



# *Carswell Connection*

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## **Family History Research**

- the twists and the turns!

What I have written is not about serious research into CARSWELL history but really a couple of little anecdotes relating to my attempt at research.

I have two CARSWELL connections - one of our sons-in-law is a Carswell and a member of our car club is a Carswell. It seemed natural to ask each if they were related to the other so I asked our son-in-law's father, Ray, (as he would have more knowledge of the family than the son) if he knew if he was related to the 'car club' Carswell of the name of Chris. 'No' was the answer 'but my family came from around the Maryborough/Gympie area.' I asked car-club Chris did he know if he was related to son-in-law's father, Ray. 'No' was the answer 'but my family came from the Maryborough/Gympie area'. Interesting, thought I, there must be a connection; did some delving but couldn't find any. I reported this back to both parties. Son-in-law's father, Ray, then revealed that his name was not really Ray, it was Norman. Reported this back to car-club Chris who happily revealed that his name wasn't really Chris, it was Warren! No wonder I didn't get anywhere!

Anyway, a little bit of serious research did reveal that Ray/Norman and Chris/Warren do not appear to be related or, if they are, they would need to share a bloodline going a couple of generations in Scotland and this research hasn't been done.

Chris/Warren's family history has been researched but I don't have the details. Some of you will possibly have him in your tree somewhere.

I have done some limited research on Ray/Norman's line and have traced the arrival of his CARSWELLS in Australia to 11th May 1883 when John Forbes CARSWELL, his wife Mary Aitkman KIDD, and their three children Archibald (b 1876), Anne (1877) and William Rae Kidd (b 1883) arrived in Maryborough on the 'Maulsden'. In another little twist in the story, also on that sailing of the 'Maulsden' was my grandfather, Peter SWAN, then only 19 years old who left family behind and came to Australia by himself. The CARSWELLS were from Fife; my SWAN was from Berwickshire. The 'Maulsden' sailed from Glasgow on 28th Feb 1883.

Rather wonderfully, whenever I see car-club Chris at a club function, he greets me with a great bear hug and calls me 'Cuz'!

Elaine Hamilton

PS I haven't, as yet, found anyone with connections to my son-in-law's family. He is descended through William Rae Kidd Carswell who married Marie Louise BUSCH, one of whose children, Archibald (married Elizabeth Gertrude GOMERSALL), is Ray/Norman's father. Maybe this little item may find someone.

PPS Has anyone else found that there was a tendency to use the name Archibald by the Carswells?

# Monumental Inscriptions Hello from Texas

## Paisley Low Parish

### Paisley High Churchyard

129) Walter Carswell, manufacturer  
died Newark 27.2.1812 42

### Cathcart Old Churchyard

53) Janet Carswell 12.1.1850 30

### Paisley Abbey Interior

22) Johne Alexander  
cordouner & Burgess here  
w. Bessie Carswell

### Paisley Laigh Churchyard

2) Margaret Carswell 26.12.1784 83  
w. John Craig 3.1.1780 83

Janet Carswell

54) Rob't Carswell ?4.1782 79  
Rob't Carswell,  
surgeon 23.1.1828 73  
with Alice 3.8.1811 52

### Paisley Up Canal Street

278) Alex Carswell  
Mary Cochrane widow  
of David Carswell

### Paisley Oakshaw Street Up

44) Eliz Carswell 11.4.1789  
w. Jas Young 19.11.1789 62

47) Margt Carswell heirs 1803

71) Thos Carswell, manufacturer  
w. Jean Anderson 4.2.1845 57

### Pollokshaws Kirk Lane

71) Robert Carswell 25.1.1843 65  
w. Eliz Crawford 2.7.18 (86) (87)

John Carswell 19.12.(1898) 84

Robert Carswell 21.11.1874 72

103) Janet Carswell 27.7.1857  
w. Jas Morton 24.9.1856

I really enjoyed the informative newsletter and have added the new Carswell information to my files.



My Great-Grandmother was Jane Carswell. Jane was born in Ulster Ireland in 1847 or 1848 and died in 1930 in Cleveland Ohio, USA. She Married Robert McQuoid Mar 5 1869 at the Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, County Down, Ireland. The wedding document listed her as the spinster daughter of James Carswell, a tailor, living at Craigavad Ireland. Throughout her life she professed to be from Scotland - not Ireland. Her first child, Harriet, was born in Ireland before they came to the United States.

Robert McQuoid was the son of Thomas McQuoid and Jane Hannah and born in 1848 in Whitehaven England. Thomas moved his family to England during the potato famine and later returned to Ireland. A brother or cousin, James McQuoid moved on from England to Scotland to settle his family there.

Does anyone have reference or history for her family?

Many thanks,

Bobbie Bruegel (bobfred@amaonline.com)

# DNA Test Results

A year or so ago I was curious about DNA for genealogy purposes. I did not know enough, or understand it, so I didn't go any further.

My interest was renewed again after reading John Carswell's article in the first issue of the Newsletter.

With some additional information, I proceeded with the Y-DNA: 37 Markers Test.

The results that came back were very interesting.

It turns out I have an exact match with Ian Carswell, who, coincidentally, is the Carswell Family DNA administrator, and I have a distant match with John Carswell. Both John and Ian live in Australia. I live in Canada, but was born in Scotland, as were all my ancestors that I'm aware of, going back to the early 1800s.

The mystery now is - where is the connection?, and who that common relative might be.

Following is an analysis of the results from Ian:

"I have done an analysis of the results and they are quite interesting. Now that we have a few more good results (i.e. we're all related!) it's more meaningful to do broader comparisons.

At an average 30 years per generation (using ftdna mutation rates) there is a 99% probability that we shared a common ancestor not longer ago than 687 AD. It is likely that this date is closer to the present than this early time, although it does fit neatly into some of the historical research that I've stumbled upon over the last few months.

At this rate (99%) Jack and I are much further apart, as our differential markers are slower mutating ones. We can however, only deal with probability using these techniques.

Using 80% probability, which is more real-world, we would all have shared a common ancestor around 1377 AD. Jack and I would have shared an ancestor around 1767. This is very interesting.

There are a couple of other interesting historical clues also. The Carswells of Garlieston (formerly 'Carswell') are located very near to the old Cruggleton Castle. After the Norse (who built it probably in the late 900s) were kicked out, it was given to the relatives of an Irish noble who had helped get rid of them. This was a tribe with a 'king' by the name of O'Cearbhaill of Ely. This tribe had fought at the battle of Clontarf (1014) in which the Irish had defeated the Norse and ended their domination of the Irish coast and in which many thousands of men were killed. It was considered 'infra dig' by European royalty to have a relative who was killed at Clontarf".

If you go to [www.ftdna.com/public/carswell](http://www.ftdna.com/public/carswell) you will find the Carswell study group website. Go to 'results' and you will see everyone's results.

If you are interested any further information about Carswell Family DNA testing, feel free to contact Ian - [icarswell@netspace.net.au](mailto:icarswell@netspace.net.au)

Jack Carswell  
[jackc1@telus.net](mailto:jackc1@telus.net)

Below is a photo of the only remaining part of Cruggleton Castle referred to in Ian's report.



The ruin of Cruggleton Castle located 11/2 miles south of Garlieston. The castle was built on the edge of a 200 foot cliff, overlooking Solway Firth. The courtyard was surrounded by a stone wall with 8 towers. It was protected from the land side by a wide moat.

# Carswell, What's in the spelling of a name?

Well many of our forebears were not able to spell their name, and when it came to registration of the birth of their latest bonny baby it might take a few days for our informants to stagger into the registration office, a little under the weather, having to wet the baby's head a few times on the way. The clerk or minister or the cleaner or whoever was in charge might enquire of the names, and can you imagine the difficulty of saying his name, and it only needs one mistake and that spelling is there for the next and the next.

You must realize, the recorder had to guess in most cases the spelling. To my mind, thus we have spelling variations of Carswell and Cresswell appearing in differing areas but seldom in the same area,- indicates to me, they do not have a common origin. Perhaps the DNA project might finally prove the point.

I believe the name originated from "Carsewell ", which simply means, - a 'river bed well', a baby found hidden in a 'river bed well' became known as the River bed well boy, the Carsewell Boy.

Now in our spare time, on the internet, we have been into the Scottish Registry office and searched Carswell for the years 1600 to 1810 ( so far ), For - Carwel, Carwell, Carswell, Carswel, Carwell, Carwel, Carswill, Carswil, Carsewill, Carsewil, Carsewell, Carsewel,, Carwall, Carwal, Carswall, and Carsewall ( I think that's all the combinations so far that proved positive, - we haven't checked for the "Kar-----" combinations yet. ) for the years 1750 to 1810. It is surprising how many we have found, particularly the "—wall's" and '—wel's". In my own family, my Grandfather was half the time "Carsewell, and I found one of mine in the "— will's" put in by the mother ( maybe her accent ? ).

We still haven't finished putting the results together, on about 50 sheets of A3 in time and area order. But we don't know how many of the families may be on more than one page. So we are making an index on the spouse's name. It also doesn't help when these canny Scots have children without any woman being mentioned!

Keith and Lilly Carswell  
Canberra, Australia

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## Some interesting web sites

Have a look at the Genealogy Blog Finder.

<http://blogfinder.genealogue.com>

It lists hundreds of genealogy-related blogs, all organized by topics, so you can find blogs on cemeteries, specific locations, genealogy humour, and more. Blogs are an interesting way to keep up-to-date in the world of family history.

Two very popular genealogy blogs are:

<http://blog.eogn.com> and <http://genealogyblog.com>

Great Irish site - <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~rosdavies/WORDS/links.htm>

Monumental Inscriptions in St Ninian's Old Churchyard,Whithorn,Wigtownshire,Scotland -  
<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~scottish/indexstninian2.html>