



The Russells and Swans of Lanarkshire, Scotland

The records for Jemima Russell Wasson show that she was the daughter of Alexander Russell and Jean Swan, and that she was born in Avondale Parish, Lanarkshire, Scotland. That was my starting point for research into Jemima's ancestry.

In 1813, John Watson, a farm servant at Craighead, Dailly Parish Ayrshire, and his wife Jane Lambie had a son they named John. John showed up next in the Scottish records in Hurlford, Riccarton Parish, Ayrshire in the 1841 U.K. Census. Later that year, he married Jemima Russell in Riccarton Parish Church. As we are direct descendants of Jemima Russell, I wanted to find information on her ancestry.



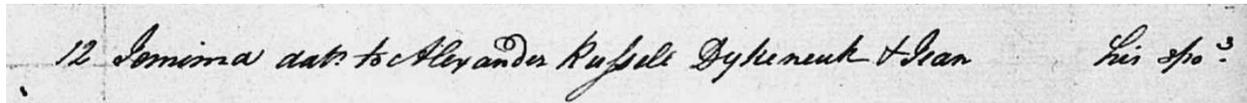
Jemima Russell Wasson

Generation 6 & 7 – Jemima Russell Wasson, Her Parents and Siblings

We are direct descendants of Jemima Russell.

Jemima Russell Wasson's obituary reported that "she was the daughter of Alexander Russell, a farmer of Avondale, Lanarkshire, Scotland, at which place she was born June 12th, 1816."

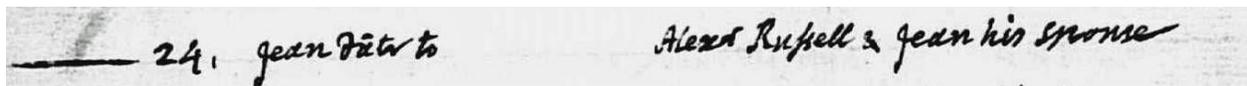
As it turned out, unlike for her husband John Wasson, there was a birth record for a Jemima Russell that matched this information.



12 Jemima datr to Alexander Russell Dykenook & Jean his spo^s

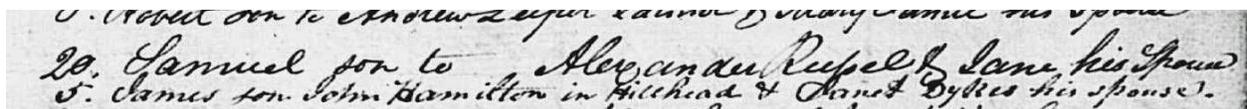
"[June] 12 [1816] Jemima datr to Alexander Russell Dykenook & Jean [Swan] his spos." [sic]

This helped me to identify two more siblings born at Dykenook as well as mother Jean's last name. Having Jean's name in turn helped me to identify two more of Alexander and Jean's children. All five were born in Avondale Parish, Lanarkshire.



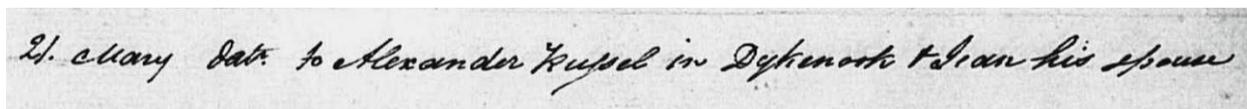
24. Jean datr to Alexr Russell & Jean his spouse

"[September] 24 [1806] Jean datr to Alexr Russell & Jean his spouse" [sic]



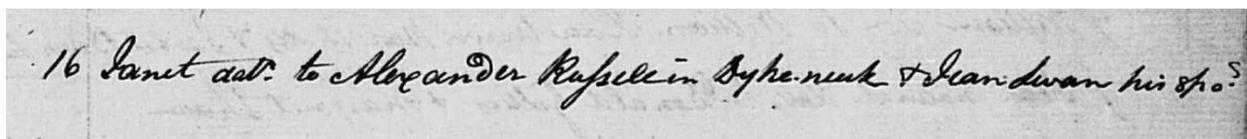
20. Samuel son to Alexander Russell & Jane his spouse
5. James son John Hamilton in Hillhead & Janet Dykes his spouse.

"[April] 20 [1811] Samuel son to Alexander Russel & Jane his spouse" [sic]



21. Mary datr to Alexander Russell in Dykenook & Jean his spouse

"[September] 21 [1813] Mary datr to Alexander Russel in Dykenook & Jean his spouse" [sic]



16 Janet datr to Alexander Russell in Dykenook & Jean Swan his spo^s

"[June] 16 [1818] Janet datr to Alexander Russell in Dykenook & Jean Swan his spos" [sic]

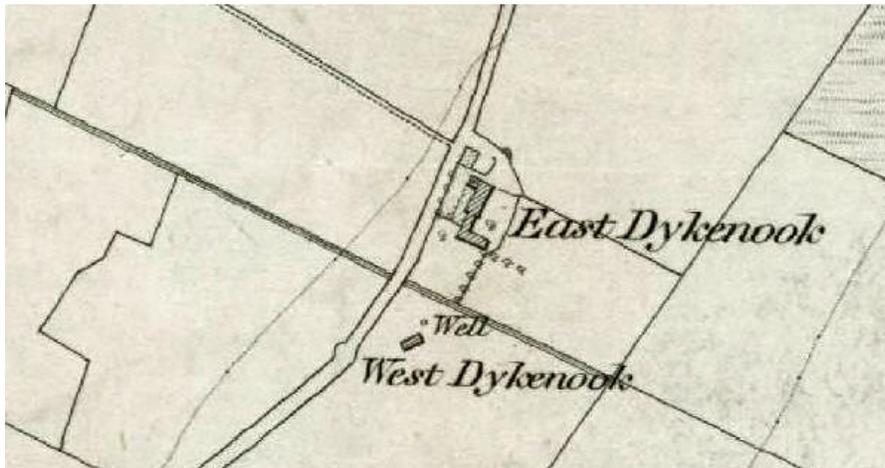
It is possible that children Jean and Samuel were also born at Dykenook. One source has suggested that oldest child Jean was born in Boghall, Chapelton, Glassford Parish, the parish just to the north of Avondale Parish, although the birth record I found for her was in the Avondale Parish church registry. Local place names such as farms were not included in many birth entries

in the Avondale Parish Church registries in those earlier years, and I have not found anything else to support anything more specific than Avondale Parish for the two oldest children.

I have not yet found a marriage record for Alexander Russell and Jean Swan.



This 1822 map shows the location of Dykenook and the Covenanter Movement's 1679 Battle of Drumclog site in western Avondale Parish, Lanarkshire. Dykenook was the property of the Duke of Hamilton. (Older maps sometimes show Avondale Parish as Strathavon Parish. Both Avondale and Strathavon mean "the valley of the Avon". "Strathaven" is an alternate spelling.)



This 1920 map shows that Dykenook today is now East Dykenook and West Dykenook. East Dykenook is the heart of the original Dykenook.



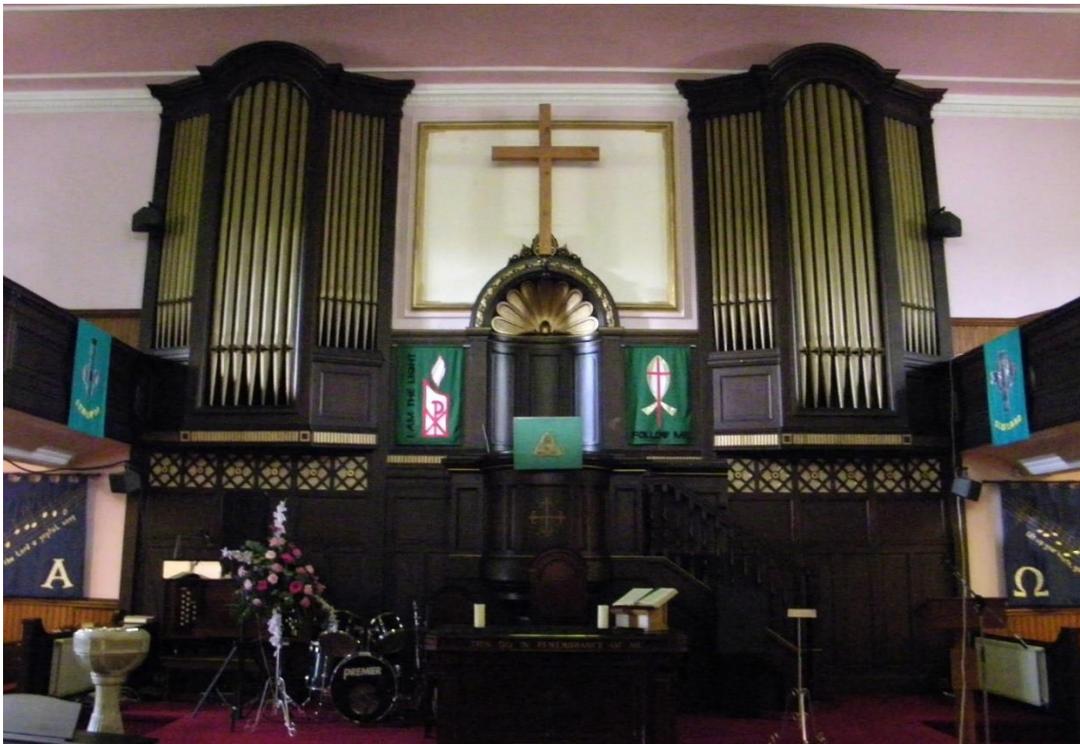
The house at East Dykenook in 2010



East Dykenook was Dykenook (also spelled Dykeneuk) when the Russells lived here.



The Avondale Old Parish Church, left side of the road, in Strathaven, Avondale Parish, Lanarkshire. Many Alexander Russell and Jean Swan family events were recorded in its registries.



Inside the Avondale Old Parish Church



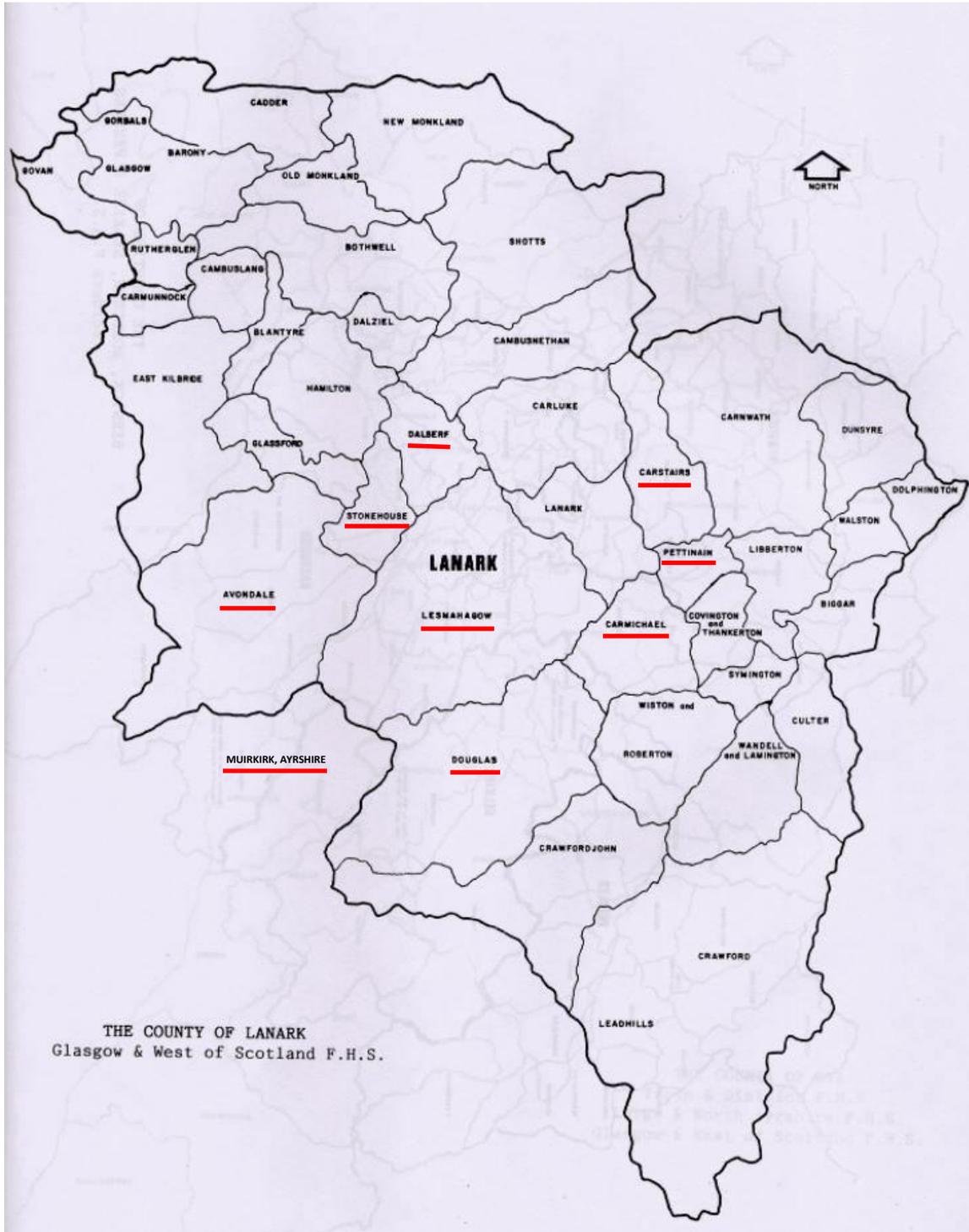
The Alexander Taylor Bakery (left) is the oldest business in the village of Strathaven. It was established at this location in 1820, so it was here when Jemima Russell and her family lived in the area.



Jemima Russell Wasson's father, and likely her mother and her three sisters were buried in Strathaven Cemetery, Strathaven, Avondale Parish, Lanarkshire.

- For more about Jemima Russell, see [John Watson and Jane Lambie](#) and [John and Jemima Wasson in Iowa](#).

For more about Jemima’s four siblings, see below.



Map of the parishes in Lanarkshire. Avondale Parish is Strathaven Parish on some maps.

Generation 6 – Alexander Russell

We are direct descendants of Alexander Russell. Determining which one is a challenge.

Birth

With about 70 age-appropriate men named Alexander Russell, Russel and Russil in Scottish parish birth registries, there is too much ambiguity to draw solid conclusions about our Alexander Russell and his ancestry based on the limited information that we know about him. Without a marriage record for Alexander Russell that might have provided a little more information about him, I consider this to be a working hypothesis.

We know that Alexander Russell was married to Jean Swan. We know that they had at least five children from 1806 to 1818, at least the last three of which were born at Dykenook in Avondale Parish, Lanarkshire. We know that an Alexander Russell died at Dykenook in June 1820, and that Jean Swan was identified as his widow in her 1839 death record. I have not found a marriage record for Alexander Russell and Jean Swan or a remarriage record for Jean Swan.

If we assume that Alexander Russell as an adult lived reasonably close to where he was raised instead of moving across Scotland, then there are two good candidate birth records for him:

- Alexander Russel, born December 15, 1776, in Stonehouse Parish, Lanarkshire, to Robert Russell and Mary Bell, and baptized December 22
- Alexander Russel, born November 6 and baptized November 12, 1775, in Carnwath Parish, Lanarkshire, to John Russel and Elizabeth Lamb

Stonehouse Parish is just east of Avondale Parish. Carnwath Parish is a couple parishes further to the east.

Records show that there was an Alexander Russel of Carnwath who died in 1840 at age 65. The age agrees with the above birth record for Carnwath's Alexander Russel, but his death occurred a year *after* that of Jean Swan, whose death record indicated that she was Alexander Russell's widow. I have not found any comparable evidence against the Stonehouse Alexander Russel.

In 1822, an adult John Russell died at Dykenook. Carnwath's Alexander Russel had a brother named John, so this could have favored that Alexander Russell had he not outlived his widow. There was a John Russell who married an Elizabeth Hamilton in Avondale Parish in 1809 with no identifiable connection to Carnwath. Stonehouse's Alexander Russel did not have a brother John in the available birth records.

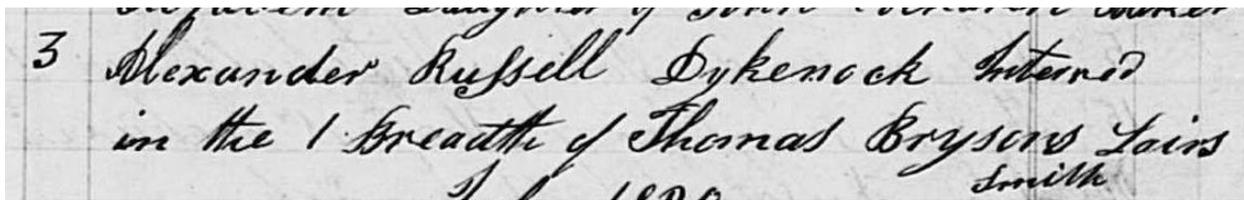
A Margreat Russell died at Dykenook December 8, 1817. She was buried in the Russell's Lairs. Margreat was not identified as a child of anyone. Because she was buried in the Russell's lairs, and Alexander Russell was buried in Thomas Bryson's lairs a few years later, they may not have been from the same family of Russells.

Russell is a fairly common surname in the region, so John Russell and Alexander Russell at Dykenook may not have been related, or they may have had a more distant relationship, such as cousins.

There is no indication that Jean Swan and her children remained at Dykenook after her husband died there in 1820.

Death and Burial

Alexander Russell died at Dykenook on June 3, 1820.



"3 Alexander Russell Dykenook interned in the 1 breadth of Thomas Brysons smith Lairs" [sic]

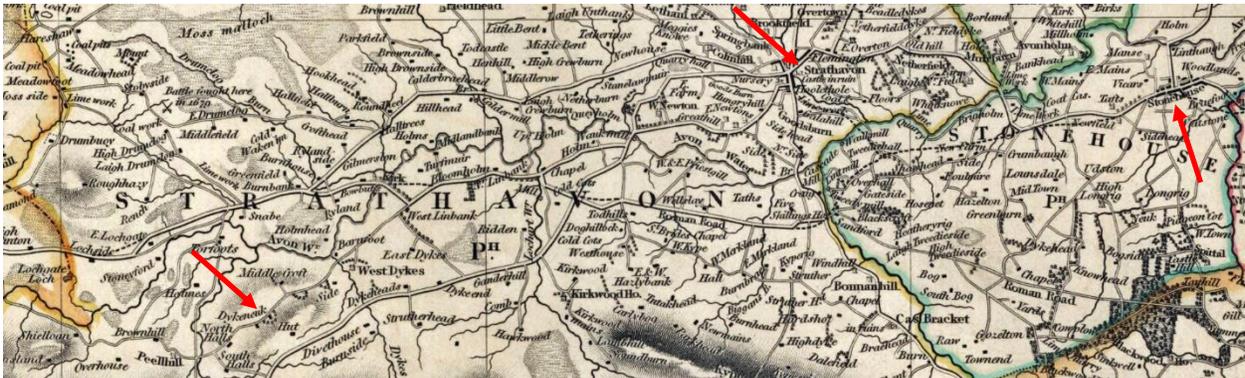
I looked into Thomas Bryson, who was mentioned in Alexander's death record. There indeed was a Thomas Bryson, a blacksmith who died in 1811. He was buried in Strathaven Cemetery.



Thomas Bryson's lairs, Strathaven Cemetery, Strathaven, Avondale Parish, where Alexander Russell was buried

Research Notes

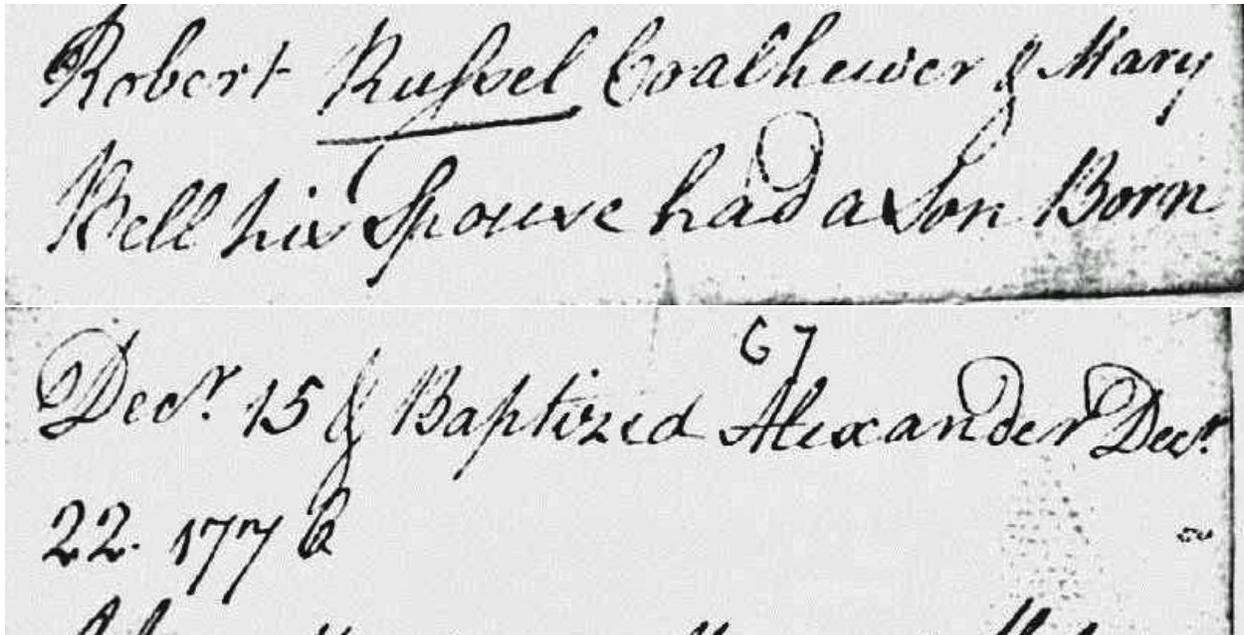
I assume that there was some connection (e.g., in-laws, Dykenook) between Alexander Russell or Jean Swan and Thomas Bryson that led to Alexander being buried in Bryson's lairs, but I have not yet found a family connection in the available parish registries.



This 1832 map shows Dykenook (left) and the village of Strathaven (center), both in Avondale Parish, Lanarkshire, and the village of Stonehouse, Stonehouse Parish, Lanarkshire (right).

Generations 5 & 6 – Robert Russell and Mary Bell and their Children

If Stonehouse's Alexander Russel is indeed our Alexander Russell, then we also know the names of his parents from his birth record in the Stonehouse Parish Church registry.

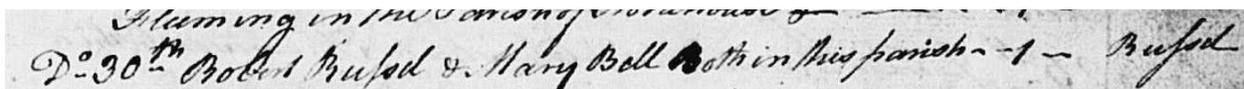


"Robert Russel Coalhewer & Mary Bell his spouse had a son Born Decr 15 & Baptized Alexander Decr 22, 1776" [sic]

We are likely direct descendants of Robert Russell and Mary Bell's son Alexander.

Marriage

I found a marriage record for Robert Russell and Mary Bell in Dalserf Parish, Lanarkshire.



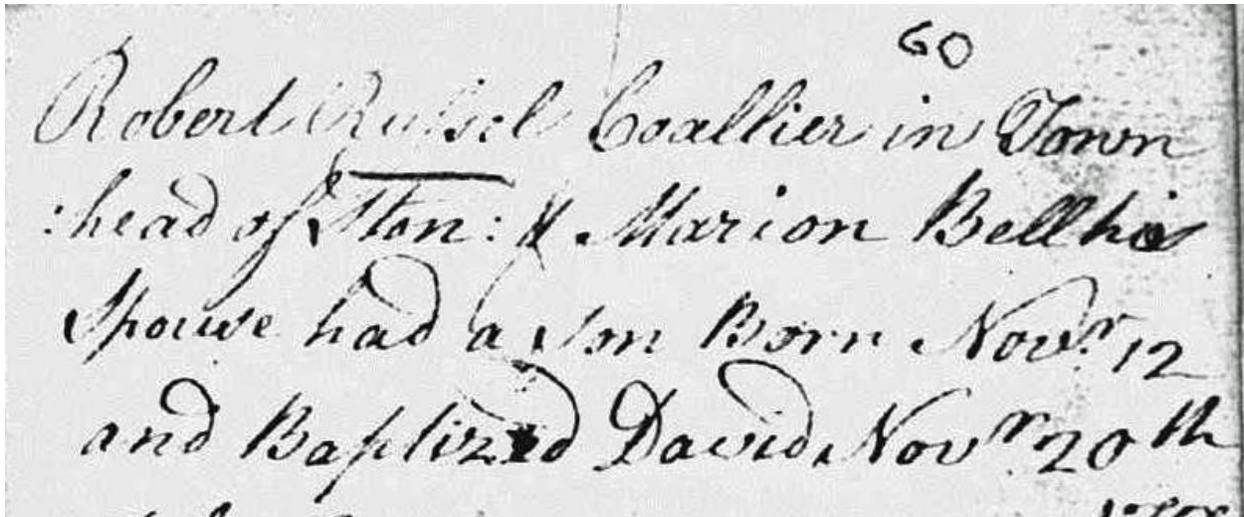
"[July] 30th [1773] Robert Russel & Mary Bell both in this parish – Russel" [sic]

I did not find candidate birth records for either Robert Russell or Mary Bell in the Dalserf Parish Church birth registry. Both names were too common for me to identify good candidate birth records in other parish registries, so I have not taken Alexander Russell's ancestry back any further.

Dalserf Parish is within 1-2 miles of the village of Stonehouse, where Robert Russell and Mary Bell raised their family.

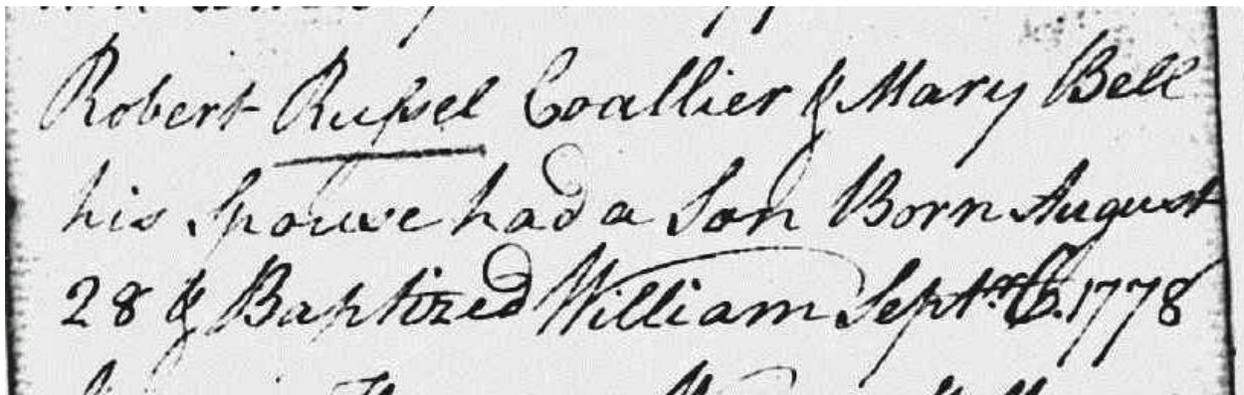
Children

Robert Russell and Mary Bell had six children, including Alexander, all born in Stonehouse Parish, Lanarkshire. Their other five children include the following:



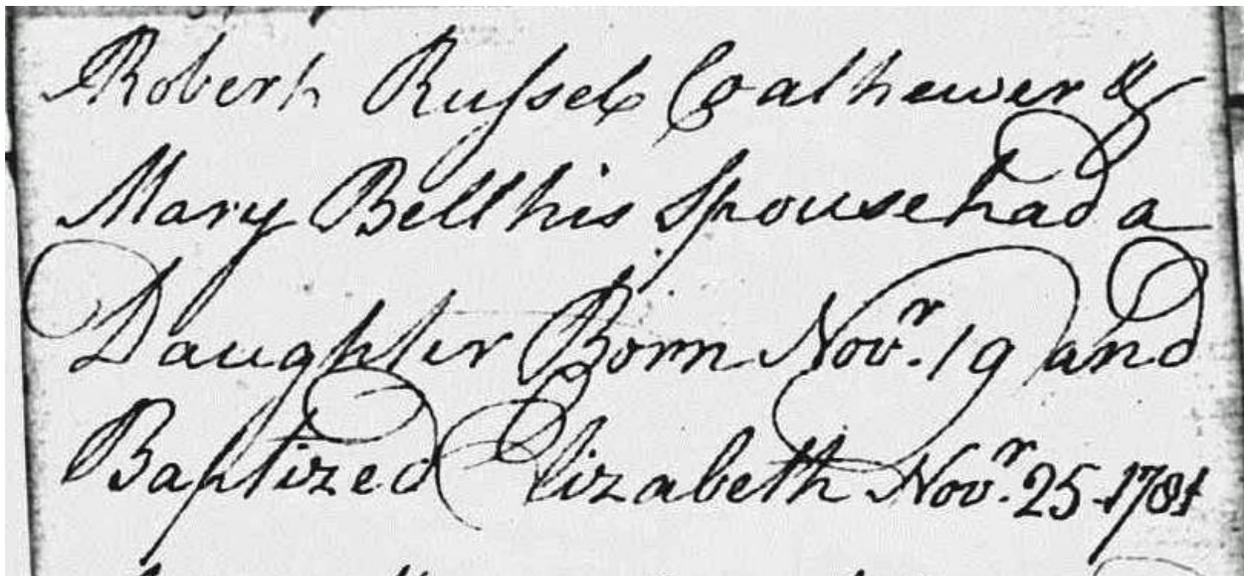
60
Robert Russel Coallier in Town
head of Ston: & Marion Bell his
Spouse had a son Born Nov^r 12
and Baptized David Nov^r 20th

"Robert Russel Coallier in Townhead of Ston. & Marion Bell his spouse had a son born Nov 12 [1774] and Baptized David Novr 20th" [sic]



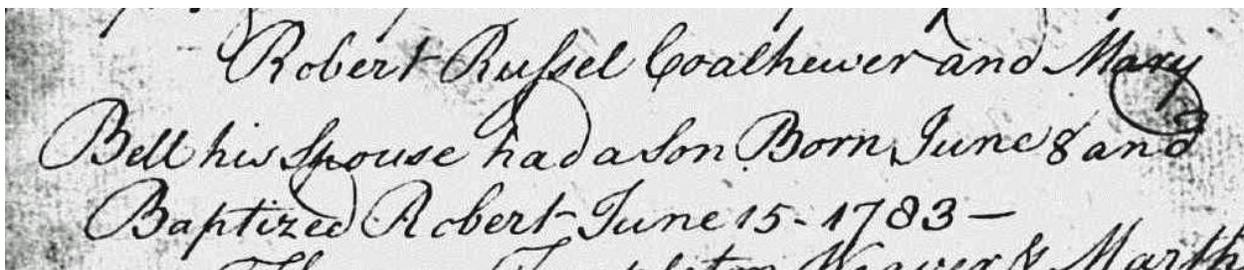
11
Robert Russel Coallier & Mary Bell
his Spouse had a son Born August
28 & Baptized William Sept^r 6 1778

Robert Russel Coallier & Mary Bell his spouse had a son Born August 28 & Baptized William Sepr 6, 1778" [sic]



Robert Russel Coalhewer &
Mary Bell his spouse had a
Daughter Born Nov^r. 19 and
Baptized Elizabeth Nov^r. 25 1781

"Robert Russel Coalhewer & Mary Bell his spouse had a Daughter Born Novr 19 and Baptized Elizabeth Novr 25 1781" [sic]



Robert Russel Coalhewer and Mary
Bell his spouse had a son Born June 8 and
Baptized Robert June 15 1783 -
at the house of the Minister

"Robert Russel Coalhewer and Mary Bell his spouse had a son Born June 8 and Baptized Robert June 15, 1783" [sic]

A sixth child, daughter Margaret, was born to Robert Russell and Mary Bell in about 1788 according to her death record, but I was not able to find her birth record.

In some of his children's birth records, Robert Russell was described as a "coalhewer". The coal hewer's job was to mine the coal from a coal seam. He would use hand tools such as a sharp pick. The hewer would work in an area no taller than the height of the coal seam, which could be less than two feet. The hewer would work with a single candle to enable him to see what he was doing as he mined coal from the seam.



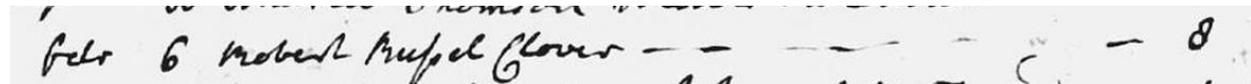
Townhead, village of Stonehouse in 2012. One of their children's birth records has Robert Russell and Mary Bell living in Townhead, Stonehouse in 1774.



A new Stonehouse Parish Church opened on New Street in the village in 1772. The Stonehouse Russells would have worshipped here. It was replaced by the current St. Ninian's Parish Church in 1897. This building no longer stands.

Deaths and Burials

Just as I did not find good candidate birth records for Robert Russell and Mary Bell, I did not find good candidate death records. I did find this death record for a Robert Russell in the Stonehouse Parish Church registry:



Febr 6 Robert Russel Clover — — — — — 8

"Febr 6 [1794] Robert Russel Clover[?] ... 8" [sic]

This could be the death record for Robert Russell, although there is little disambiguating evidence. If this was him, he died with a still-young family. If this record were for his son Robert, the record likely would have noted that he was a child, like other children in the registry were marked.



St. Ninian's Church ruins and churchyard. Alexander Russell's parents and some of their descendants were likely buried in this churchyard.

Generation 6 – Jean Swan

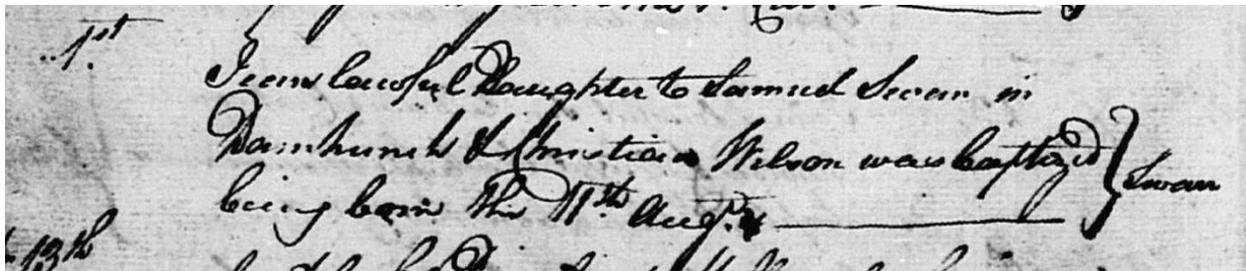
We are direct descendants of Jean Swan.

Birth

As with Alexander Russell, there were a number age-appropriate women named Jean Swan in Scottish parish birth registries, although not nearly as many as for Alexander Russell. As a result, there is too much ambiguity to draw solid conclusions about Jean Swan and her ancestry based on the limited information that we know about her.

I do believe that Jean Swan is the daughter of Samuel Swan² and Christian Wilson. The dates and geographic proximity of Muirkirk Parish, Ayrshire, to both Stonehouse and Avondale Parishes in Lanarkshire are good fits. Also, her father's name was Samuel, the same name as her only son. But without a marriage record for Jean Swan that might have provided a little more information about her, I consider this to be a working hypothesis.

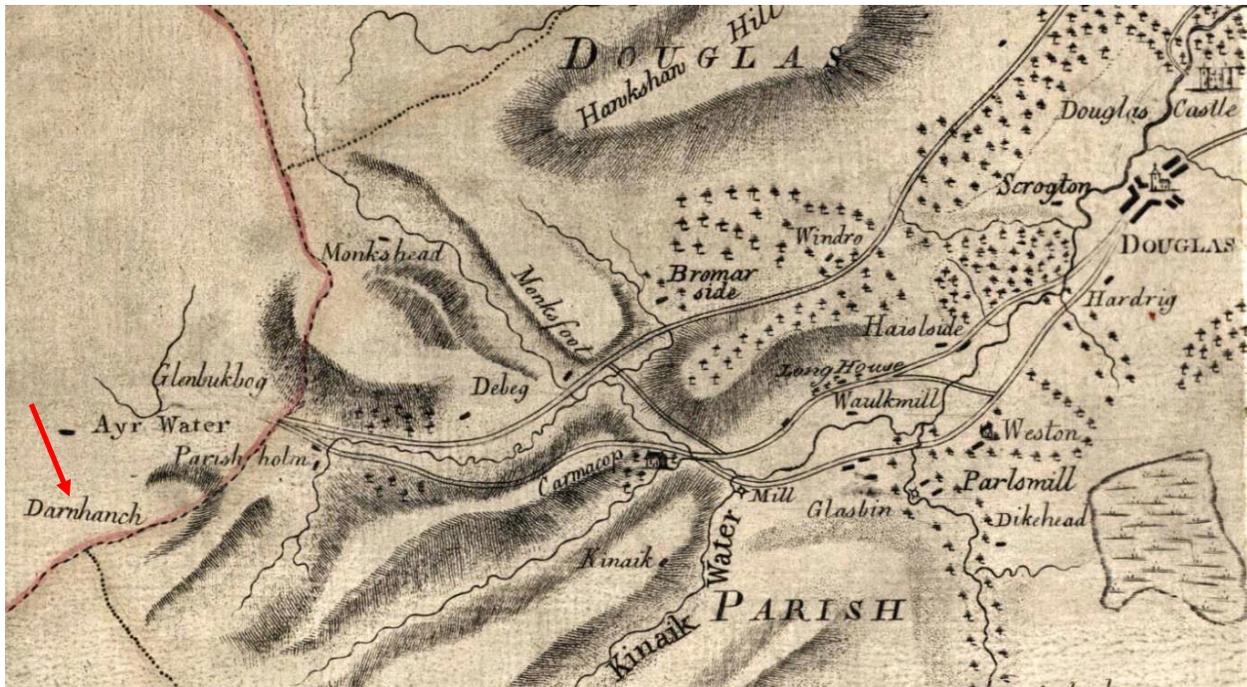
Samuel Swan²'s known ancestry goes back further than any of our other lines in Scotland.



"[September] 1st [1782] – Jean lawful daughter to Samuel Swan in Darnhunch & Christian Wilson was baptized being born the 11th Augt – Swan" [sic]

We are likely direct descendants of Samuel Swan and Christian Wilson's daughter Jean.

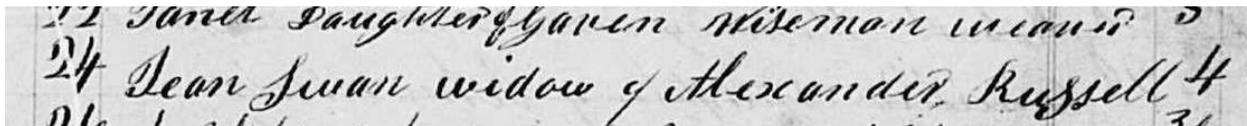
Although Jean Swan's birth and baptism were recorded in Douglas Parish, Lanarkshire, Darnhunch (also spelled "Darnhanch" or "Darnhaunch") was actually located just across both the parish and county boundaries in Muirkirk Parish, Ayrshire. (I'll note that parish boundaries do sometimes change over time, but I have not found evidence that this was the case here.)



This 1773 map shows Darnhanch in Muirkirk Parish, Ayrshire, just west of both the parish and county boundaries.

Death and Burial

Jean Swan was a widow when she died in 1839.



"[January] 24 Jean Swan widow of Alexander Russell 4" [sic]

Her death record does not indicate whether she was buried with her husband.

Generations 1 & 2 – John Weir¹, John Brown, and their Unknown Spouses and their Children

We are likely direct descendants of John Weir¹ and his wife, and of John Brown and his wife.

Our earliest known Scottish ancestors are John Weir¹ and John Brown. Both men were named in the 1700 marriage record for their children William Weir and Jonat Brown. John Weir¹ was living at Auchren in Lesmahagow Parish, Lanarkshire. John Brown was also living in Lesmahagow Parish. Nothing more is known about either man.

If my working hypothesis for our Swan ancestry holds up, then by virtue of their having children old enough to marry in 1700, John Weir¹ and John Brown are our earliest documented ancestors in Scotland. They are also two generations further back than Robert Watson, our earliest known Watson ancestor.

Our documented Weir ties to Auchren, Lesmahagow Parish, Lanarkshire go back even further than do our Watson ties to the Smithy, Dailly Parish, Ayrshire.



This 1755 map shows the village of Lesmahagow, Bankhead and Auchren in Lesmahagow Parish, Lanarkshire.



Auchren, Lesmahagow Parish, Lanarkshire in 2012



Auchren used to be owned by Clan Weir through their Stonebyres Estate.

- For more about our likely family ties to Clan Weir, see [Clan Weir](#).



The Lesmahagow Parish Church was established by King David I in 1140, but the current structure dates back to only 1803. Some of our Weir, Swan, Stewart and Brown ancestors were likely buried in its churchyard.



The original church was built at the Lesmahagow Priory, marked above, which was affiliated with the Abbey of Kelso. A charter granted by King David I in 1144 gave the church to the Abbey of Kelso.

Generations 2 & 3 – Gilbert Swan and Elizabeth Paterson and their Children

We may be direct descendants of Gilbert Swan and Elizabeth Paterson, depending on whether they are the parents of our Thomas Swan¹.

Birth

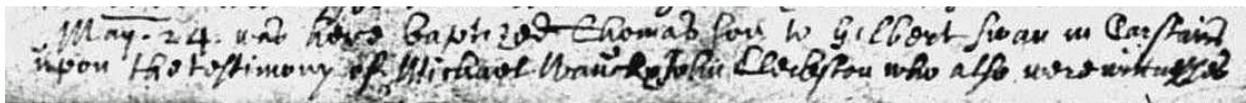
Parish records do not go back far enough to cover the births of Gilbert Swan or Elizabeth Paterson. A search across of Lanarkshire birth records for the likely period of their births did not turn up any useful potential candidates born elsewhere.

Marriage

A search across all Lanarkshire marriage records for the likely period of the marriage between Gilbert Swan and Elizabeth Paterson did not turn up any useful potential candidates.

Children

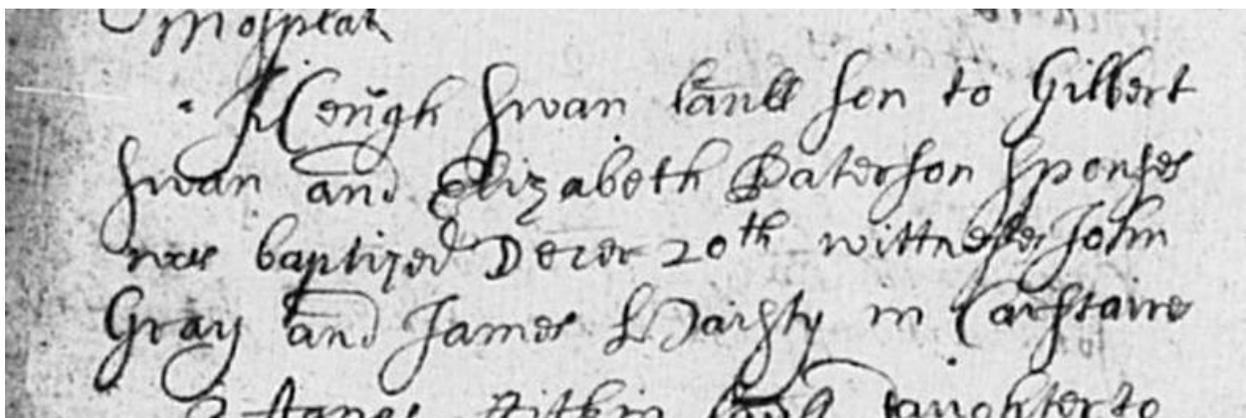
I found a possible birth record for our Thomas Swan¹. This Thomas Swan¹ was born to a Gilbert Swan and an unnamed mother in Carstairs Parish, Lanarkshire, although this baptism was recorded in nearby Pettinain Parish, Lanarkshire. The location is a good fit, and the birth date has Thomas¹ born a year before his spouse.



May 24. was here Baptized Thomas son to Gilbert Swan in Carstairs upon the testimony of Michael Wain & John Clerk who also were witnesses

“May 24 [1691] was [illegible] baptized Thomas son to Gilbert Swan in Carstairs upon that of [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] John [illegible] who also [illegible] witnessed.” [sic]

We may be direct descendants of Gilbert Swan and Elizabeth Paterson’s son Thomas¹.



Heugh Swan son to Gilbert Swan and Elizabeth Paterson spouse was baptized Decr 20th with witnesses John Gray and James L [illegible] in Carstairs

“Heugh Swan [illegible] son to Gilbert Swan and Elizabeth Paterson spouse was baptized Decr 20th [1696] witnesses John Gray and James L [illegible] in Carstairs” [sic]

The birth record for son Heugh was the source of the name of Gilbert Swan's spouse. I have not looked for subsequent information about Heugh Swan.

Deaths and Burials

In searching across Lanarkshire records, I did not find any records that showed when Gilbert Swan and Elizabeth Paterson died or where they were buried.

Generation 2 & 3 – John Stewart and Unknown Spouse and their Children

We are likely direct descendants of John Stewart and his wife.

I identified John Stewart through the birth record of his daughter Mary. However, because of how common the name John Stewart is, I was not able to find any further information that I could conclude with any confidence was about this John Stewart.

Birth

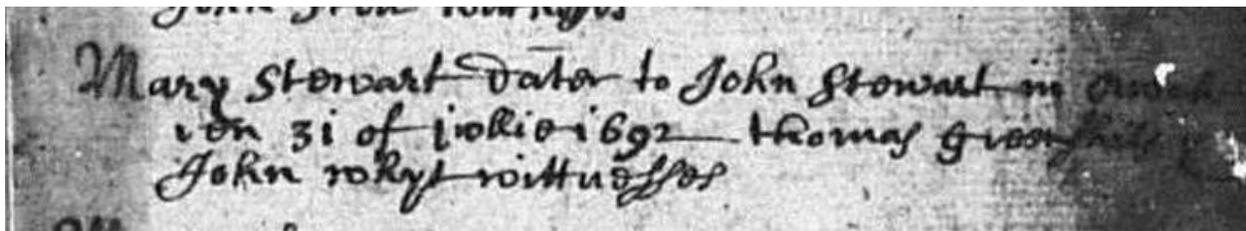
A search across all Lanarkshire birth records for the likely period of John Stewart's birth did not turn up any useful potential candidates.

Marriage

A search across all Lanarkshire marriage records for the likely period of John Stewart's marriage did not turn up any useful potential candidates.

Children

Daughter Mary Stewart was born at Auchren in Lesmahagow Parish, Lanarkshire in 1692.



"Mary Stewart to John Stewart in Auchren 21 of [July] 1692. Thomas [illegible] and John [illegible] witnesses" [sic]

We are likely direct descendants of John Stewart's daughter Mary.

Death and Burial

It is not known when John died. John was likely buried in the churchyard of Lesmahagow Parish Church.



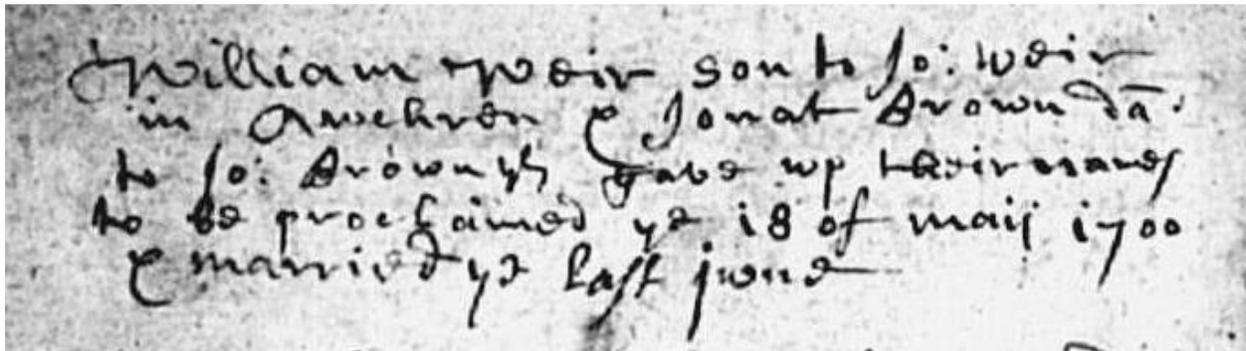
Is this marker in the Lesmahagow Parish Church churchyard for our John Stewart? Probably not. John Stewart was likely born before 1662, and thus likely died before 1750. I thought that the style of this marker more closely resembled late 1700s markers I saw in the churchyard than those from the early to mid-1700s.

Generation 2 & 3 – William Weir¹ and Jonat Brown and their Children

We are likely direct descendants of William Weir¹ and Jonat Brown.

Marriage

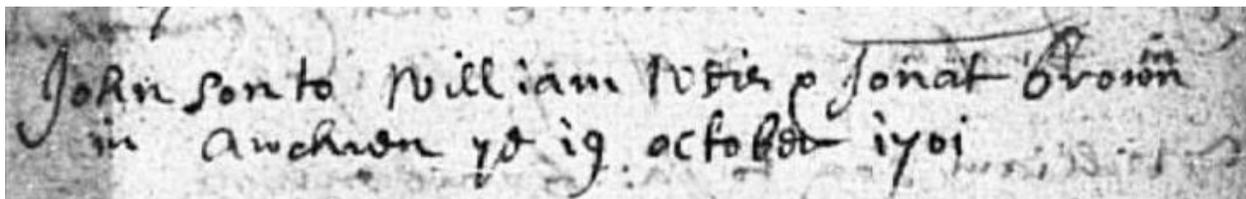
William Wier¹ and Jonat Brown were married in Lesmahagow Parish, Lanarkshire on June 30, 1700.



"William Weir son to [John] Weir in Auchren & Jonat Brown dar to [John] Brown [illegible] to be proclaimed [illegible] 18 of May 1700 & married [illegible] last June [June 30]" [sic]

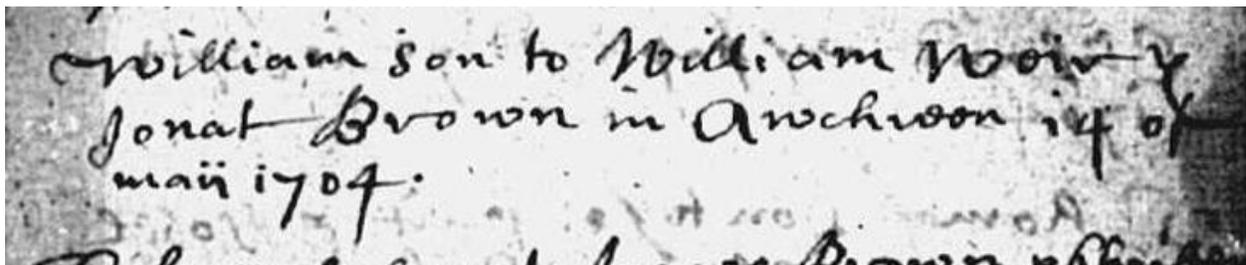
Children

William Weir¹ and Jonat Brown had at least two children, both born at Auchren, Lesmahagow Parish, Lanarkshire.



"John son to William Weir & Jonat Brown in Auchren [baptized] 19 October 1701." [sic]

We are likely direct descendants of William Weir¹ and Jonat Brown's son John². (see below)



"William son to William Weir & Jonat Brown in Auchren [was baptized] 14 of May 1704" [sic]

I have not looked for subsequent information about William Weir².

Deaths and Burials

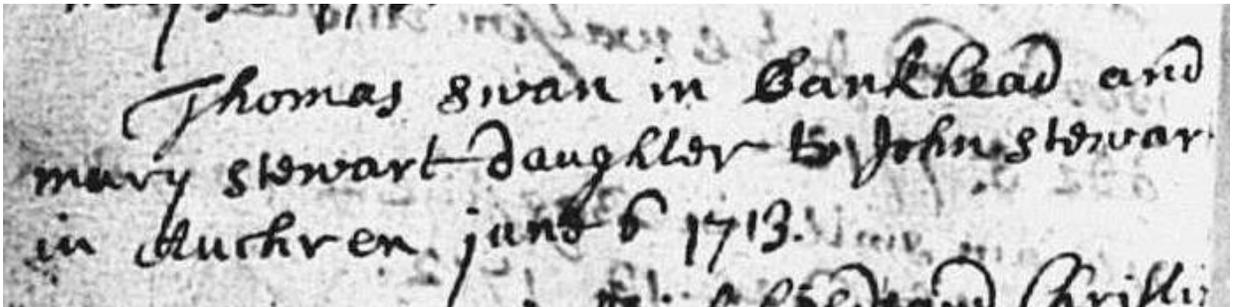
In searching across Lanarkshire records, I did not find any records that showed when William Weir¹ and Jonat Brown died or where they were buried.

Generation 3 & 4 – Thomas Swan¹ and Mary Stewart and their Children

We are likely direct descendants of Thomas Swan¹ and Mary Stewart.

Marriage

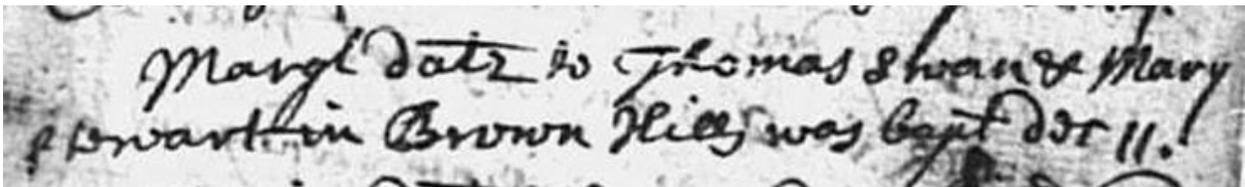
The marriage record for Thomas Swan¹ and Mary Stewart indicates that Thomas¹ was living at Bankhead and Mary was living at Auchren, both in Lesmahagow Parish, Lanarkshire, at the time of their June 6, 1713 marriage.



Thomas Swan in Bankhead and Mary Stewart daughter to John Stewart in Auchren June 6, 1713." [sic]

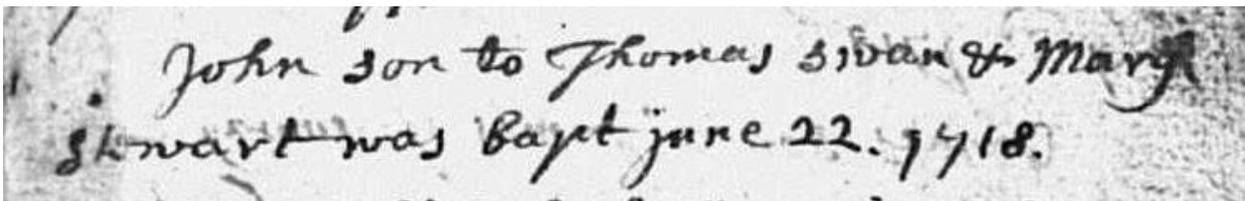
Children

Thomas Swan¹ and Mary Stewart had at least seven children. The first four were born in Lesmahagow Parish, Lanarkshire.



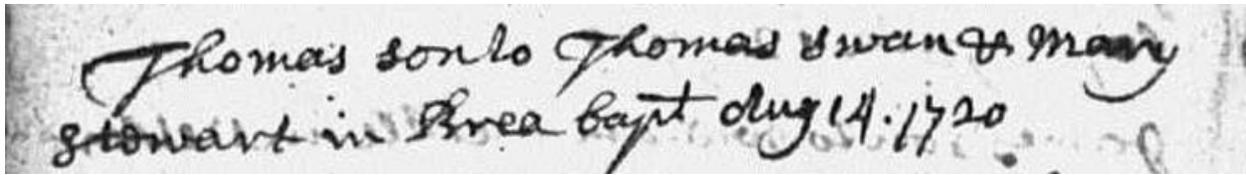
"Margt datr to Thomas Swan & Mary Stewart in Brown Hill was bapt Decr 11 [1715]" [sic]

I have not looked for subsequent information about Margaret Swan.



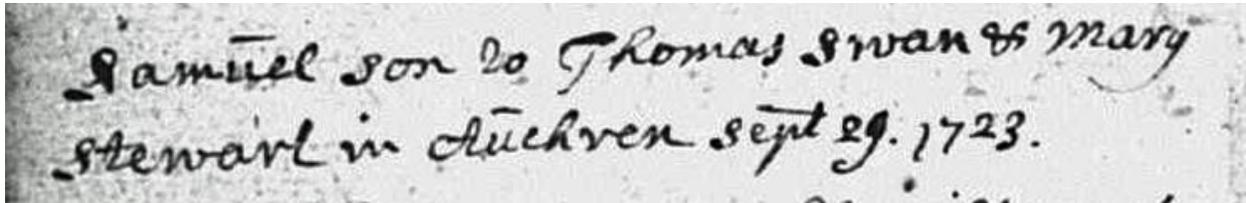
"John son to Thomas Swan & Mary Stewart was bapt June 22, 1718" [sic]

I have not looked for subsequent information about John Swan.



"Thomas son to Thomas Swan & Mary Stewart in Brae bapt Aug 14, 1720" [sic]

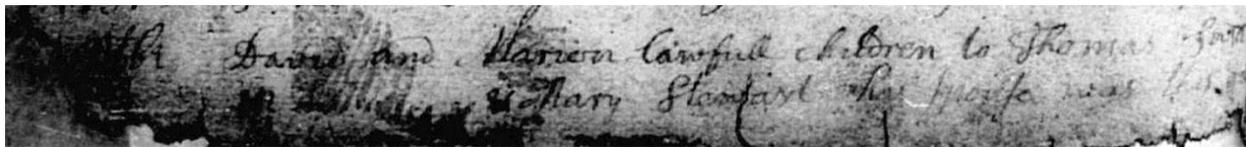
I have not looked for subsequent information about Thomas Swan².



"Samuel son to Thomas Swan & Mary Stewart in Auchren Sept 29 1723." [sic]

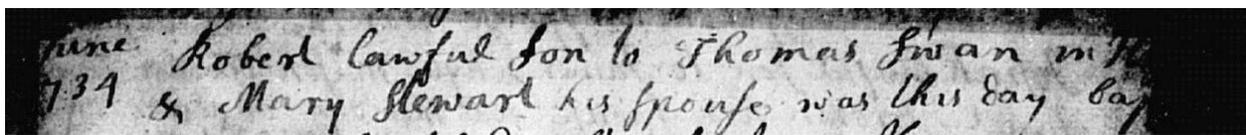
We are likely direct descendants of Thomas Swan¹ and Mary Stewart's son Samuel¹. (see below)

At some point in the next eight years, Thomas Swan¹, Mary Stewart and their family moved to neighboring Douglas Parish, Lanarkshire, where their last three children were born.



"1 Novr 1731 David and Marion lawful children to Thomas Swan in [illegible, Douglas Parish, Lanarkshire] & Mary Stewart his spouse was this day baptized." [sic]

I have not looked for subsequent information about twins David¹ and Marion Swan.



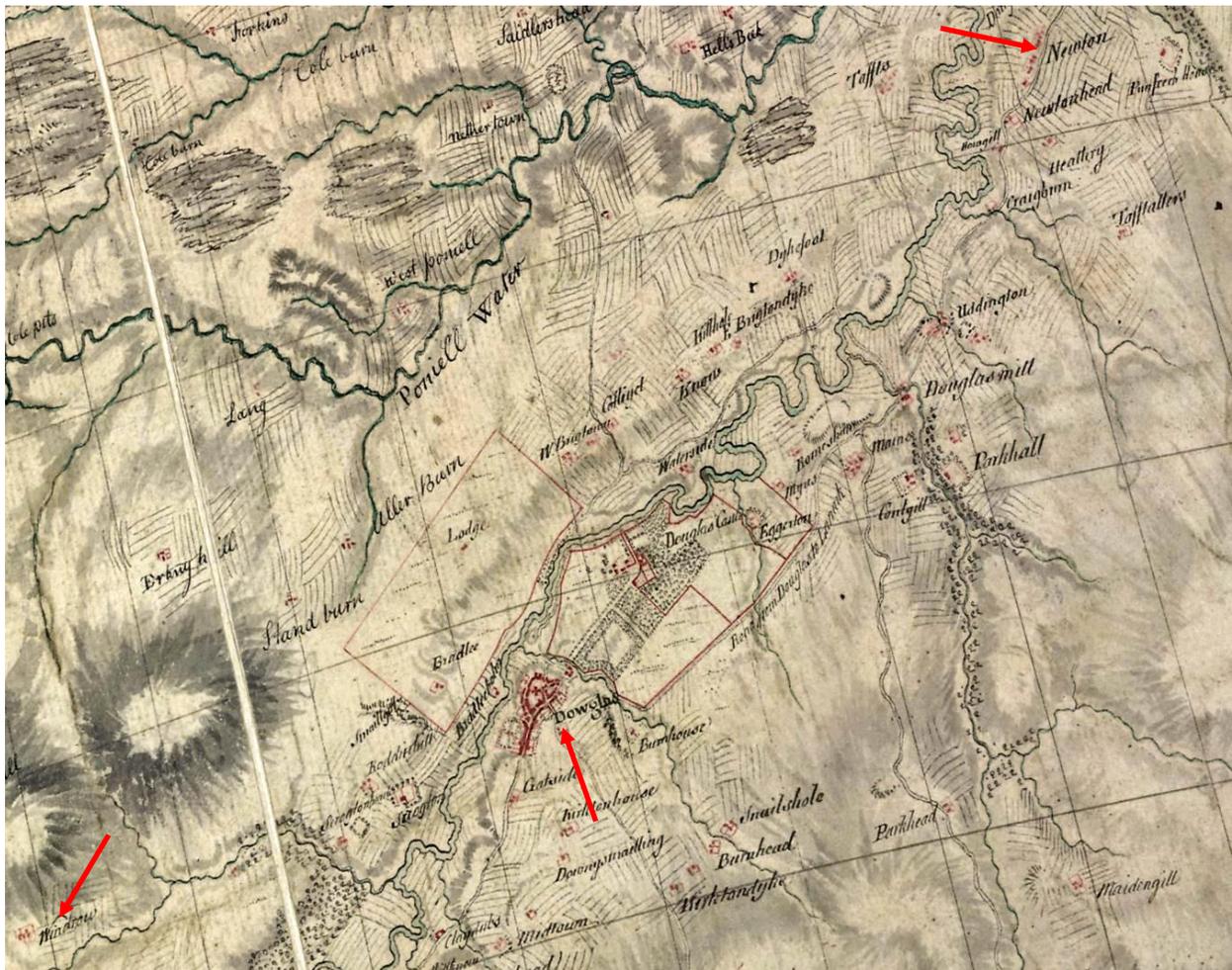
"30 June 1734 Robert lawful son to Thomas Swan in [illegible] & Mary Stewart his spouse was this day baptized." [sic]

I have not looked for subsequent information about Robert Swan.

The eight-year gap between children from 1723 and 1731 struck me as odd, but I did not find evidence that Thomas Swan and Mary Stewart lived anywhere else in Scotland or had other children during those years. However, gaps in birth registries were not uncommon in those days. During those years, they may have lived in a parish whose birth records from that time have been lost.

Deaths and Burials

In searching across Lanarkshire records, I did not find any records that showed when Thomas Swan¹ or Mary Stewart died or where they were buried.



This 1755 map shows the village of Douglas (center) as well as Windrow (left) and Newton (right) in Douglas Parish, Lanarkshire.



Windrow, Douglas Parish, Lanarkshire, was a small farmstead that no longer exists. It was located just beyond the trees in the distant left.



St. Bride's Church of Douglas ruins and churchyard, Douglas, Douglas Parish, Lanarkshire. St. Bride's once served as the parish church of Douglas Parish. Some of our Swan and Weir ancestors and their descendants were likely buried in this churchyard. The clock on the church tower is believed to be the oldest working clock in Scotland.

Generation 3 & 4 – John Weir² and Margaret Callan and their Children

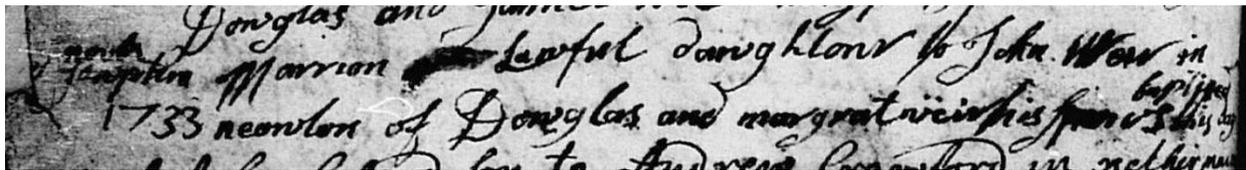
We are likely direct descendants of John Weir² and Margaret Callan.

Marriage

I did not find a marriage record for John Weir² and Margaret Callan in the parish church registries of Lanarkshire. I found Margaret's name through their daughter's birth record. I have not found any further information about her.

Children

I found only one child for John Weir² and Margaret Callan, born in Douglas Parish, Lanarkshire.



"1 Novr 1733 Marrion Lawful daughter to John Weir in Newton of Douglas and Margrat [Callan] Weir his spouse was baptized this day" [sic]

We are likely direct descendants of John Weir² and Margaret Callan's daughter Marion. (see below)

Deaths and Burials

In searching across Lanarkshire records, I did not find any records that showed when John Weir² and Margaret Callan died or where they were buried.

Generations 4 & 5 – Samuel Swan¹ and Marion Weir and their Children

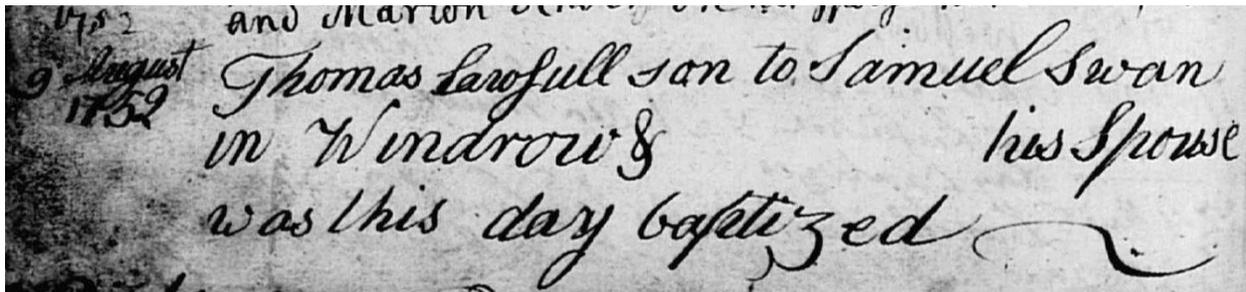
We are likely direct descendants of Samuel Swan¹ and Marion Weir.

Marriage

I did not find a marriage record for Samuel Swan¹ and Marion Weir in the parish church registries of Lanarkshire.

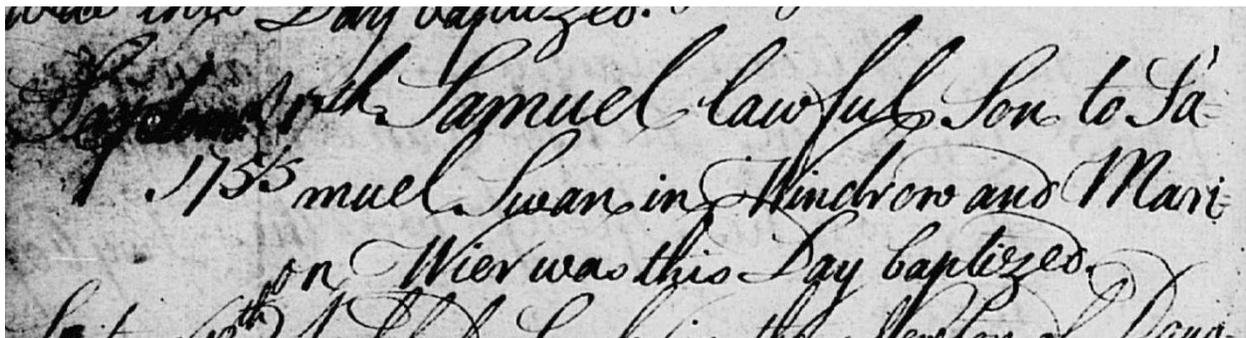
Children

Samuel Swan¹ and Marion Weir had at least three children, all born at Windrow, Douglas Parish, Lanarkshire.



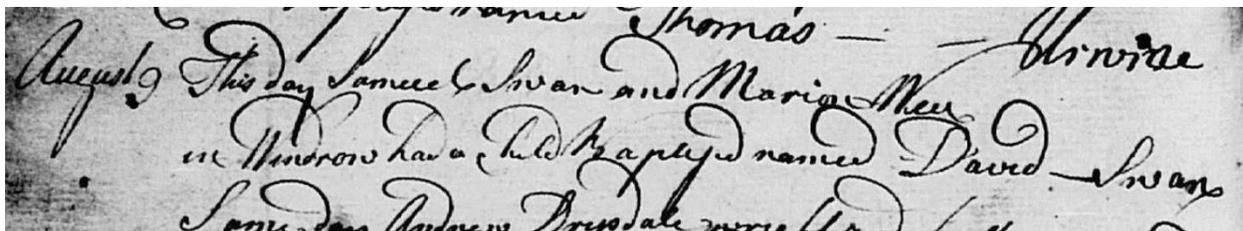
"9 August 1752 Thomas lawful son to Samuel Swan in Windrow & [Marion Weir] his spouse was this day baptized." [sic]

I have not looked for subsequent information about Thomas Swan³.



"September 4th 1755 Samuel lawful Son to Samuel Swan in Windrow and Marion Wier was this day baptized" [sic]

We are likely direct descendants of Samuel Swan¹ and Marion Weir's son Samuel². (see below)



"August 9 [1761] This day Samuel Swan and Marion Weir in Windrow had a child baptized named David Swan" [sic]

I have not looked for subsequent information about David Swan².

Deaths and Burials

In searching across Lanarkshire records, I did not find any records that showed when Samuel Swan¹ and Marion Weir died or where they were buried.

Generations 5 & 6 – Samuel Swan² and Christian Wilson and their Children

We are likely direct descendants of Samuel Swan² and Christian Wilson.

Marriage

I did not find a marriage record for Samuel Swan² and Christian Wilson in the parish church registries of Lanarkshire. I found Christian's name through their children's birth records. I did not find a birth record for Christian Wilson.

Children

Samuel Swan² and Christian Wilson had at least five children. But here is where things get complicated.

Daughter Jean Swan's birth was recorded in the Douglas Parish Church registry, and a sister Christian was born in nearby Carmichael Parish a few years later. But then, the births of four daughters of Samuel Swan² and Christian Wilson, including Jean and Christian as well as Elizabeth and Mary, were recorded together on a single page in the Muirkirk Parish, Ayrshire birth registry. That page has records for births for a number of people that date from 1760 to 1791 in non-chronological order.

I suspect that the births of these four daughters were originally recorded in other parish church registries, but for some unknown reason, Samuel Swan² and Christian Wilson later wanted to have them recorded in the Muirkirk Parish Church registry as well. The birth dates provided here for both Jean Swan and her sister Christian Swan differ from those on their original birth and baptism records. I believe that the original birth records are correct, as they were created contemporarily to the actual births and baptisms.

The birth and baptism of a fifth daughter, Marion, was properly recorded among the 1788 births in the Muirkirk Parish Church birth and baptism registry.

All of the parishes involved are close to one another. Douglas and Carmichael Parishes in Lanarkshire and Muirkirk Parish in Ayrshire all border Lesmahagow Parish, and Muirkirk Parish also borders Avondale Parish, where Jean Swan ended up.

We are likely direct descendants of Samuel Swan² and Christian Wilson's daughter Jean. See above for more about Jean Swan.

In addition to the record for daughter Jean Swan (see above), the birth and baptism records for Samuel Swan² and Christian Wilson's other children include the following:

July and Baptized the Twentry ninth of that month
Was Born Christian Lawful Daughter to Samuel
Swan and Christian Wilson in Flats and
Baptized the Thirty first of that month

“July 31 [1785] Was born Christian Lawful Daughter to Samuel Swan and Christian Wilson in Flats [Carmichael Parish, Lanarkshire] and Baptized the thirty first of that month – Swan” [sic]

Swan Samuel Swan (and Christian Wilson
a Daughter born upon the 17th of July
(and Baptized in the Church upon the
24th Curd. named Marion

“Swan – Samuel Swan and Christian Wilson a Daughter born when the 17th of July [1788] and Baptized in the [Muirkirk Parish, Ayrshire] Church upon the 24th [illegible] named Marion.” [sic]

Samuel Swan and Christian Wilson
a daughter born upon the 13th of Feb: 1776
named Elizabeth.
* D^o D^o a daughter born upon the
12th of June 1779. named Jean.
D^o D^o another daughter born upon the
6th of Aug: 1782. named Mary.
D^o D^o another daughter born upon
the 28th of July 1785. named Christian.

This unusual entry in the Muirkirk Parish Church registry captures birth information for their first four daughters at once. On the same page as this entry were other entries dated from 1760 to 1791.

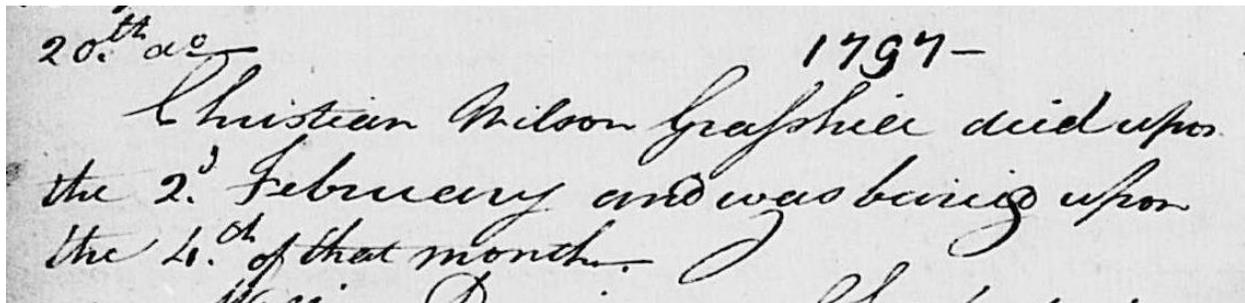
These were added to the Muirkirk Parish Church registry no earlier than 1791. I have not looked for subsequent information about daughters Marion, Christian, Elizabeth or Mary.

A major deposit of iron ore was discovered in the area in the late 1700s, and Muirkirk became a major producer of iron in 1787. Given the timing, and I wonder if Samuel Swan¹ and Christian Wilson's actions were tied to seeking new work opportunities in the area.

Deaths and Burials

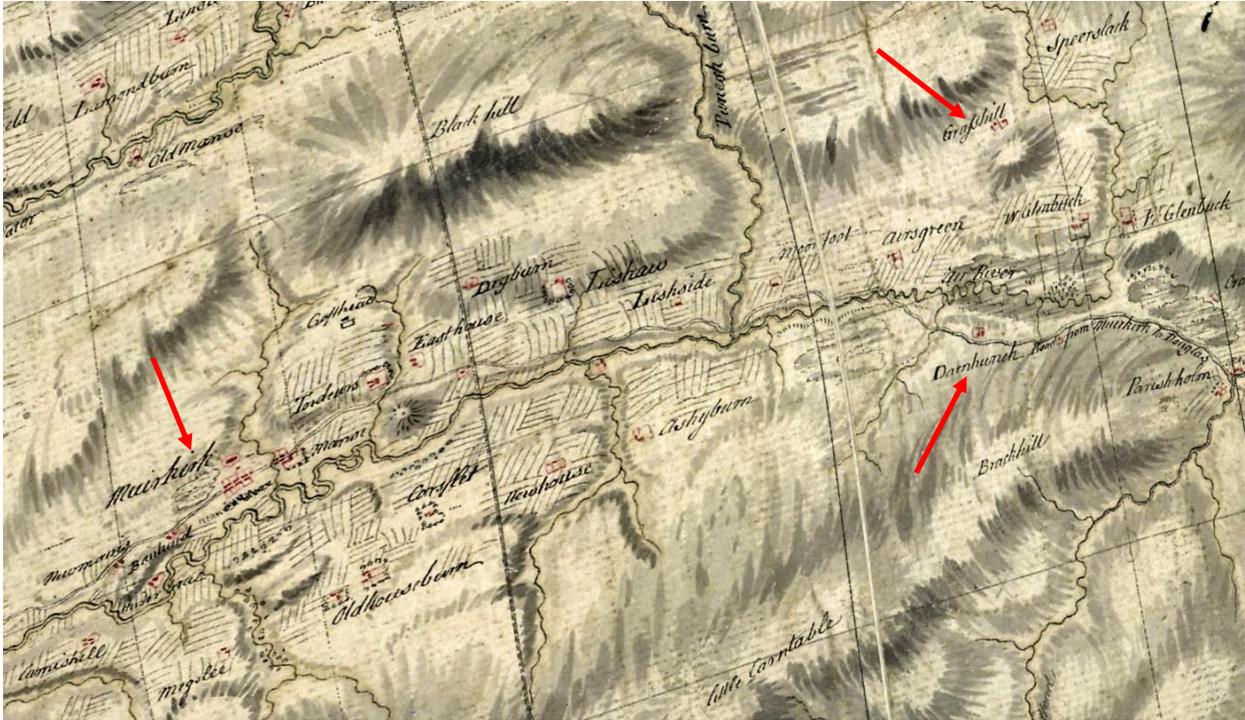
In searching across Lanarkshire records, I did not find any records that showed when Samuel Swan² died or where he was buried.

The death record for Christian Wilson put her at Grasshill, Muirkirk Parish, Ayrshire, not far from Darnhunch, where daughter Jean Swan was born.



20th ac 1797-
Christian Wilson Grasshill died upon
the 2^d February and was buried upon
the 4th of that month.

"20th [February] 1797 – Christian Wilson Grasshill died upon the 2d February and was buried upon the 4th of that month." [sic]



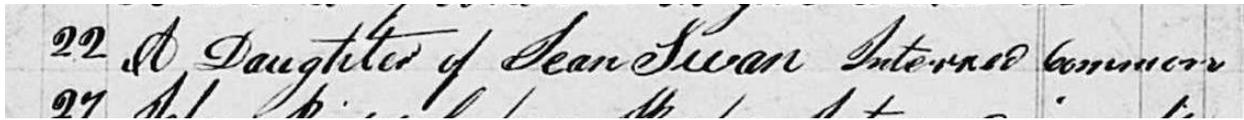
This 1755 map shows Darnhunch (lower right), where Jean Swan was born and Grasshill (upper right), where her mother Christian Wilson died in eastern Muirkirk Parish, Ayrshire. Nothing remains of Grasshill today.



Muirkirk Parish Church in the village of Muirkirk, Muirkirk Parish, Ayrshire. This church was built in 1812, replacing one that was originally built in 1631. The village grew up around the church, and both the village and the parish were named after the original church, the Kirk of the Muirs.

Jean Russell (Alexander Russell and Jean Swan's daughter)

Following her birth, Jean Russell appeared in the church registry only one more time, when she apparently died in Avondale Parish, Lanarkshire, in 1822 when she was fifteen years old.

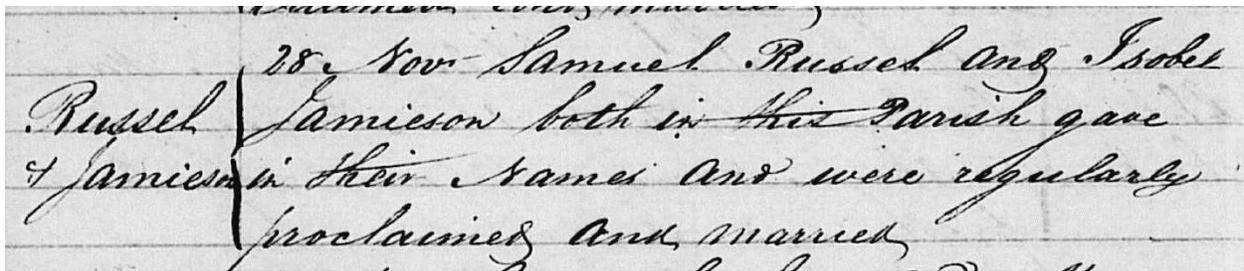


"[August] 22 A Daughter of Jean Swan Interned Common [Grave]" [sic]

I believe that this death record is for Jean Russell. Alexander Russell and Jean Swan had five children. Daughter Jean was the only one of their children for whom I found no future records or other information. This record does not mention her father Alexander Russell, who had died two years earlier.

Samuel Russell (Alexander Russell and Jean Swan's son)

Samuel married Isobel Jamieson in Loudoun Parish, Ayrshire on November 28, 1835.



"Russell & Jamieson – 28 Novr Samuel Russel and Isobel Jamieson both in this Parish gave in their names and were regularly proclaimed and married" [sic]

Samuel and Isobel lived in the village of Darvel, Loudoun Parish, for much of their lives, where Samuel worked as an Agriculture Laborer.

Samuel and Isobel had six children, including the following:

- Margaret Russell, born September 19, 1835 in Darvel, Loudoun Parish, Ayrshire
- Jean Russell, born October 6, 1838, in Darvel, Loudoun Parish, Ayrshire
- Isobel Russell, born March 12, 1841, in Darvel, Loudoun Parish, Ayrshire
- Alexander Russell, born July 8, 1844, in Darvel, Loudoun Parish, Ayrshire
- Agnes Russell, born November 8, 1850, in Darvel, Loudoun Parish, Ayrshire
- Janet Russell, born August 13, 1855, in Darvel, Loudoun Parish, Ayrshire

For the most part, the next generations of their descendants remained in eastern Ayrshire, including Loudoun and Galston Parishes and in nearby Kilmarnock.



Samuel Swan and his family once lived at 76 East Main Street, Darvel, Loudoun Parish, Ayrshire. The house no longer exists, but this is the view of Darvel in 2012 from in front of where his house once stood, and includes the steeple of the parish church.

In his later years after his wife died, Samuel became a road surfaceman. He was living on Orchard Street in the village of Galston, Galston Parish, Ayrshire, when he died in 1890.

120	Samuel Russell	1890	m	80	Alexander Russell (deceased)	Senility	Thomas Swan Loss in last Orson.	1890
	(widower of Isabella Jaimeson)	December Eighth 10hr 15 m. a.m.		Years	Jean Russell M. S. Swan (deceased)	as cert. by M. S. Swan M. A. M. B. C. W.		December 8th at Galston
		Orchard Street Galston						James B. H. H. H. M. S. W.

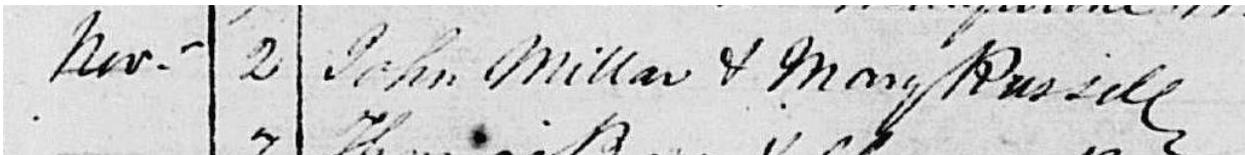
"Samuel Russell, General Laborer, (widower of Isabella Jaimeson), December Eighth, 1890, 10hr 15m. a.m., Orchard Street, Galston, m, 80 years, Alexander Russell, Farmer (deceased), Jean Russell, Swan (deceased), Senility," [sic]



Orchard Street in Galston, Galston Parish, Ayrshire is lined with old weavers cottages. Samuel Russell's last residence was at an unknown house number on Orchard Street.

Mary Hamilton Russell (Alexander Russell and Jean Swan's daughter)

Mary married John Millar¹ in Avondale Parish, Lanarkshire on November 2, 1839.



"Novr 2 John Millar & Mary Russell" [sic]

John¹ and Mary lived in Ballgreen, Strathaven, Avondale Parish, where John¹ was a cotter, a small farmer.



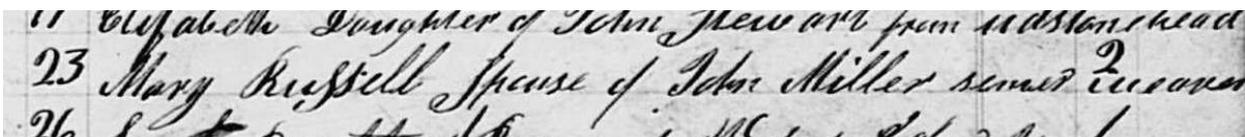
The Ballgreen name survives in Strathaven's Ballgreen Community Center.

John¹ and Mary had two children, including the following:

- Jean Millar, born March 11, 1841, in Strathaven, Avondale Parish, Lanarkshire
- John² Millar, born October 27, 1843, in Strathaven, Avondale Parish, Lanarkshire

For the most part the next generations of their descendants remained in Strathaven.

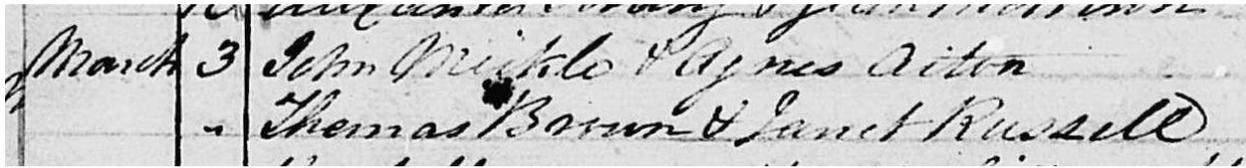
Mary died in Strathaven, Avondale Parish on June 23, 1845.



"23 Mary Russell Spouse of John Miller [illegible] weaver" [sic]

Janet Russell (Alexander Russell and Jean Swan's daughter)

Janet married Thomas Brown¹ in Avondale Parish, Lanarkshire on March 3, 1838.



"March 3 Thomas Brown & Janet Russell" [sic]

Thomas¹ and Janet had seven children, including the following:

- Joseph Brown, born about 1840, in Strathaven, Avondale Parish, Lanarkshire
- Jean Brown, born in 1842, in Strathaven, Avondale Parish, Lanarkshire
- Isabella Brown, born about 1846, in Strathaven, Avondale Parish, Lanarkshire
- Alexander Brown, born in 1849, in Strathaven, Avondale Parish, Lanarkshire
- Ann Brown, born December 6, 1850, in Strathaven, Avondale Parish, Lanarkshire
- Janet Russel Brown, born Mary 9, 1854, in Strathaven, Avondale Parish, Lanarkshire
- Thomas Brown², born November 2, 1856, in Glasgow, Lanarkshire

The next generations of their descendants could be found living mostly in Strathaven, Glasgow and Greenock, Scotland, and in England.

Thomas¹ and Janet lived for a number of years in Strathaven, where Thomas¹ worked as a handloom weaver. In about 1855, they moved to Glasgow, where Thomas¹ became a policeman. In the 1861 U.K. Census, their children held a variety of jobs in Glasgow, including poulterer, warehouse girl, shop girl and message boy.



When the Browns lived in Glasgow, they lived at 78 Bell Street for a number of years.

By 1880, Thomas¹ and Janet had returned to Strathaven, where they worked at the Caledonian Railway Tavern as wine and spirit merchants until they died.

	Janet Browns	1885, March	66 years	Alexander Russell, Farmer (deceased)	Heart Disease Several Years	Joseph Browns Dor	1885, March 31 st at Strathaven
32	Wine & Spirit Retailer (Widow of Thomas Brown, Wine & Spirit Retailer)	Thirty first Flemington		Jean Russell, M.D. Swan (deceased)	as cont. by Joseph Russell M.D.	(251 Pruthieson St. Glasgow)	James Davidson Resident Registrar J.H.

“Janet Brown, Wine & Spirit Retailer (widow of Thomas Brown, Wine & Spirit Retailer), March Thirty first, 1885, 9 h. 0 m A.M., Caledonian Railway Tavern, Flemington, Strathaven, F, 66 years, Alexander Russell, Farmer (deceased), Jean Russell, Swan (deceased), Heart Disease Several Years,” [sic]



The train station in Strathaven where Thomas and Janet Russell Brown worked. This line was shut down years ago, the station was torn down, and the area on this side of the bridge was filled in.

Although Jemima's siblings Samuel, Mary and Janet had a number of children and several grandchildren, to date I found only one who emigrated to North America, specifically to Manitoba, Canada. Jemima Russell Wasson is at this writing the only one of Alexander Russell and Jean Swan's descendants I found to have emigrated to the United States.

Prepared by Mark David Wasson
Last updated August 31, 2021