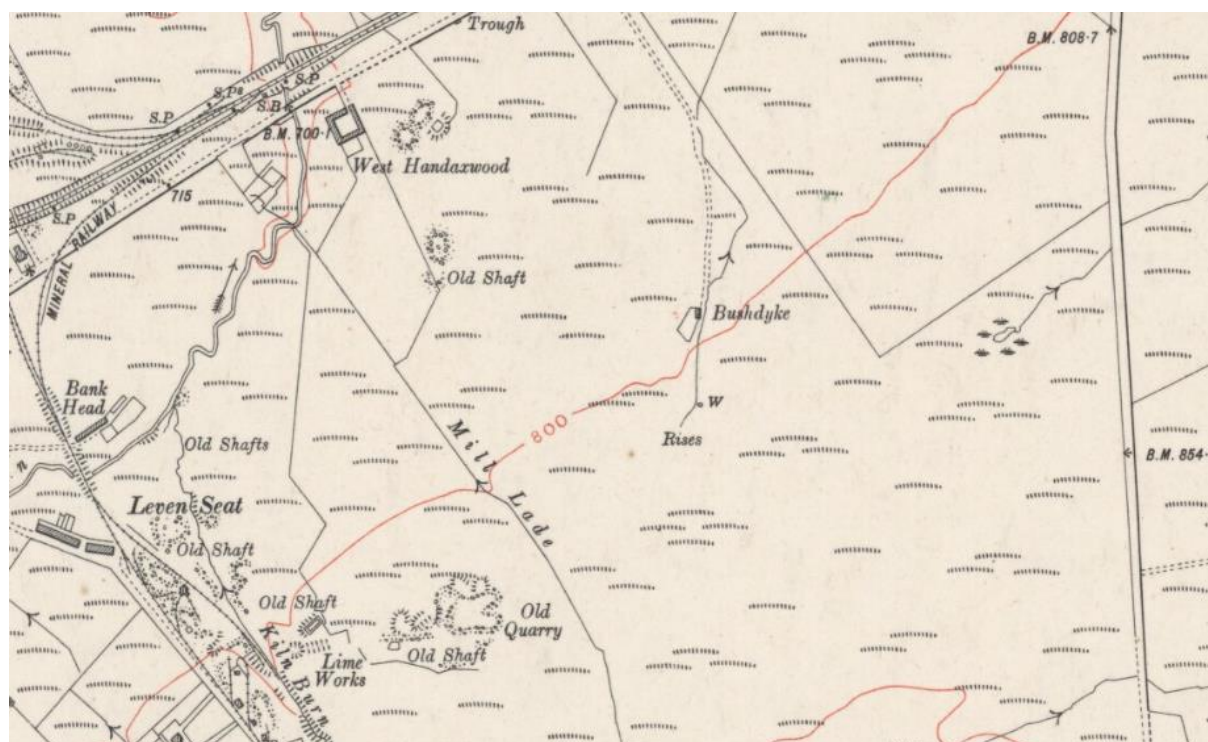


SON TWO JOHN BLACK AND HELEN STEEL



1914 map showing Bushdyke and Levens Seat.

'John was a crofter and lime master, his home being Bushdyke, near Levensseat; where the limekilns were situated.' From Melodies and Memories.

Note: Because John's descendants were so prolific, we have had to split this family up in order to manage the data. You will find separate documents for each of John's sons, listed on the website under the following sections. John's three daughters and the one unmarried son, are however outlined within this document.

SECTION	SON	WIFE
2-1	William Black	Jean Cleland
2-2	John Black	Catherine Lockie
2-3	James Black	Margaret Nisbit
2-4	Robert Black	Jean Walker then Catherine Thomson

MELODIES AND MEMORIES PAGES 199-209

...John, second Liltie-co-kee son, who represents the second generation of Breich Water Blacks. His wife was Helen Steel, of Tumhigh, her grandfather having been a proscribed Covenanter in the reign of Charles II.

Regarding Mr Steel, it is told that on one occasion, having come from a hiding place in the adjoining moors to visit his household for a short time, he was rudely interrupted, while reading from his Bible, by the approach of armed soldiers in search of him.

With his Bible in hand, he went hastily by the usual inside passage to the byre. Seeing some newly-cut grass placed in readiness for feeding the cows, he lay down beside it, and was promptly covered over by one of his family.

When the persecuting soldiers had searched the dwelling, they gave attention to the out-houses, and, coming to the heap of grass, one of the number actually pierced it with his sword. The on-looking relatives silently trembled lest the husband and father should be wounded, or mayhap killed outright, but no sound came from under the grass.

The troopers departed, and, when well away, the grass was removed, and Mr Steel was found unscathed. On lying down with Bible in hand, he had placed it over his heart, and the sword-point was stayed by the Sacred Book.

To John and Helen were born five sons and five daughters. This John was a crofter and lime master, his home being Bushdyke, near Leavenseat; where the limekilns were situated. In these days, when artificial manures were unknown, lime as a fertilizing agent, especially (or stiff heathland newly broken up with the plough, was very important. For lack of wheeled vehicles and roads, lime, like some other commodities, was carried in bags or creels on horseback.

Before taking leave of John, it may be told that when a youth of 18 years he stood on some favourable height and saw the battle of Falkirk in 1745. He died aged 98 years. Doubtless simple living, with pure air and little worry, contributed to longevity in the less feverish days long past.

Levensat Hill, over 1,200 feet above sea level, and is named because in Covenant times a Presbytery of eleven sat there, is slightly south-west of Bushdyke. From the summit, in clear weather, a varied and extensive all-round view can be obtained.

On the rough moorland, traces of the old-time home are still plainly observable, though in the interval a second Bushdyke has been built, and is now crumbling into ruins.

William, eldest Bushdyke son, farmed first at Westburn, and next at Blackburn, whither he moved about 1800. His wife, Jane Cleland, became the mother of three sons and five daughters, viz., John, William, and James, Margaret, Helen, Janet, Agnes, and Elizabeth, who went to Canada, and died there a few years ago. Mrs James Forbes, a daughter of Helen, is now living in Carluke.

William having died, through being thrown from one of his carts, his son John, a quaint, typical Scot, succeeded him at Blackburn, and was married to his cousin, Agnes Black, Starryshaw. To this couple were born, at Blackburn, four daughters-

Janet, Agnes, Margaret, and Elizabeth, the two latter still living; while at Craighead, where they removed to, two sons-William' and Richard, were born.

John, one winter evening, had been enjoying a warm drink, that delighted and greatly benefitted him. After he was done stirring, sipping, and slowly swallowing, he signified his high approval by saying, "Tat's gude, uncommon gude, it's amazin' some folk's sae keen o' whisky."

William, married to Janet Robb, Haywood Mains, was afterwards farmer at Fauldhouse, and now at Leadloch They have three sons-John, James, and William, also seven daughters-Mary, Agnes, Margaret, Janet, Elizabeth, Annie, and Dinah, the latter being the only one in the family unmarried.

This so-called history being mainly to trace the male line of descent and branches, the female line will be indicated very briefly.

John, eldest Leadloch son, is farmer of Roberton Mains, Dolphinton, and his eldest son, William, now twenty years of age, is senior member of the seventh generation of the Blacks of Breich Water.

James, second Leadloch son, with wife and family occupy the farm of Fauldhouse, formerly tenanted by his father.

William, third son, has been several years at Boksburg, South Africa.

Richard, second son of John of Craighead, lives with wife and family at East Whitburn. John, the eldest son, is about twenty years of age, the other sons being Walter Annan, and Richard. There are two daughters-one married and one unmarried.

William, second son of William of Westburn, was born there in 1797. About 1830 he became tenant of East Handaxwood, which he retained with credit for full fifty years. He was married in 1833 to Elizabeth, daughter of Alexander Smith, and died in 1884. William used to rehearse now and again that in ancient lawless times bands of wandering reivers went hither and thither over the countryside, living by the way on the sometimes scanty food supplies of industrious crofters or small farmers. Coming to a lonely dwelling one day, not far from Drumley Water, the usual demand for something to eat and drink was made. The gudewife set out a goodly pile of oaten faris, the heel of a kebbuck, and plenty of clear spring water, telling her unwelcome visitors that she could do no more for them. "Ye hae some kye," said the leader, "Whaur's the milk, is't in the kirn here?" and forthwith the appetising lapped milk, nearly ready for churning, was soon disappearing, much to the regret of the thrifty gudewife. The gudeman, being at home, joined in the feast with the marauders, though the glum looks of his wife were often turned his way. When oatcakes, cheese, and milk were exhausted, husband and wife were left alone. "Sic a vexation," said the woman, "an' what made it waur was your takin' pairt wi' them, an' helpin' to tim my kirn." "Wheesht, wheesht, my wifie, I'll no be hungry the day again, I thocht it best to hae a share, for I saw it was gaun gear onywey."

At Handaxwood, four sons, William, Alexander, John, and James were born, also eight daughters.

William was farmer at Falla Hill, and next at Couch, until his death in 1894. To him and his wife, Isabella Fleming, were born four sons, William, John, Alexander, and James, also four daughters, of whom only the eldest, Mrs J. S. Waddell, is now alive, having one son and two daughters.

SON-2-JOHN BLACK AND HELEN STEEL

William, eldest son, having died in youth, John, second son, became his father's successor, and, with his wife, daughter, and son, live on the banks of Almond Water, near Polkemmet.

James, his wife, and daughters, live in Denver, U.S.A.

Alexander, second East Handaxwood son, at thirty-three years of age, and unmarried, met his death in 1873 on the C.R. railway at Holytown (old station) while acting as Relief Inspector.

John, third son of William, of East Handaxwood, with one daughter and one surviving son, reside in Glasgow. By means of his verses in local newspapers, he has directed not a little attention to his native district, to which he is ardently attached.

James, fourth East Handaxwood son, with his wife and two daughters, live at Woodfords, near Portland, Maine, U.S.A., and he too still cherishes a warm regard for the friends and scenes of life's earlier years.

The East Handaxwood daughters were Agnes, Jane, Elizabeth, Mary, Margaret, Janet Helen, Catherine Jemima Ronaldson, and Christina. With the exception of Mary, all were married, and their descendants count up to a goodly total, there being, besides several grandchildren, at least one great-grandchild.

Only the youngest of those daughters continues to live near Breich Water side. Truly, time works changes!

James, third Westburn, or Blackburn, son, married Margaret Prentice. After being some time at Blackburn and at Addiewell, he spent the remainder of his years at Turniemoon, near West Calder.

The author remembers hearing of James, his uncle, having been talking of the new cemetery at West Calder as his probable burying place, although he considered he had a claim to a lair in the older burying ground beside the old Church. Waxing warm regarding his rights, he declared emphatically that he could force himself into the auld Kirkyard in spite o' a' wha woukl seek to hinder." This way of putting the statement caused some merriment in those who were listening, though, of course, they dare not laugh outright.

William and John were the sons of the family, the six daughters being Janet, Jane, Margaret, Agnes, Elizabeth, Helen, all of whom were married. Two of the number are still wonderfully hale, the others being now deceased.

William died some years ago, survived by four sons James, William, David, John. John, second son of James of Turniemoon, lives in Broxburn; also his three sons, James, John, and David.

John, the lime-master's second son, became farmer at Crooklands, Auchengray, near to the Calla crofts previously referred to. Catherine Leckie, his wife, bore him four sons and four daughters.

John succeeded his father, having as wife his cousin, Elizabeth Black, from Blackfaulds. They had a numerous family of both sexes. After leaving the farm, and staying some time in Longridge, the whole family emigrated to New Zealand about 1859.

Thomas, second Crooklands son, married Agnes Inglis, and farmed, first at Knowton, and next at Wester Breich, in company with his son, James, who had been in America.

John, his eldest son, went with his wife and children from Knowton to New Zealand, but reports from that far country are often scanty, so here, as elsewhere, the thread is broken.

James afterwards went from Wester Breich to Kirkcudbrightshire.

Catherine, one of the Knowton daughters, was married to Alexander Storrie, Dykehead. One son, Alexander, with wife and family lives at Balmore, Stirlingshire, another at Ibrox, one daughter at Ferniegair, and one at Dykehead.

David, third Crooklands son, married to Agnes Mann, farmed Westburn, and after farming some time in Carluke district, occupied New-year-field farm till his death. It was said to be this David who, on being taxed with selling thin butter milk, and told that he had no conscience, quietly responded, "Hoots aye, I've a conscience ; it's maybe like (he milk, a wee thin, but I hae a conscience." His sons were John, James, David, Thomas, the latter continuing at New-year-field until going to England some years ago. John and James were farmers in Carluke vicinity, while David was located as farmer near Stirling. In this family, too, were a number of daughters with husbands and families, but various details are lacking.

Helen, a Crooklands daughter, became Mrs John Thomson, Holestock, near Longford, her sons being Robert Thomson, merchant, Longridge, and John, farmer, Kepscaith and Rashierig, whose son, John, is now an East Lothian farmer at Wheatrig, near Longniddry, having three sons and one daughter.

Mary, another Crooklands daughter, became Mrs Daniel Gardner, of Watsonfoot farm. Margaret, another daughter, was also married. Mrs Alexander, Nethermuir, Bathgate, is a descendant in the Gardner line.

James, third Bushdyke son, had as his wife, Margaret Nesbit, and was tenant of Burnside, near Turnhigh. Whitburn. There were three sons and five daughters.

John, married to Mary Grey, entered Back o' Moss in 1840. There were three sons, James, George, and John, and four daughters, Margaret, Agnes, Isabella, and Mary.

James and his wife, both deceased, left two sons, John and James, and two daughters, Mary and Janet.

George, second Back o' Moss son, is farmer at Penston, East Lothian, his wife being Elizabeth Shanks, formerly of Turnhigh. They have four sons and one daughter.

John, the eldest son, is a clergyman in Kaffraria, while the other three are devoted to agricultural pursuits in East Lothian.

John, third Back o' Moss son, is still farmer there, he and his wife, Marion Mungall, having a family of sons and daughters. It may be noted, in passing, that Mr James Walker, merchant, Bathgate, is a grandson of John Black, formerly of Back o' Moss, his mother being Agnes, wife of James Walker, Grahamston.

Thomas, second Burnside son, was married to Ann, daughter of John Russell, farmer, Foulshiels. Soon after the birth of their one daughter, the mother died, and a few years later the father was killed by the upsetting of his cart. The orphan girl was brought to Burnside, where she assisted her grandfather, and in course of years became Mrs John Sommerville. She is now in her widowhood, living with a son in Greenock. Another son is in Edinburgh, and there are also two daughters. It ought, in strict justice, to be told that much of the information in this history was gleaned by her during a lengthy lifetime, she being now over eighty years of age.

Alexander, third son of James, of Burnside, is highly entitled to very honourable mention, because, at the cost of his own, he saved the life of another man from drowning in the Forth near Stirling. His wife's name was Mary Galbraith. They had four sons and one daughter.

James, eldest, a baker in Glasgow, went with his family to Melbourne. He and his wife died in Dunedin several years ago. Alexander, second son, was formerly a tannery manager in London, afterwards going to Belgium. Peter, the third son, was a baker, and became a successful colonist. John, the youngest son, who had hard times in his youth, being orphaned when only four years of age, knew life as a herd-boy at Liltie-co-kee and at Craighead. He became a cooper, a musician, and, in manners and morals, a man worth knowing. With his family of sons and daughters he now lives in Glasgow. Janet, the hero's only daughter, with husband and family, went abroad, and worked themselves into comfortable circumstances.

Of the Burnside daughters, Agnes became Mrs Wm. Mungall, Helen became Mrs Peter Thornton, Rashiehill, and, in both cases, these families emigrated to America many years ago.

Margaret Thornton, Rashiehill, was married to Robert Thomson, Stonemains, near Knowton, and had several children. One son, Peter, lives in Whitburn, and another, James, lives in Bathgate. There are also several female descendants at various other places. Isabella Thornton was married to William Stark, Cambusnethan. Mary, of Burnside, was married to Robert Stewart, West Forth. A grand-daughter, Mrs Thomas Smith, resides in Rowantree Cottage, Cambuslang. Janet became Mrs Wm. Macgregor, and Jane Mrs David Roberts, Burnbrae.

Again we return with relief to breezy Bushdyke, that another whiff of upland air may be enjoyed.

Alexander, fourth son of that family, was for long after his father's demise grieve at the lime-kilns, and lived with a sister or two, unmarried, in the old home. A droll, pawky old man, it seems, was Sandy. His kindly regard for James Steel, of Falla Mill, a sister's son, was subject of common remark for years afterwards. It was equally evident that the kindness of the uncle was not lost on the nephew, for, from being a modest carrier, he became a successful miller and victual dealer.

An anecdote of Bushdyke Sandy may be told. Being one of the company at a haystack supper, in the course of the homely talk reference was made by some of the speakers to some of their neighbours who were thought to be "gey weel-tae-dae," or the opposite. The subject was immediately changed, when, in a somewhat oracular manner, and as an outcome of his experience in collecting accounts for lime, Sandy said, "Ye may crack as ye like aboot wha's rich or wha's puir, but as for me I ken a' your circumstances."

Robert, fifth Bushdyke son, was born in 1775, died 1843. It would appear that Backburn was his first holding, but it is certain that afterwards he lived at Wallhill, his first wife being Jean Walker, and his second Catherine Thomson. There were seven sons—John, unmarried; William, whose son Robert is, or was, a land steward about Inverness; Robert, who also was survived by a family; Alexander, survived by family; James, who died young; Thomas, no record; James, seventh Wallhill son, still living in Queensland, aged eighty-three years, being the only known representative of his own generation, and probably the oldest survivor among the Blacks of Breich

SON-2-JOHN BLACK AND HELEN STEEL

Water. He still writes regularly to some of his friends in Scotland. It may be noted that at present there are five or six female Blacks over eighty years of age. Wallhill daughters were Jean, Helen, and Agnes. There is a simple memorial of this family in Whitburn Churchyard.

*Reminder: * as JB didn't mention this individual, their story ends in the table whereas ^ tells you there is another generation within this document.*

The accompanying tree however might show several more generations than is in this narrative.

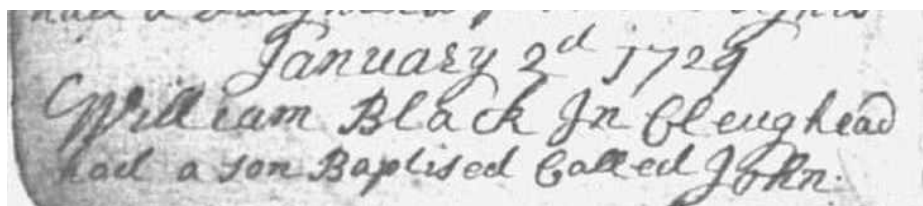
JOHN BLACK AND HELEN STEEL

Residence - Bushdyke, West Calder, Midlothian

.... **John**, second Liltie-co-kee son, who represents the second generation of Breich Water Blacks. His wife was **Helen Steel**, of Turnhigh, her grandfather having been a proscribed Covenanter in the reign of Charles II. Regarding Mr Steel, it is told that on one occasion, having come from a hiding place in the adjoining moors to visit his household for a short time, he was rudely interrupted, while reading from his Bible, by the approach of armed soldiers in search of him. With his Bible in hand, he went hastily by the usual inside passage to the byre. Seeing some newly-cut grass placed in readiness for feeding the cows, he lay down beside it, and was promptly covered over by one of his family. When the persecuting soldiers had searched the dwelling, they gave attention to the out-houses, and, coming to the heap of grass, one of the number actually pierced it with his sword. The on-looking relatives silently trembled lest the husband and father should be wounded, or mayhap killed outright, but no sound came from under the grass. The troopers departed, and, when well away, the grass was removed, and Mr Steel was found unscathed. On lying down with Bible in hand, he had placed it over his heart, and the sword-point was stayed by the Sacred Book. To John and Helen were born five sons and five daughters. This John was a crofter and lime master, his home being Bushdyke, near Leavenseat; where the limekilns were situated. In these days, when artificial manures were unknown, lime as a fertilizing agent, especially (or stiff heathland newly broken up with the plough, was very important. For lack of wheeled vehicles and roads, lime, like some other commodities, was carried in bags or creels on horseback. Before taking leave of John, it may be told that when a youth of 18 years he stood on some favourable height and saw the battle of Falkirk in 1795. He died aged 98 years. Doubtless simple living, with pure air and little worry, contributed to longevity in the less feverish days long past. Levensat Hill, over 1,200 feet above sea level, and is named because in Covenant times a Presbytery of eleven sat there, is slightly south-west of Bushdyke. From the summit, in clear weather, a varied and extensive all-round view can be obtained. On the rough moorland, traces of the old-time home are still plainly observable, though in the interval a second Bushdyke has been built and is now crumbling into ruins.

JOHN BLACK

John was baptised on 2 January 1724 at West Calder, having been born at Cleughhead.



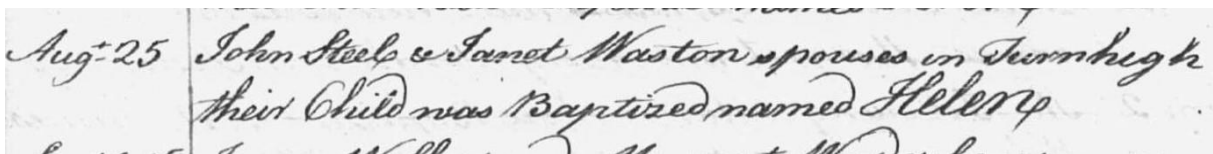
Parish baptism records - West Calder, Midlothian.

SON-2-JOHN BLACK AND HELEN STEEL

John Black stated 'it may be told that when a youth of 18 years he stood on some favourable height and saw the battle of Falkirk in 1745.' *Wikipedia* tells us that 'during the Jacobite rising of 1745, the Battle of Falkirk Muir on 17 January 1746 was the last noteworthy Jacobite success.' It is possible of course that John did witness the actual battle at Falkirk, thirty miles from his home, or maybe he just 'stood on a favourable height' and saw the troops marching to Falkirk. He would have been 22 and not 18 at the time.

HELEN STEEL

Helen was the daughter of John Steel and Janet Waston or Westown and baptised on 25 August 1734 in Whitburn. Turnhigh in now a street in Whitburn.

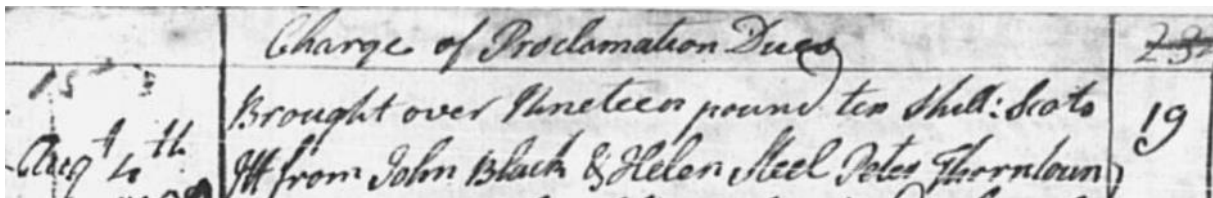


Parish baptism records – Whitburn, West Lothian.

Again we are told by JB that Helen Steel, of Turnhigh, 'her grandfather having been a proscribed Covenanter in the reign of Charles I.'

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

John was 30 when he married nineteen-year-old Helen Steel on the 4 August 1754 at Whitburn.



Parish marriage records – Whitburn, West Lothian.

By then John had probably moved to Bushdyke near Leven Seat where he had a croft and a limekiln. Even in JB's day the home at Bushdyke had vanished (as had the replacement homestead) so perhaps John was no builder. The property's location is shown on the map on the front page. Note also East Handaxood, where one of John's sons later farmed.

JB claimed John and Helen had ten children; five sons and five daughters, and two daughters married Steels, but we are unable to say if their husbands were related to their mother.

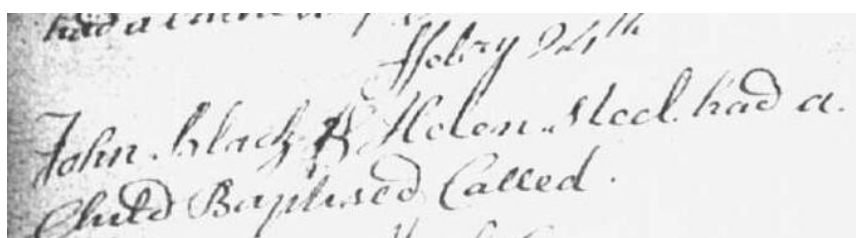
Eight births were found on *Scotland's People* including an unnamed child baptised on 24 February 1774. Baptisms for two children, namely John and Janet were not located.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	BIRTHPLACE	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
^Janet Black	abt 1755	Bushdyke	West Calder	William Auld	10 Jan 1824

SON-2-JOHN BLACK AND HELEN STEEL

^William Black	02 Oct 1757	Bushdyke	West Calder	Jean Cleland	bef 1841
^John Black	Abt 1759	Bushdyke	West Calder	Catherine Leckie	1814
^James Black	08 Nov 1761	Bushdyke	West Calder	Margaret Nisbet	bef 1853
^Helen Black	08 Apr 1764	Bushdyke	West Calder	James Steel	16 Feb 1806
^Hendareta Black	08 Feb 1767	Bushdyke	West Calder	David Brownlee	bef 1841
^Alexander Black	01 May 1769	Bushdyke	West Calder	-	aft 1841
^Mary Black	07 Jul 1771	Bushdyke	West Calder	John Steel	unknown
*Unknown female?	24 Feb 1774	Bushdyke	West Calder	unknown	unknown
^Robert Black	20 Oct 1776	Bushdyke	West Calder	Jean Walker then Catherine Thomson	21 Sep 1843

We ordered the unnamed child's baptism record to see if there were any further clues, but we were unrewarded for our efforts.



Parish baptism records – Whitburn, West Lothian.

DEATH AND BURIAL

JB claimed that John Black died aged 98 so his burial should be found between 1821-1823 but there was nothing. An index entry dated 14 December 1824 got us excited: John would have been 100 and it was at West Calder, however the short entry states: 'Janet Lind at John Black right side.' We have therefore taken JB at his word and accorded a death date for John as 1822. As for Helen, some have recorded her death in 1802, but we have no evidence of her death year either.

SECOND GENERATION

Before we leave this document, we will cover four of John and Helen's children who do not have their own narrative; Alexander Black, who was unmarried and the only four daughters we know a little about, Janet, Helen Henrietta and Mary.

JANET BLACK AND WILLIAM AULD

To John and Helen were born ... five daughters. [Janet]

JANET BLACK

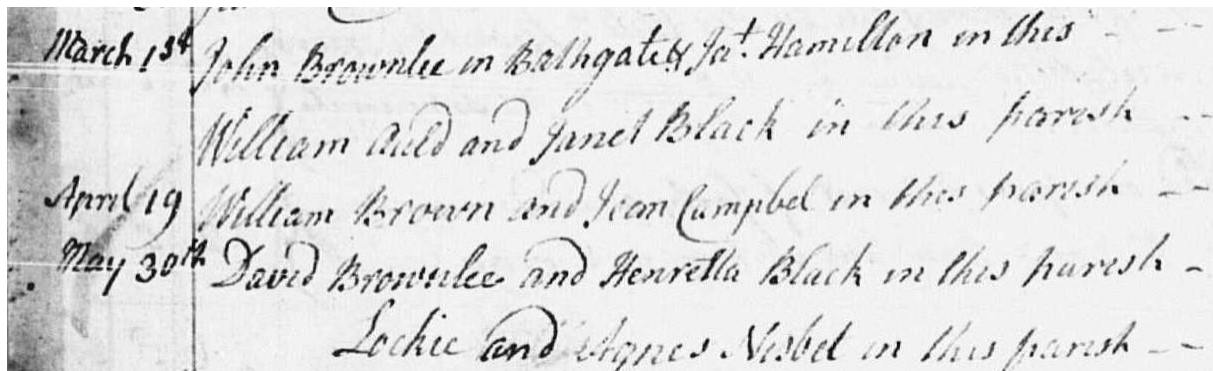
JB claimed John and Helen had five daughters, and we would expect to find a Janet amongst them as this was Helen's mother's name and usually given to the first born daughter. A marriage in the Whitburn records, six weeks before Henrietta's marriage for a Janet Black to a William Auld, led us to consider if this was one of the unnamed daughters. As the chances are high we have included this Janet as the first child of John Black and Helen Steel in the family and have estimated her birth around 1755 in Bushdyke, West Calder.

WILLIAM AULD

There is no obvious birth for William. He was from the parish of Whitburn but the Blacks were also from this parish but had moved there after their children were born. We have guessed William's year of birth around 1755 and his father was possibly John as the first son was usually named for the paternal grandfather.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

Janet and William married in Whitburn on 1 March 1790 just before Janet's sister Henrietta. If our estimations are right, Janet was 35.



Parish marriage records – Whitburn, West Lothian.

Four children were found but nothing else is known about the family.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	BIRTHPLACE	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*John Auld	08 May 1791		Whitburn	unknown	unknown
*Christian Auld	21 Feb 1793		Whitburn	unknown	unknown
*Marion Auld	09 Sep 1795		Whitburn	-	24 Nov 1818?
*William Auld	23 Dec 1798		Whitburn	unknown	unknown

SON-2-JOHN BLACK AND HELEN STEEL

DEATH AND BURIAL

The burial on 10 January 1824 for 'William Auld's wife has been accorded to Janet. She would have been around the age of 69.

1824						
January	1	Proc. James Meek & Agnes Dickson	Brought over	82	17	2 ^h
	10	Dr. Thos. Chalmers & Margt. Buchanan		..	2	6
		Mortcloth to	Binning	..	2	6
		Dr. to Wm Auld's Wife		..	7	6

Parish burial records - Whitburn, West Lothian.

William may have been buried a few month later; an entry on the 17 April 1824 is likely him. No ages were given for either burial to confirm our deductions.

HELEN BLACK AND JAMES STEEL

Residence - Falla Mill, Fauldhouse, Whitburn, West Lothian

To John and Helen were born ... five daughters...[Sandy's] kindly regard for James Steel, of Falla Mill, a sister [Helen's] son ...

HELEN BLACK

Helen was baptised on 8 April 1764 at West Calder.

JAMES STEEL

James was born around 1760 and no birth is found. We have however made an assumption that he was the son of James Steel and Margaret Alexander as its likely his brother married Helen's younger sister Mary.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

The marriage is not located and based on the birth of their first child we put the nuptials around 1793.

Only one child has been found with certainty.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	BIRTHPLACE	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
^James Steel	06 Dec 1794		West Calder	Barbara Smith Black	28 Mar 1879

James was baptised also in Whitburn.

DEATH AND BURIAL

Helen died on 16 February 1806 at the age of 41 and James remarried Agnes Smellie the following year. James died around 1826.

HENDARETA (HENRIETTA) BLACK AND DAVID BROWNLEE

HENDARETA (HENRIETTA) BLACK

To John and Helen were born ... five daughters. **[Henretta]**

Henrietta was baptised as Hendreta on 8 February 1767 in West Calder.

DAVID BROWNLEE

A David Brownlee was baptised on 22 January 1744 in Whitburn.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

Henretta (as she was shown on her indexes) married David Brownlee at Whitburn on 30 May 1790. The groom may have been 46 and the bride 23. Two children were found.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	BIRTHPLACE	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*James Brownlie	05 Aug 1792	Blackburn	Livingston	Margaret Buchanan	1866
*Agnes Brownlie	23 Jan 1794	Blackburn	Livingston	unknown	unknown

DEATH AND BURIAL

Neither David or Henrietta's burials can be found, nor were they on the 1841 census.

ALEXANDER (SANDY) BLACK

Residence - Bushdyke, West Calder, Midlothian

Alexander, fourth son of that family, was for long after his father's demise grieve at the lime-kilns, and lived with a sister or two, unmarried, in the old home. A droll, pawky old man, it seems, was Sandy. His kindly regard for James Steel, of Falla Mill, a sister's son, was subject of common remark for years afterwards. It was equally evident that the kindness of the uncle was not lost on the nephew, for, from being a modest carrier, he became a successful miller and victual dealer. An anecdote of Bushdyke Sandy may be told. Being one of the company at a haystack supper, in the course of the homely talk reference was made by some of the speakers to some of their neighbours who were thought to be "gey weel-tae-dae," or the opposite. The

SON-2-JOHN BLACK AND HELEN STEEL

subject was immediately changed, when, in a somewhat oracular manner, and as an outcome of his experience in collecting accounts for lime, Sandy said, "Ye may crack as ye like about wha's rich or wha's puir, but as for me I ken a' your circumstances. "

Sandy as he was known, was baptised on 1 May 1769 so he was actually 72 on the 1841 census, but as required by the enumerators, he had rounded his birthdate down to 70. He inherited the tenancy at Bushdyke despite being the fourth son.

CENSUS RECORD SHEET			
DISTRICT: West Calder, Midlothian			YEAR 1841
STREET Bushdyke			
NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
Alexander Black	70	farmer	Midlothian
Jane Black	20	female servant	Scotland

The Jane Black born around 1821 is still unknown.

DEATH AND BURIAL

Sandy's death and burial before 1851 is not located and Bushdyke passed out of the family after his death.

MARY BLACK AND JOHN STEEL

To John and Helen were born ... five daughters. **[Mary]**

MARY BLACK

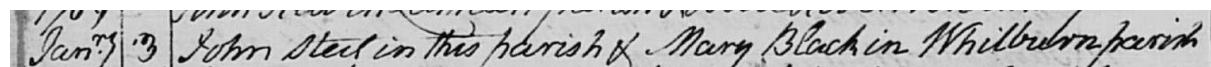
Mary was baptised on 7 July 1771 at West Calder.

JOHN STEEL

We believe it was John (not James) Steel that Mary married. (Helen married James and it is likely the two men were brothers). A birth for John on 28 February 1766 in Cambusnethan to James Steel and Margaret Alexander fits the bill.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

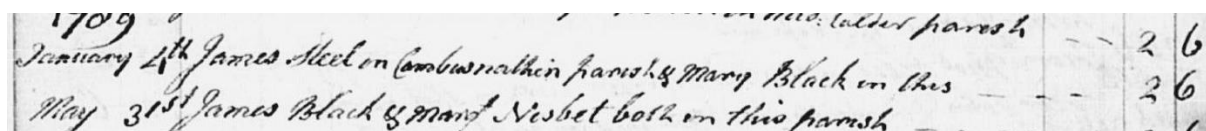
The marriage was proclaimed in two parishes, Cambusnethan on 3 January 1789 and Whitburn on 4 January 1789; he was John in his own parish and James in Mary's.



Jan 3 1789 John Steel in this parish & Mary Black in Whitburn parish

Parish marriage records – Cambusnethan.

SON-2-JOHN BLACK AND HELEN STEEL



Parish marriage records – Whitburn, West Lothian.

The marriage in Whitburn was followed a few months later by Mary's older brother James. No children were found.

DEATH AND BURIAL

No burials were obvious either.

THIRD GENERATION

JAMES STEEL AND BARBARA SMITH BLACK

**Residence – Blackhill, West Calder, Midlothian
Falla Mill, Fauldhouse, Whitburn, West Lothian**

[Sandy's] kindly regard for **James Steel**, of Falla Mill, a sister's son, was subject of common remark for years afterwards. It was equally evident that the kindness of the uncle was not lost on the nephew, for, from being a modest carrier, he became a successful miller and victual dealer.

JAMES STEEL

As noted earlier, James was baptised twice, once in Whitburn in November 1794 and again in West Calder on 6 December.

BARBARA SMITH BLACK

Barbara, despite being a Black, was no relation and born to Andrew Black and Jane Smith on 9 August 1796 at Carnwath.

MARRIAGE AND CHILDREN

James married Barbara on 28 March 1824 at West Calder. Ten children were found and some were baptised twice, in both Whitburn and West Calder.

CHILDREN	BIRTH/BAP	PARISH	MARRIED	DEATH/BUR
*Jean Steel	11 Oct 1824	West Calder	Archibald Reid	1902
*James Steel	24 Mar 1826	West Calder	Janet Black	03 Dec 1903
*Helen Steel	08 Feb 1828	West Calder	John Gibson Brown	22 Mar 1890
*Margaret Steel	05 Jan 1830	Whitburn	relationship then Joseph Harper	1894

SON-2-JOHN BLACK AND HELEN STEEL

*Andrew Steel	31 Mar 1832	Whitburn	-	bef 1835
*Alexander Steel	31 Jan 1834	West Calder	Agnes Russell	2 Nov 1857
*Andrew Steel	15 Jun 1835	West Calder	Maria Young Smith	23 Apr 1893 England
*John Steel	22 Sep 1836	Whitburn	Martha Brownlie	1877
*Marion Steel	16 Dec 1839	Whitburn	Thomas Morton then James Prentice	24 Sep 1895
*William Steel	13 Jan 1842	Whitburn	Agnes Waddell	30 May 1890

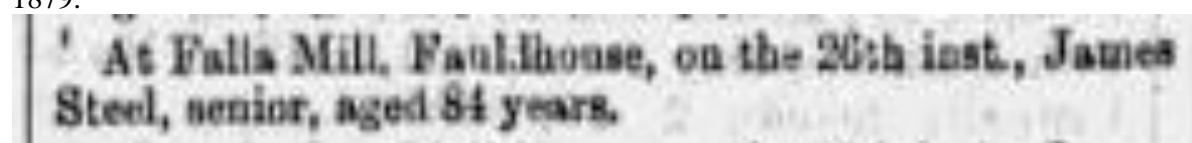
To prove the validity of JB's account we have produced the 1841 census showing James Steel as a carter. Ten years later he was a miller; he does not show on the census as a victual dealer; this honour goes to his son (also James Steel), but James senior may of course have owned the business.

CENSUS RECORD SHEET			
DISTRICT: West Calder, Midlothian			YEAR 1841
STREET Blackhill			
NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	BORN AT:
James Steel	45	Carrier	Midlothian
Barbara Steel	40		Scotland
Jane Steel	15		Midlothian
Helen Steel	13		Midlothian
Margaret Steel	11		Midlothian
Andrew Steel	9		Midlothian
Alexander Steel	7		Midlothian
John Steel	4		Midlothian
Marion Steel	1		Midlothian

The West Lothian Heritage Society says this about Falla Mill and James Steel in the 1850s. Early documents refer to "Fallhouse mill", "Falhouse mill" or "Fauldhouse mill", however in later years it was most commonly known as "Falla mill". "A house two storeys high, used as a mill for the purpose of grinding corn, and propelled by a Water Wheel, the dwelling house joins the mill, which is one storey high and slated: all being in good repair, there is a vegetable garden attached, and about 7 acres of arable land; the property of Mr Hare of Philpston House, Factor the Earl of Hopetoun, and in the occupation of James Steel" James Steel continued as "grain miller and farmer" until 1889, when his business failed.

DEATH AND BURIAL

James Steel outlived his wife Barbara who died in 1866. We have James dying On 26 March 1879.



SON-2-JOHN BLACK AND HELEN STEEL

This means the 1889 reference above would be to his son, also James. His story is found in document 2.1 as he in turn married **Janet Black**. His brother William Steel (born 1842) also married into the Blacks. **Agnes Waddell's** mother being Janet Black (daughter of Thomas Black and Anglis Inglis).