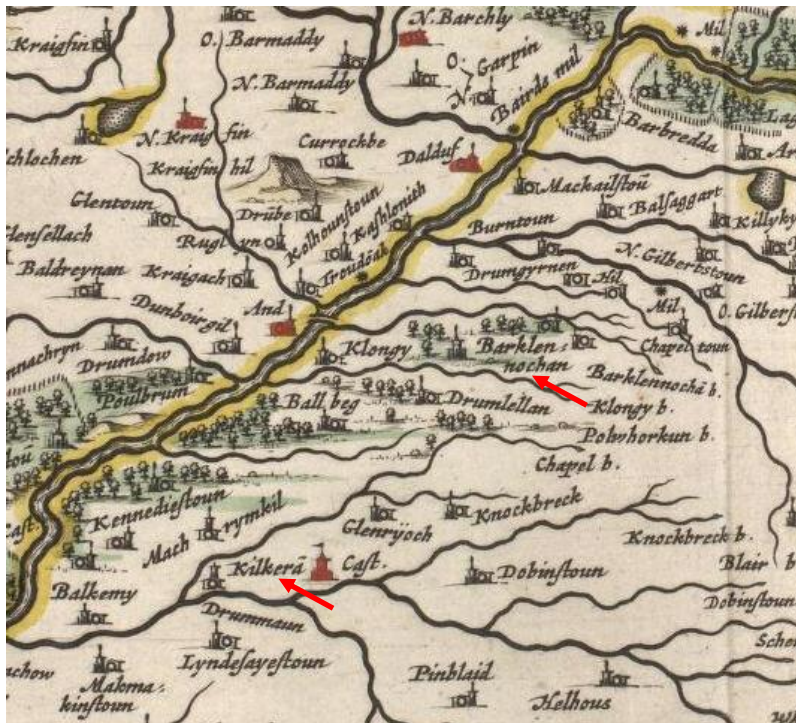




Craighead, Dailly Parish, Ayrshire, Scotland

John Watson and Jane Lambie lived at Craighead when four of their children were born, including son John. We are direct descendants of John, Jane and their son John.

Some Scottish farm names change, disappear or get reused at new locations over time. These changes are not just simple spelling variations. For example, the Fergusson family originally established Kilkerran, their family home, closer to present-day site of the village of Dailly at around 1400. The family bought Barclanachan and moved there in 1686, bringing the Kilkerran name with them.



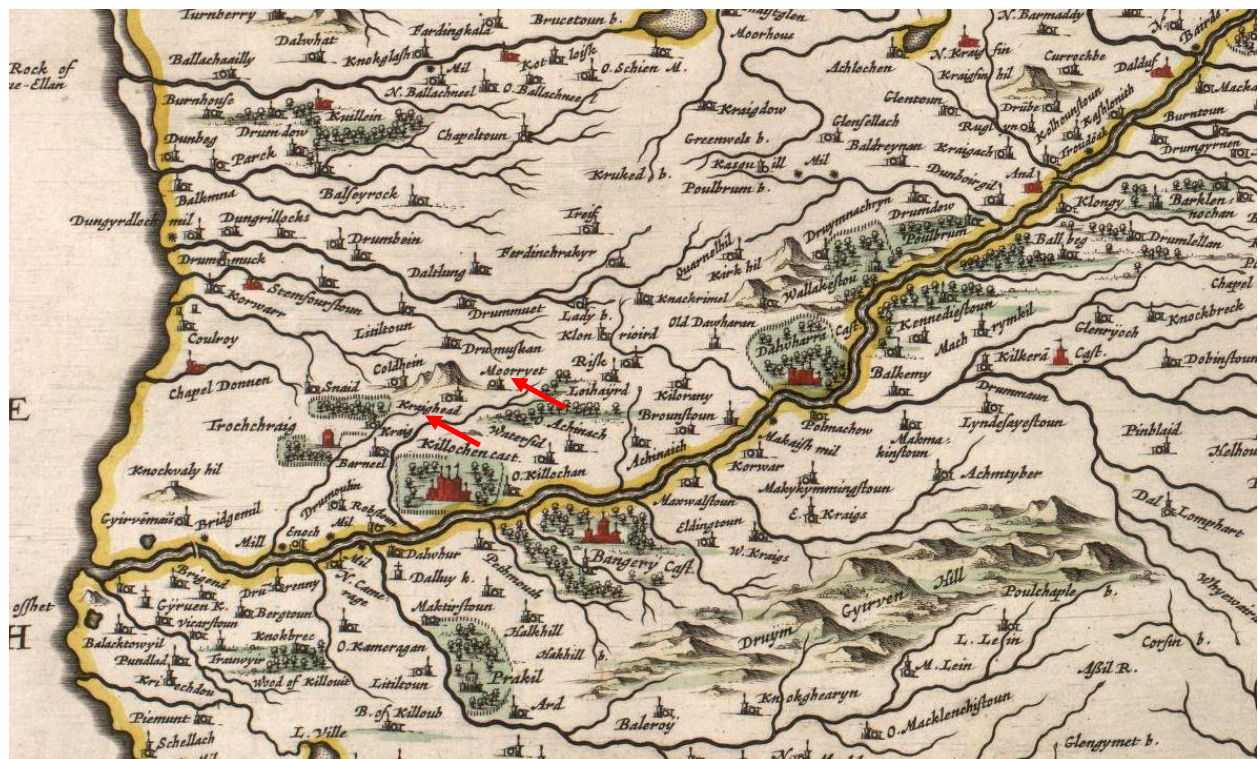
This 1654 map shows Kilkerran Castle (Kilkera Cast.) in the lower center left, where the Fergussons originally built it, and Barclanachan (Barklennochan) right of center, just above Drummellan (Drumlellan), before the Fergusson family bought Barclanachan.

There used to be a different farm named Hawkhill in Dailly Parish that was located further to the south than the Hawkhill farm where John Watson and Jane Lambie lived.

For a period that included the years 1808 through 1813, John Watson worked as a farm servant at Craighead. He and his wife had four children while they lived there: twins Agnes and James in 1808, Janet in 1811 and John in 1813.

But where was Craighead? Today's Craighead was named Moorgate and variants of that name, including Moorryet, Muiryeat, and Muirgate, in church records and on older maps. When Craighead first appeared on maps, it was the name of the farm called High Craighead today. Moorgate eventually became Low Craighead and then just Craighead. This change occurred between 1800 and 1850.

The question is whether High Craighead or Low Craighead was referred to as Craighead when John and Jane Watson lived there. The question is interesting to us because we are direct descendants of John Watson, Jane Lambie and their son John, giving us ancestral ties to Craighead.



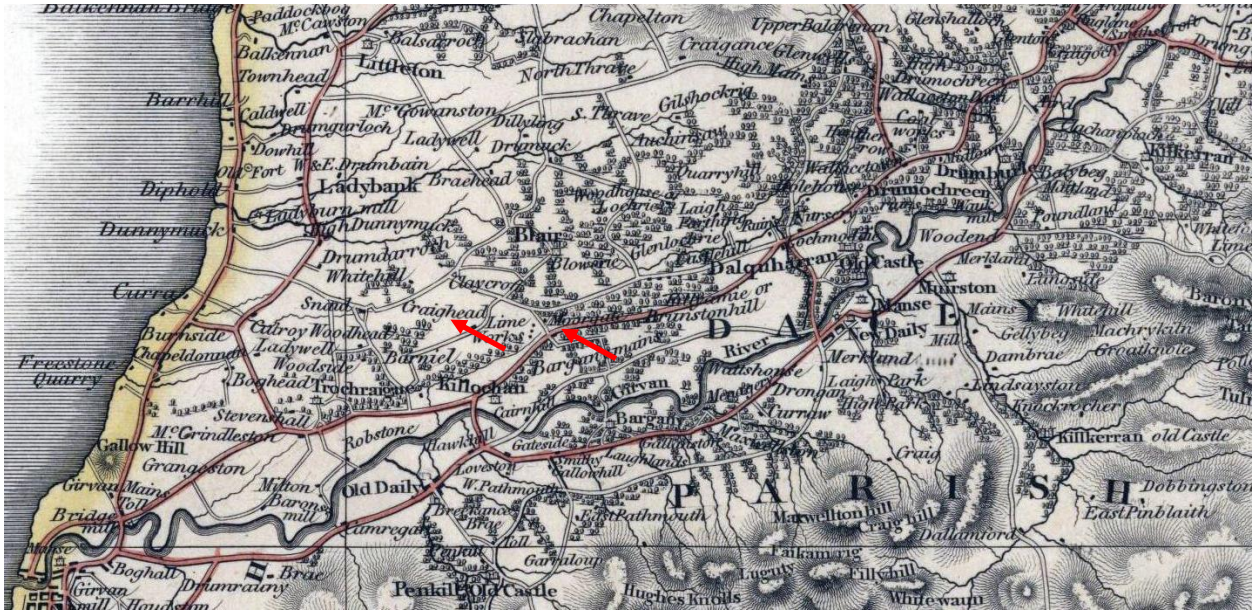
This 1654 map is the earliest I've found that shows Craighead (Kraighead). It also shows Moorgate (Moorryet). Their relative positions are consistent with High Craighead and Low Craighead, but the map is not very specific and lacks roads to provide points of reference.



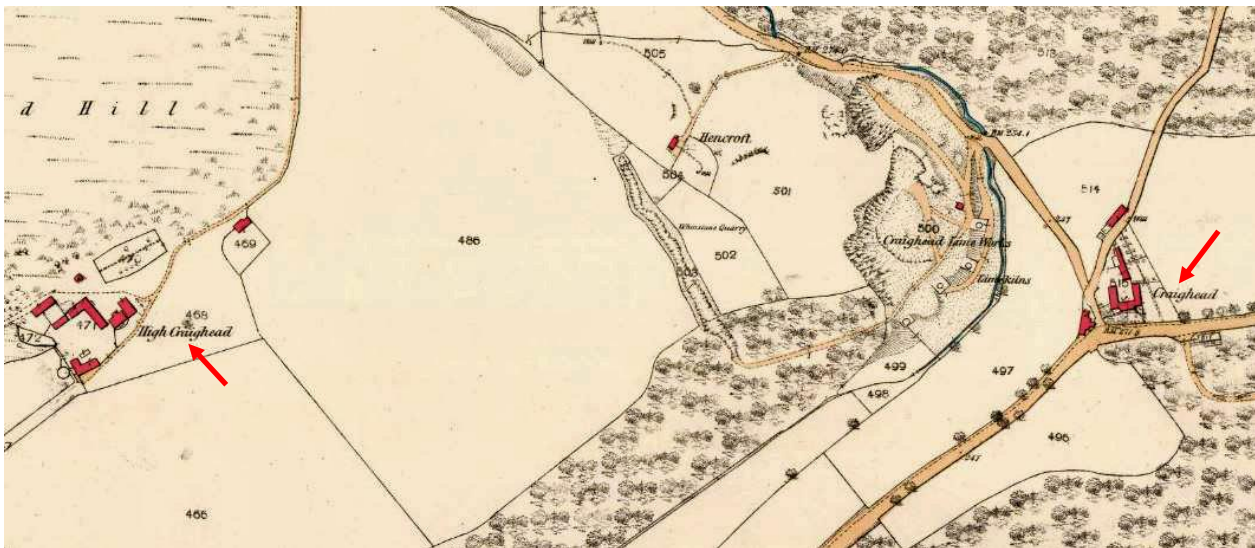
This 1755 map shows both Craighead and Moorgate (Muiryeat) about where we would expect them to be at that time, relative to the road, the nearby hill and Killochan Castle.



This 1775 map shows Craighead (Craig) but not Moorgate.



This 1832 map clearly shows both Craighead and Moorgate in their expected locations relative to the roads and to the Lime works. The date of this map would seem to settle the issue.



In maps from 1856 on, Craighead is located east of Killochan Castle at an intersection along the road to New Dailly. This is where Moorgate used to be. High Craighead is located on a hill to its west. High Craighead had been labeled Craighead, Kraighead or Craig on the earlier maps.

Sometimes maps are more than a little out of date by the time they are published. 1832 is close enough to the time that John Watson and Jane Lambie were living at Craighead that I wanted to try to verify this further.

To do this, I started checking pages in the Dailly Parish Church birth registry for children born at Craighead, High Craighead, Low Craighead and Moorgate during the early 1800s. I didn't have to

look very far. On the same page of the birth records that logged the April 21, 1811 birth of John Watson and Jane Lambie's daughter Janet at Craighead, I found the June 28th birth of Thomas Knox, son of William Knox and Margaret Stewart at Moorgate. During this time period, I found a number of other Craighead births and a few more Moorgate births, but no High Craighead or Low Craighead births.

Between these birth record finds and the 1832 map, it is pretty clear that Craighead in the birth records for John Watson and Jane Lambie's children refers to what today is known as High Craighead, and that what is known as Craighead today was Moorgate at that time.

When I visited Dailly Parish in 2012, I had used the 1856 map to identify the locations of farms relevant to our family. I was especially pleased when the caretaker gave me a brief tour of Craighead. Alas, I ended up with a number of nice photos of what was once Moorgate.

The Ayrshire Ordnance Survey Name Books 1855-1857 described High Craighead (formerly Craighead) and Craighead (formerly Moorgate) this way:

No. 21. *Sheet 50, 50 Parish of Dailly* 37

List of Names as written on the Plan	Various modes of Spelling the same Names	Authority for those modes of Spelling	Situation	Descriptive Remarks, or other General Observations which may be considered of Interest
<i>High Craighead</i> High Craighead	<i>High Craighead</i> do D ^o	<i>P. Richardson & C. Morris</i> <i>Thomas Scott</i> <i>John Willit.</i>	<i>L. 10</i>	<i>A farm Steading of one Storey, houses all slated and in good repair - Property of the Duchesse de Coigny -</i>
<i>Burnhead</i> Burnhead	<i>Burnhead</i> do D ^o	<i>P. Richardson</i> <i>Thomas Scott</i> <i>John Willit.</i>	<i>L. 10</i>	<i>One of the old houses, one Storey in good repair Property of the Duchesse de Coigny</i>
<i>Craighead</i> Craighead	<i>Low Craighead</i> do D ^o <i>Craighead</i>	<i>P. Richardson</i> <i>Thomas Scott</i> <i>John Willit.</i> <i>Robertson's County Map</i>	<i>+ L. 10</i>	<i>A compact farm Steading, dwelling house two Storey offices one all slated and in excellent repair Property of the Duchesse de Coigny -</i>

Ayrshire Ordnance Survey Descriptive Remarks for High Craighead (formerly Craighead): "A farm steading of one storey house all Slated and in good repair - Property of the Duchesse de Coigny" [sic]

Ayrshire Ordnance Survey Descriptive Remarks for Craighead (a.k.a. Low Craighead, formerly Moorgate): A compact farm Steading dwelling house two Storey offices one all slated and in excellent repair property of the Duchesse de Coigny" [sic]

However, because I wasn't sure at the time of what the relationship was between Craighead and High Craighead, I did make a point of getting some photos of High Craighead. There wasn't a good view of High Craighead from the road in front of it, but its hillside location made it visible from other locations.

Photos of High Craighead, formerly Craighead



High Craighead, once Craighead



The view of High Craighead from the nearby road doesn't show much.



High Craighead was known as Craighead when John Watson and Jane Lambie lived here.



High Craighead



Killochan Castle with High Craighead in the distance



High Craighead land



Today's Craighead was Moorgate when John Watson and Jane Lambie lived at Craighead.



The Moorgate name survives on newer maps as Muiryett Plantation, just north of Craighead.



This Google Satellite image features High Craighead, known simply as Craighead when John Watson and Jane Lambie lived here.

Prepared by Mark David Wasson
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