



John Watson and Jane Lambie

John Watson and Jane Lambie married and had their family in Dailly Parish. Then fairly late in life, they emigrated to upstate New York. We are direct descendants of John and Jane through their son John.

John Watson⁴ was born in Dailly Parish, Ayrshire, Scotland. He married Jane Lambie, who was born in Galston Parish, Ayrshire. They had eight children while living in Dailly Parish before emigrating to the United States in 1834. There they lived the rest of their lives in Amboy Township, Oswego County, New York. Four of their children also emigrated to the United States.

We are descendants of John Watson⁴ and Jane Lambie and of their son John⁵, who along with his brother Hugh¹ joined them in New York.

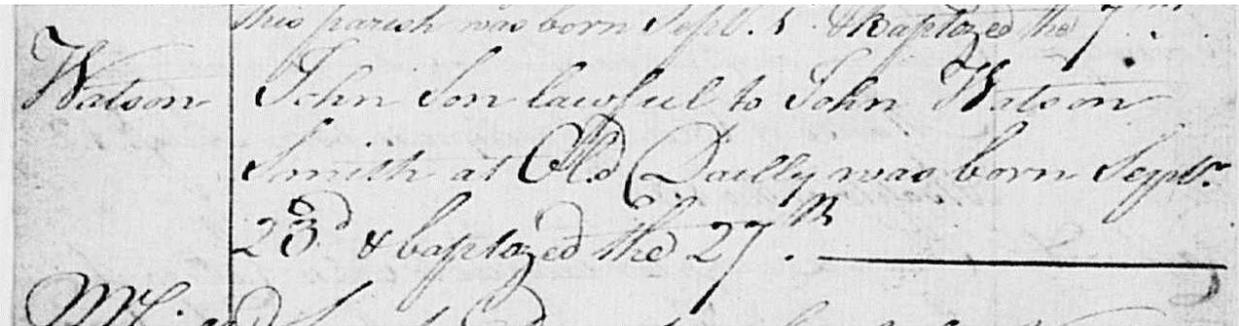
Due to a dialect change underway in southwestern Scotland in the early 1800s, the Watsons ended up using “Wasson” as their surname in the United States.

John Watson⁴

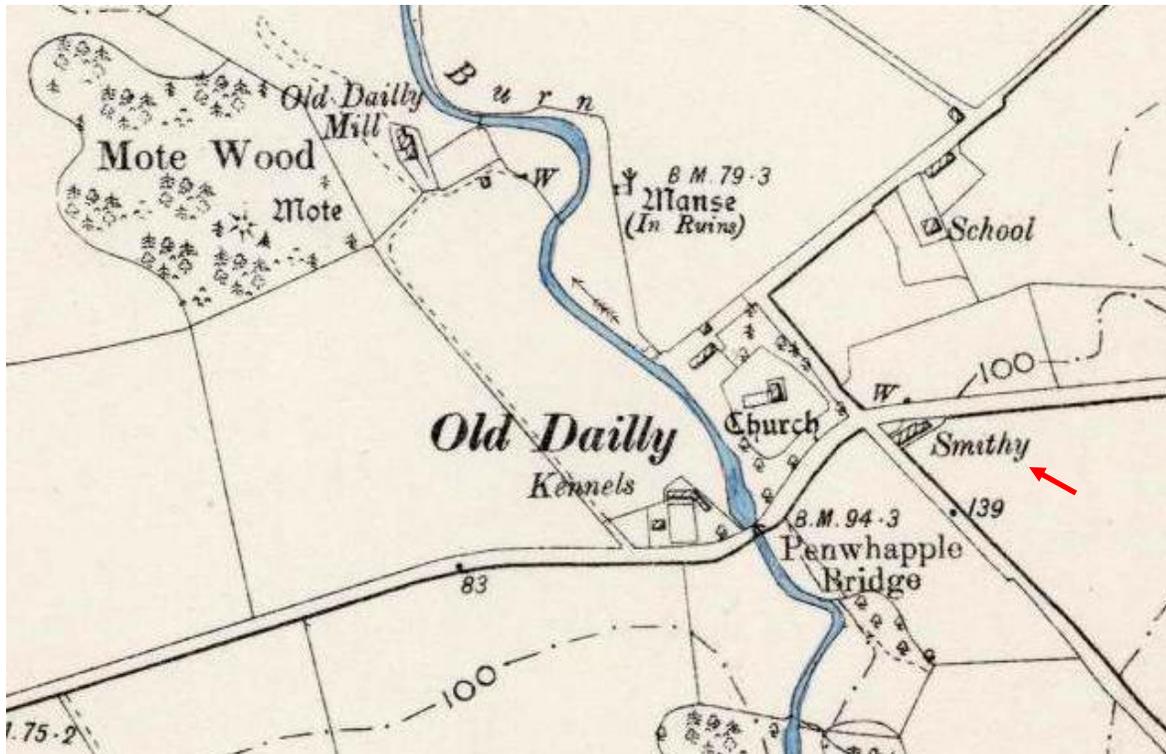
John Watson⁴ was the fifth of six known children born to John Watson² and Helen Skeene in Dailly Parish, Ayrshire. Nothing further is known about his early years.

- For more about his ancestors, see [The Watsons of Dailly Parish, Ayrshire, Scotland.](#)

John⁴⁷'s birth and baptism were recorded in the Dailly Parish Church registry in September 1778.



"Watson – John Son lawful to John Watson Smith at Old Dailly was born Sepr. 23d & baptized the 27th." [sic]



The Smithy in Old Dailly is on the corner opposite the Old Dailly Church ruins.



The Smithy at Old Dailly, in Dailly Parish, 2012

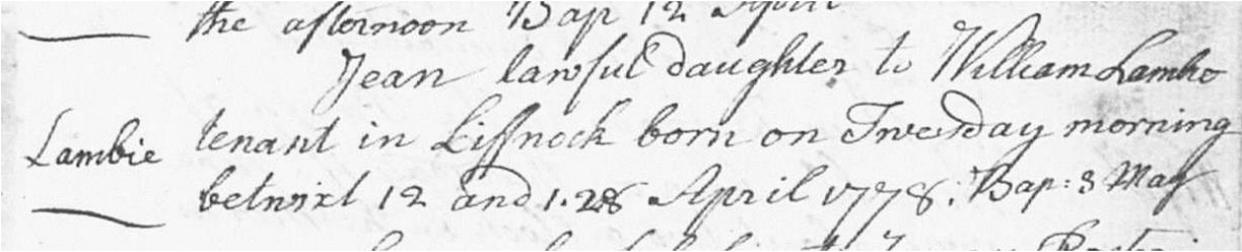
- For more about the Smithy, see [The Smithy at Old Dailly, Dailly Parish, Ayrshire, Scotland](#).

Jane Lambie

Jane Lambie was the ninth of at least eleven children born to William Lambie and his unknown spouse at Liffnock in Galston Parish, Ayrshire.

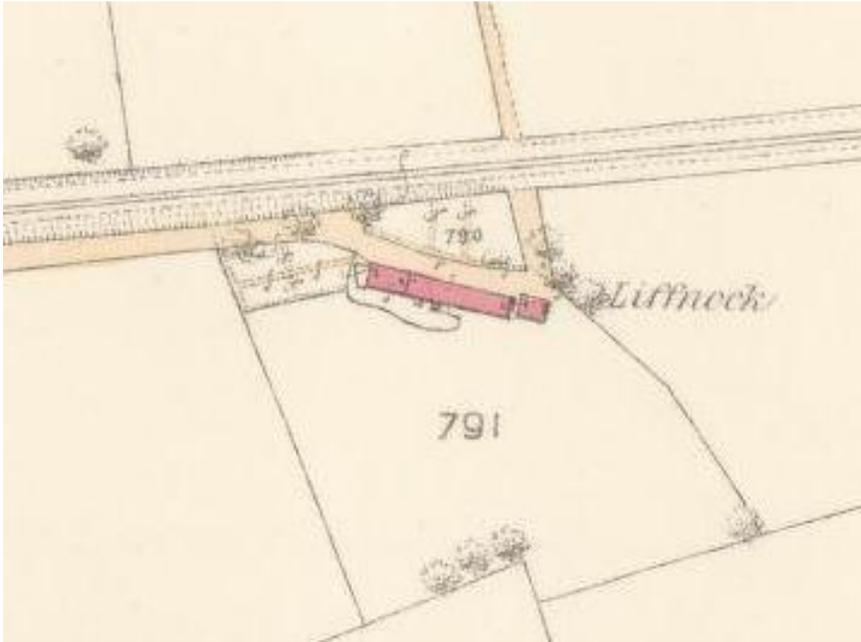
- For more about Jane Lambie’s ancestors, see [The Lambies of Eastern Ayrshire, Scotland](#).

Jane’s birth and baptism were recorded in the Galston Parish Church registry.



“Lambie – Jean [Jane] lawful daughter to William Lambie tenant in Liffnock born on Tuesday morning betwixt 12 and 1, 28 April 1778. Bap: 3 May” [sic]

The spellings “Jean” and “Jane” are interchangeable.



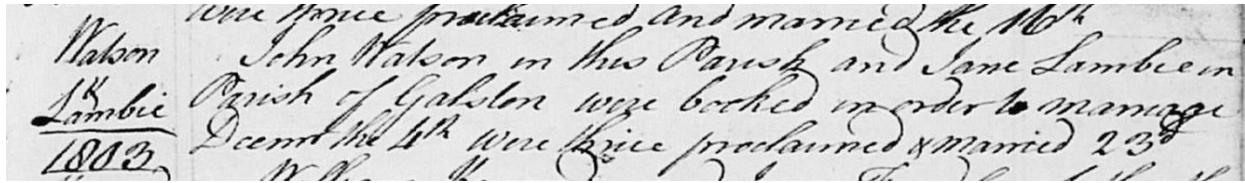
Liffnock is located at the west end of Galston Parish, Ayrshire.



Liffnock, in Galston Parish

Marriage

John Watson⁴ next appears in the Dailly Parish records when his marriage to Jane Lambie was recorded in 1802.



“Watson & Lambie – John Watson in this Parish and Jane Lambie in Parish of Galston were booked in order to marriage December the 4th were thrice proclaimed & married 23^d” [sic]

The minister at the Dailly Parish Church at the time of their marriage was John Thomson, a budding artist whose painting interfered with his ministerial responsibilities. He left for a different parish in 1805, and went on to become one of Scotland’s most famous landscape painters.

- For more about John Thomson, see [John Thomson, Dailly Minister and Landscape Painter](#).

John²'s family had lived at the Smithy in the village of Old Dailly for at least three generations. But the parish population center had shifted to New Dailly, which had its own blacksmith, and it does not appear that any of John² and Helen's children carried on the family business. John⁴ and Jane initially lived at Hawkhill, then Craighead and then Drummellan, all in Dailly Parish, and then likely at one or more unknown locations before emigrating to the United States in 1834.

John⁴'s Occupation in Scotland

Only one of the birth records for their children identified John Watson⁴'s occupation. The birth record for his son John⁵ showed that John⁴ worked as a farm servant at Craighead. He was probably a farm servant throughout this period.

Some people in the Scottish records are identified as farm laborers or agriculture laborers. Laborers were generally paid daily wages and led a rather nomadic life. They usually did not live on the farm where they worked unless temporary quarters were available. Once their typically seasonal work was done at one farm, they usually had to find new work elsewhere.

On the other hand, a farm servant had some skill or experience that was especially useful to the farm, such as livestock care, stonecutting, or, perhaps in the case of John Watson⁴, blacksmith skills. Farm servants were employed continuously year round. Living quarters, board and sometimes limited grazing rights were included in the employment contract. Cash wages might account for only about 40% of the farm servant's compensation.

Being a farm servant was a desirable status because the stability it provided made it easier to marry and raise a family. In some situations, it also increased the opportunity for their children to get some education. Often, the children of farm servants worked as laborers on the same farm.

Laborers often worked their way up to farm servant status over time. Thus, child and young single adult workers were more likely to be laborers, whereas married men with families likely had developed specialized skills and achieved farm servant status.

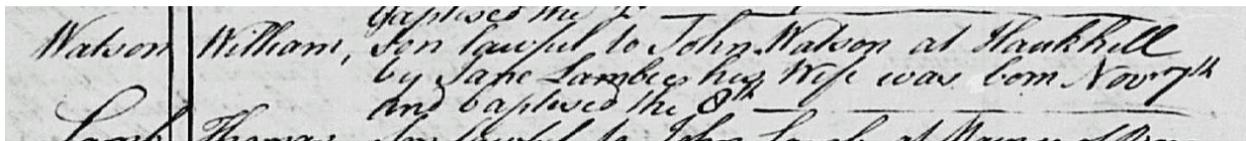
John⁴ and Jane had children at Hawkhill from 1803 to 1806, at Craighead from 1808 to 1813, and at Drummellan from 1816 to 1820. These suggest long-term stays at each of these three locations, consistent with being a farm servant.

John⁴ and Jane's sons John⁵ and James Wasson were identified as agriculture laborers in the 1841 U.K. Census. As laborers, they were living in the village of Hurlford with their cousin and her family rather than on the farm where they worked. In the same census, Jemima Russell was living at and working as a farm servant at the neighboring Blair Farm.

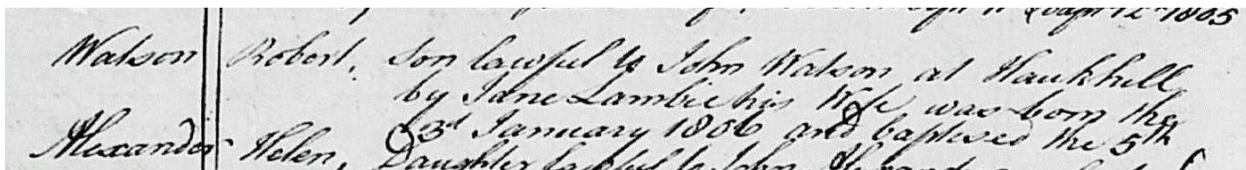
John⁴ and Jane's Children

John⁴ and Jane had eight children. Their children were born at three different locations in Dailly Parish – Hawkhill, Craighead and Drummellan.

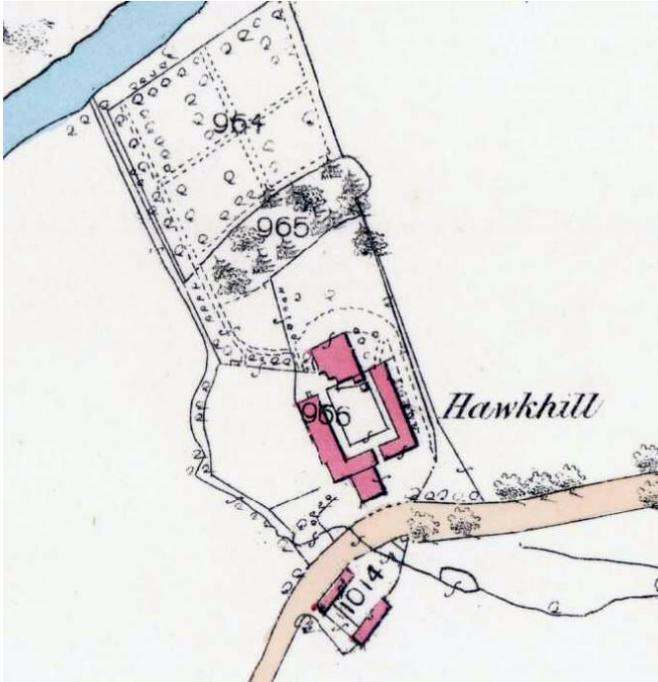
Sons William Watson and Robert Watson were born at Hawkhill.



“Watson William, Son lawful to John Watson at Hawkhill by Jane Lambie, his wife was born Nov 7th [1803] and baptised the 8th” [sic]



“Watson Robert, Son lawful to John Watson at Hawkhill by Jane Lambie his wife was born the 3d January 1806 and baptised the 5th” [sic]



Hawkhill is located northeast of Old Dailly along the road to Killochan Castle.



Hawkhill, near Old Dailly in Dailly Parish

- For more about Hawkhill, see [Hawkhill, Dailly Parish, Ayrshire, Scotland](#).

Children James, Agnes, Janet and John⁵ were born at Craighead.

both July 3rd & baptised 13th
Watson James & Agnes Kirkwood Twin Son & Daughter law-
ful to John Watson at Craighead by Jane
Lambie his wife were born July 11th & baptised 13th
Hardie Agnes. Daughter born 11th & baptised 13th

“Watson James & Agnes Kirkwood Twin Son & Daughter lawful by John Watson at Craighead by Jane Lambie his wife were born July 11th [1808] & baptised 13th” [sic]

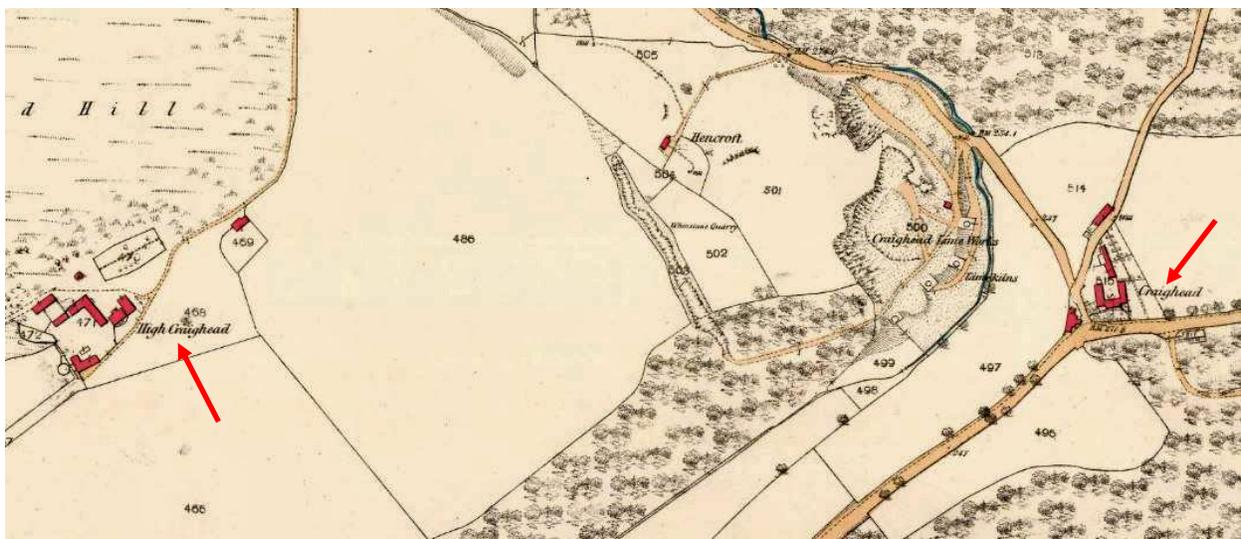
by Agnes Kirkwood her wife was born
Watson Janet, Daughter lawful to John Watson at Craighead
by Jane Lambie his wife was born the
21st April and baptised

“Watson Janet, Daughter lawful to John Watson at Craighead by Jane Lambie his wife was born the 21st April [1811] and baptised” [sic]

his wife was born Aug 11th & baptised 30th
Watson John, son lawful to John Watson servant at
Craighead by Jane Lambie his wife was born
Sept 10th & baptised the 13th

“Watson John, son lawful to John Watson servant at Craighead by Jane Lambie his Wife was born Sept 10th [1813] & baptized the 13.” [sic]

We are direct descendants of John Watson⁵.



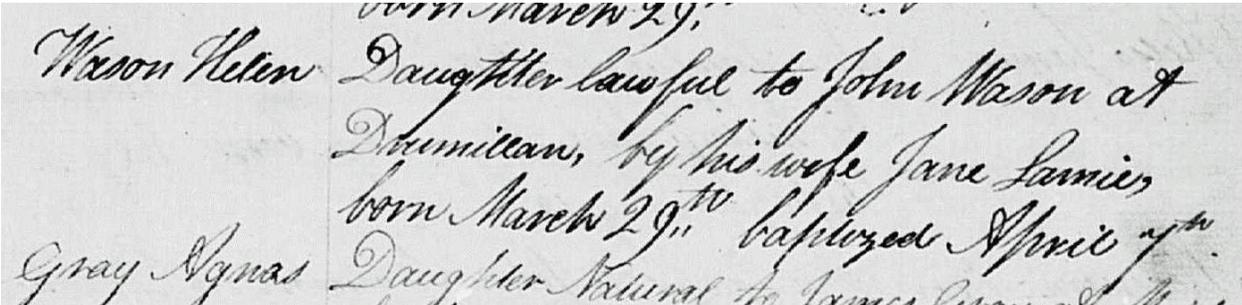
Today, Craighead is located east northeast of Killochan Castle along the road to New Dailly. High Craighead is located on a hill to its west. But at the time the Watsons lived at Craighead, today's Craighead was Moorgate, and today's High Craighead was Craighead.



High Craighead, in Dailly Parish, was Craighead at the time the Watsons lived at Craighead.

- For more about Craighead, see [Craighead, Dailly Parish, Ayrshire, Scotland](#).

Children Helen and Hugh¹ were born at Drummellan.



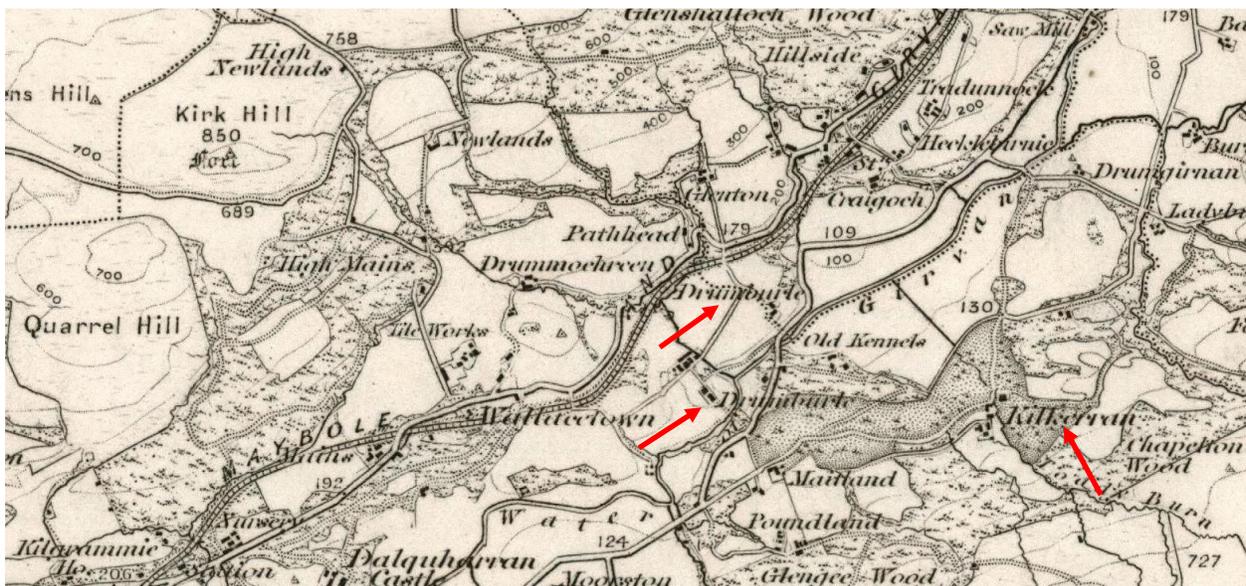
“Wason Helen Daughter lawful to John Wason at Drumillan, by his wife Jane Lamie, born March 29th [1816] baptized April 7th” [sic]

*by Janet M'Fadriess, woodborn Oct. 21. 1820. Wawson
 Wawson, Hugh Corse, son lawful to John, at Drumellan,
 by Jean Lambie, was born Nov. 9th 1820. Baptised -*

“Wawsson, Hugh Corse, son lawful to John, at Drumellan, by Jean Lambie, was born Nov. 9th [1820] & Baptised.” [sic]



Located at the east end of the parish, Drummellan was acquired by the Fergusson family of Kilkerran, who absorbed much of Drummellan into their estate. Some Drummellan lands were located across Girvan Water, and Gateside of Drummellan was established there, although it was just Drummellan (Drumillan) at the time of this 1821 map.



Later, the Drummellan name was transferred to the Kennedy family seat near Maybole, and this site was renamed Drumburle. Drumburle and Kilkerran are both shown on this 1872 map.



Drumburle, of Dailly Parish, was Drummellan at the time that the Watsons lived at Drummellan.

- For more about Drummellan, see [Drummellan and Kilkerran, Dailly Parish, Ayrshire, Scotland.](#)

Research Notes

Note that three spelling variants of the last name were used for John and Jane's eight children: "Watson", "Wason" and "Wawsson". The grave marker for John Watson² used the spelling "Wason" in 1818. This was part of a transition from "Watson" to "Wasson", used mostly by those family members who emigrated to the United States, and to "Wason", used mostly by those family members who remained in Scotland.

- For more about the evolution of the "Wasson" name, see [From "Watson" to "Wasson" and "Wason".](#)

Emigration

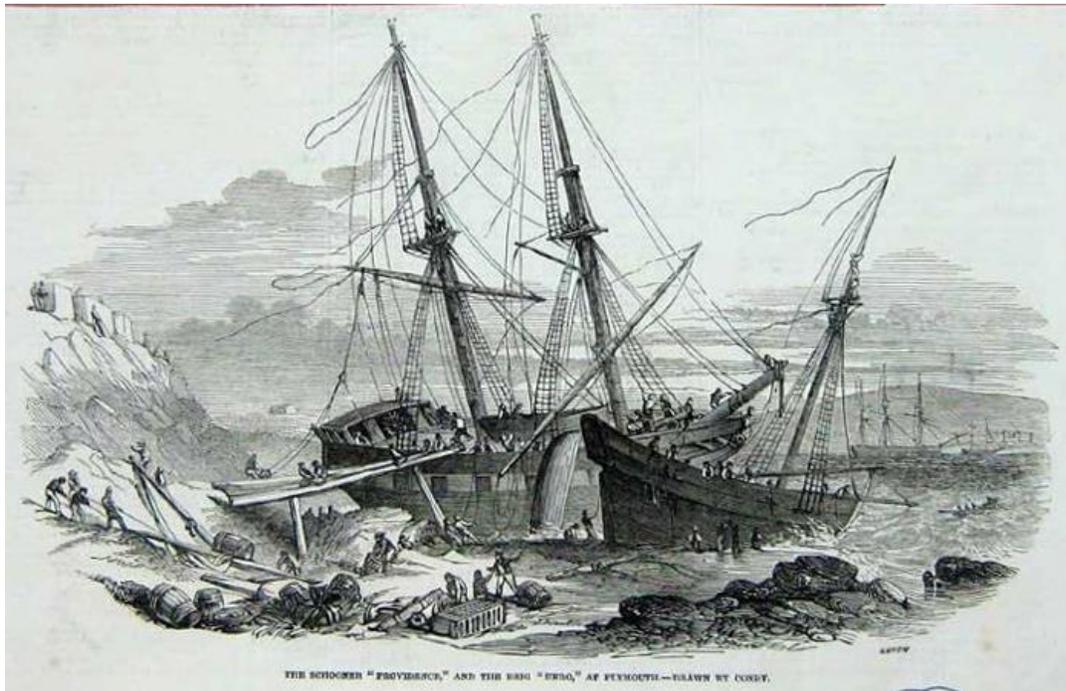
Nothing is known about John Watson⁴ and Jane Lambie for the years between the 1820 birth of their son Hugh¹ and their 1834 emigration to the United States. Without any associated births, deaths or other records, there is no information about where else they may have lived.

In 1834 John, Jane and their son Hugh¹ emigrated from Scotland to the United States.



49	John Watson	57	Male
50	Jane Watson	57	female
51	Hugh Watson	14	Male
52	William Watson	15	Male

John⁴, Jane and son Hugh¹, here using the surname "Wason", were on the passenger list for the Brig Hero, which sailed from Greenock, Scotland, and arrived in New York on July 23, 1834.



Drawing of the Schooner Providence and the Brig Hero, dated 1846

It is worth noting that at the time they arrived in New York, John⁴ was 55 years old and Jane was 56 (son Hugh¹ was 13, and son John⁵ was 20). It does make me wonder why they decided to make such a move at that point in their lives. Life was tough in Scotland, but almost all of John⁴'s Dailly cousins remained in Scotland, and most remained in and around Dailly Parish. However, farm work was slowly being automated, and starting to work in Dailly's coal mines probably did not have much appeal for someone of John⁴'s age.

The family settled in Amboy Township, Oswego County, New York that year.

Their son John Watson⁵ also emigrated to New York, although he emigrated separately. He reportedly lived with his parents in New York, but one source had him arriving as early as 1832. John⁵ returned to Scotland in time for the 1841 U.K. Census, but he returned to his parents' home in Amboy Township in 1842 with his new wife Jemima and their newborn son John⁶.

Their daughter Agnes and her husband Robert Robertson also sailed for New York in 1834, but by 1837 they were living in the Detroit area.

Their daughter Janet, her husband David Black and most of their children left Scotland in 1859. They also settled in Amboy Township. Two more of their children and their families left Scotland for Amboy Township over the next few years.

- For more about the immigration of our ancestors into the United States, see [Our Family Immigration History](#).

Amboy Township, Oswego County, New York

Amboy Township is located along the rural eastern border of Oswego County in upstate New York. The township was first settled in 1805 when it was part of Williamstown Township. Amboy became a separate township in 1835.

There are three small villages in the township – Amboy Center, West Amboy and Carterville, none of which have ever been more than a wide spot along the road. The township has retained its rural character throughout its history; its population has never exceeded 1500 people.

- For more about Amboy, see [A Brief History of Amboy, Oswego County, New York](#).

Was there a particular reason that these Wassons chose to settle in Amboy Township? There was a likely family connection.

By the early 1830s, there were a handful of Lambies living in the area. These included siblings John Lambie² and Margaret Lambie Swanson (wife of William Swanson), children of John Lambie¹ and Isobel Campbell, who had settled near Hillsboro, just across the county line from Amboy Township in Camden Township, Oneida County. These Lambies were tied to the Irvine Valley in eastern Ayrshire, including Loudoun and Galston Parishes. Jane Lambie Wasson was born in Galston Parish, and Jane's son Hugh¹ would go on to marry William and Margaret Swanson's daughter Margaret.

It is generally believed that the Lambies of the eastern Ayrshire area of Scotland are all descendants of the Lambies of Ladybrow Farm, east of Priestland in Galston Parish, who were active in the Covenanter Movement. William Swanson's obituary in fact described his religion

back in Scotland as Covenanter, even though the movement had died down about a century earlier.

However, there are a lot of gaps in the Galston Parish records. For that reason, Lambie family genealogy researchers have not yet been able to determine a connection between John Lambie¹ and Jane's father William Lambie, but it is likely that Jane Lambie Wasson and Margaret Lambie Swanson were some degree of cousins.

Even though John⁴ and Jane Wasson had settled in Dailly Parish after they married in 1802, the family maintained ties to the Galston Lambies. For example, when their son John⁵ returned to Scotland in 1841, he and his brother James lived with the daughter of Jane's sister in Hurlford, Riccarton Parish, Ayrshire, only a mile from where their mother was born.

Amboy Center was home to two churches, including the Freewill Baptist Church, organized in 1824, and the Methodist Church, organized before 1836.



Amboy Town Hall was originally the Freewill Baptist Church. The first church in Amboy Township, it was organized in 1824 and converted into the town hall in 1892.



The Methodist Church was organized before 1836. The current church building dates back to 1850.

Both church buildings were contemporary to the Wassons' years in Amboy Township. It is not known whether the Wassons actually attended either of these churches. They more likely attended the Presbyterian Church in nearby Williamstown.



The former Williamstown Presbyterian Church. It was established in 1817 after starting as a Congregational Church in 1810.

Life and Death in New York

Once in New York, John⁴, Jane and their sons John⁵ and Hugh¹ consistently used “Wasson” as their surname.

I have not found any documents that give us insight into their first few years in the United States.

On June 4, 1839, John⁴ bought 50 acres of land on today’s Foil Road from William and Nancy Rose.



This was the farm that John⁴ and Jane Wasson acquired in 1839. Sons John⁵ and Hugh¹ inherited it from their father. John⁵ later sold his share to his brother, and bought a small farm down the street. Hugh¹ and his wife Margaret raised their family here. After John⁴ died, Jane lived here with son Hugh¹ and his family for the rest of her life. Six years after Hugh¹ died in 1887, his widow sold the farm and moved to a home in nearby Camden, Oneida County.

John⁴ farmed this land until he died, about five years later. He was likely buried in Amboy Center Cemetery in the Wasson family plot. There is a marker at the site with the initials “J.W.” on it, but that marker could also refer to his wife Jane, which I believe is more likely.



The Wasson family plot in Amboy Center Cemetery



Markers for Hugh Wasson¹'s children and for "J.W.", likely Jane Wasson, who died at about the same time as Hugh¹'s daughter Mary did.

John⁴'s will divided the farm between his sons John⁵ and Hugh¹. John⁵ sold his share of the farm to his brother in 1846, and he and Jemima then purchased a small farm down the street the following year from Andrew and Betsey Lester. Hugh¹ expanded his own land holdings with additional purchases in 1847, 1856 and 1859.

- For more about the Wasson farms on Foil Road, see [The Foil Road Farms, Amboy Township, Oswego County, New York.](#)

John⁵ and Jemima had more children. Hugh¹ got married and started having children of his own. As per the terms of her husband's will, Jane lived on the farm with her son Hugh¹ for the rest of her life. Jane died in 1865. She was likely buried in Amboy Center Cemetery in the Wasson family plot.

John Wasson⁴'s Will

At the time John Wasson⁴ died, he, his wife Jane, their son John⁵ and his wife Jemima and their children, and their son Hugh¹ all lived on their farm on today's Foil Road in Amboy Township.

John Wasson⁴ began his last will and testament noting that he was of sound mind but weak in bodily health. He did not live much longer.

He left his wife Jane his cash, securities and notes, as well as the cattle, sheep and other animals on the farm. He also left her the right of occupancy for the rest of her life on the 50 acres of land he acquired in 1839. Upon her death, son John⁵ would get the part of the farm south of the road, where John had built his home, and son Hugh¹ would get the part of the farm north of the road. He left one dollar apiece to his children Janet, William, James, Agnes and Ellen (Helen). All of his remaining personal property was left to his son Hugh¹.

This is the last Will and Testament of me, John Wasson, of the Town of Amboy, in the County of Oswego, and State of New York, — being of sound mind, but weak in bodily health, and desirous to settle all my worldly estate and affairs, before my departure from this life.

First, I will that all such debts that I shall justly owe in the State aforesaid, at the time of my decease, and my funeral charges and expenses, be in the first place paid by my Executor here in after named.

Item, I give, devise, and bequeath unto my beloved Wife Jane, all my cash and all securities for the same, whether promissory notes, mortgages, bonds, or other securities and evidences of debts, dues, and for monies lent, or by whatsoever way the same may belong to me. Also all my stock of cattle, sheep, and other live creatures upon the farm, or belonging to me at my decease. And for her sole use and benefit, and at her own disposal.

Item, I give, devise, and bequeath unto my beloved Wife Jane, the use and occupancy of a certain piece of land, situate in said Town of Amboy, distinguished as follows, being the westerly fifty acres of lot No. seven, in the Town of Amboy, County of Oswego, more particularly described in a deed of conveyance, from Reuben Rose and Wife, to me John Wasson, and recorded in the Clerk's office of the County of Oswego, on the fourth day of June, A. D. 1839, at 11 o'clock A. M. in Book 29, of Deeds, pages 330 and 331.

And it is my Will that my Wife Jane have the use of said piece of land as long as she shall live. And at her decease, the above fifty acres of land to be divided between my son John Wasson Jr, and my son Hugh Wasson. My son John to have the land on the south side of what is now called the Mexico road, upon which he has built a house, and my son Hugh to

John Wasson⁴'s last will and testament, first page, dated March 5, 1844

256.

have all the land on the north side of said road described in the deed ~~xxx~~ mentioned above.

Item, I devise and bequeath the following legacies to be paid after my decease. Item, one dollar to my daughter Janet, one dollar to my son William Wasson, one dollar to my son James Wasson, one dollar to my daughter Agness, and one dollar to my daughter Ellen.

I hereby declare it to be my Will that the lands above given, devised, and bequeathed, to John Wasson and also to Hugh Wasson shall be to them, their heirs, and assigns forever, and at their own disposal.

Also I give, devise, and bequeath all the residue and remainder of all my estate and effects real or personal, whatsoever, and where soever, not herein before mentioned, or otherwise disposed of, to my son Hugh Wasson

Item, And it is my Will that the legacies mentioned above, be paid by my Executor herein after mentioned, out of my personal property at my decease. Item, I do hereby make, explain, constitute and appoint John Jamieson 3rd Executor of this my last Will and Testament, hereby ~~revoking~~ all former Wills by me at any time heretofore made, and do declare this to be my last Will and Testament.

In witness whereof, I the said John Wasson the Testator, have to this my last Will and Testament contained in the above writing, set my hand and seal this fifth day of March A. D. 1844.

The writing contained in the above Will and Testament, was signed and sealed by the above named John Wasson, and by him published and declared as and for his last Will and Testament, in the presence of us, who have hereunto

subscribed our names in his presence,

John Wasson. L.S.

and in the presence of each other, this 5th day of March, 1844.

John Jamieson 3rd of Amboy - witness.

Walter Wilson of Amboy - witness.

Benjamin of Amboy, witness.

John Wasson⁴'s last will and testament, second page, dated March 5, 1844

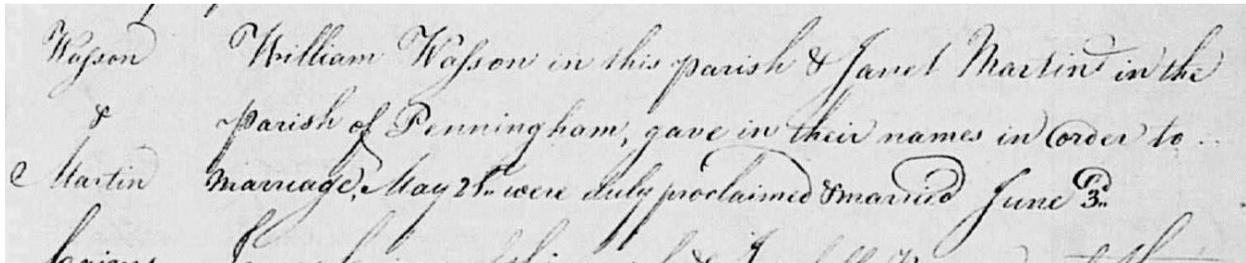
Research Notes

John⁴ referred to “the Mexico Road” in his will as the road that bisects his farm. Mexico is the name of an Oswego County village to the west of Amboy Township. A road heading west out of Camden in neighboring Oneida County today is called Mexico Road. It is the same as today’s County Highway 69 in that county. Highway 69 continues west through Amboy Center and West Amboy, but it doesn’t carry the Mexico Road name here. The highway then passes through Parish before reaching Mexico.

Today, Turk Road and Foil Road in Amboy township are not Highway 69. They do connect with and then run parallel to the highway. Back before highways when any road was little more than a dirt path for horses and wagons, either route through the township was about the same. Because early plat maps are compatible with the known location of the Wasson’s farm, and because I have not found any early maps that pinpoint the location of Mexico Road in Amboy Township, I have concluded that today’s Foil Road was known as the Mexico Road at that time, and may have been renamed later after a long-time local family.

William Watson (John Watson⁴ and Jane Lambie's son)

William married Janet "Jesse" Martin of Penninghame Parish, Wigtownshire, in Dailly Parish on June 3, 1825. Their marriage record is the earliest record I've found where the "Wasson" spelling of our surname was used with a member of our family.



"Wasson & Martin – William Wasson in this parish & Janet Martin in the parish of Penninghame gave in their names in order to marriage May 28th, were duly proclaimed & married June 3rd."
[sic]

William and Janet moved from Dailly to Glasgow, Scotland for a few years before moving on to Liverpool, England.

William and Janet had five children, including the following:

- Grizzle (Grace) Wasson, born August 17, 1826, in Dailly Parish, Ayrshire
- John Wasson, born March 5, 1828, in the Gorbals, Glasgow
- Robert Wasson, born August 4, 1830, in Laurieston, Glasgow
- William Wasson, born in 1834, in Liverpool, England
- Jesse Wasson, born in 1836, in Liverpool, England

The 1841 U.K. Census still had William, Janet and their five children living in Liverpool.

During his years in Liverpool, William worked as a railroad engineer. The Liverpool & Manchester Railway was the first inter-city railway in the world. It opened September 15, 1830.



The former Liverpool & Manchester Railway station in Manchester is the world's oldest surviving terminal railway station. It was built in 1830.

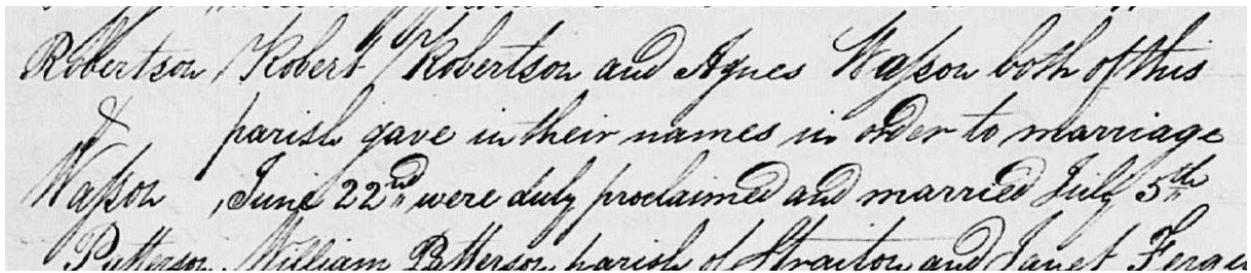
William was named in his father's 1844 will. This is the last reference I have been able to find about William, his wife or any of their children. They may have emigrated to a country whose records are not yet available in the online sources I use.

Robert Watson (John Watson⁴ and Jane Lambie's son)

Robert's birth record is the only reference I found to him. He is also the only one of John Watson⁴ and Jane Lambie's eight children who was not named in his father's will. For these reasons, I believe that Robert died young, and was likely buried in an unmarked grave in the Old Dailly Churchyard.

Agnes Kirkwood Watson (John Watson⁴ and Jane Lambie's daughter)

Agnes married Robert Hunter Robertson in Dailly Parish on July 5, 1833.



“Robertson & Wasson – Robert Robertson and Agnes Wasson both of this parish gave in their names in order to marriage, June 22nd, were duly proclaimed and married July 5th” [sic]

Agnes and Robert sailed for New York in 1834, traveling separately from her parents. They arrived in New York on May 8. Their first child was born in New York just 12 days after they arrived. By the time their second child was born in 1837, the Robertsons were living in the Detroit, Michigan area. They spent the rest of their lives in the Detroit area, on both sides of the U.S.-Canadian border.



Robert and Agnes appear on the passenger list for ship Camillus, which sailed from Greenock, Scotland, and arrived in New York on May 8, 1834.

Robert and Agnes had seven children, including the following:

- Agnes Robertson, born May 20, 1834, in New York
- Jane Robertson, born March 18, 1837 in Detroit, Michigan
- Jeanette “Jessie” Robertson, born September 23, 1841 in Maidstone, Ontario
- Robert Robertson, born August 20, 1842 in Detroit, Michigan
- Maria Robertson, born November 29, 1843 in Ontario
- Emily Robertson, born June 20, 1846 in Detroit, Michigan
- William Matthew Robertson, born September 8, 1849 in Detroit Michigan

It appears that only two of their children married. Daughter Jeanette married Otis Hodgdon in 1868. They had two children. Son Robert Robertson married Harriet Knapp in 1878. They had four children.

In spite of the distance, there was some contact between Agnes and her brother John⁵ and their families over the years. In 1908, for example, Jeanette Hodgdon visited her cousins in Jones County, Iowa.

Agnes died in 1876. Her husband Robert died in 1865 (his marker says 1866). Although photos of their markers have been posted online, the name of the Michigan cemetery was not included.

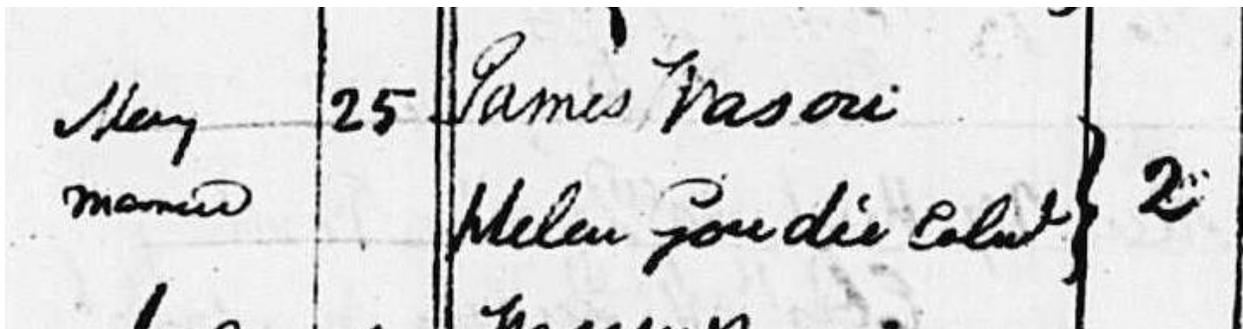


The Robertson family plot, including markers for Agnes Watson Robertson (left) and her husband Robert (right), in an unknown Michigan cemetery

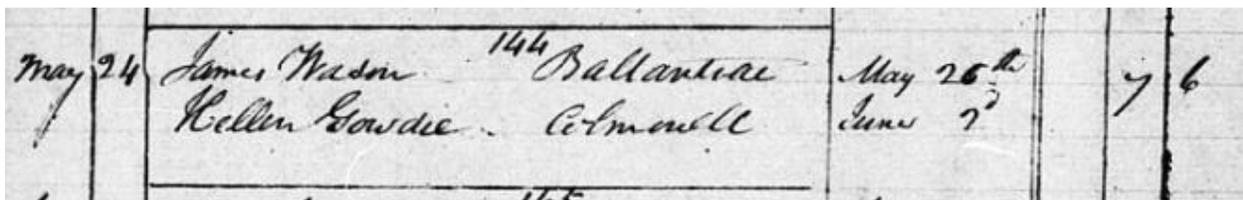
James Kirkwood Watson (John Watson⁴ and Jane Lambie’s son)

In 1841, James was living with his brother John⁵ and their cousin’s family in Hurlford, Riccarton Parish, Ayrshire. They were working as farm laborers at the time.

After that, James ended up in Ballantrae Parish, Ayrshire. James married Helen Goudie, who was born in Girvan but was of Colmonell Parish at the time of their marriage on May 25, 1845. Their marriage was documented in both Ballantrae Parish and Colmonell Parish records.



“May 25 [1845] married James Wason, Helen Goudie Colmonell” [sic]



The marriage of James Wason and Helen Goudie was also recorded in the Colmonell Parish, Ayrshire registry.

Note the “Wason” spelling. Records for James included both “Wason” and “Wasson” spellings through the 1851 U.K. Census before settling on “Wason”.

Helen Goudie was a widow when she and James were married. Helen and her first husband, James Peebles, had a daughter Agnes in 1840. Agnes may have died young; she did not appear in the 1851 U.K. Census for the James and Helen Wasson household when she would have been only eleven years old.

James and Helen did not have any biological children together.

While living in Ballantrae, James worked as a farm servant at Kiln House before becoming a gardener at Downan Hill and later at Auchairne.



Downan Hill, Ballantrae Parish

James died at Auchairne Gate House in 1870. Helen died in 1875. James and Helen were likely buried in unmarked graves in the Ballantrae Churchyard.

No.	Name and Surname. Rank or Profession, and whether Single, Married, or Widowed.	When and Where Died.	Sex.	Age.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father. Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Cause of Death, Duration of Disease, and Medical Attendants by whom certified.	Signature & Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Death occurred.	When and Where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
13	James Wason Gardener	1870 August 23rd Auchairne Wood P. O. Auchairne-gate-house	M	61 years		Chronic disease of Liver Subsided by Abstinence from Food Physician Dr. A. Ballantine	Agnes Paterson her mother nurse present Montgomery Street Glasgow Robert Temple Hospital, Glasgow	1870 August 30th M. Ballantine Robert Temple 1870

“James Wason, Gardner, married to Helen, August Twenty Third, about 10 o'clock, Auchairne-Gate-House, M, 61 years, Chronic disease of Liver, ...” [sic]



The Wason Memorial Gates at the Ballantrae Churchyard. The gates were erected in tribute to James Paterson Wason (1839-1901), who held many different roles in Ballantrae over the course of his life. Some researchers have identified him as a great grandson of John Watson² and Helen Skeene through their sixth son Henry. We are direct descendants of John Watson² and Helen Skeene through their son John⁴.

Janet (Jeanette) L. Wason (John Watson⁴ and Jane Lambie's daughter)

Janet married David Black, an agriculture laborer from Barr Parish, Ayrshire on August 21, 1828. Their marriage was documented in both Dailly Parish and Barr Parish registries.



Dailly Parish Church marriage certificate for David Black and Janet L. Wason.

Black David Black, Parish of the Barr &
Janet Wasson of this Parish gave in
Wasson, their names in order to Marriage Augt
9th were duly Proclaimed & married on the 21st

"Black & Wasson – David Black, Parish of the Barr & Janet Wasson of this Parish gave in their names in order to marriage Augt 9th were duly Proclaimed & Married on the 21st" [sic]

1828
Aug 10th David Black, in this parish of Jannet,
Wasson in the parish of Dailly gave
in their names for proclamation of Banns,
and take two sabbath

The marriage of David Black and Janet Wason was also recorded in Barr Parish, Ayrshire records. Note the differences in spelling between the two records: "Janet Wasson" and "Jannet Wason".



David Black

After Janet and David had their first child in Dailly, they settled in Barr, Ayrshire, where they had at least 11 more children. Their 12 children include the following:

- Jane Lambie Black, born November 3, 1828, in Dailly Parish, Ayrshire
- John Black, born July 17, 1830, in Barr Parish, Ayrshire
- Margaret Black, born July 22, 1832, in Barr Parish, Ayrshire
- Hellen Black, born September 8, 1834, in Barr Parish, Ayrshire

- Agnes Wesley Black, born about 1837, in Barr Parish, Ayrshire
- David Wallace Black, born September 25, 1838, in Barr Parish, Ayrshire
- Robert D. Black, born November 3, 1840, in Barr Parish, Ayrshire
- William J. Black, born February 27, 1843, in Barr Parish, Ayrshire
- James F. Black, born May 5, 1845, in Barr Parish, Ayrshire
- Joseph Black, born about 1846, in Barr Parish, Ayrshire
- Andrew Kennedy Black, born July 1849, in Barr Parish, Ayrshire
- Alexander Black, born March 1852, in Barr Parish, Ayrshire

Janet, David and several of their children left Scotland in 1859, and settled on a farm in Amboy Township, New York, not far from the farm where Janet's mother Jane and brother Hugh¹ lived. Among their children who emigrated with them were John, David, Robert, William, James, Joseph, Andrew, Alexander, and Margaret and her husband Robert McMorland and their children.



Site of David and Janet Black's farm on Harry Bryant Road in Amboy Township near Williamstown, New York

Janet died in 1880. David died in 1884. David, Janet and numerous descendants were buried in local cemeteries in and around Amboy Township.



Markers for Janet Wasson Black (left) and her husband David Black (right), in Fairview Cemetery, Williamstown, New York

John Watson⁵ (John Watson⁴ and Jane Lambie's son)

John⁵ left New York and returned to Scotland in time for the 1841 U.K. Census. The census showed that John⁵ was living with his brother James and their cousin's family in Hurlford, Riccarton Parish, Ayrshire. They were working as agriculture laborers at the time.

	Margaret do	15		Yes
1	William Gordon	30	Ag. & Lab.	No
	Jane do	25		Yes
	Alexander do	4		Yes
	Margaret do	2		Yes
	James Wasson	30	Ag. & Lab.	Yes
	John Wasson	25	Ag. & Lab.	Yes

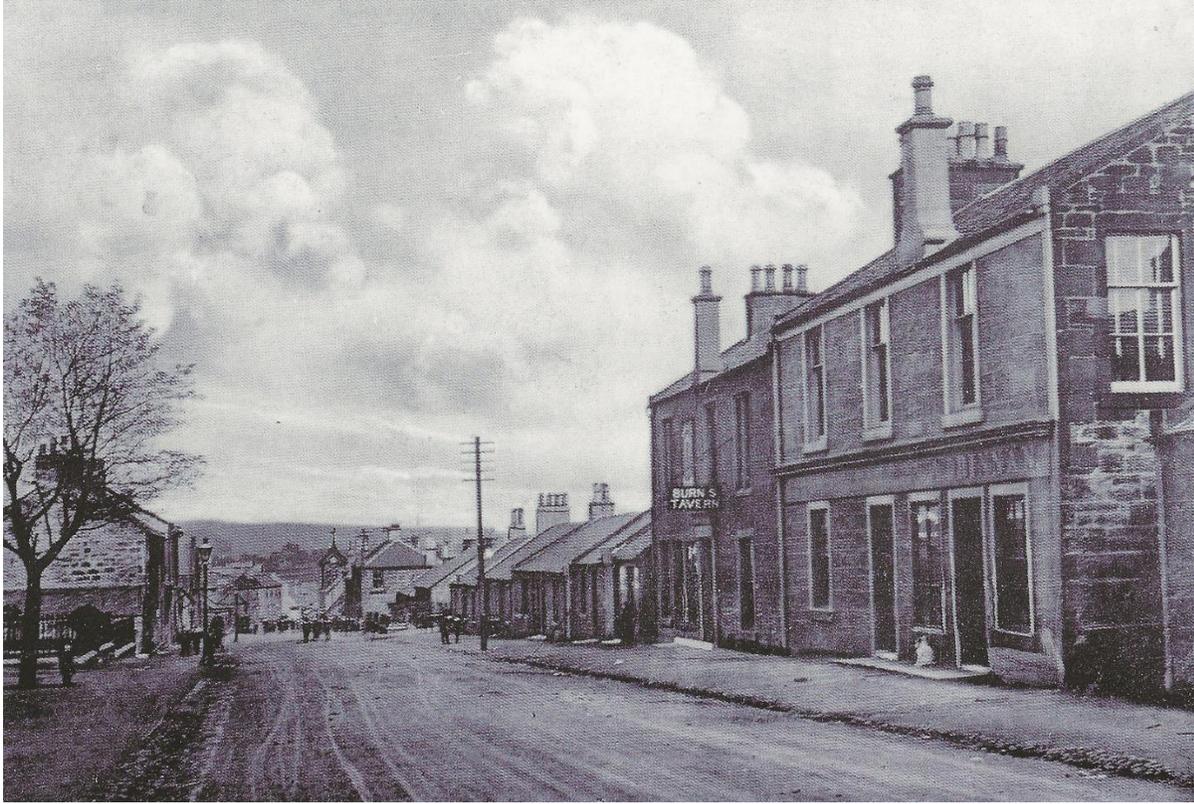
The 1841 U.K. Census lists brothers James and John Wasson living with the William Gordon family. William's wife Jane is first cousin to the Wassons through their mothers, sisters Jane and Margaret Lambie.

The crossroads at Hurlford was the northeast boundary of Blair Farm.



Hurlford is at the east end of Riccarton Parish, just northeast of Blair Farm.

The 1841 U.K. Census also showed that Jemima Russell was working at Blair Farm as a farm servant.



Riccarton Road, Hurlford, Ayrshire



The site of Blair Farm in 2012; the farm was built over with council housing after World War II.

		U.K. 1841	Age	Occupation	
Blair Farm	W	Matthew M'Quistac	40	Land Steward	24
	W	Helen do	35		24
	W	Helen Wilson	10		24
Blair Farm		Menie Russel	30	F.S.	24
		John M'Adam	40	agr. lab	24
		Thomas M'Kin	25	agr. lab	24

The 1841 U.K. Census shows "Blair Farm – Menie Russel – 30 – F.S. [farm servant]" [sic]

"Menie" is one variant of "Jemima". The name "Jemima" has a number of variants including "Mina" and "Minnie".

- For more about common variants of given names, see [Common Scottish Name Variants, Equivalents and Nicknames](#).

In the 1841 U.K. Census, it was common practice to round the age of adults to a number divisible by five, as shown in the U.K. Census records for John Wasson⁵, his brother James and his soon-to-be wife Jemima Russell.

Jemima was born on June 12, 1816 at Dykenook, Avondale Parish, Lanarkshire. She was the fourth of Alexander Russell and Jean Swan's five children, the others being Jean (1806), Samuel (1811), Mary (1813) and Janet (1818). Little is known about her early years, other than the family was still living at Dykenook when her father died in 1820. Her mother died in 1839.

- For more about Jemima's ancestry, see [The Russells and Swans of Lanarkshire, Scotland](#).



Dykenook is located on the slope south above Avon Water at the west end of Avondale Parish. East Dykenook was originally just Dykeneuk (Dykenook).

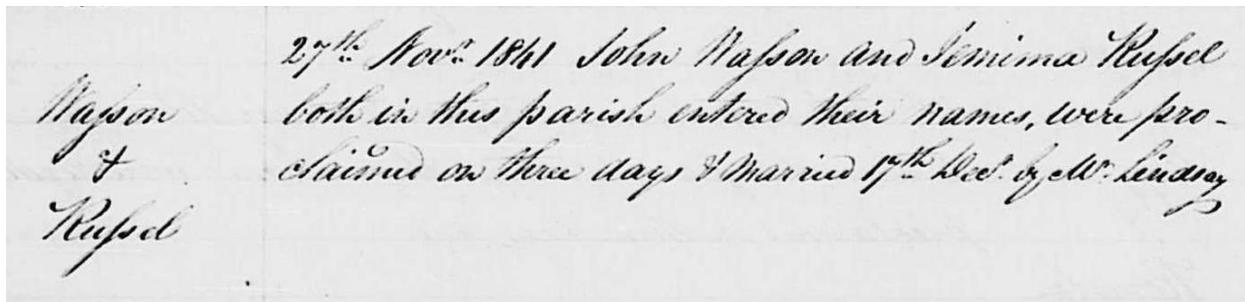


Dykenook (East Dykenook), Avondale Parish in 2010

It is not known whether John⁵ worked on Blair Farm – as an agriculture laborer, he would not necessarily have lived on the farm where he worked. But his proximity to Blair Farm and to Jemima Russell in 1841 can explain how they met.

Jemima was pregnant with their first child when John⁵ and Jemima were proclaimed married on December 17, 1841 at the Riccarton Parish Church. They may have spent the winter in Dailly Parish, as the 1842 baptism record of their son said that they were “late of New Daly, Ayrshire”. By mid-spring, they emigrated to New York.

- For more about pregnancies before marriage among farm workers in 19th century Scotland, see [Unmarried with Child](#).



“Wasson & Russel – 27th Nov. 1841 John Wasson and Jemima Russel both in this parish entered their names, were proclaimed on three days & married 17th Dec. by W. Lindlay” [sic]



The current Riccarton Parish Church, Riccarton Parish, Ayrshire, was originally built in 1825.

Their son John⁶ was born at sea on May 16, 1842. They first reached North America at the Grosse Île Quarantine Station in Québec, where John⁶ was baptized on June 19th.

- For more about the immigration facility on Grosse Île, see [Grosse Île Quarantine Station, Québec, Canada.](#)

After John⁵ returned to Amboy Township with his new wife and child, he worked as a farm laborer and initially lived in a house he built on the south side of the road that passed through his parents' farm.

During their years in Amboy Township, John⁵ and Jemima had five more children, giving them a total of six at this point, including the following:

- John⁶ C. Wasson, born May 16, 1842, on the Atlantic Ocean
- Jane E. Wasson, born December 7, 1843, in Amboy Township, Oswego County, New York
- Mary Elizabeth Wasson, born June 25, 1845, in Amboy Township, Oswego County, New York
- Jeanette (Janet) M. Wasson, born March 3, 1847, in Amboy Township, Oswego County, New York
- William Henry Wasson, born October 9, 1849, in Amboy Township, Oswego County, New York
- James M. Wasson, born about December 1852, in Amboy Township, Oswego County, New York

John⁵ inherited partial ownership of the family farm when his father died in 1844. John⁵ and Jemima sold their stake in the farm in 1846 to his brother Hugh¹, and they purchased a small farm down the street in 1847.



Site of John⁵ and Jemima Wasson's farm in 1850. This house dates back only to about 1900. John and Jemima sold their farm to Jeremy Dudley in 1854 when they left for Iowa.



Site of John⁵ and Jemima Wasson's farm in 1850

John, Jemima and their children appeared in only one U.S. Census during their years in New York.

9		Sarahcott,	3	F					
10	56	54	John Wasson	40	M	Laborer	500	Scotland	
11			Jemima "	34	F			" "	
12			John "	8	M			" "	
13			Jane "	6	F			New York	1
14			Mary "	5	F			" "	1
15			Jane "	3	F			" "	1
16			William "	2	M			" "	
17	57	60	...	40	M				

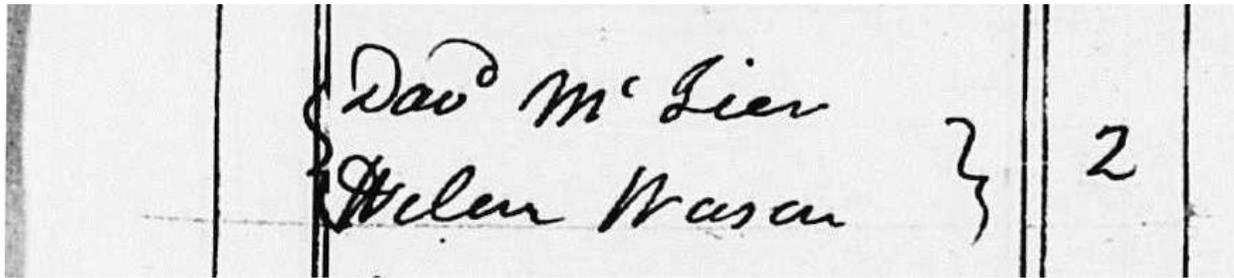
John⁵ and Jemima Wasson's household in the 1850 U.S. Census. John⁵ was the only man on his street identified as a laborer rather than a farmer in this census.

John⁵ and Jemima owned this farm until 1854, when they sold it to Jeremy Dudley and left New York for Iowa.

- John⁵ and Jemima's story continues in [John and Jemima Wasson in Iowa](#).

Helen (Ellen) Wason (John Watson⁴ and Jane Lambie's daughter)

Helen married David McTier in Ballantrae Parish on May 30, 1834.



"David McTier, Helen Wason" [sic]

David McTier was a widower. He and his first wife, Margaret Haldane, had two sons, Alexander in 1822 and James in 1824. As Helen was only 18 years old when she married David, she was only six years older than his oldest son.

David and Helen had one biological son together:

- John McTier, born December 21, 1834, in Ballantrae Parish, Ayrshire

David was a farmer at Big Park in 1841. Neither of his older sons were living with him and Helen in 1841, but their son John was as well as Jane Lambie Black, the oldest child of Helen's sister Janet and her husband David Black. David McTier was an agriculture laborer at Michroch in 1851. Son John appears to have become an apprentice or farm laborer in Wigtownshire at this point.

David was working as an innkeeper at Glenapp when Helen died in 1859. David died in 1881.

McTier,	1859	F	43	John Wason,	Apprentice	Church Yard of	David McTier	1859
Hellen	October		gen.	Farmer	ten days	Ballantrae	husband	October 10th
Innkeeper's wife	5h. 10m P.M.				As certified by	As certified by	present	at Ballantrae
Married.	Glenapp			Jane Wason	Surgeon, Ballantrae	David Gentle		
				maiden name	who saw deceased			
				Lambie	2d Oct 1859			

"McTier, Hellen, Innkeeper's wife, Married, October third, 1859, 5h 10m P.M., Glenapp, F, 43 years, John Wason, Farmer, Jane Wason, maiden name Lambie, [illegible], ten days, as certified by [illegible] McKenna, surgeon, Ballantrae who saw deceased 2d Oct 1859, Church yard of Ballantrae..." [sic]



The marker for David McTier and likely Helen McTier in the Ballantrae Churchyard. The lower part of the McTier family marker has become unreadable.

In 1856, their son John married Margaret McDowall, a widow with two children. She was 13 years older than John. He was working as a port inspector in 1860. Before John and Margaret had any children together, John emigrated and disappeared. His father's will mentioned his son John "who went abroad", and left a share of his estate to his son "... if it is ascertained within twelve months after my death that he is alive". There is no indication whether John was found.

Records do not indicate where John emigrated to. An age-appropriate Scotland-born John McTyer appeared in Chicago, Illinois in the 1870 U.S. Census. However, there is not enough associated information about him to conclude whether or not he is David and Helen's son.

Hugh Corse Wasson¹ (John Watson⁴ and Jane Lambie's son)

Hugh¹ emigrated from Scotland with his parents in 1834 when he was just 13 years old. He lived on the 50-acre farm that his parents purchased in 1839, and took over the farm after his father died in 1844 and after buying his brother John⁵'s share in 1846. Hugh¹ then acquired additional land over the next decade.

Hugh¹ married Margaret McCallum Swanson, daughter of William and Margaret Lambie Swanson, in 1852. They were married in the city of Oswego, the county seat of Oswego County, where Amboy Township was located.



Hugh Corse (Cross) Wasson¹ (left); Margaret McCallum Swanson Wasson (right)

Hugh¹ and Margaret had six children, including the following:

- Jane A. Wasson, born September 4, 1854, in Amboy Township, Oswego County, New York
- William Wasson, born January 1856, in Amboy Township, Oswego County, New York
- John Wasson, born in 1857, in Amboy Township, Oswego County, New York
- Margaret J. Wasson, born January 5, 1860, in Amboy Township, Oswego County, New York
- Mary E. Wasson, born in 1865, Amboy Township, in Oswego County, New York
- Hugh Cross Wasson, Jr. ², born in 1868, in Amboy Township, Oswego County, New York

Hugh¹'s mother Jane lived with Hugh¹ and his family on the family farm, as per the terms of her husband's will, until she died in 1865.

Household No.	Family No.	Name	Age	Sex	Color	Profession	Value	Real Estate	Personal	Other
47	350	Hugh Wasson	30	M		Farmer	1	20		1
		Margaret Wasson	27	F		Wife	1	2		1
		Jane Wasson	60	F		Wife	1	20		1
		Jane Wasson	12	F		Child		1/2		

The 1855 New York Census shows Hugh¹ and Margaret Wasson, mother Jane and daughter Jane living together on the family farm.

Daughter Mary died in infancy in 1866. Her brother John died as a teenager in 1875. Both were buried with their grandparents in the Wasson family plot in Amboy Center Cemetery.

Daughters Jane and Mary never married.

Son William married Mary Gifford. They had no children. William was a farmer near Pulaski, Oswego County, New York. He was killed in a car accident in 1917.

Son Hugh² married Martha Anne Minckler. They had four children – the only grandchildren of Hugh¹ and Margaret – all of whom left the area as adults. There is more on their family, below.

Hugh¹ and Margaret lived on the family farm until Hugh¹ died suddenly on April 2, 1887. In February 1893, Margaret sold the farm, and she and some of their children moved to nearby Camden, Oneida County, New York. Margaret remained there until she died on November 6, 1901.

Hugh¹, his wife Margaret, and some of their children were buried in Forest Park Cemetery, Camden, New York.



The Wasson family plot in Forest Park Cemetery, Camden, New York. It includes markers for Hugh¹ and Margaret Wasson to the right as well as for their daughters Margaret and Jane to the left. The family marker also lists their children John and Mary, who were buried in Amboy Center Cemetery several years earlier. Other family members and relatives were also buried in this cemetery.



Markers for son William Wasson (left) and his wife Mary (right)



Markers for son Hugh Wasson² (left) and his wife Martha Minckler Wasson (right)

Hugh¹ and Margaret Wasson's son Hugh² and his wife Martha remained in Camden for several years, where they raised their family. In their later years, they moved to nearby Ilion, New York, where their daughter lived. Their sons moved much further.

Research Notes

Hugh Wasson¹'s 1887 death led to an accidental stir in Jones County, Iowa when his son William Wasson sent a telegram to David Sim in Jones County saying, "Father is dead". Sim mistook the source as William Wasson, the son of John⁵ and Jemima who was living in Kansas, and "Father" as a reference to L.G. Ransom, that William's father-in-law and longtime Madison Township, Jones County resident who moved to Kansas with his wife at the same time William moved there. The news quickly spread through the community before David Sim noticed that the telegram was from New York, and was referring to John Wasson⁵'s brother Hugh¹, who was the uncle of David's wife Jeannette.

More on Hugh² and Martha Wasson's Children

After serving in World War I, Hugh² and Martha's son Roy earned his Ph.D. from Cornell University, and eventually became superintendent of schools in Colorado Springs, Colorado in 1942, a position he held for 21 years.



Dr. Roy J. Wasson

During the construction of a new high school in 1958, Roy was surprised when the school board honored him by naming the new school after him. Roy J. Wasson High School, home of the Wasson Thunderbirds, opened in 1959. The high school closed in 2013, but this school district campus was reopened as the Roy J. Wasson Academic Campus.



Roy J. Wasson High School (left); the Wasson High School Thunderbirds (right)



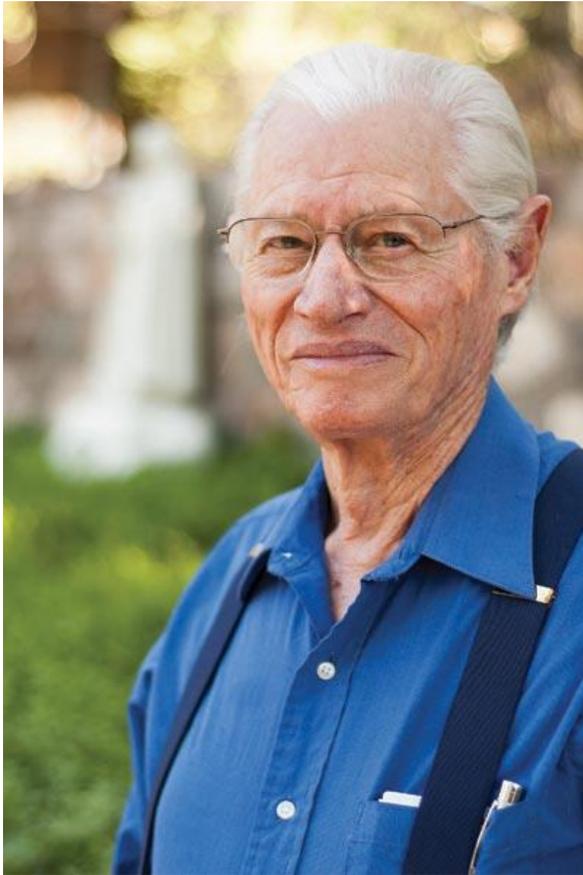
Wasson Park, also named for Dr. Roy J. Wasson, borders the school. Pikes Peak can be seen in the distance from the park.

Hugh² and Martha's son William married Mary Bryce and converted to Catholicism. In the late 1930s, William and Mary moved to Yarnell, Arizona where they established the Shrine of St. Joseph of the Mountains on their land.



One of the Stations of the Cross at the Shrine of St. Joseph of the Mountains

Their son Barnabas “Barney” Wasson was a well-known liturgical sculptor. He continued to live at and maintain the shrine until his death in 2014.

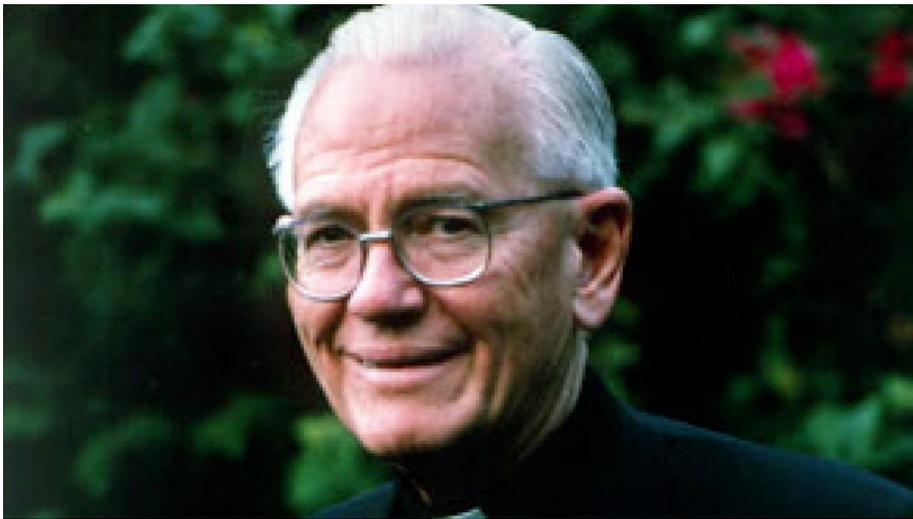


Barnabas “Barney” Wasson



Examples of Barney Wasson’s work

Their son William Bryce Wasson became a priest. Father Wasson established the Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos orphanages that operate in nine Latin American countries.



Father William Bryce Wasson



Father Wasson meets with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican in 2004.

For his work, Father Wasson was awarded the Luis Elizondo Humanitarian Award in 1977, the only U.S. citizen to receive this Mexican National Prize. He was also awarded the Order of the Aztec Eagle, Mexico's highest award, which recognizes services performed for Mexico or humanity by foreign nationals.

Both William and Barnabas were buried at the shrine that their parents established.

Prepared by Mark David Wasson
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