

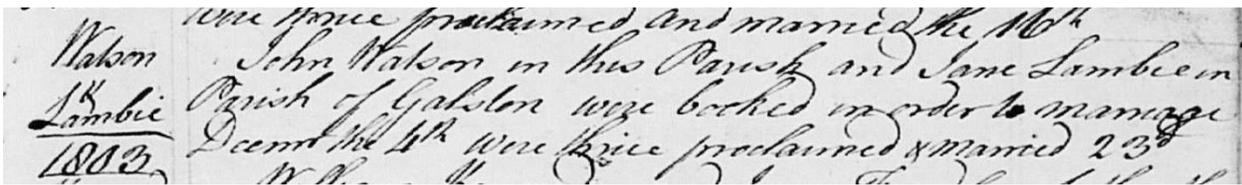


The Lambies of Eastern Ayrshire, Scotland

The records for our ancestor Jane Lambie show that she was from Galston Parish in eastern Ayrshire. Although there were a number of Lambies in eastern Ayrshire in both Galston Parish and adjacent Loudoun Parish, substantial gaps in the parish records have made it challenging make confident connections between our Lambies and other Lambies found in the parish registries.

In 1778, John Watson, a blacksmith in Old Dailly, Dailly Parish, Ayrshire, and his wife Helen Skeene had a son they named John.

John showed up next in the Dailly Parish Church registry when he married Jane Lambie of Galston Parish, Ayrshire 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]

As we are direct descendants of Jane Lambie, I wanted to find information on her ancestry.

Our Lambie Ancestry

I found four reasonably good candidate birth and baptism records for a Jean (Jane) Lambie, Lammie or other last name variants in the Galston and Loudoun Parish Church registries. I settled on Jean Lambie, daughter of a William Lambie, a tenant farmer at Liffnock in Galston Parish, Ayrshire. This Jean Lambie was little more age-appropriate than two of the other candidates.

But much more importantly, this Jean Lambie had a sister Margaret whose daughter Jean Cameron married William Gordon. Two of our Jane Lambie's sons, John and James Wasson, were living with William Gordon, Jean Cameron and their family at the time of the 1841 U.K. Census. This suggested a strong family connection with this particular Jean Lambie.

the afternoon 12 Apr 1778
 Jean lawful daughter to William Lambie
 Lambie tenant in Liffnock born on Tuesday morning
 betwixt 12 and 1, 28 April 1778. Bap: 3 May

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

Jane was the ninth of eleven known children born to William Lambie and his unknown wife while William was a tenant farmer at Liffnock, Galston Parish, Ayrshire. Her siblings included the following:

William Lambie Robert son to William Lambie in Liffnock
 Townhead baptizd 8 June 1760

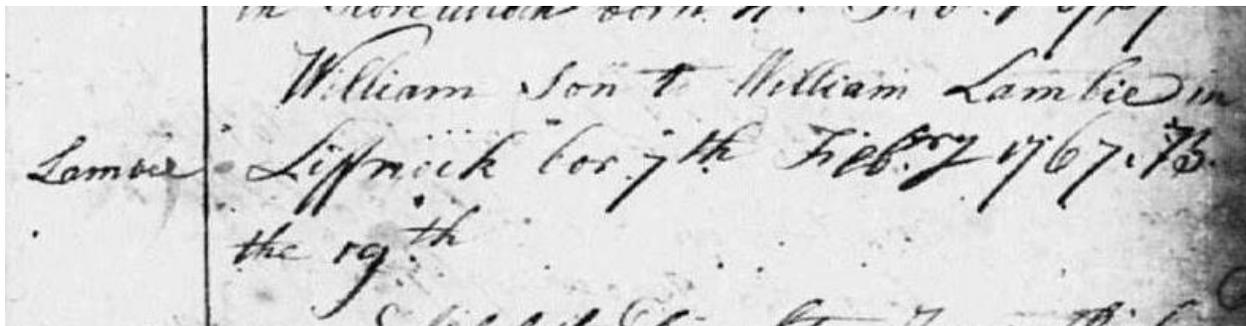
"William Lambie – Robert son to William Lambie in Liffnock Townhead baptizd 8 June 1760" [sic] This Robert likely died young as a second son born in 1769 was also named Robert.

Agnes Lambie Agnes lawful daul. to William Lambie
 Liffnock was bapt: Sept. 20th 1762

"Agnes Lambie – Agnes lawful daul.r to William Lambie Liffnock was bapt. Sept 20th 1762" [sic]

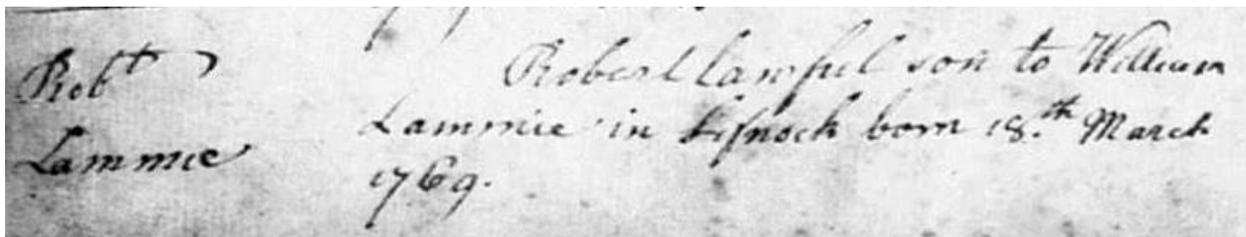
Janet Lambie Janet Lambie Daul. to William D.
 in Liffnock Bap. Janry 17th 1765.

Janet Lambie – Janet Lambie Dautr to William [Lambie] in Liffnock Bap. Janry 17th 1765" [sic]



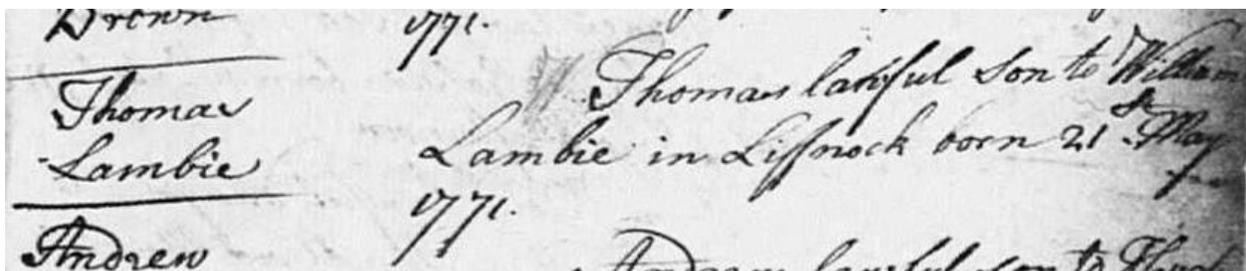
A handwritten entry in a ledger. On the left, the name 'Lambie' is written vertically. The main text reads: 'William son to William Lambie in Liffnock bor 7th Febr 1767. 73. the 19th'.

"Lambie – William son to William Lambie in Liffnock bor 7th Febr 1767 & bap the 19th" [sic]



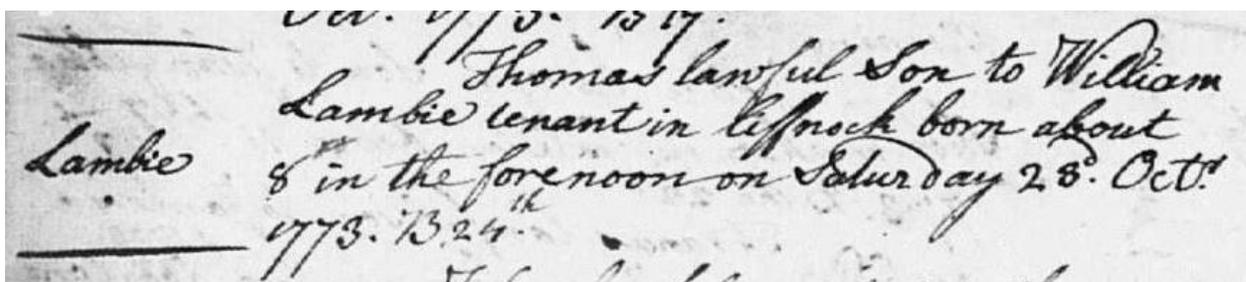
A handwritten entry in a ledger. On the left, the name 'Robert Lammie' is written vertically. The main text reads: 'Robert Lawful son to William Lammie in Liffnock born 18th March 1769.'

"Robert Lammie – Robert Lawful son to William Lammie in Liffnock born 18th March 1769" [sic]



A handwritten entry in a ledger. On the left, the name 'Thomas Lambie' is written vertically. The main text reads: 'Thomas lawful son to William Lambie in Liffnock born 21st May 1771.' There are some additional scribbles and numbers around the text.

"Thomas Lambie – Thomas lawful son to William Lambie in Liffnock born 21st May 1771" [sic].
This Thomas likely died very young, as their next child was also named Thomas.



A handwritten entry in a ledger. On the left, the name 'Lambie' is written vertically. The main text reads: 'Thomas lawful Son to William Lambie tenant in Liffnock born about 8 in the forenoon on Saturday 28. Oct. 1773. 73. 24.'

"Lambie – Thomas lawful son to William Lambie tenant in Liffnock born about 8 in the forenoon on Saturday 28 Octr 1773 B 24th [November]" [sic]

Lambie
Margaret lawful daughter
to William Lambie in Liffnock born
on Monday ^{feby 26th 1776} betwix 10 and eleven
o'clock at Night Bap 3^d March

"Lambie – Margaret lawful Daughter to William Lambie in Liffnock born on Monday Feby 26th 1776 between 10 and eleven o'clock at night bap 3d March" [sic]

99.
James lawful son to William
Lambie in Liffnock born on
Saturday 19 feby 1780 about
9 o'clock forenoon Bap: 22 feby
James Lawful son to

"Lambie – James lawful son to William Lambie in Liffnock born on Saturday 19 feby 1780 about 9 o'clock forenoon bap 22 feby" [sic]

Lambie
Elizabeth lawful daughter to William
Lambie in Liffnock born on Monday last
at 8 o'clock at Night being 29th April
1782. Bap 4th May
James Lawful son to James

"Lambie – Elizabeth lawful daughter to William Lambie in Liffnock born on Monday last at 8 o'clock at night being 29th April 1782. Bap 4th May" [sic]

Although the information recorded changed somewhat over 22 years, none of the records provided the name of the mother. It is noteworthy that as a tenant farmer, father William Lambie remained at Liffnock for all of this time.

Research Notes

What we know about William Lambie is that he was a tenant farmer at Liffnock for at least 22 years, and that he fathered several children. Unfortunately, we do not know any more than that.

I did find two good candidate birth records for William Lambie. One was for a William Lambie born to William Lambie, blacksmith, and his wife Jean Richmond, in Dalgain, Sorn Parish, and baptized on September 24, 1737. Sorn Parish borders Galston Parish on the south. The other was for a William Lambie born to William Lambie and an unnamed spouse at Meadowfoot, Avondale Parish, Lanarkshire, and baptized on December 23, 1737. Avondale Parish borders Galston Parish on the east. However, I could not find any evidence connecting either of these Williams to our William Lambie.

I reached out to a group researching the Lambies of eastern Ayrshire that has assembled information on nearly 2000 Lambies. I found out that these Williams in fact had been connected to other lines, but our William has not yet been connected to the broader eastern Ayrshire Lambie family tree.

There are huge gaps in the Galston Parish Church registry. Mothers' names were not recorded in birth records until 1785. Only four marriages were recorded between 1743 and 1806. A few deaths were recorded in 1762 and 1763, but those were it. Also, members of the Lambie family of eastern Ayrshire can be found in nearby Loudoun, Sorn, Mauchline (all Ayrshire) and Avondale (Lanarkshire) Parishes. It is harder to connect information across time when people moved across parishes.

Probate, land sale records, hearth tax records, church session records and other sources have helped fill in the gaps for a number of the eastern Ayrshire Lambies. Just not ours at this point.

This is disappointing for the obvious reason – it is a roadblock in my effort to find further ancestors along this branch of our family tree, especially when so much is known about other Lambies in the area.

But this is also disappointing for another reason. When John Wasson and Jane Lambie left Scotland and settled in Amboy Township, Oswego County, New York, there were already Lambie families in the area, primarily just across the county line in Oneida County. These families included the following:

- William and Margaret Lambie Swanson came to the U.S. from Scotland, first settling in Lockport, New York in 1828, and then in 1832 they settled in the Hillsboro area. Margaret Lambie Swanson was originally from Galston Parish, Ayrshire, Scotland, after being born in neighboring Loudoun Parish.

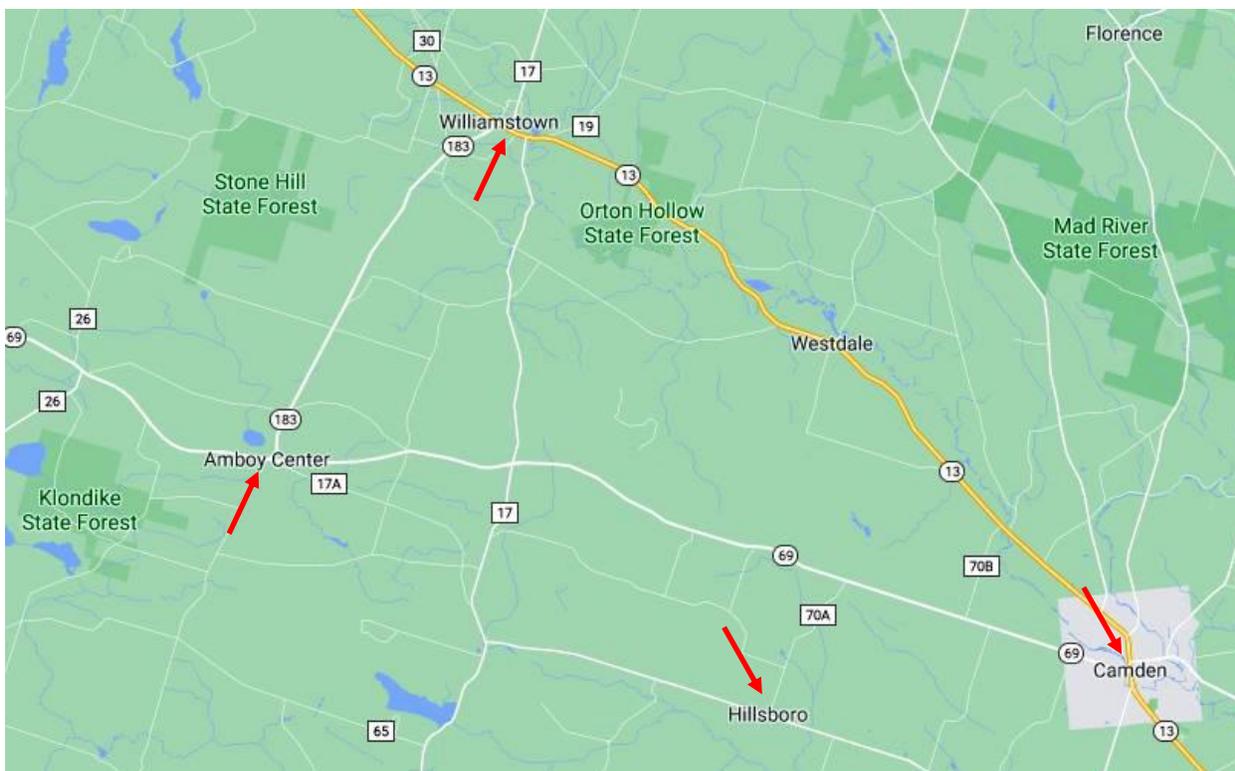
- John and Jean (Jane) Allen Lambie and their children came from Scotland to Oneida County in 1831, eventually settling in the Hillsboro area. They had previously lived at Morehead Farm near Galston, Ayrshire, Scotland.

John Lambie and Margaret Lambie Swanson were brother and sister.

It is unlikely that these and other Lambie families with Galston ties would all end up in the same remote upstate New York area within a few years of each other unless they were related in some way. But because we cannot connect William Lambie to the broader eastern Ayrshire Lambie family tree, we can't say whether or how these Lambie families were related to one another.

Several descendants of these other Lambies have continued to live in the area, including Camden in Oneida County, the biggest town in the area.

The Wassons and the above-mentioned Swanson family certainly did cross paths in New York. John and Jane Wason's son Hugh married William and Margaret Swanson's daughter Margaret.



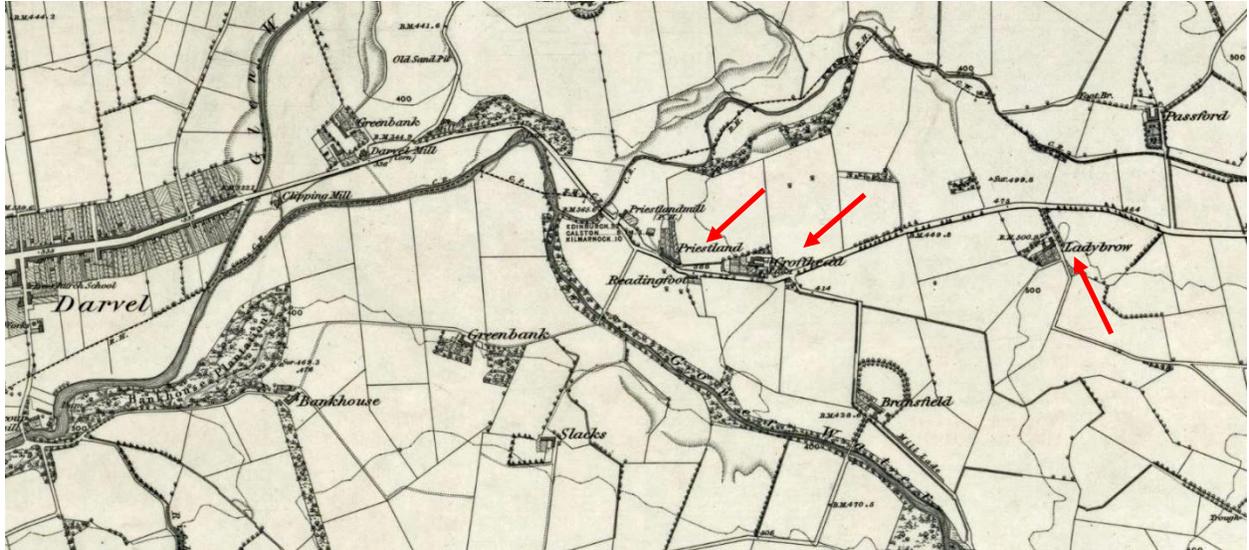
Google Maps image showing locations of Amboy Center, Hillsboro, Camden and Williamstown



The Hillsboro Baptist Church in 2012. This is about all that is left of Hillsboro, New York.

The Lambies of Eastern Ayrshire

It is generally believed by Lambie ancestry researchers that the Lambies of eastern Ayrshire are descendants of the Lambies of Ladybrow Farm, east of Priestland in Galston Parish.



From left to right, Priestland, Crofthead and Ladybrow in Galston Parish. These farms come up routinely when researching early records related to the eastern Ayrshire Lambies.



Ladybrow in 2012

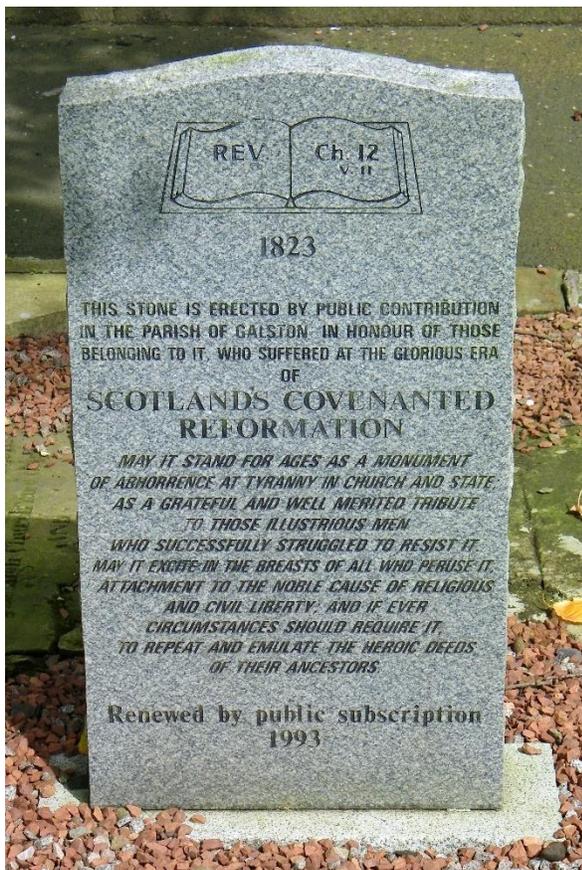
The Lambies were quite active in the Covenanter Movement.

In June 1679, the Lambies of Ladybrow fought in the Battle of Drumclog for the Covenanters. A few weeks later they fought in the Battle of Bothwell Brig.

In 1685, a group of prisoners captured by Lt. Col. Thomas Buchan were accused of refusing to hear the preaching of Galston minister Robert Simpson. All of the prisoners were Lambies who were connected to other Presbyterians named Lambie in Galston. Several Lambie fugitives had their names published in May 1684 for their involvement in the Presbyterian uprising of 1679.

The Covenanters got their revenge in December 1688 by ousting the ministers of several Ayrshire parishes. In Galston, this included Robert Simpson, who then was forced to wade through the icy waters of the River Irvine.

See Dr. Mark Jardine's article, [The Covenanters' Revenge in Galston](#) in [Jardine's Book of Martyrs](#), which gives a detailed account of this latter example of the Lambies' involvement in the Covenanter movement.



Covenanter memorial, Galston Parish Church (left); memorial at the Battle of Drumclog site (right)



Liffnock in 2012. This is the view of Liffnock from a passing walking/cycling path.



These buildings are likely the oldest part of Liffnock as they appear on early maps.



The brick buildings to the right are newer; those buildings are not on the 1857 map, and recent satellite images indicate that they have since been torn down.

Prepared by Mark David Wasson
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