

WILLIAM BLACK AND MARY TOD



Whitburn South Churchyard – 2017.

In memory of Will. Black who died 2^d May 1742 also Mary Tod his spouse who died 4th Dec 1767.

James Black their son died December 1800 aged 78 years and Agnes Mochrie his spouse died October 1802, 73y. William Black son of James Black died April 6th 1829 aged 68. Mrs Black his spouse died Feb 1st 1836 aged 80yrs.

WILLIAM BLACK AND MARY TOD

Residence – Calla, Carnwath, Lanarkshire
Cleughhead, West Calder, Midlothian
Liltie-co-kee, Holehouseburn, Whitburn, West Lothian

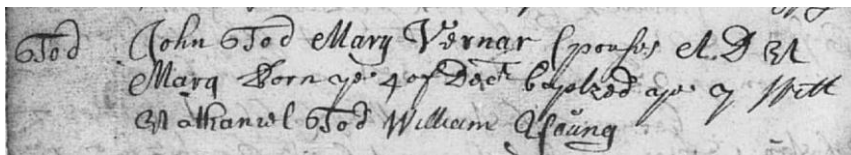
To William, the first of Breich Water, and his wife, Mary Tod, were born six sons and two daughters. In the lowly thatch-roofed home, with the quaint name, [Liltie-co-Kee] were born the six sons, in the following order James, John, William, David, Robert, Alexander.

WILLIAM BLACK

Melodies and Memories tells us that William was the son of James Black from Calla near Carnwath, but his mother was not cited. Calla today is a farm two and a half miles north of Carnwath on Calla Road. William's birth year of 1695 is an estimation.

MARY TOD

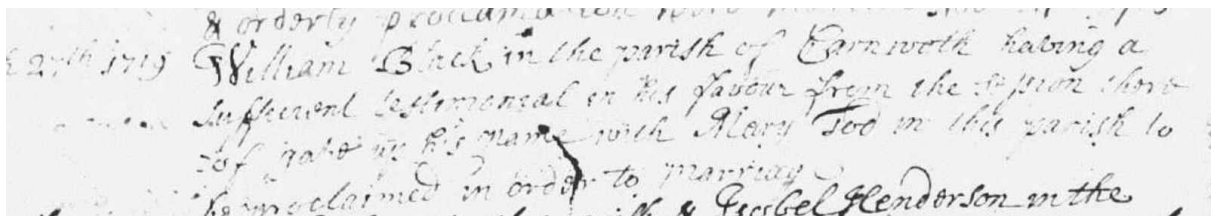
Mary Tod was born on 4 December 1698, to John Tod and Mary Vernar and she was baptised at Lanark.



Parish records - Lanark, Lanarkshire.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

William Black and Mary Tod's birth places were both in Lanarkshire, about eleven miles apart, but their marriage was recorded in the parish of West Linton, Peeblesshire on 27 March 1719. Mary was 20 and we estimate William was 24. His parish was listed as Carnwath.



Church Records - West Linton, Peebleshire.

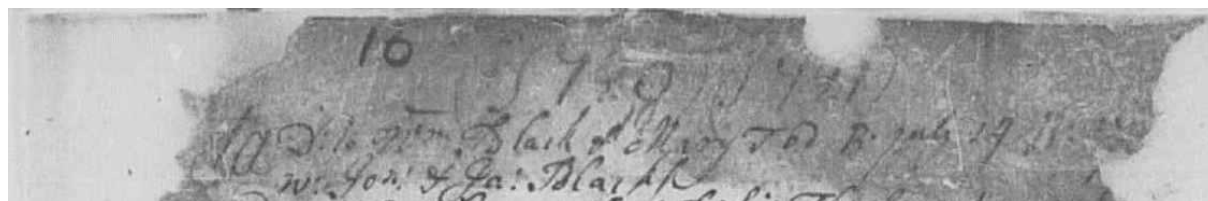
William Black in the parish of Carnwath having a sufficient testimonial in his favour from the Session thereof gave up his name with Mary Tod in this parish to be proclaimed in order to marriage.

O-WILLIAM BLACK AND MARY TOD

Nine children have been located but only the boys were named.

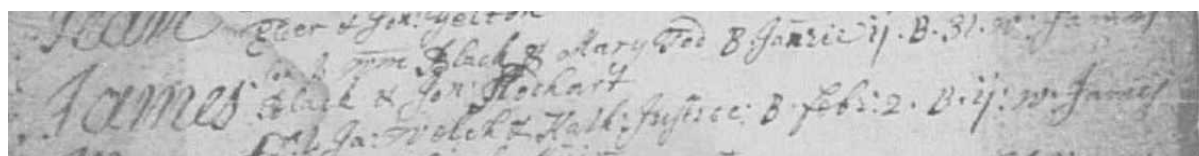
	BIRTH/BAP	BIRTHPLACE	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Henrietta Black	14 Jul 1720	Calla	Carnwath	Alexander Pender	aft 1743
^James Black	31 Jan 1722	Calla	Carnwath	Agnes Mochrie	Dec 1800
^John Black	02 Jan 1724	Cleughhead	West Calder	Helen Steel	14 Dec 1824
^William Black	11 Sep 1726	Cleughhead	West Calder	Janet Wallace	bef 1841
*Mary Black	08 Sep 1728	Cleughhead	West Calder	-	bef 1731
*Mary Black	08 Jan 1731	Cleughhead	West Calder	Alexander Carlaw	24 May 1762
^David Black	04 Sep 1737	Cleughhead	West Calder	Janet Flint	aft 1789
^Robert Black	abt 1739	unknown	unknown	Jane Somerville	aft 1785
^Alexander Black	17 Jan 1742	Liltie-co-kee	Whitburn	Grace Russell	20 May 1812

As you have read, John Black believed the couple moved directly on their marriage to Liltie-co-kee, but the records do not bear this out. Instead we find their first child Henrietta baptised in the Parish of Carnwath, so the couple returned to Calla after their marriage. Witnesses at Henrietta's baptism were John and James Black; the latter is likely to be her grandfather.



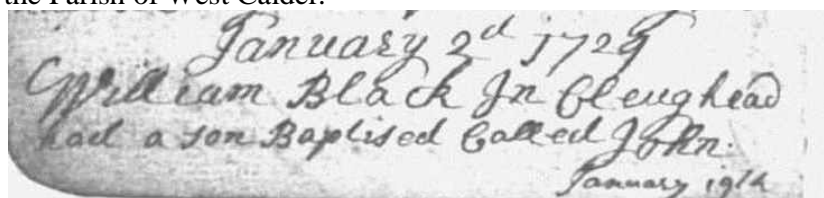
Parish records - Carnwath, Lanarkshire.

James the first son was baptised on 31 January 1722 also at Carnwath.



Parish records - Carnwath, Lanarkshire.

The record below appears to show the second son John was baptised in 1729 but in fact the year was 1724, the 2 January to be exact, The family were now domiciled fourteen miles north at Cleughhead in the Parish of West Calder.



Parish records - West Calder Midlothian.

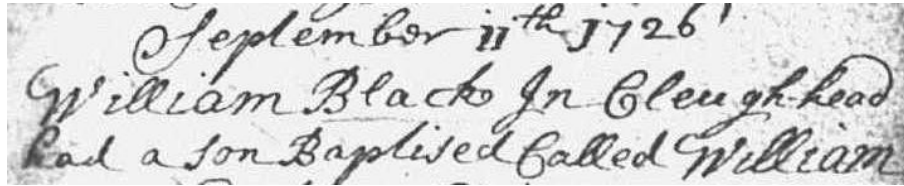
The following extract tells us that Cleughhead was a farm near Whin Bush.¹

¹ *West Calder and Its Cooperative Society* published 1896, page 10.

O-WILLIAM BLACK AND MARY TOD

WEST CALDER is of very ancient date. The Established Church dates as far back as 1643. The old village proper is on the east side of the Sykeburn. West of that were all detached houses, thatched with straw, and some with dried heather, having a small cow shed and stable all under the one roof. There was a common barn for the cottars getting their corn thrashed in. It stood where View Bank is now built. The place where the central buildings of Co-operative Society are now built was termed Gutter Hole, and where Darling's House is was Whin Bush and Cleugh Head farm.

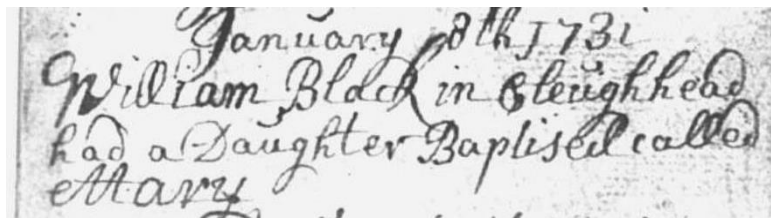
The family were still at Cleughhead when William, the third son was baptised on 11 September 1726.



September 11th 1726
William Black in Cleughhead
had a son Baptised called William

Church records - West Calder, Midlothian.

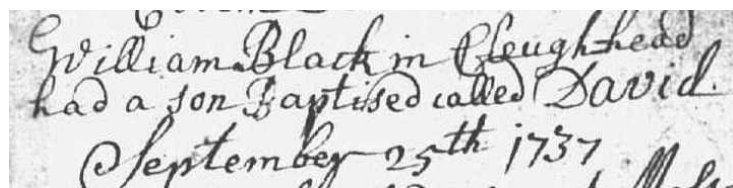
The first Mary, baptised on 8 September 1728 must have died, as a second Mary was baptised on 8 January 1731. The burial for the first Mary was not found.



January 8th 1731
William Black in Cleughhead
had a Daughter Baptised called
Mary

Church records - West Calder, Midlothian.

David the fourth son was also born while the family were at Cleughhead. His baptism took place on 25 September 1737.



William Black in Cleughhead
had a son Baptised called David.
September 25th 1737

Church records - West Calder, Midlothian.

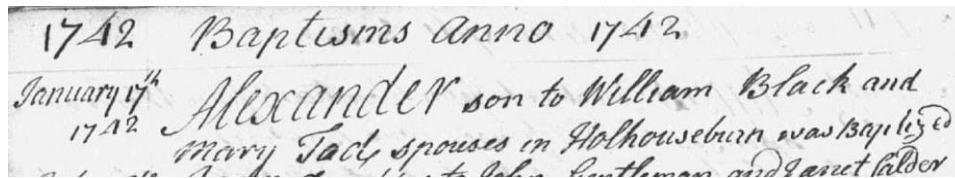
Robert was born around 1739 but records have not survived detailing the location and date of his birth.

Of these, William, who perhaps found the home nest too small, or who was ambitious to carve out a way for himself, migrated some dozen miles northward to Liltie-co-kee, in Whitburn Parish, Linlithgowshire.

O-WILLIAM BLACK AND MARY TOD

It was only when the last child was born that we find the family living at Holehouseburn, on a farming property known as Liltie-co-Kee.² William was almost certainly a tenant farmer.

It was here that their last child, Alexander, was baptised in January 1742. The family were now residents of the Whitburn Parish in West Lothian.



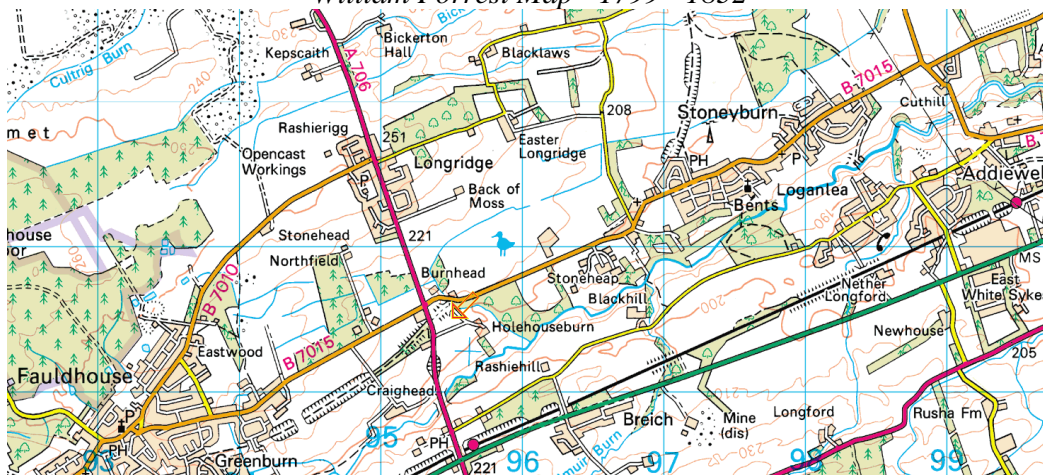
Church records - Whitburn, West Lothian.

The following maps show the area as it was then and as it is now.



Liltie-co-Kee, Holehouseburn, West Lothian.

William Forrest Map - 1799 - 1832



Holehouseburn is marked on this current map, but the Liltie-co-kee, now known as Bridgend, is not identified.

² 'Bridge End Farm cottages are among the oldest in the valley and it was there that the Black family settled in 1710 when it was known as Liltie co-Kee. This delightful but almost absurd name was changed to the present one about 1870 and it has had at least two extensions added.' The source of this quote is not now located but the date 1710 is inaccurate as the couple didn't marry until 1719.

O-WILLIAM BLACK AND MARY TOD

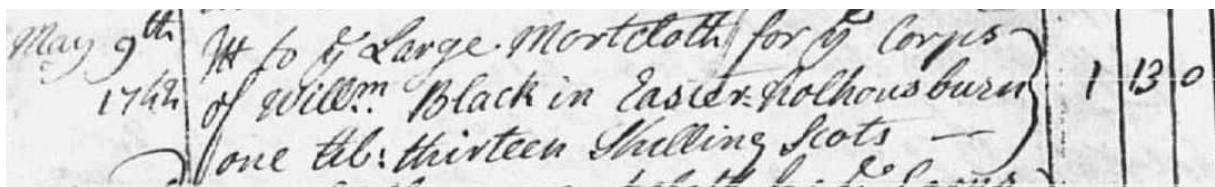
The stream that can be seen on both maps is known as Breich Water and hence John Black referred to William and Mary as ‘the Blacks of Breich Water’. The Meeting House identified in the top map is the church at Longridge where many of their descendants attended services. Liltie-co-Kee still stands today but is now known at Bridgend.



The old cottage at Bridgend, formerly Liltie-co-Kee, in 2017.

DEATH AND BURIAL

William died on 2 May 1742, a few months after the birth of his youngest son. He was around 47 years of age. His oldest son James was only twenty and the responsibility for his family now fell to him.



Church records - Whitburn, West Lothian.

Mary Tod lived for another 25 years and was buried with William in the Whitburn South Church churchyard. The headstone records her death as 4 December 1767, but church records stated that she was buried a month later on 10 January 1768. Frozen ground could account for the delay.³

³ The indexes record her as Mary Todd.