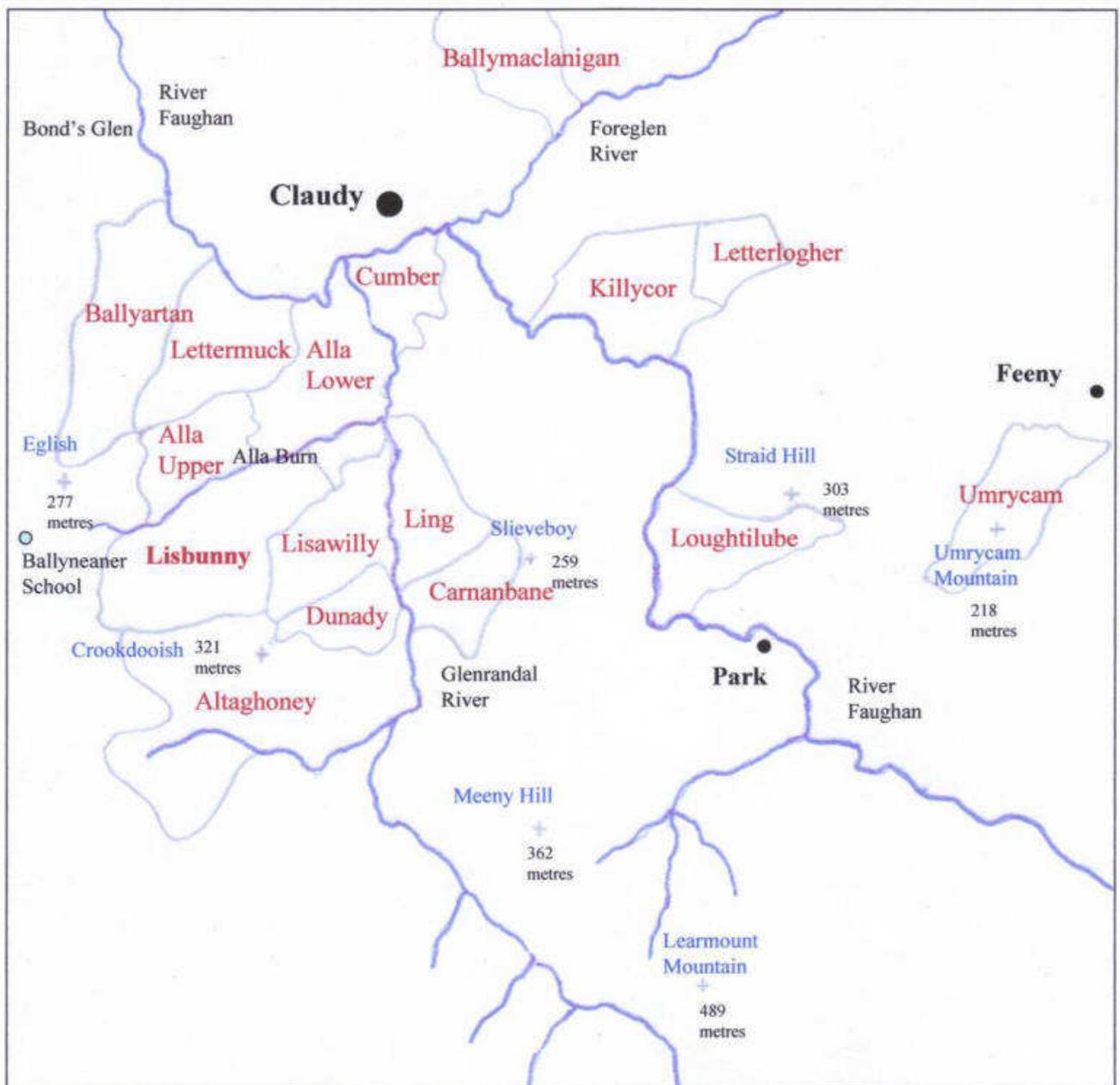


The Family of Thomas McMillen living in the Townland of Lisbunny in 1901

I have chosen this family because:

1. The surname, at various times and in different records, can appear as McMillan, McMillen, McMullan, McMullen or McMullin and as M'Millan, or M'Mullan, and their variant spellings. I have chosen the spelling McMillen as written by Thomas when he signed the 1901 census form and again by his widow, Eliza, in the 1911 census form.
2. Thomas was a shoemaker and lived in a number of locations during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and was not always easy to trace.
3. He was related to the Bond families in the townland of Lisbunny.

As mentioned above Thomas was fairly mobile. The map below shows the Claudy district where he lived and includes some of the townlands in which he lived during the second half of the nineteenth and early part of the twentieth century.



In 1901 Thomas and his family were living in the townland of Lisbunny, near Claudy in a house on the land of Christie Rosborough.

1901 Census [Ballymullins DED] [PRONI: MIC354/5/17]. The house was thatched, had 2 front windows and two rooms.

House No. in Census	Forename	Surname	Relationship	Religion	Education	Age	Sex	Profession	Marriage	Where Born
19	Thomas	McMillen	Head of Family	Presbyterian	Read & write	64	M	Shoemaker	Married	Co. Londonderry
19	Eliza	McMillen	Wife	Presbyterian	Read & write	63	F		Married	Co. Londonderry
19	Maggie	McMillen	Daughter	Presbyterian	Read & write	25	F	Seamstress	Not married	Co. Londonderry
19	Minnie	McMillen	Daughter	Presbyterian	Read & write	19	F	Seamstress	Not married	Co. Londonderry

Marriage of Thomas McMullan and Elizabeth Bond

In 1856 Thomas McMullan [as it was spelt on his marriage certificate] married Elizabeth Bond on the 27th March in Cumber Upper Presbyterian Church. Their marriage certificate states that Thomas was a shoemaker from the townland of Scardagh. At first I thought it was Searagh but a search of Terry Eakin's database of *Database of Unofficial Place-Names within the County* revealed that it referred to the townland of Cumber which is beside the village of Claudy. The marriage certificate shows that Thomas's father was a George McMullen and a search of the Griffith's [Tenement] Valuation shows that there was a George M'Mullen listed in the townland of Cumber in 1858 living in a cottier house valued at ten shillings. This is the only George McMullen listed in the vicinity.

The details of this marriage came from the marriage register of Cumber Upper Presbyterian Church which is available in microfilm format in PRONI: MIC 1P/148. A copy of the microfilm is also available in Coleraine Library.

I discovered the marriage originally through a search of the *Irish Genealogy: Central Signposting Index*. Because of the spelling of Thomas's surname in the marriage register I searched for the marriage of a Thomas McMullan to a spouse with the first name of Eliza in Co. Derry. Below is the result. Incidentally I tried the surname spellings of McMillen and McMillan to no avail.

Actual Surname used in Search: *MCMULLAN*
 Standard Surname used in Search: *MACMULLEN*
 Range of Years used in Search: **All**

Surname (Husband)	Firstname (Husband)	Surname (Wife)	Firstname (Wife)	Source Year	Source *	Centre
MCMULLAN	THOMAS	BOND	ELIZABETH	1856	M	Derry Genealogy Centre

I then carried out a search in *Emerald Ancestors* in order to find the exact date of the marriage and the church in which it took place. The result is shown below. On the basis of this information I then searched the church register.

Entry Details	
Record Type	Civil Marriage
Date of Marriage	27 Mar 1856
Groom Name	Thomas MCMULLAN
Bride Name	Elizabeth BOND
Church	Cumber Upper Presbyterian Church
Parish	Cumber Upper
Civil District	Londonderry
County	Londonderry
ADD TO FAVOURITES REQUEST LOOKUP	

It is worth pointing out that Thomas had signed his surname – McMullan – on his marriage certificate in 1856. However, by 1901 he was signing his surname as – McMillen – on the 1901 census form. As you will see when we look at the births of his children, we have the full gamut of spellings.

Births of the children of Thomas and Elizabeth McMullan/McMillan

The 1901 Census Returns only list two daughters. Clearly a marriage of forty-five years was likely to have produced other children. After searching a variety of sources which included Cumber Upper Presbyterian Church and Cumber Upper Church of Ireland's baptismal registers, the *Irish Genealogy: Central Signposting Index* [which is really an index to the *Derry ~ Londonderry Genealogy: Marriage Records for Co. Derry* online database], the *International Genealogical Index* [IGI], the *Ireland, Civil Registration Indexes* and *Emerald Ancestors*, I actually discovered that the couple had ten children between 1859 and 1881.

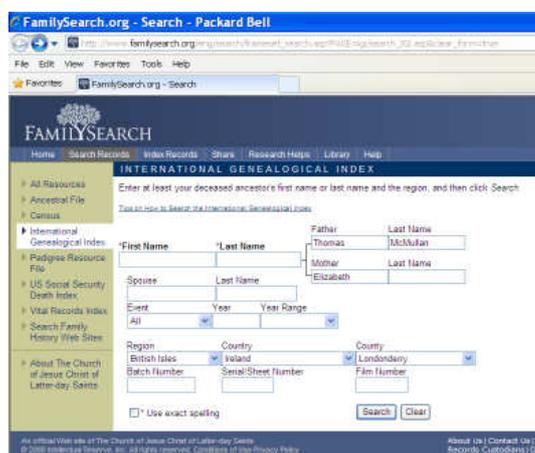
The above paragraph was written some time ago when I first began to research this family. The recent availability of the 1911 Census online confirms the number of children born to the couple. Although a widow in Eliza, stated that she had been married for 54 years and had 10 children born alive and all were still alive in 1911.

Clearly, the three children born before compulsory registration in 1864 could only be identified from church records. I was not entirely sure in which church the children would have been baptised – Cumber Upper Presbyterian or Church of Ireland.

The first child to be born was Joseph who was baptised on 25th May 1857 [born 24th April 1857] in Cumber Upper Presbyterian Church where the couple had been married. The townland of Lisbunny was given as the place where the child was born. Thomas and Elizabeth may have been living there but since Elizabeth's family lived in Lisbunny it is possible that she had gone to have the baby in her mother's house. Such a practice was not uncommon at that time. The next two children were born in the neighbouring townland of Altaghoney - Jane was born 9th June 1859 and was baptised in Cumber Upper Church of Ireland Church on 4th September 1859. Anna was born 3rd June 1861 and was baptised in Cumber Upper Church of Ireland Church on 28th July 1861.

What is interesting here is that the normal practice of the marriage taking place in the bride's church and the children being baptised in the groom's church does not apply here despite the fact that the religion given for all members of the family [including the wife] in the 1901 Census Returns was Presbyterian. Clearly the marriage and the baptism of the first child took place in the groom's church. After that the baptisms appear to have taken place in the wife's original church. Elizabeth Bond was a daughter of Alexander Bond and that family was definitely Church of Ireland. I have evidence of the baptisms of Jane, Anna, Alexander, Martha and Elizabeth in the Cumber Upper Church of Ireland Church between the years 1859 and 1870. Unfortunately, the baptismal register for the period after 1872 is in local custody. However, the absence of any Bond baptisms in the Presbyterian church registers for the period 1873 to 1882 would suggest that the baptisms continued in the Church of Ireland. I am reluctant to burden local clergymen unless it is really necessary. In this case, since the remaining births lie within the period of compulsory registration, I chose not to do so.

The following search of the IGI on the LDS website identified six of the seven children who were born after compulsory registration. The seventh child was born in 1882 and was therefore outside the period covered by the IGI births index for Ireland, which only go as far as the first quarter of 1880.



Armed with these precise dates I was able to use the *Ireland, Civil Registration Indexes* to produce the following information that would allow me to get photocopies of verifications of each birth from either the GRO in either Abbey Street, Dublin or Roscommon, if I so wished. The results of these searches are shown in the table below. Note the different spellings of the family surname in the indexes. Because of this it took me some time to find these entries within the indexes. I knew that the seventh child was called Minnie and was born after 1880, but initially, I could not find her in the indexes. The problem was the forename Minnie. I did find her eventually, registered as Mary M'Millen. Note also that before 1878 the indexes do not include the quarter of the year. Mary [Minnie], who was born in 1881, is the only child where this information is given.

Name	Superintendent's Registration District	Local Registration District	Registration Date - Quarter & Volume No. Year	Page No.
Alexander McMullan	Londonderry	Claudy	1864 7	218
Martha M'Mullin	Londonderry	Claudy	1867 7	227
Elizabeth McMillan	Londonderry	Claudy	1869 17	198
Thomas M'Mullin	Londonderry	Claudy	1872 2	247
Margaret M'Mullan	Londonderry	Claudy	1874 12	211
William M'Mullan	Londonderry	Claudy	1877 7	210
Mary M'Millen	Londonderry	Claudy	Oct - Dec 1881 2	171

Since these dates [except that of Mary] are pre-1880 I was able to visit the *Derry Family History Centre [LDS]* at Racecourse Road in Derry and look up each of the entries. I obtained the information on Minnie from the *Derry ~ Londonderry Genealogy: Birth Records for Co. Derry* online database - see below.

Alexander was born 13th March 1864 in Lisbunny and was registered 26th April 1864. [Baptised 26th June 1864.]

Martha was born 16th May 1867 in Lisbunny and was registered 2nd June 1867. [Baptised 1st September 1867.]

Elizabeth was born 24th December 1869 in Lisbunny and was registered 24th December. [Baptised 5th April 1870.]

Thomas was born 12th March 1872 in Lisbunny and was registered 18th March 1872.

Margaret was born 27th August 1874 in Lisbunny and was registered 31st August 1874.

William was born on 20th April 1877 in Alla and was registered 9th May 1877.

Mary [Minnie] was born 22nd November 1881 in Lisbunny .

On the next page you will see the screenshots of my search for Mary M'Millen's birth in the *Derry ~ Londonderry Genealogy: Birth Records for Co. Derry* online database.

Before I began the search I was not sure which spelling of the surname I should use in the "Surname Box" I actually tried a number of different spellings. Whilst the database responded even to M'Millan, M'Millen and McMillan, I decided to use McMillan. Note that the spelling McMullan produced a nil result.

1 match for the search criteria: **McMillan (plus variants) Mary 1877-1885**

Action	Source	Surname	First Name	Year	County
VIEW ✓	Civil Birth	McMillan	Mary	1881	Co. Derry

Free Index Search for Co. Derry

Type*: ▼

Surname*:

Firstname:

Year*: +/- ▼

Father Surname:

Only enter if different from child's surname

Father Firstname:

Parish / District: ▼

Surname Match*: ▼ ?

[CLEAR](#) [SEARCH](#)

Civil Birth Record

Name:	Mary McMillan	Date of Baptism / Birth:	22/11/1881
Address:	Lisbunny Cumber Up.	Parish / District:	CLAUDY
Gender:	Female	County:	Co. Derry
		Denomination:	Registrar District
Father:	Thomas McMillan	Mother:	Eliza Bond
Occupation:	Shoemaker		
Sponsor 1 / Informant 1:	Thomas McMillan	Sponsor 2 / Informant 2:	
Notes:	<input type="text"/>		

I have dealt with the search for these births/baptisms at some length simply to demonstrate that an eclectic approach is often necessary. As far as I was concerned my main interest in the birth certificates was the place of residence when the children were born. This was because there is no mention of Thomas McMullan or McMillan in the valuation records in 1859 or any of the Griffith's Revision Books up to 1901.

The birth entries show that the family probably began their married life in Lisbunny, then moved to Altaghoney, came back to Lisbunny, appear to have moved to Alla c.1877 and then came back to Lisbunny where they were living at the time of the 1901 Census and the 1911 Census. As you will see from the school records below, the evidence there suggests that the family may have been back in Lisbunny as early as 1878.

Thomas was a shoemaker therefore he would be renting a cottier house from a farmer. Such arrangements could often be precarious. Elizabeth's father, Alexander, was a farmer but I cannot find any evidence to show that the family had rented a house from him. According to the 1901 Census Returns the family were living in a house on the land of Christie Rosborough. Unfortunately, I have not been able to identify that house either on a map or on

the ground. This is because Thomas does not appear in the Griffith's Revision Books, so I cannot connect him to the valuation map.

Ballyneaner School Enrolment Register

Another source that I used was the Ballyneaner School Enrolment Register. Terry Eakin had databased the registers from 1863 to 1899. My thanks to him for permission to use the database. A search of the database produced the following information for the name McMullan and its variant spellings. I have highlighted the forenames of those children that I think might be those of Thomas and Elizabeth McMillen based on the occupation, shoemaker, the spelling of the surname and the ages of Alexander, William and Thomas. The surprising age was that of Alexander. Why was he at school aged 20? Had he ambitions of emigrating and, therefore, felt that he needed some education?

Date of Entry [where given]	Year of Reg. Entry	Reg. No	Surname of Child	Forename of Child	Age	Religion	Townland	County	Occupation of Father	Other Schools Attended
20/05/1878	1878	98	McMillan	Thomas	5	Pres	Lisbunny	L'Derry	Shoemaker	
		67	McMillan	Elizabeth						
		154	McMillen	Minnie						
20/06/1881	1881	105	McMullen	Thomas	10	Pres	Lisbunny	L'Derry	Labourer	Transferred from Glenrandle, L'Derry.
		89	McMullen	Lizzie						
04/01/1883	1883	138	McMullan	Robert	14	RC	Ballyneaner	Tyrone	Cottier	Earl's Gift, Tyrone.
		106	McMullan	Maggie						
20/10/1884	1884	157	McMillen	Alexander	20	Pres	Lisbunny	L'Derry	Shoemaker	
12/05/1884	1884	136	McMillen	William	6	Pres	Lisbunny	L'Derry	Shoemaker	Transferred from Infants

Thomas McMillen was dead by the time of the 1911 Census. I am fairly certain that this is the registration of his death in the **Ireland, Civil Registration Indexes**, in 1909.

Name: Thomas McMillen
 Registration district: Londonderry
 Record type: DEATHS
 Registration date - quarter and year: Jan - Mar 1909
 Estimated birth year: 1836
 Age: 73
 Volume: 2
 Page: 124

I could ring the GRONI in Belfast and adding the two facts that this birth must have been registered in the *Claudy Local Registrar's District* and his occupation was shoemaker, I should be able to obtain a written verification of the entry in the death register.

1911 Census [Ballymullins DED] [NAI: 1911 Online Census]. The house was thatched, had 2 front windows and 2 rooms and was on the land of Christie Rosborough.

House No. in Census	Forename	Surname	Relationship	Religion	Education	Age	Sex	Profession	Marriage	Where Born
14	Eliza	McMillen	Head of family	Presbyterian	Read & write	74	F		Widow	County Derry
14	Annie	McMillen	Daughter	Presbyterian	Read & write	45	F	Seamstress	Single	County Derry
14	Minnie	McMillen	Daughter	Presbyterian	Read & write	27	F	Seamstress	Single	County Derry
14	William	McClay	Son-in-law	Presbyterian	Presbyterian	28	M	Labourer	Married	County Tyrone

Married 54 years – 10 children born alive – 10 still living in 1911.

The census shows that Eliza McMillen was still alive, aged 74. Her unmarried daughters Annie and Minnie and her son-in-law William McClay aged 28 were living with her. He had married Margaret McMillen on the 14th April 1910 in Cumber Upper Presbyterian Church. According to the census, William McClay had been born in Co. Tyrone. However, the marriage certificate shows that William McClay was living in the nearby townland of Ling. He was a shoemaker as was his father Matthew. Clearly this district was well-provided with shoemakers! Surprisingly, Margaret is not with her husband on the night of the census. I'm assuming that she is alive, otherwise William would not have stated that he was married. I searched the 1911 for a Maggie McClay aged c.35 but did not find her. Where was she?

With regard to the other children, I know that Jane had married a James Bond who was the son of a John Bond who had lived in Lisbunny until 1856. In fact Thomas McMullen had been at witness to John's wedding to Matilda Warnock of Loughtilube on 9th August 1855.

Their son James who had been born in 1860 married Jane McMillan [who had been born in 1859] on 5th July 1890 in Cumber Upper Presbyterian Church. The father of the groom was John Bond, labourer and the father of the bride was Thomas McMillan, shoemaker. The witnesses were Thomas McMillan and Annie McMillan.

Note that Annie had spent some time working in a shirt factory in the Waterside. She was listed in the 1901 Census as a boarder in the house of her brother-in-law, James Bond, in Violet Street on the Waterside.

Here, I must end the story because we are moving into the twentieth century where I would need information that can only come from members of the family circle. Also, I do not want to move into this period because, as I said in the introduction to the case studies of families, I wanted to concentrate on the period before 1911 rather than the period after that date.

I am not aware of any descendants of this family living in the immediate area and as far as I can gather the family is not remembered amongst the local people in Lisbunny today. However, I suspect there is someone, somewhere, who is related to this family.

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