



A Brief History of Dailly Parish, Ayrshire, Scotland

Generations of our Watson ancestors lived in Dailly Parish, Ayrshire, before some emigrated to the United States starting in the 1830s.

The three earliest known generations of our Watson ancestors lived and died in Dailly Parish, Ayrshire, in southwest Scotland. All of these generations in fact were specifically attached to the Smithy (blacksmith) in the village now called Old Dailly.

John Watson of the fourth generation married Jane Lambie, and they had had eight children. In 1834, John and Jane emigrated to the United States. Between 1832 and 1859, four of their children – Agnes, Hugh, John and Janet – also emigrated to the United States. Their children James and Helen ended up in Ballantrae Parish at the south end of Ayrshire, where they remained the rest of their lives. Son William and his family were living in Liverpool, England in the early 1840s, but they disappeared from the currently available records after that. Son Robert died young.

Our Watson ancestors produced several descendants in addition to our John (Jane) Watson. It appears that only a very few of these Dailly cousins emigrated to the United States or Canada. Over the years, several moved to bigger towns in the area, such as Girvan, Maybole and Ayr, or to industrial centers such as Glasgow. But many remained behind, working the local farms and coal mines in earlier years, and commuting daily to bigger cities for work in more recent years.

During my 2012 visit to Dailly, I met numerous cousins. The proprietor of the B&B where I stayed was my 5th cousin. Every customer in his pub that I was introduced to was a cousin or cousin by marriage. In fact, the only person I met in Dailly during that visit who wasn't a cousin in some way was the Dailly Parish Church minister.

So, hundreds of years of Dailly history are intertwined with the history of our family.



Everyone I met during my 2012 visit to Dailly was related to our family except for the church minister. When I was exploring the village of Dailly, these boys were curious and asked me who I was. I told them, and then the one in the middle asked me where I was staying. When I told him that I was staying at the Greenhead, he said that was his uncle's pub. It turned out that all three were Watson descendants and thus additional cousins, my 5th cousins once removed.

From Dalmakeran to Dailly

Christianity reached Ireland before it reached present-day Scotland. In 563AD, Columba, an Irish abbot, and a group of missionaries founded an abbey on the island of Iona off the west coast of Scotland.

One of Columba's early teachers was Ciaran Macantsaor, or Kieran, the Son of a Carpenter. He also spread the Gospel in western Scotland, using the Cantyre peninsula (now Kintyre) as his base. Traces of his missionary work have been found in what is now Dailly Parish. Kieran died at age 33, and later became St. Kieran.

Dailly Parish was originally named after St. Kieran – Dalmakeran (or Dalmaolkeran), meaning the “dale (open valley) of St. Kieran”. The name of the parish was still Dalmakeran in 1404, but it had been shortened to Daly or Dailly (today's spelling) by 1490.

Kingdom of Galloway

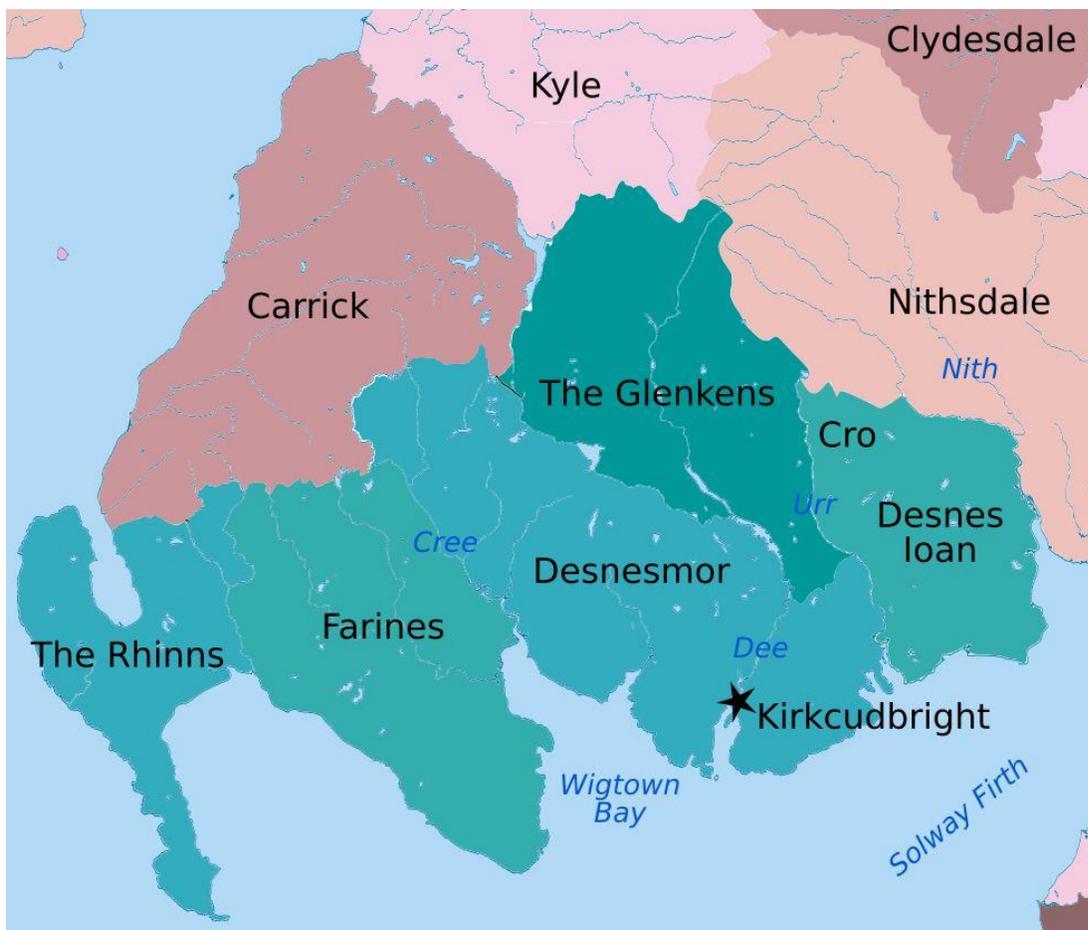
Before Scotland was unified, the southwest corner of present-day Scotland was ruled by the Kingdom of Galloway. The kingdom encompassed more territory than the area known as Galloway today. This included a strip along the west-southwest coast known as the district of Carrick. Dailly Parish was in the district of Carrick in the Kingdom of Galloway, and today is part of the South Ayrshire Council District, which loosely approximates the combined old districts of Carrick and Kyle.

Suibne mac Cináeda is believed to have been the first recorded king of Galloway. Fergus of Galloway took the throne in the early 1100s, and prevented Galloway from being absorbed into Scotland for a while longer. His sons, grandsons and great grandson Alan, Lord of Galloway, shifted alliances between the English and Scottish kings.

Alan died in 1234, leaving behind three daughters and an illegitimate son, Thomas. The people of Galloway favored Thomas as Alan's successor. King Alexander III of Scotland, however, favored the husbands of the three daughters, so he invaded Galloway and made it happen, effectively ending Galloway's independent status.

Carrick

Donnchadh (Duncan) was a grandson of Fergus of Galloway through his son Gille-Brighde (Gilbert), Lord of Galloway. After Gilbert's death in 1185, Carrick was separated from Galloway when Duncan obtained Carrick as his portion of Gilbert's domain; the lion's share of Galloway was attached to his cousin Roland.



Map of Carrick and Galloway (greens). Nithsdale at times has been part of Galloway.

Duncan was named the 1st Earl of Carrick in 1186. His son Neil became the 2nd Earl of Carrick, but Neil had no male heir, so his daughter Margaret, a.k.a. Marjorie of Carrick, became Countess of Carrick after he died.

A Scottish knight, Robert de Bruce, son of Robert de Bruce, Lord of Annandale and Cleveland, passed through the domains of Turnberry, which belonged to Marjorie, who was out on a chase. The young knight caught her eye, and she invited him to join her party. She reportedly then rode up to him, grabbed the bridle of his horse, and led him to her castle, where he stayed for 15 days.



The ruins of Turnberry Castle, once home to Marjorie, Countess of Carrick, and believed to be the birthplace of Robert the Bruce, are just a few miles from Dailly Parish in Kirkoswald Parish.

They then married, but they did so without the knowledge or permission of King Alexander III of Scotland. Alexander expected to be involved in such decisions for people at Marjorie's level, so the king seized her castle and Turnberry estate in retaliation. Friends interceded, however, and after paying a heavy fine, de Bruce won over the monarch. Their son was Robert the Bruce, who became 4th Earl of Carrick in 1292 after his mother died.

Turmoil regarding a successor followed the death of Alexander, creating an opening for England, which invaded Scotland in 1296. Robert the Bruce went on to lead the Scots in the Wars of Scottish Independence, after which he became King of Scotland.

Old Dailly Parish Church, Churchyard and Church Ruins

Duncan, 1st Earl of Carrick, was an especially religious man. He is credited with supporting the construction of churches in both Dailly and Girvan in about the year 1186.

In Dailly, this church was named Ecclesia Sancti Michaelis de Dalmulkerane, i.e., the Church of St. Michael of Dalmakeran. It served as the parish church of Dailly Parish until about 1696, although it was substantially rebuilt at least once over those 500 years. Today, the ruins of this church are commonly referred to as the Old Dailly Church.



Old Dailly Parish Church ruins and churchyard

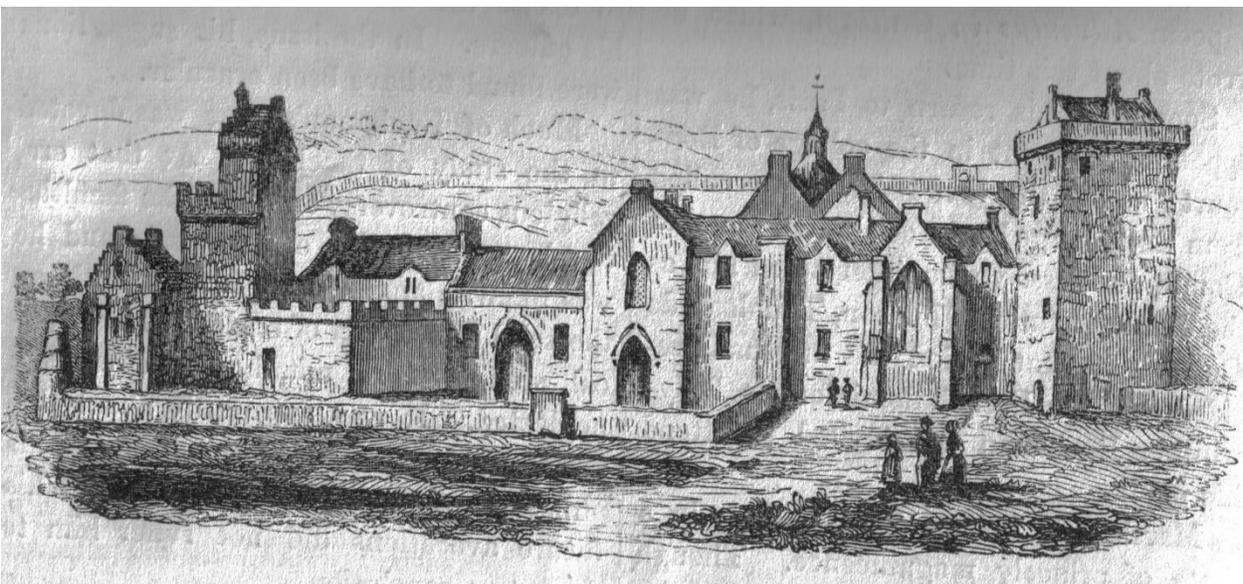
Duncan initially granted this church and a handful of others in Carrick to the monks of Paisley Abbey, which was confirmed by King Alexander II of Scotland. This gave the abbey authority over these churches, and the churches paid tithes to the abbey.



Paisley Abbey, in Renfrewshire County, was chartered 1176.

Records show that Duncan did this with the expectation that Paisley Abbey would establish a monastery in Carrick. The abbey failed to fulfill this obligation, but the Bishop of Glasgow intervened and determined not only that Paisley must do so, but also that Paisley Abbey's properties in Carrick would then be transferred to the new monastery.

Paisley Abbey instead constructed a small oratory served by Paisley monks, which led Pope Clement IV to intervene. The new abbey was not founded until about 20 years after Duncan died. The Dailly church was then transferred to the new abbey, the Abbey of St. Mary of Crossraguel. This transfer was confirmed by both Robert the Bruce and Robert III.



Abbey of St. Mary of Crossraguel near Maybole, Ayrshire, the capital of the district of Carrick

In 1617, Crossraguel and its churches were transferred to the Bishopric of Dunblane. With the Reformation and the final abolition of the Episcopacy in 1689, the patronage of the church was vested in the Crown. Crossraguel Abbey has since been abandoned and fallen to ruin.

The church ruins visible in Old Dailly today are believed to primarily date back to the 17th century, but they incorporate parts of a pre-Reformation church that may be the original church building that Duncan supported and granted to Paisley Abbey. There is archeological evidence that this location was also once an ancient pagan religious site.

Members of the parish were usually buried in the churchyard. This includes a Watson family plot where some of our ancestors and relatives were buried in marked graves and likely in a number of nearby unmarked graves.



The Watson family plot in the Old Dailly Church churchyard. The middle of these three markers is for John Watson (Wason) and Helen Skeene (Skeen). We are direct descendants of John and Helen. The marker is flanked by markers for other John and Helen descendants, distant cousins of ours. There are a number of unmarked graves nearby, likely including graves for other Watson ancestors and distant cousins.

- For more about this church, see [Old Dailly Church, Dailly Parish, Ayrshire, Scotland](#).

The Village of Old Dailly

The original village of Dailly, today's Old Dailly, was the small village that grew up around the church. For centuries it was the primary village of the parish, although it never was very big. I found this description of Old Dailly in the late 1600s. It is the only description of the early village of Old Dailly with any detail that I have found to date.

Old Dailly, which was then simply called Dailly, was the main centre of the population. When the Parish Church was removed in 1690 to New Dailly, *that* gradually became the centre of the population, as it is the centre of the parish locally, and Old Dailly began to fall into decay. But, at the time we refer to, it was a place of some importance, situated on the Penquhapple burn at the point where the public road crossed the burn by a bridge, the remains of which may still be seen. There, embosomed among trees, stood the Parish Church, even then hoary with antiquity, with its two belfry towers, the eastern surmounted by a cross and surrounded by its old churchyard. And further down the burn, on the opposite side of the road, was the modest and unpretentious manse. We may picture to ourselves the village as standing on both sides of the road—the old road—and composed of rows or clusters of thatch houses, with an inn, a smithy, a wright's shop, the school and schoolmaster's house, and the usual village population.

From [A South Ayrshire Parish: Being Articles on the History of the Parish of Dailly](#)

Our family is tied to the Smithy mentioned in this description.

The Ayrshire Ordnance Survey Name Books 1855-1857 described the village of Old Dailly this way:

No. 21. *Pth of Dailly* 77

List of Names as written on the Plan	Various modes of Spelling the same Names	Authority for those modes of Spelling	Situation	Descriptive Remarks, or other General Observations which may be considered of Interest
<i>Old Dailly</i>	<i>Ola Dailly</i>	<i>Thomas Scott</i>	<i>L1-13</i>	<i>Eight or ten cothouses with a T.P. & Churchyard constitute what is known as Old Dailly.</i>
<i>Church</i> <i>(on 20th Dec)</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>W. McCulloch</i>		<i>The value of the old church land about the centre of the Churchyard, but was rapidly crumbling away. A large portion of the East end had been recently washed into the sea and is pretty good & plain the stone</i>
<i>St. Martin's Tomb</i>	<i>Nil</i>	<i>J. B. Box</i>		<i>What is completely covered with the position so much so, indeed that it is under the level. The last tombstone in the Churchyard is dated 1852.</i>
	<i>Nil</i>			<i>"The name given to this parish Daly or Dailly, has probably arisen from its consisting principally of a dale or valley stretching along the banks of the river Girvan" Statistical Account (1842)</i>

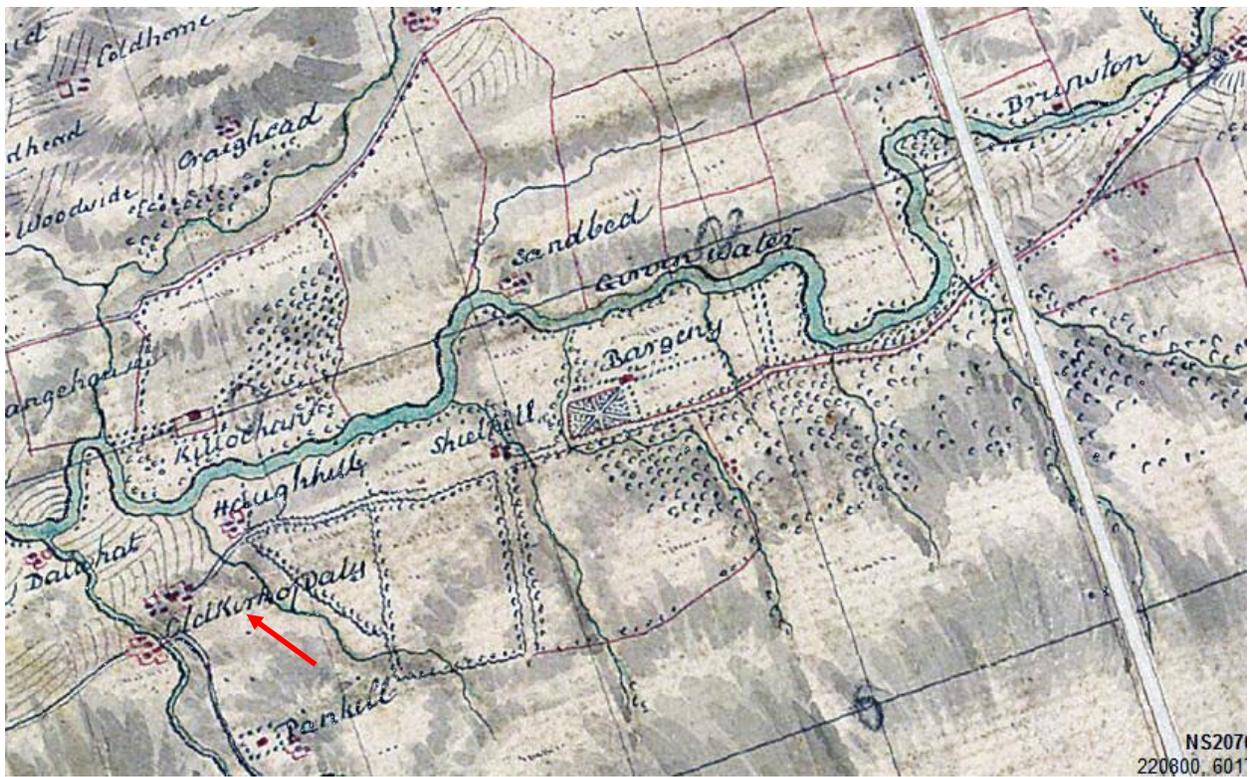
Ayrshire Ordnance Survey Descriptive Remarks for Old Dailly: "Eight or ten cothouses with a T.P. [Turnpike] & Churchyard constitute what is known as Old Dailly. 'The name given to this parish Daly or Dailly, has probably arisen from its consisting principally of a dale or valley stretching along the banks of the river Girvan' Statistical Account (1842)" [sic]

A "cothouse" was a small cottage, usually occupied by a "cottar". A "cottar" was a farmer who cultivated a small plot of land.

Because the Old Dailly Church was central to the parish at the time, it can be found on old maps, even when the village itself is not mentioned.



This 1652 map shows the Dailly Church, now the Old Dailly Church.



This 1755 map identifies the "Old Kirk of Daly".

Dailly Parish Boundary Changes

Dailly Parish was originally much bigger than it is today. It once included much of today's Dailly, Girvan and Barr parishes, as well as the island of Ailsa Craig, off the coast of Girvan. Girvan Parish was created from the southwest portion of Dailly Parish sometime before 1296, when it was first mentioned in the historical records. Although it might have made sense for Ailsa Craig to be included in Girvan Parish, at the time Ailsa Craig was part of the Barony of Knockgerran and thus remained in Dailly.

Records show that part of today's Girvan Parish, including Girvan Mains, were still in Dailly in 1639. In 1653, A large portion of southeast Dailly Parish and smaller portions of Girvan and Colmonell Parishes were combined into a newly created Barr Parish. The southwest portion of Dailly Parish, including Girvan Mains, was transferred to Girvan Parish. Land from the south end of Kirkoswald Parish was added to the north end of Dailly Parish. These changes had the effect of shifting Dailly Parish to the north-northeast and away from the coast, although Ailsa Craig remains in Dailly Parish to this day.



Boundaries of Dailly, Girvan, Barr, Kirkoswald and Colmonell Parishes after 1653

The Ayrshire Ordnance Survey Name Books 1855-1857 described Dailly Parish this way:

13 Rms, 10-54. No. 1

Parish of Dailly.

List of Names as written on the Plan	Various modes of Spelling the same Names	Authority for those modes of Spelling	Situation	Descriptive Remarks, or other General Observations which may be considered of Interest
DAILLY.	Dailly Dailly Dailly Dailly	Johnstons County Map County Voters list Statistical Account Parker's history of Ayrshire		<p>Dailly may be derived from the Gaelic Dal or Dail, a Valley which is peculiarly descriptive of this Ph. [Parish] intersected as it is, throughout its whole length by the Girvan Water. The Ph. [Parish] is about seven miles in length & varies from four to six in breadth. Ailsa Craig included in it from its having formed part of the barony of Knockgerran, now the property of the Marquis of Ailsa. The Parish in topographical appearance is one of the finest in the County - it is extensively wooded - abounds in minerals, such as coal, sandstone, limestone, of the best quality. The Ph. [Parish] may be said to have no political or Civil history peculiar to itself. A large encampment - several baronial mansions, the sites of two small chapels, and the ruins of another a hill fort & Cairns, are the antiquities of the Ph. [Parish]. There are no detached portions of other parishes within the limits of this parish.</p>

Ayrshire Ordnance Survey Descriptive Remarks for Dailly [Parish]: "Dailly may be derived from the Gaelic Dal or Dail, a Valley which is peculiarly descriptive of this Ph. [Parish] intersected as it is, throughout its whole length by the Girvan Water. The Ph. [Parish] is about seven miles in length & varies from four to six in breadth. Ailsa Craig included in it from its having formed part of the barony of Knockgerran, now the property of the Marquis of Ailsa. The Parish in topographical appearance is one of the finest in the County - it is extensively wooded - abounds in minerals, such as coal, sandstone, limestone of the best quality. The Ph. [Parish] may be said to have no political or Civil history peculiar to itself. A large encampment - several baronial mansions the sites of two small chapels and the ruins of another a hill fort & cairns are the antiquities of the Ph. Parish. There are no detached portions of other parishes within the limits of this parish." [sic]

St. Machar's Church, a.k.a. the (New) Dailly Parish Church

It had been tradition to build the parish church near the center of the parish, but because of the changes to its boundaries, by the late 1600s Dailly's parish church was within a mile of Girvan Parish, but more than six miles from the northeast end of the parish.

In those days, church maintenance was the responsibility of the parish's heritors, its prominent landowners. In Dailly Parish, the heritors included the lairds of Bargany, Kilkerran, Dalquharran, Killochan and Penkill.

A new church closer to the center of the parish was proposed as early as 1659. John, 2nd Lord of Bargany and one of the heritors, agreed to build a new church and manse at Milncavish, which was on his land. At the time, there was little to Milncavish but a corn mill, a house for the miller, and one or two other houses.

This decree was issued in 1673, but Covenanting activities created a lot of havoc in the parish at that time. William, 3rd Lord of Bargany did not complete the new church, and its manse until 1693-1696 (sources vary, with 1696 used by Canmore, part of Historic Environment Scotland). At that point, the minister of the old church, Rev. Patrick Crauford (Crawford), was transferred to the new church, originally called St. Machar's Church of Dailly. Worship at the old church was discontinued as its roof had been removed to the new church. The Old Dailly Church was left to fall to ruin.

Both the new church and manse were poorly constructed, and the church also proved to be too small to meet the needs of the parish. A new manse was built in 1758 (the current manse dates back to 1801). The St. Machar's Church minister at the time, Rev. Thomas Thomson, strongly advocated replacing the church. He arranged with the heritors for a church inspection. The inspectors concluded that a new church was indeed necessary. Today's Dailly Parish Church, often referred to as the New Dailly Church, was completed in 1766, although it was enlarged a mere 12 years later to accommodate 100 more parishioners.



The current Dailly Parish Church was originally built in 1766.

The new church had a T-shaped floorplan and featured three lofts where the pews of the heritors were located. Tradition holds that this was so that they could look down on the minister, a symbol of their higher status in the community.

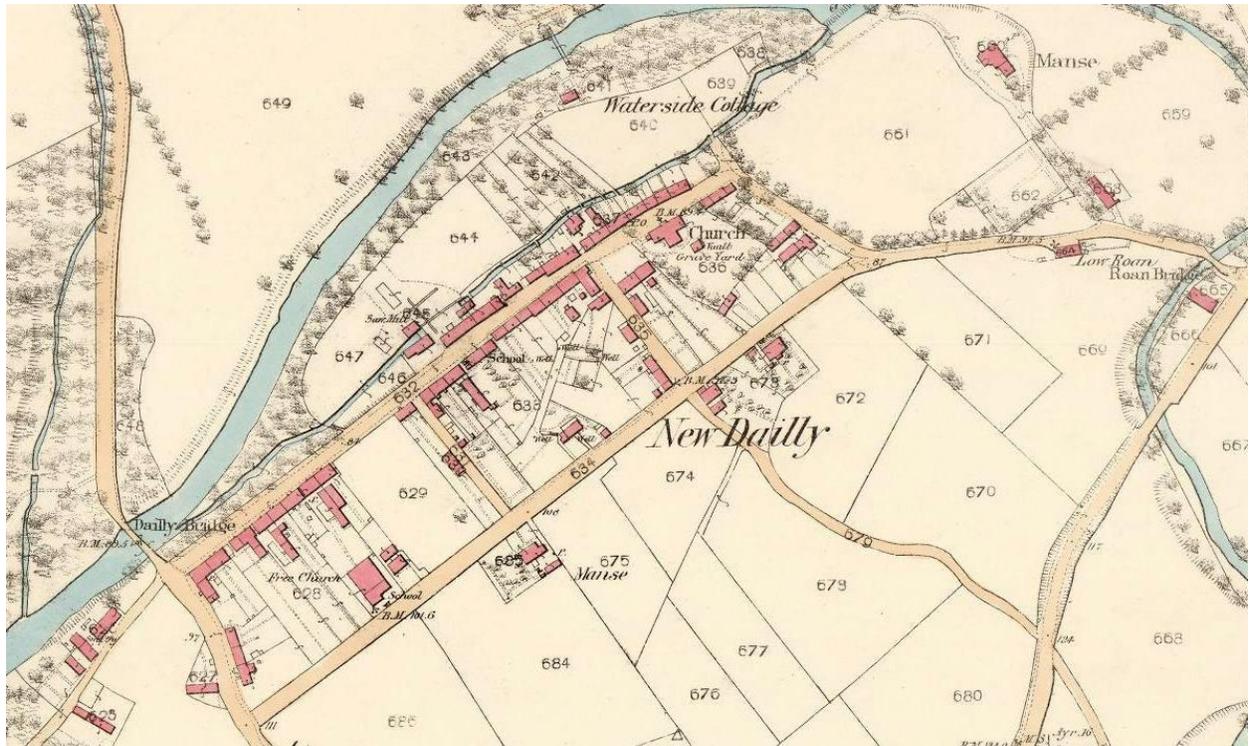
It would undergo minor renovations several times in the years since. It survived a proposal to replace it in the 1880s, but it underwent major renovations in 1914.

Although burials continued in the old churchyard, burials began in the new churchyard, with the oldest headstone dating back to 1704. I have not found evidence that any of our ancestors were buried in this churchyard.

- For more about the new parish church, see [Dailly Parish Church, Dailly Parish, Ayrshire, Scotland.](#)

The Village of New Daly, Today's Dailly

The village of New Dailly, now Dailly, was laid out at about the same time as the Dailly Parish Church was rebuilt. New Dailly was originally planned as two main streets running parallel to Water of Girvan with some cross streets connecting them. Historic maps suggest that the layout of the village did not change much until the mid-20th century. As the local mining industry grew and expanded, Dailly became a mining community, with much of the housing taking the form of miners' row houses.



Map of New Dailly, 1856

The Ayrshire Ordnance Survey Name Books 1855-1857 described New Dailly this way:

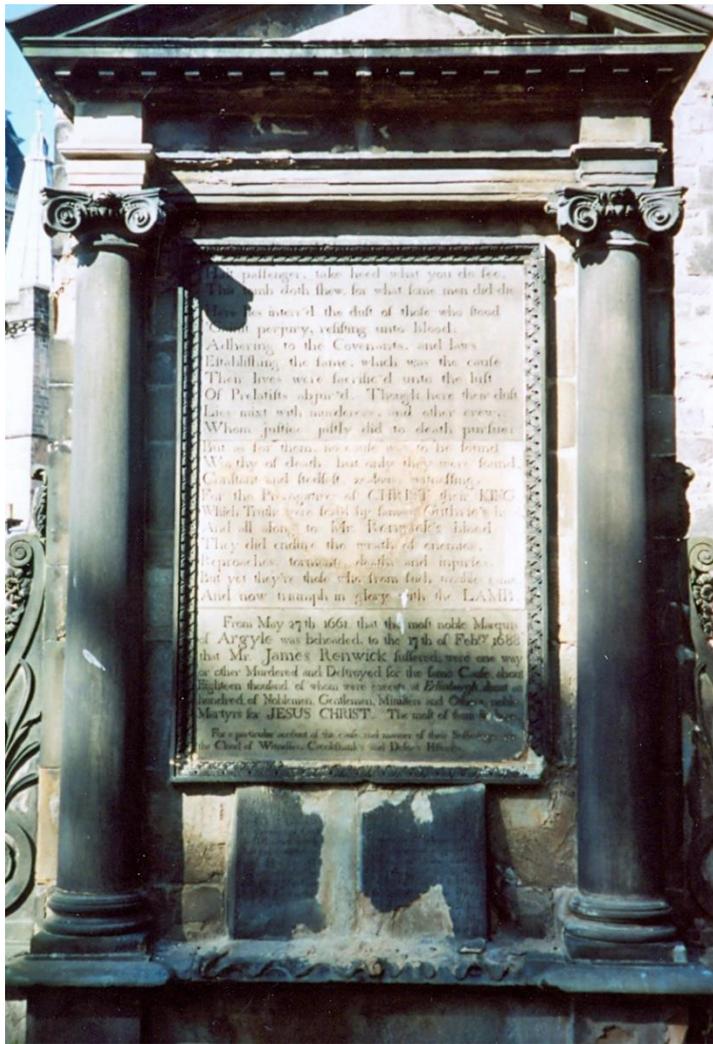
No. 21. *Sheet 50-11 Parish of Dailly*

List of Names as written on the Plan	Various modes of Spelling the same Names	Authority for those modes of Spelling	Situation	Descriptive Remarks, or other General Observations which may be considered of Interest
(New Dailly) New Dailly ✓	New Dailly Do Do Do New Dailly	Thomas Scott M. M. M. M. J. M. M. M. P. B. Ross Esq. Johnston's County Maps	L. 11	A neat little village Situate in the centre of Dailly Parish. It consists of two rows of houses one & two storeys slated & thatched & in good repair. It contains two Churches, two Manses, three schools, an Apothecary's shop, Sub Post Office & a branch of the Glasgow Savings Bank. There are money orders issued from the P.O. The Post-man arrives from the major office in Maybole at 10 am & departs at 1/2 past 5 pm. The savings bank was opened in 1817 & the amount of deposits are pretty large. There is also a saw Mill which was opened in 1847 with a flour mill attached. The County Trunk Road between Ayr & Girvan intersects the village of Dailly. The Coach from the later place passes through it for Ayr every morning at 8am, returning again at 7pm.
	<p>The name given to this parish, Dailly or Dailly, has probably arisen from its consisting of a dale or valley, stretching along the banks of the river Liffen.</p> <p>(Historical Account 1842)</p> <p>The parish of Dailly, says Chalmers was anciently called Dalma-hadry or Dalma-hadrian. How the name of the parish came to be changed to Dailly is not known, whether it was simply an abbreviation of the original, or arose from the place of worship having been removed from Dalma-hadrian to Dailly is matter of conjecture.</p> <p>(Patterson's History of Ayrshire 1847)</p>			

Ayrshire Ordnance Survey Descriptive Remarks for New Dailly: "A neat little village Situate [in] the centre of Dailly Parish. It [consists] of two rows of houses one & two [storeys] slated & thatched & in good [repair] It contains two Churches, two [Manses] three schools, an Apothecary's [shop] Sub Post Office & a branch of the [Glasgow] Savings Bank. There are [money] orders issued from the P.O. [Post Office] The Post-man arrives from the major office in Maybole at 10 am & [departs] at 1/2 past 5 pm . The savings bank was opened in 1817 & the [Amount] of deposits are pretty large. There is also a saw Mill which[was] opened in 1847 with a flour mill attached. The County Trunk Road between Ayr & Girvan intersects the village of Dailly. The Coach from the later place passes through it for Ayr every morning at 8am, returning again at 7pm." [sic]

Covenanter Movement in Dailly

Covenanters were members of a 17th century Scottish religious and political movement that advocated a Presbyterian Church of Scotland. It began with disputes with King James VI/I and his son over church structure and doctrine. In 1638, thousands of Scots signed the National Covenant, pledging resistance to changes imposed by King Charles on the Scottish church. They took control of the church in Scotland following victories in the 1639 and 1640 Bishops' Wars.



Covenanters Memorial, Greyfriars Churchyard, Edinburgh, marks the location where thousands of Scots signed the National Covenant in 1638.

Covenanters participated in the English Civil Wars of 1643, 1648 and 1651, and found themselves on the wrong side after the 1660 Restoration of the monarchy to the throne in Scotland. At this point, the Covenanters lost control of the church and faced years of persecution. There were several armed rebellions in the years that followed. The period from 1679 to 1688 was especially violent and was known as *The Killing Time*.

The Covenanter Movement was strong in southwest Scotland, including in Dailly. Local farmer John Stevenson fought for the cause in the Battle of Bothwell Bridge. The schoolmaster in Old Dailly, George Martin, conducted services for Covenanting parishioners when one of the ousted ministers wasn't available. Martin was imprisoned without trial for more than four years before he was tried for his activities and then hanged in the Grassmarket in Edinburgh.

In 1674, the local landowners who served as heritors of their parish churches were made responsible for the good behavior of their tenants and servants with respect to the church. In 1677, they were asked to post bonds for those living on their land, but several prominent families in Dailly refused to sign the "Bond", including John Lord Bargany and the Cathcarts of Killochan. Bargany was imprisoned, but no witness would testify against him. He appealed to the king and was set free.

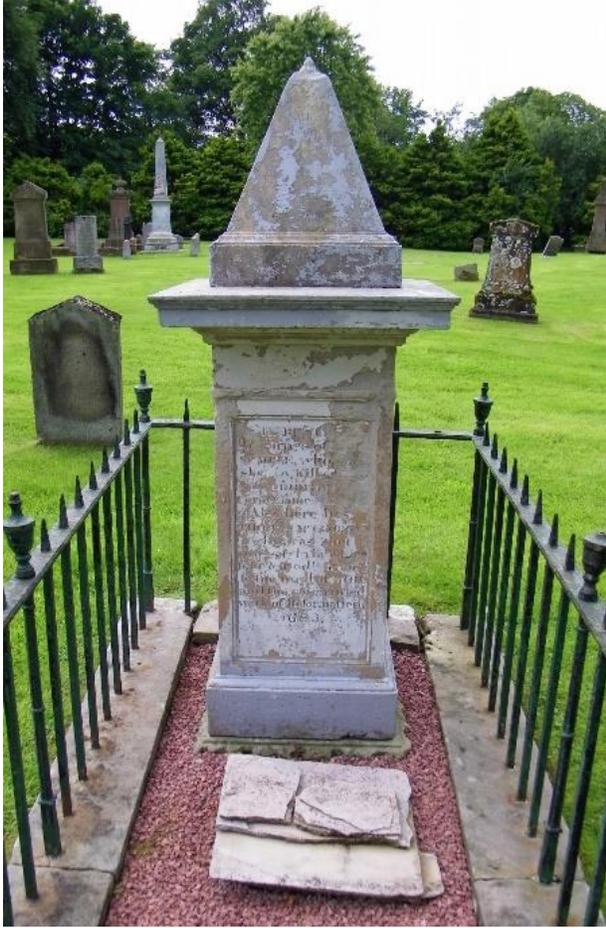
At great risk to the family, the Cathcarts routinely opened Killochan Castle's dining room for services led by ousted Presbyterian ministers and attended by their tenants and neighbors. In 1678, a band of about 10,000 Lowland militia and Highlanders, known as the Highland Host, were embedded in homes in Covenanter-supporting communities, especially in the southwest counties, as a form of punishment. In 1678, a group of 120 of these men were ordered to attack Killochan Castle, but they were unable to breach its fortifications.

- For more about our possible ties to the Cathcart family, see [Clan Cathcart of Killochan Castle](#).

The Glorious Revolution of 1688-1689 led to King James VII being deposed. He was replaced by his daughter Mary II and her husband William III of Orange. That led to a political settlement that determined that England and Scotland are indeed separate countries, but linked together in some ways, a standing that still holds today in the United Kingdom.

This allowed the Church of Scotland to be re-established as a wholly Presbyterian structure. Most Covenanters were readmitted, and the Covenanter movement generally came to an end.

Monuments in the Old Dailly Church churchyard honor eight local Covenanters, five of whom were buried in the churchyard. This includes a tribute to John Semple, murdered in 1685 for acting on his faith and for housing fugitive Covenanters.



The John Semple memorial in the Old Dailly Church churchyard

Coal Mining in Dailly

King Robert the Bruce authorized the monks of Crossraguel Abbey to extract coal in the Girvan Water valley. The monks granted a charter to Lord Glenstinchar in 1415 to extract coal for commercial purposes, starting the coal industry in Dailly. Several small hamlets in the parish sprang up, their residents working in the mines. Although the mines originally employed females, by the mid-1800s females were no longer allowed to work underground. Boys started working underground at age nine.

Dailly's mining industry grew in size and importance by the 1800s, with more than 100 coal mines having operated over the years. Mining continued in the parish until April 26, 1977 when the Dalquharran Pit closed. Many of our distant Watson/Wason cousins worked in the Dailly coal mines over the years.

A memorial stone was installed at the corner of West End and Bridge Street. Traditionally, miners gathered at that location at the start of the day before heading out to work their shift.



The Miners Memorial is dedicated to all those who worked and died in the Dailly coal mines between 1415 and 1977.

Dailly in the World Wars

Young men from Dailly served in both world wars. Those who died during the wars are remembered on the town's war memorial, located in Dailly Square in front of the Greenhead Hotel. These include two of our Wason cousins who died in World War I.



Dailly's War Memorial, in Dailly Square in front of the Greenhead Hotel



Two of our Wason cousins are listed among Dailly's World War I dead. Private John Wason was killed at Flanders, France on September 25, 1915 at age 18. Corporal William Wason, his brother, was killed at Pas-de-Calais, France on December 24, 1917 at age 27.



The Wason brothers share a grave with their parents in Dailly Cemetery. John and William Wason were ggg grandchildren of John Watson and Helen Skeene through their son Alexander. We are John and Helen's descendants through their son John.

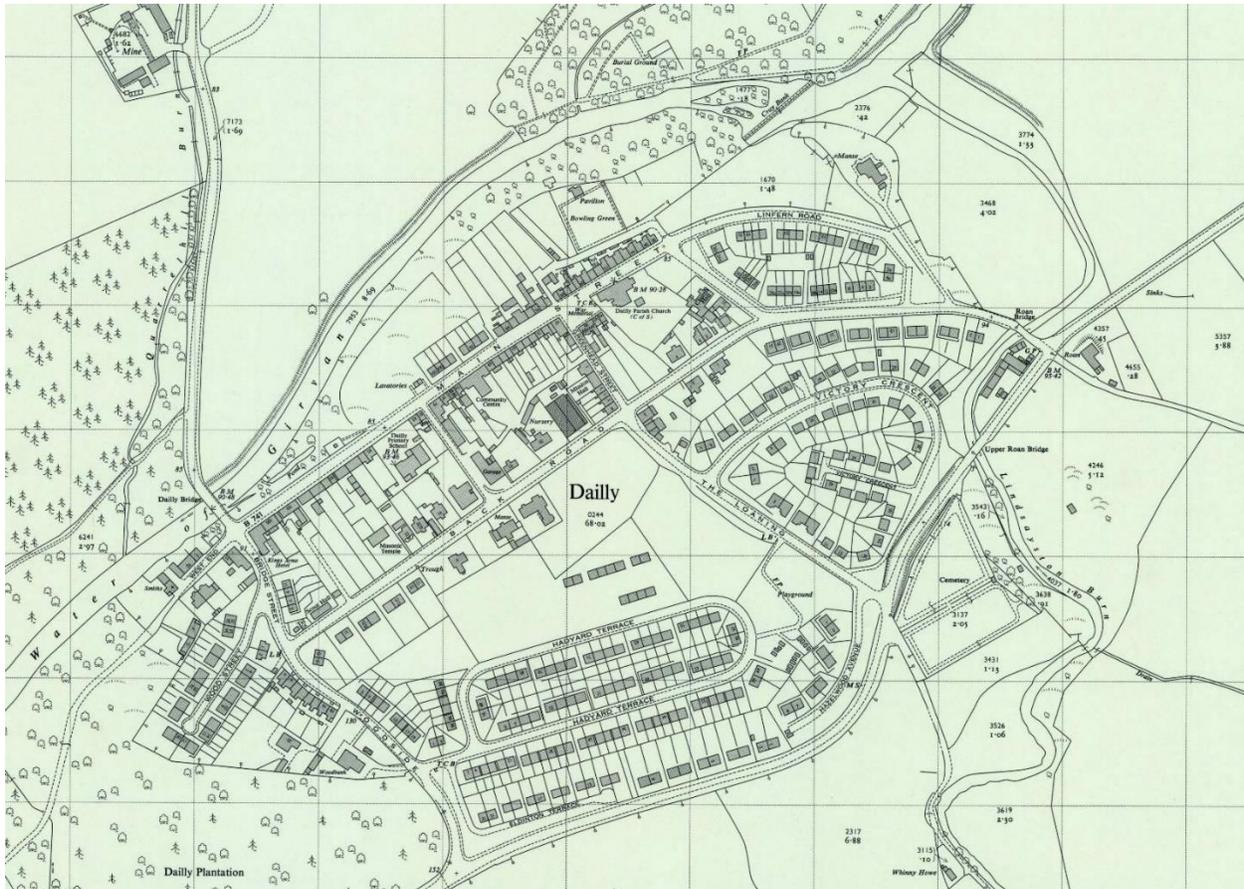
During World War II, children who had been evacuated from Glasgow to escape German bombing were sheltered for a time at Dalquharran Castle, which sits just above the village of (New) Dailly. The Langside School for the Deaf also used the building during the war.



Dalquharran Castle was originally completed in 1790. It was abandoned in the 1960s. In order to avoid taxes, its roof was removed, allowing the castle to fall to ruin.

Today's Dailly

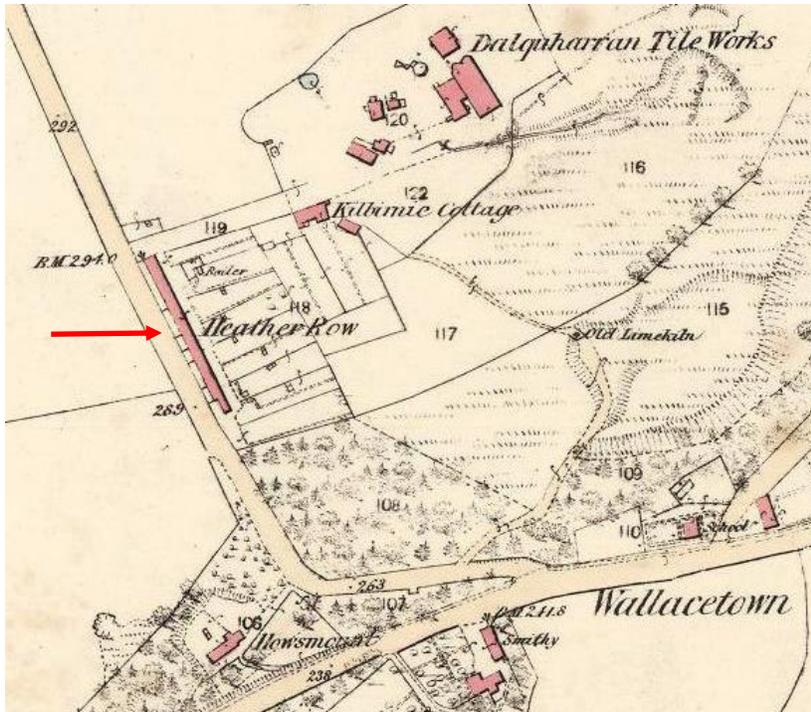
Dailly Parish was never a major population center. Only Dailly, Old Dailly and perhaps Wallacetown could be considered villages today. In olden times, the people of the parish mostly lived on the major estates, on small farms and in a scattering of hamlets.



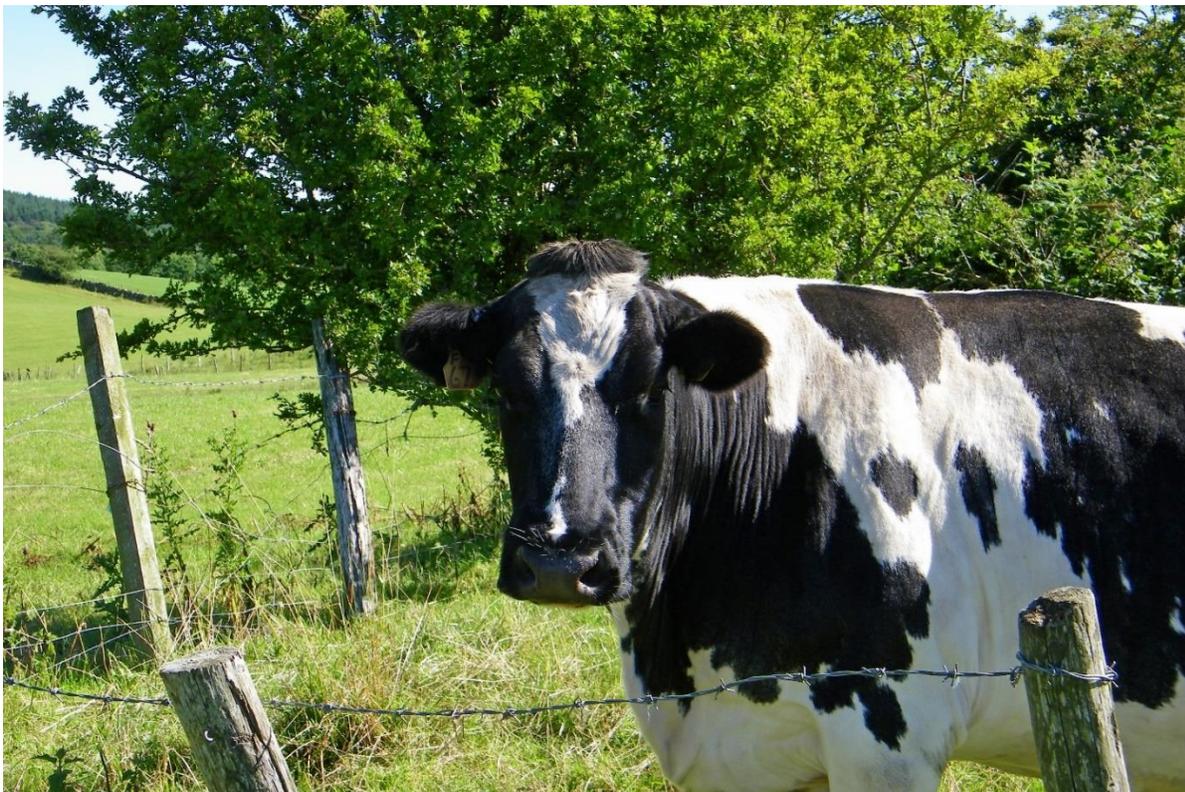
The village of Dailly

After World War II, there was a strong push to bring modern utilities to the countryside. Bringing utilities to tiny hamlets, however, was not cost-effective. The village of Dailly saw a burst of growth with the addition of council housing to the south and east of the original village. The hamlets were generally abandoned, and their residents encouraged to move into modern council housing.

Today, the village has a handful of small businesses, but it really serves as a bedroom community for nearby towns. It is surrounded by farmland, grazing and wooded areas in a pretty valley setting.



Map of the hamlet of Heather Row, 1856. At the time, Heather Row consisted of a dwelling house with 11 tenements occupied by colliers, including some of our Wason cousins.



Cattle graze where Heather Row once stood. Several of our Wason cousins lived at Heather Row over the years, most working in area coal mines.

Photos of Dailly Parish



The village of Dailly sits in heart of Dailly Parish.



Main Street, Dailly



The old Dailly Primary School



The old Free Church of Scotland building. The Free Church of Scotland was established after the Disruption of 1843.



Wood Street council housing



Dailly Cemetery



View along Highway B741



Girvan Water flows through the heart of Dailly Parish.



View of Hawkhill Farm and Killochan Castle from Penkill Road



Drummochreen is one of a number of old farmsteads that have been abandoned.



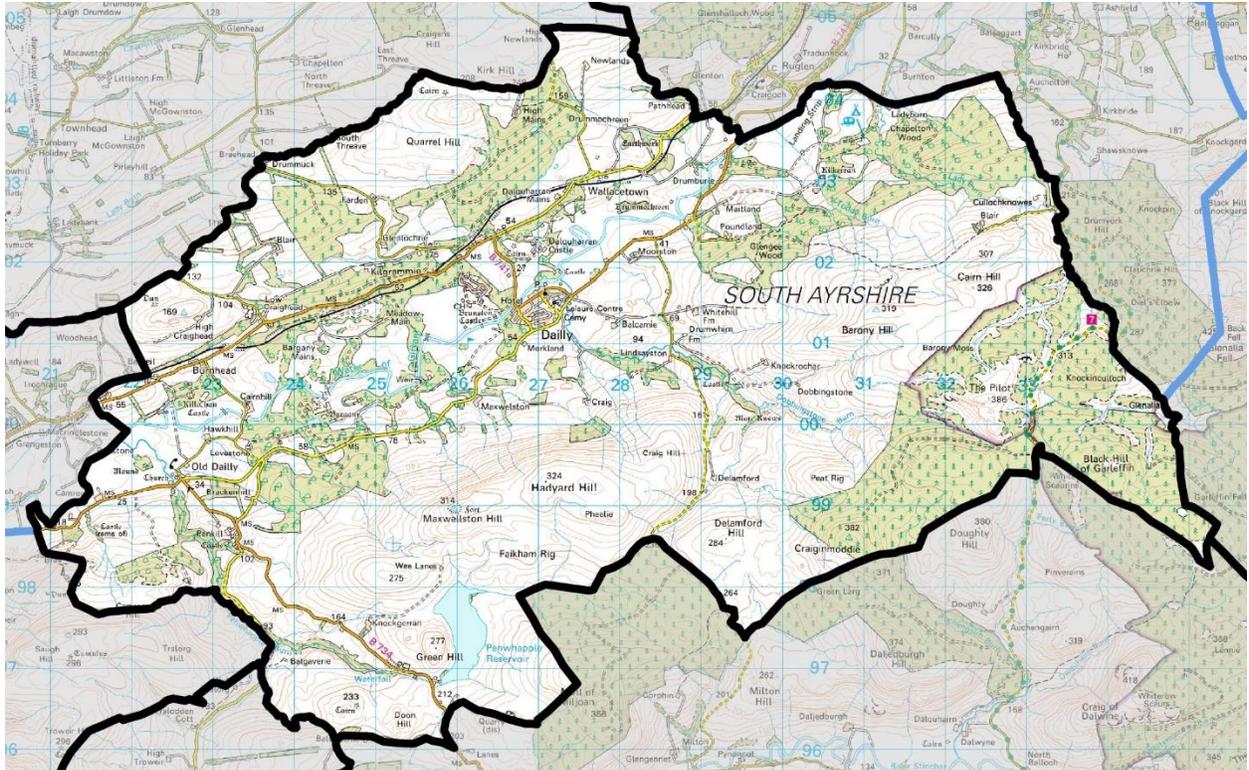
Grazing cattle and sheep are a common sight in Dailly Parish.



The Ayr-Girvan train used to stop here at Kilkerran Station as well as near Dailly.



The village of Old Dailly includes the Smithy (left), the ancestral home of the Watson family. Ailsa Craig, the island off Girvan, for historical reasons remains part of Dailly Parish.



Map of Dailly in 2020

You can learn more about Dailly Parish and its history in the following:

- [A South Ayrshire Parish, Being Articles on the History of the Parish of Dailly](#) – George Turnbull, John Torrance (1908)
- [History of the Counties of Ayr and Wigton, Vol. II – Carrick](#) – James Paterson (1864)
- [History of the County of Ayr: With a Genealogical Account of the Families of Ayrshire, Vol. 2](#) – James Paterson (1852)

Prepared by Mark David Wasson
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