

The above map shows most of the McMurtrie Clan Families of Ayrshire Scotland as found in the parish registers that can be traced down to modern times. It shows that the center of "McMurtrie country" was in the region of the parishes of Maybole, Kirkoswald, Kirkmichael, Dailly and Barr. However, McMurtries appeared early as well in the surrounding parishes of Girvan, Straiton, Dalmellington, and Ayr in southern Ayrshire and in the northern Ayrshire parishes of Kilmarnock and Ochiltree.

Date of first appearance of McMurtries in the parish registers and Commissariot (wiills). Kirkmichael 1639/1607
Straiton 1649/1626
Kilmarnock 1652
Ochiltree 1671
Barr by Girvan 1674
Barr 1692
Dailly 1694/1629
Kirkoswald 1695/1604
Dalmellington 1702
Maybole 1712/1630
Ayr 1721

McMurtries were in these Ayrshire parishes before the earliest parish register dates as documented in various wills and estate records, but the parish registers from that earlier era have not been preserved to document this earlier history and connect it to the later McMurtries.

The McMurtries who came to Edinburgh in the 1800s seem mostly to have been related to the one branch or another of the Dalmellington McM. At least one of the McMutrie families (without the second "r") of Glasgow shared a common ancestor with the McM of the heartland of Ayrshire.

So far, we have found that the Scottish families tested so far can be grouped into three patterns: (1) the "Ayrshire/Antrim" pattern characteristic of McM in Co Antrim Ireland and the Ayrshire parishes of Barr, Kirkoswald, Maybole, Dailly, and Kirkmichael (2) the Ayrshire/Derry pattern characteristic of McM in Co Derry, Ireland and one family of Dailly Parish b 1714 and another (possibly an offshoot) in northern Kirkmichael parish b 1771 and (3) the Ayrshire (Dalmellington) pattern characteristic of families originating in the parish of Dalmellington in eastern Ayrshire. The fact that these patterns occur both in Scotland and in Ireland implies a common ancestor of these families and either a migration from those Scottish parishes to Ireland or (less likely) a migration from another Scottish location to Ayrshire and Ireland.

Ayrshire/Antrim Pattern

Girvan 1734/1608

- CF 21 Hugh b 1743 Barr son Andrew 1771 Ladyburn, Kirkmichael
- CF 39 James md 1800 Maybole, prob s of James b 1743 Barr md 1768 Dailly (CF 4)
- CF 15 John and Robert McMurtrie born in Co Down who came to Wigtonshire ca 1800
- CF 38 Matthew McM of Kirkoswald, children born abt 1700
- CF 28 John McMurtrie of Balwhirn, Kirkmichael, children b 1720s
- CF 22 Thomas McMurtrie of Mackrilkill, Dailly md 1720
- CF 56 James McM md Jean Rutherford 1753 Glasgow
- CF 30 Thomas McMurtrie md 1796 Eliz Neill St Quivox, Ayr
- CF 57 John McMurtrie b abt 1815, migrated to New Brunswick by 1839
- CF 24: Thomas McM md 1781 Elizabeth Gardner in New Kilpatrick, Dumbartonshire

Dalmellington Pattern

CF 113/CF 19	William McMurtrie b abt 1690 of Dalmellington, Ayrshire
CF 23	John McMurtrie b 1733 Dalmellington md 1766 Coylton, resided Craigie by 1792
	and Sorn, Ayrshire by 1835
CF 104	David McMurtrie b 1735 Dalmellington, md 1762 Kirkmichael Ayrshire
CF 18	Thomas md 1781 Marion Bole, resided Dam of Barnshean, Kirkmichael
CF 16	Thomas b 1802 Maybole md 1828 Elizabeth Campbell in Kilmarnock, prob son of
	Thomas McM and Janet Murdock md 1793 Paisley & to Maybole by 1797
CF 42	James md Margaret McLatchie, dau 1780 Eliz. In Doonside, northern Maybole
CF 45/46/40	Thomas b 1811 and William b 1817 and James b 1824, assumed to be brothers
	of William and hence children of William md 1805 Barr to Mary Hoet of
	Dalmellington
CF 47	Thomas b 1798 natural son of Thomas McM and Mgt Gibson, md 1826 Edin

The movements of the Dalmellington pattern families are interesting to note.

The first pair of families outside of Dalmellingotn can be traced to Dalmellington. John McM b 1733 (CF 23) and his brother David b 1735 (CF 104) both move NW out of Dalmellington to neighboring parishes in the 1760s – John (CF 23) marrying in Coylton in 1766 and David (CF 104) marrying in Kirkmichael in 1761.

The second set of families are found in Kirkmichael and Maybole and may reflect either a migration out of Dalmellington long before the parish registers were consistently kept(early 1700s) OR may reflect an origin of these families **and** the Dalmellington family in Kirkmichael, Straiton or Maybole. Thomas (CF 18) and James (CF 42) are contemporaries – Thomas marrying in Kirkmichael in 1781 and James having his first child in northern Maybole in 1780.

The third family of this set is the next generation - Thomas who married Janet Murdock (CF 16) in Paisley in 1793 and who came to Maybole by 1797. This move to Maybole could be a return to Maybole and hence an indication of the origin of this group of families.

Thomas CF 18 and Thomas CF 16 have a similar slight difference from the other Dalmellington McM and are assumed to be from the same branch of this group of families.

The third set of families ended up in Edinburgh in the 1820s and 1830s. William McM married Mary Hoet in Barr and had at least one recorded son (William) in Maybole in 1817 and two unrecorded sons in 1811 (Thomas) and 1824 (James). William, Thomas and James have one form of the Dalmellington DNA and are linked in the public records in Edinburgh that suggests they were all sons of William and Mary Hoet.

The Thomas who had a natural son Thomas (CF 47) in Galston in 1798 (not far from Kilmarnock) seems to have a Dalmellington DNA pattern but a second sample from this line is needed to pin down its exact pattern. The father could conceivably be either the Thomas who married Janet Murdock by 1793 and moved to Maybole by 1797 or more likely the son of Thomas who married Marion Lamont in Paisely in 1785 and had children in Kilmarnock 1786 to 1792.

Derry Pattern

CF 1: John b 1714 md 1744 Park, Dailly to Agnes Ferguson Bellymore, Barr CF 12: Andrew b 1771, son of John of Pleasant Park, Kirkmichael

There are few families in Scotland with the Derry pattern but several families in Co Derry with this pattern, suggesting an early migration from Scotland to Derry.