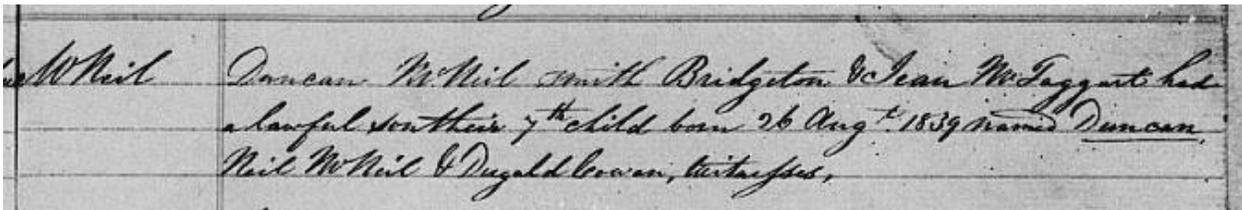
Helen (Ellen) Clark McNeil was born on August 12, 1837 in Bridgeton, Barony, Glasgow.



"McNeil, Duncan McNeil, Smith, Bridgeton & Jane McTaggart had a lawful daughter their 5th child born 12 Augt 1837, named Helen Clark. Neil McNeil & Dugald McCowan, witnesses. Bapt[ized] 24 Sept. 1837." [sic]

By this point, son Neil had also died, but their child count still increased to five.

Duncan McNeil was born on August 26, 1839 in Bridgeton, Barony, Glasgow.



“McNeil, Duncan McNeil, smith, Bridgeton & Jean McTaggart had a lawful son their 7th child born 26 Aug 1839, named Duncan. Neil McNeil & Dugald McCowan, witnesses.” [sic]

Duncan was indeed their seventh child overall.

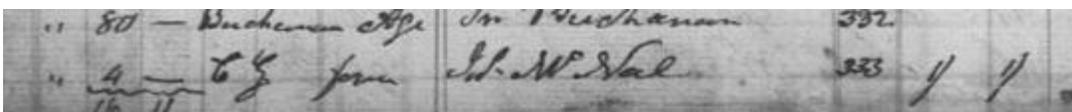
Unless there are missing or poorly transcribed birth records, I believe this correctly describes the McNeil family and their children for the following reasons:

- All of the births are mathematically possible – more than nine months separate them.
- Although there are some changes in location, Barony Parish covers central Glasgow north of the River Clyde, and Gorbals Parish covers central Glasgow south of the River Clyde. I have walked from Hutchesontown to Bridgeton to John Street. They’re just not far apart.
- Those records that listed father Duncan McNeil’s occupation all indicated that he was a blacksmith.
- There was repetition among the names of witnesses for those birth records that listed witnesses. A Neil McNeil, for example, was among the witnesses for all records that listed witnesses. I suspect that he was father Duncan McNeil’s brother, or less likely his father or an uncle.

Deaths in Scotland

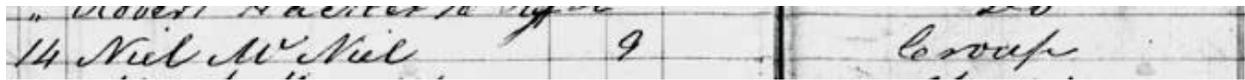
I found death records for father Duncan McNeil and two of Duncan and Jean (Jane)’s children.

James McNal (McNeil) died in Gorbals, Glasgow of the fever on February 5, 1832. His age was recorded as 4, suggesting that he was likely born in 1827 or possibly 1828. The name, death location, age, and the fact that the family reused the name James when a son was born the following year all support that this was Duncan and Jean (Jane)’s firstborn son James.



“4 [years old] [burial site abbreviation] fever, James McNal” [sic]

Neil McNeil died in Glasgow of the croup on October 14, 1836. His age was recorded as 9 months, suggesting that he was born in January. His name, death location, age and his absence from the family in the 1841 U.K. Census all support that this was Duncan and Jean (Jane)'s son Neil.



"[October] 14 [1836], Neil McNeil, 9 [months old], croup" [sic]

A Duncan McNeil, blacksmith, died in Glasgow of the fever on December 5, 1840. His age was recorded as 38, suggesting that he was likely born in 1802. His name, occupation, death location and his absence from the family in the 1841 U.K. Census all support that this was Duncan McNeil, Sr.



"[December] 5 [1840], Duncan McNeil, 38 [years old], Blacksmith, Fever" [sic]

These deaths meant that by 1841, Jean (Jane) was a widow with five surviving children, John, Jean (Jane), James Clark, Helen (Ellen) Clark and Duncan, listed in birth order. That was what I found in the 1841 U.K. Census.

Parents' Birth Records

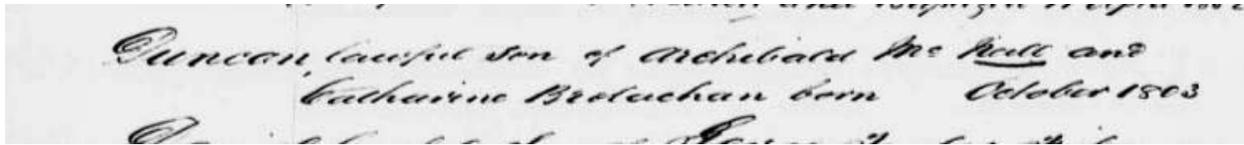
I have some hypothesis birth records for parents Duncan McNeil and Jean (Jane) McTaggart. However, because of inconsistencies for the ages of Duncan McNeil and Jean (Jane) McTaggart, because parish records can be incomplete, and because either or both of them could have moved to Glasgow from anywhere in Scotland, I am not confident in my hypothesis records and thus have not attempted to research their ancestors further back.

The best-fitting birth/baptism record for a Duncan McNeil born anywhere in Scotland was Duncan McNeil, son of Archibald McNeil and Catharine (Katherine) Brollachan (Brolachan) of Campbeltown Parish, Argyllshire. He was born or baptized in October 1803, making him 37 when our Duncan McNeil died in 1840. This Duncan McNeil also had a brother Neil, born August 8, 1800.

The best-fitting birth/baptism records for a Duncan McNeil born in Glasgow include the following:

- Duncan McNeil, son of Archibald McNeil and Christian McMillan of Gorbals, Glasgow. He was born on October 6, 1807 and baptized October 18.
- Duncan McNeill, son of John McNeil and Christian McDougall of Glasgow. He was born or baptized on May 21, 1808.

But these Duncans would have been just 17 or 18 when they married Jean (Jane) McTaggart, which although young, was legal. I could not find a Neil McNeil associated with either one, however. For now, Duncan McNeil of Campbeltown Parish is my working hypothesis.

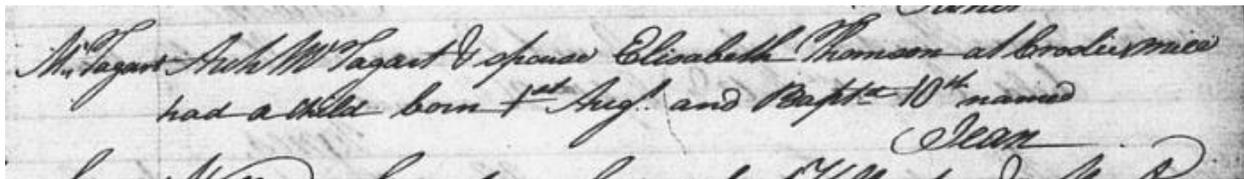


“Duncan, lawful son of Archibald McNeil and Catherine Brolachan born October 1803” [sic]

The best-fitting birth/baptism record for a Jean (Jane) McTaggart born anywhere in Scotland was Jean McTaggart, daughter of Archibald McTaggart and Elizabeth Thomson of Crosslee Mill, Houston and Killellan Parish, Renfrewshire. She was born on August 1, 1806 and baptized August 10. The 1841 U.K. Census suggests that Jean (Jane) was born in 1806-1807, but her headstone suggests that she was born in 1805.

Nearly as good is the record for Jean McTaggart, daughter of Robert McTaggart and Unknown Warwick of Wigtown Parish, Wigtownshire. She was born or baptized on March 29, 1806. I slightly favor the other record primarily because of proximity to Glasgow and her age provided in the 1855 New York Census.

The best-fitting birth/baptism record for a Jean (Jane) McTaggart born in Glasgow is for Jean McTaggart, daughter of Joseph McTaggart and Frances Davidson of Calton, Glasgow. She was born October 16, 1810 and baptized on October 18. This would have made her just under 15 years old at the time of her marriage, very young, but still legal as girls could marry as young as 12 years old in Scotland until the age was raised to 16 in 1929. For now, Jean (Jane) McTaggart of Renfrewshire is my working hypothesis.



“McTaggart, Arch[ibald] McTaggart & spouse Elisabeth Thomson at Crosslee Mill had a child born 1st Aug. and Baptd [August] 10th named Jean.” [sic]

1841 U.K. Census

I found an 1841 U.K. Census record (above) for a Jean (Jane) McNeil with five children, the names and birth order as we would expect from the above birth and death records. It identifies Jean McNeil, a 34-year-old widow working as a cotton weaver, and who lived on John Street, Barony, Glasgow with children John, Jean (Jane), James, Helen (Ellen) and Duncan.

The family disappeared from U.K. records before the 1851 U.K. Census.

Remarriage, Migration to Canada and then to New York

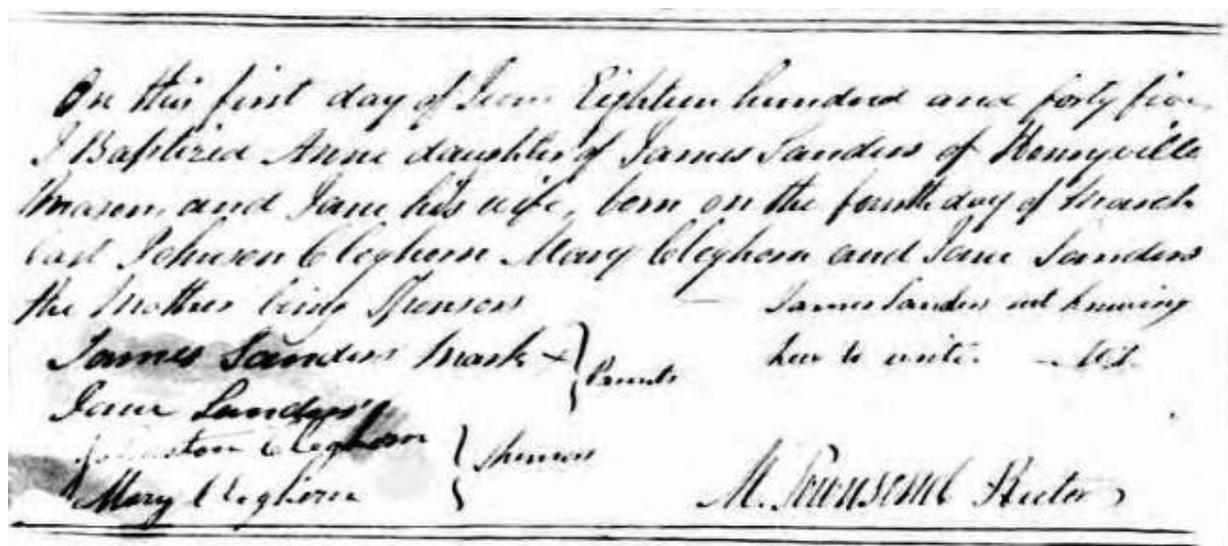
James McNeil's obituary included a brief account of how he and his family emigrated from Scotland to Canada and then moved on to Fort Edward, New York:

It was in the early [18]40's that the MacNeils [sic] forsook their native heath and set out for the province of Quebec, and the following years brought their share of the privations which were the common lot of settlers in that day.

At the age of 18 he found himself called upon to shoulder the burdens of the family, so he sought the enlarged opportunities offered across the border and went to Fort Edward, N.Y., sending for his mother and the other children as soon as he had found employment. His first work was in a sawmill and he followed this industry as it advanced up the Hudson river, stage by stage as the forest areas were converted into merchantable timber.

At some point after her husband Duncan died, Jean (Jane) married James W. Sanders. They had a daughter, Anna, who was born on March 4, 1845. It is not clear whether they got married in Scotland or in Canada – I have not turned up a Scottish marriage record for them. Anna, however, was born in Henryville, Iberville County, Québec, and later reported that her father was born in England, suggesting that he and Jean (Jane) met and married in Canada.

There is a baptism record for Anne (Anna) Sanders, born to James Sanders and his wife Jane on March 4, 1845 and baptized June 1, in Henryville, Iberville, Quebec.



On this first day of June Eighteen hundred and forty five
 I Baptized Anne daughter of James Sanders of Henryville
 Mason and Jane his wife, born on the fourth day of March
 Capt. Johann & Cleghorn Mary Cleghorn and Jane Sanders
 the Mother being present — James Sanders not knowing
 how to write. — M.S.
 James Sanders Minister }
 Jane Sanders }
 Capt. Johann & Cleghorn }
 Mary & Cleghorn }
 M. Russell Hester

“On this first day of June, Eighteen hundred and forty five, I Baptized Anne daughter of James Sanders of Henryville, Mason, and Jane is wife, born on the fourth day of March, Capt. Johann Cleghorn, Mary Cleghorn and Jane Sanders the mother being present. [names and roles of those involved]” [sic]

Most of James McNeil’s adult records suggest or state that he was born November 28, 1835, not 1833, including photo captions, his death certificate and headstones. Depending on when this incorrect belief took hold, James turned 18 in late 1851 or late 1853. Presumably, his stepfather, James Sanders, died before then, and oldest brother John would have been well into his 20s by then and on his own or with his own family, assuming of course that he was still alive.

At the time of the 1855 New York Census, his mother and siblings indicated that they had been at their Fort Edward home for two years, suggesting that they came to New York in 1853.

New York and U.S. Census Records

There is an 1855 New York Census record for a household in Fort Edward, Washington County, New York, headed by a widowed Jane Sanders, with Jane (Jean), James, Ellen (Helen) and Duncan McNeil, and Anna Sanders in the household, all identified as her children. All were born in Scotland except for Anna, who was born in Canada.

There is an 1860 U.S. Census record for a household in Fort Edward headed by a Jane Sanders, with James and Duncan McNeil and Anna Sanders in the household.

Ellen (Helen) McNeil had married Samuel Sawyer before 1860, and appears with him in an 1860 U.S. Census record living in Fort Edward.

There is an 1865 New York Census record for a household in Fort Edward headed by a Jane Sanders, with James McNeil and Anna Sanders in the household, both identified as her children. By this time, son Duncan had died in the Civil War.

Other Connecting Information

A September 4, 1890 news article in the Anamosa Express reported that James and Amelia McNeil were guests of Joseph and Carrie Sawyer Wasson in Jones County, Iowa, identifying James as Carrie's uncle. Carrie was the daughter of James' sister Helen (Ellen).

The Civil War Years and Beyond

Mother Jane generally used Jane consistently as her first name after arriving in New York, although records vary between McNeil and Sanders as her last name. She lived much of the rest of her life in the Fort Edward area, although for a while she lived with her daughter Anna and her family in Chicago. She was living back in Fort Edward in 1890 shortly before she died.



In 2012, the empty Mac's Bar building stood at 14 Eddy Street, Fort Edward, New York. When this was Jane McNeil's last known address, she lived in a rooming house that once stood here.

Sons James and Duncan both enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the Civil War. James was soon discharged with a medical condition. Duncan was killed at Fort Fisher, North Carolina on January 16, 1865. Duncan and his mother were buried next to each other in Union Cemetery, Fort Edward, New York.

- For more about James and Duncan McNeil's civil war military service, see [Our Ancestors in the Civil War](#).



Markers for Duncan McNeil (left) and his mother Jean (Jane) McTaggart McNeil Sanders (right), Union Cemetery, Fort Edward, New York

After leaving the U.S. Army, James lived in Fort Edward for a year and then spent a year in Brooklyn, New York. His sister Helen (Ellen) also lived in Brooklyn during this time while her husband was hospitalized in Washington, D.C., with war injuries. James then finished out the war working as a quartermaster in Winchester, West Virginia. After the war, he returned to the Fort Edward area, where he lived until about 1881, when he and his family moved to Negaunee, Michigan.

James married Amelia Marshall on August 28, 1866 in New York. He and Amelia had at least eight children. Some of his descendants have Duncan as their middle name.

In 1903, he moved in with a son in Virginia, Minnesota, and lived there until at least 1907, although apparently not with his wife. However, by 1910 James and Amelia were back to living together in Negaunee.

James died on April 13, 1926, and Amelia died in May 1930. Both were buried in Negaunee Cemetery, Negaunee, Michigan.



Markers for James McNeil and his wife Amelia in Negaunee Cemetery, Negaunee, Michigan

Ellen and Samuel Sawyer eventually moved to Jones County, Iowa, where some of Samuel's sibling lived. They named one of their sons James Duncan Sawyer. Their daughter Carrie married Joseph Wasson. They named their son Duncan James Wasson.

- For more about the lives of Samuel and Ellen McNeil Sawyer in New York and Iowa, see [Samuel and Ellen Sawyer](#).

Anna Sanders married James W. Stone. After a short stay in Iowa, they lived in Chicago for several years, and later in Pasadena, California. They named their firstborn son Duncan McNeil Stone. Their other children included son James and daughters Cora and Genevieve "Jennie".

I have not yet found further information on Jane's son John or daughter Jean (Jane). Assuming that they had lived, both would have been adults and likely married and living elsewhere by the time of the 1855 New York Census.

Confusion in the McNeil Records

When searching through old records, common name variations such as Jean and Jane or Helen and Ellen make record searching a bit complicated. That McNeil was spelled a number of different ways in the records complicated things further.

I also expect to find a certain degree of age variation. People did not put the same emphasis on events like birthdays and anniversaries that we see today, and those who may have filled out a form or responded to a census taker may not have known the correct information.

The first problem I encountered was with the 1841 U.K. Census. Given the birth and death records I found, and this record looked like a great fit. It included all and only the people I

expected to find with the correct names and birth order for the children – except that the ages listed for all the children were all 1-2 years younger than their birth records suggested.

Son Duncan's age was correct in the 1855 and 1860 census records as well as for his enlistment in the U.S. Army in the Civil War. But the information on his grave marker is incorrect. He was more than 25 years old when he when he was killed at Fort Fisher, North Carolina.

Son James' age perpetually stayed two years younger than his actual age, generally settling on November 28, 1835 instead of 1833 as his birthdate. This was true in several census reports, his U.S. Army enlistment record, family photo captions, his death certificate, and his grave marker.

Daughter Helen (Ellen)'s age was correct in the 1855 and 1860 census records, but it started changing in all known records after that. Her birthdate in her obituary does not agree with the month, day or year for any previous record I found for her. Her daughter Carrie is likely the person who provided the information for her obituary.



Ellen's obituary said that she was to be buried at Oak Hill Cemetery. However, Ellen instead was buried in Linwood Cemetery, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

In 1865, mother Jane McNeil applied for her son Duncan, Jr.'s widow's pension, claiming that she was a widow and at least in part had been dependent on him for support. She identified Duncan McNeil, Sr. as her late husband, but said they were married in Edinburgh, Scotland on or about October 4, 1824. Someone wrote in that her husband Duncan died in Canada. There is no record of any such marriage on that date or location, just the one I provided above, and I have not found any evidence that he died in Canada. That in fact would contradict the death record and 1841 U.K. Census information that I reported above. Her second husband died in Canada. I'll also note that in the pension declaration, Jane used McNeil rather than Sanders as her last name.

James' death record used information provided by his wife Amelia. It listed his birthday as November 28, 1835 instead of 1833, consistent with most adult records for him, and identified his father's name as James McNeil rather than Duncan McNeil. Of course, James' father Duncan died when James was quite young, so Amelia never knew him.

In the 1920 U.S. Census, James reported that he had immigrated to the United States in 1840, and became a naturalized citizen that same year. He was still a child living in Scotland that year. In the 1900 U.S. Census, James reported that he had immigrated to the United States in 1850.

I did not initially realize that Jane McNeil and Jane Sanders were the same person, as Jane alternated between the two surnames over time. This made it difficult to find much information about her in New York, especially as she lived as Jane Sanders for some years in Chicago with her daughter Anna Sanders Stone.

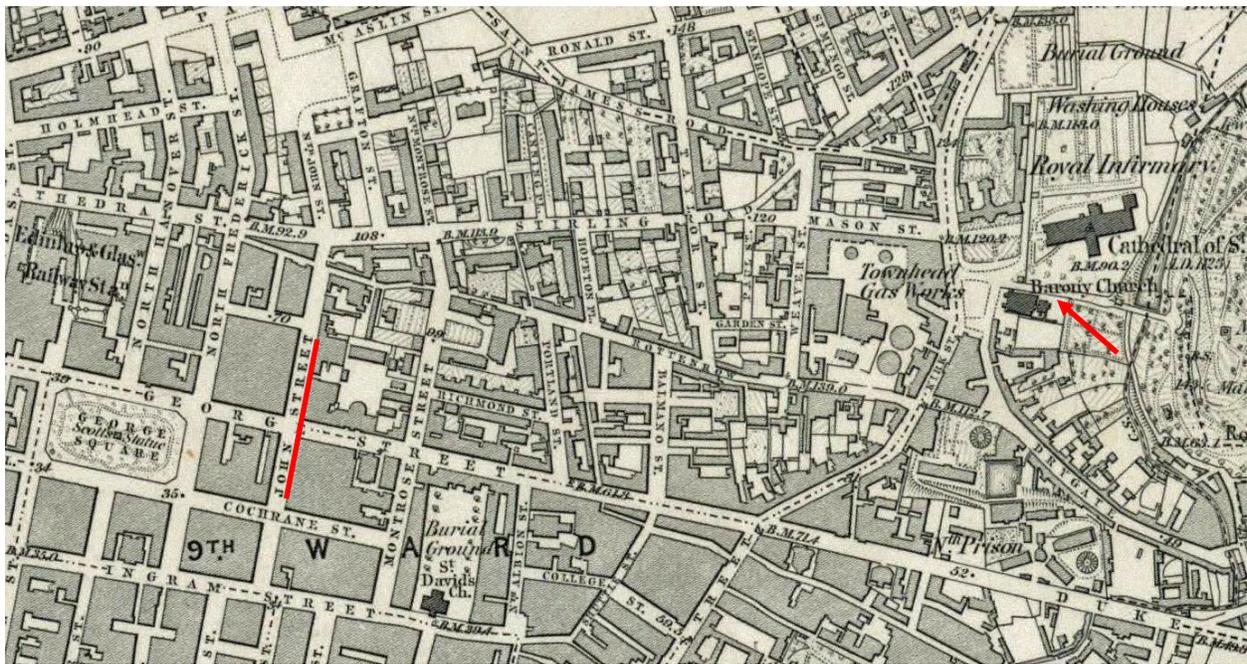
Key Factors for Sorting through the McNeil Records

There were five factors that helped me come to the conclusions that I did about Ellen McNeil's family.

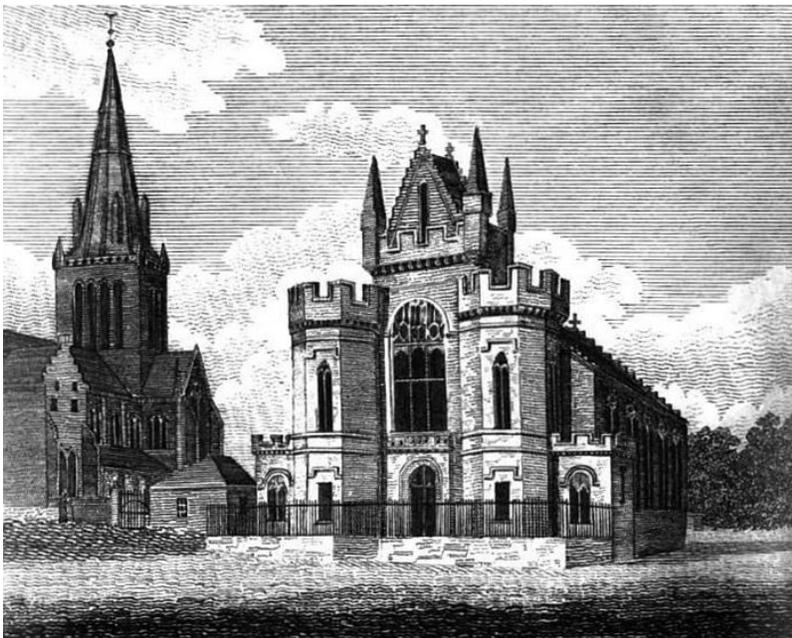
- In addition to the names of the parents, there was a lot of location, father's occupation and baptism witness names consistency across the birth records of the children.
- Whatever was going on with their reported ages, the number of children and their names, birth order and relative ages all remained consistent over the years.
- James Clark McNeil's name and his month and date of birth were consistent, even if his year of birth wasn't.
- A Jones County, Iowa news article reported that James McNeil was the uncle of Helen (Ellen) McNeil Sawyer's daughter Carrie Sawyer Wasson when he and his wife came to Iowa and stayed with Carrie and her husband Joe.
- I have not found any records in the Scottish birth, marriage and death registries and census record collections to support a single one of the "alternative facts" that regularly showed up in other records. On the other hand, I did find reasonable alternatives for the birth records of parents Duncan McNeil and Jean (Jane) McTaggart, which is why I only have working hypotheses for their births and parents.

Maps, Photos and Drawings of the McNeils' Glasgow

Here is a map and some drawings and photos of places associated with the McNeils in Glasgow.



This 1858 map shows central Glasgow, including Barony Parish Church and John Street, where the McNeils lived at the time of the 1841 U.K. Census.



Barony Parish Church, pictured in 1825, was built in 1798 near Glasgow Cathedral. It was replaced in 1889. Its replacement now serves as the University of Strathclyde's Barony Hall.



Gorbals Parish Church was built between 1806-1810 at the eastern end of Carlton Place on the south bank of the River Clyde. Its tower was destroyed by a lightning-caused fire, and the rest was demolished in 1973.



In the 1841 U.K. Census, Jean (Jane) McNeil and her surviving children lived on John Street. Three-block long John Street would be mostly unrecognizable to them today. The north block now serves the University of Strathclyde. The middle block is now the service road immediately behind Glasgow's city chambers, built in the 1880s, seen here from George Square. The south block is now a pedestrian mall lined with restaurants and pubs.



The McNeils would recognize Hutchesons' Hall, which was built at the south end of John Street in the early 1800s.



Glasgow's Tolbooth Steeple and Mercat Cross; the Tolbooth Steeple dates back to 1629; the Cross is a 1929 replica.



Bridgeton Cross was a crossroads when the McNeils lived in Bridgeton, and now features a plaza. The “Brighton Umbrella” bandstand dates only to 1875.

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