



Drummellan and Kilkerran, Dailly Parish, Ayrshire, Scotland

After living at Craighead for several years, John Watson and Jane Lambie lived at Drummellan when their last two children were born. We are direct descendants of John and Jane.

For a period that included the years 1816 through 1820, John Watson worked at Drummellan, likely as a farm servant. He and his wife Jane Lambie had two children while they lived there: Helen in 1816 and Hugh in 1820.

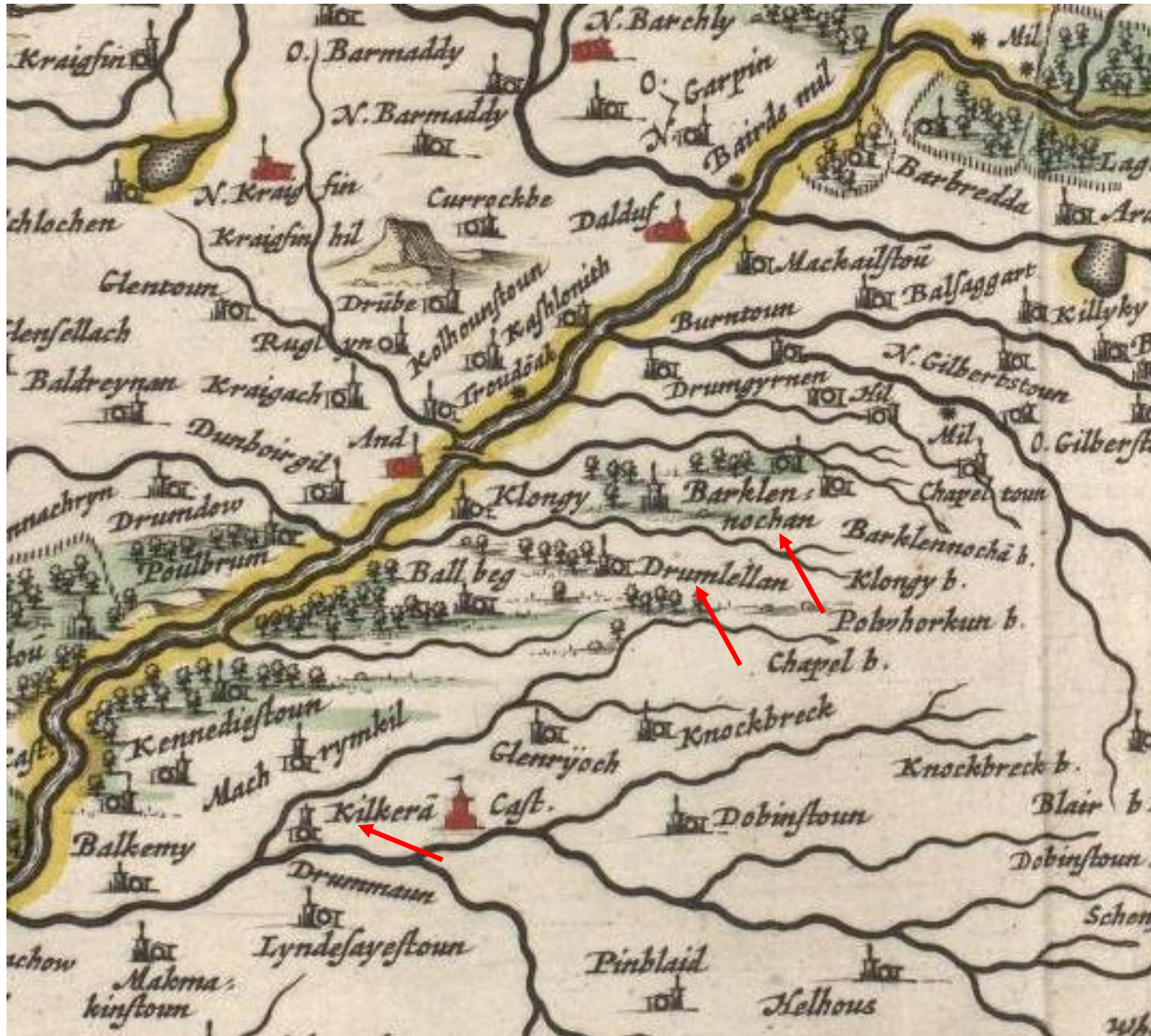
The history of Drummellan is closely tied to that of neighboring Barclanachan, later named Kilkerran. Because the Fergusson family of Kilkerran had acquired Drummellan and around that time were in the process of absorbing it into their estate, it took some analysis to pinpoint where the Watsons actually lived.

In the early 14th century, King Robert the Bruce gave a grant of lands in Dailly Parish to Fergus, son of Fergus, in response to his military service. Fergus the son is believed to be the ancestor of the Fergussons of Kilkerran. The Fergusson family originally established Kilkerran, their family home, south of the site of the present-day village of Dailly around 1400.



Old Kilkerran Castle ruins in 1977. The ruins no longer stand.

Meanwhile, two brothers, members of the Kennedy family of Culzean, built a pair of castles to the northeast of the original Kilkerran. One was Barclanachan, which was chartered by King David in 1361, and the other was neighboring Drummellan.



This 1654 map shows Kilkerran Castle (Kilkerā Cast.) in the lower center left, where it was originally built, and Barclanachan (Barklennochan) right of center, just above Drummellan (Drumlellan), before the Fergusson family bought Barclanachan in 1686.

The Fergussons eventually lost their original estate, but when their situation improved, they bought Barclanachan and moved there in 1686. They changed the name of Barclanachan to Kilkerran. The oldest part of the current Kilkerran manor house dates back to about 1700-1703.

In an act of revenge, the Kennedys of Blairquhane burned down Drummellan Castle in the 1700s. A portion of it was still standing in the early 1800s. But ownership of Drummellan passed to the

Fergussons of Kilkerran. The Fergussons used stones from what was left of Drummellan Castle in an 1815 expansion of the Kilkerran Estate manor house. At some point, the Drummellan name ceased to be used in maps of Dailly Parish, except in some cases to mark the site of the old castle.

The Ayrshire Ordnance Survey Name Books 1855-1857 described the site of Drummellan Castle this way:

32
No. 21 *Sheet 50 of Parish of Dailly*

List of Names as written on the Plan	Various modes of Spelling the same Names	Authority for those modes of Spelling.	Situation	Descriptive Remarks, or other General Observations which may be considered of Interest
<i>Site of Drummellan Castle</i>	<i>Sites of Drummellan & Drummellan D.</i>	<i>James the poe Esqr. Peter Richardson F.C. Min. Thom of Scott. John Willit</i>	L. 3	<i>No vestige of this ancient tower now remains to mark the spot whereon it once stood; more than 30 years have elapsed since it was entirely levelled with the ground, for the purpose of employing the stones in the construction of Kilkerran old Kennells, East of which [it] stood at the distance of 176 yards. Its place is still pointed out by the oldest inhabitant of the district. (It is uncertain at what time the Kennedies of Drummellan became a separate family Two Sons of the old Coiff or Cove (Culzean) branch of the Kennedies settled it is believed, during the reign of David [II] on the girvan water, & built for themselves strong houses or towers, the one at Barclomadean & the other at Drummellan both on the south side of the Girvan. The tower of Barclanachan [stood] on the ground now occupied by the house of Kilkerran. Drummellane tower stood by the river opposite to the house of Drumbaile which was at a recent period [owned] by one of the family.) Extracted from Paterson's History of Ayrshire (1847)</i>

Ayrshire Ordnance Survey Descriptive Remarks for Drummellan Castle: “No vestige of this ancient tower now remains to mark the spot whereon it once stood; more than 30 years have elapsed since it was [entirely] levelled with the ground, for the [purpose] of employing the stones in the constru[ction] of Kilkerran old Kennells, East of which [it] stood at the distance of 176 yards. Its [place] is still pointed out by the oldest inhabitant of the district. (It is uncertain at [what] time the Kennedies of Drummellan became a [separate] [family] Two Sons of the old Coiff or Cove (Culzean) branch of the Kennedies settled it is believed, during the reign of David [II] on the girvan water, & built for themselves strong houses or towers, the one at Barclomadean & the other at Drummellan both on the south side of the Girvan. The tower of Barclanachan [stood] on the ground now occupied by the house of Kilkerran. Drummellane tower [stood] by the river opposite to the house of Drumbaile which was at a recent period [owned] by one of the family.) Extracted from Paterson's History of Ayrshire (1847)” [sic]

An 1821 map shows a “Drumillan” across Girvan Water from Kilkerran and the old Drummellan Castle site. In 1456, Thomas Kennedy of Drummellan had a crown charter of the lands of Drumburle, on the north side of Girvan Water, and Glengowland, in Maybole Parish. In 1523, Patrick Kennedy of Drummellan had a charter of confirmation of Drummellan and the lands of Drumburle and Glengowland.

Another source provided a brief description of a Gateside of Drummellan at the location of present-day Drumburle. In daughter Helen’s 1816 Dailly Parish Church birth record, Drummellan was spelled “Drumillan”; in son Hugh’s 1820 birth record, it was spelled “Drumellan”.

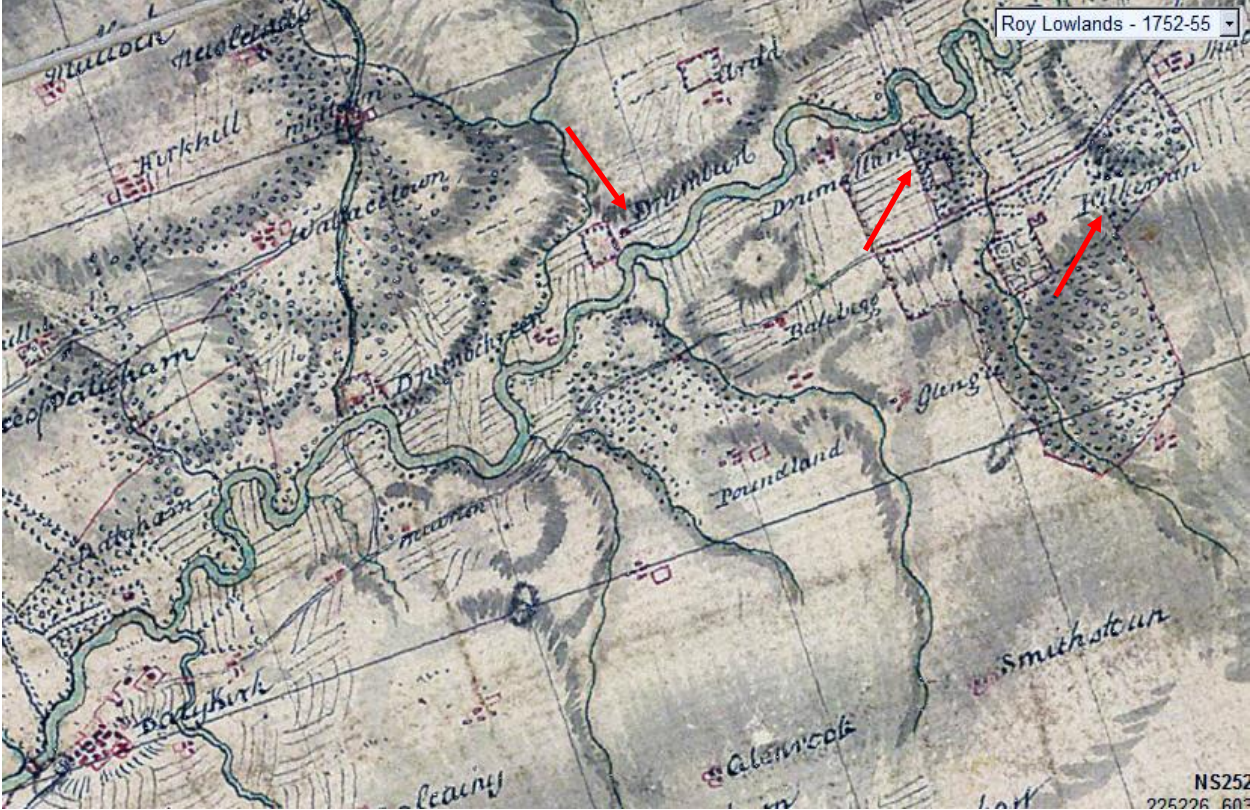
I noticed that Drumburle was not on that 1821 map. It turns out there was good reason for that. The Drummellan name that had been attached to Drumburle was only later transferred to the Kennedy family’s estate near Maybole, and the name of this Drummellan site changed back to Drumburle, as described in the Ayrshire Ordnance Survey Name Books 1855-1857.

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
Drumburle	Drumburle Dumburle D ^o Drumburles Drumburle	James M'Pee Esq ^r . Chas. Richardson Esq ^r & Co. Min ^{rs} Thomas Scott Jno Willit. County. Vobis. List James Hens County Map	L 8	Farm Steading consisting of a sub- stantial dwelling house two storeys high slated & in excellent condition. The offices are about 110 yards north of the dwelling house and are all one storey high & in good repair. It formerly bore the name of Drummellan, and which was no doubt derived from the old Castle of that name which stood about 170 yards East of Kilkerran Old Kennels. Drummellan is transferred to a seat of Mr Kennedy (the former proprietor of the Estate) near to Maybole & the present name Drumburle was substituted. Location unknown Property of Sir James Ferguson Bart

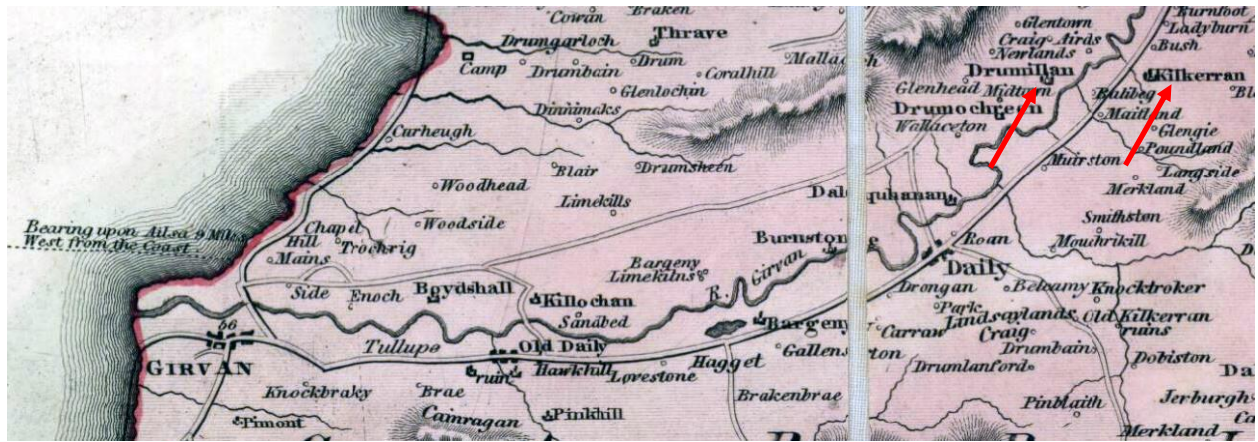
Ayrshire Ordnance Survey Descriptive Remarks for Drumburle: “Farm Steading consisting of a substantial dwelling house two storeys high slated & in excellent condition. The offices are about 110 yards north of the dwelling house and are all one storey high & in good repair. It formerly bore the name of Drummellan, and which was no doubt derived from the old Castle of that name which stood about 170 yards East of Kilkerran Old Kennels. Drummellan is transferred to a seat of Mr Kennedy's (the former proprietor of the Estate) near to Maybole & the present name Drumburle was substituted. D---stion unknown. Property of Sir James Ferguson Bart [Baronet]” [sic]

This record also shows that at that time, Drumburle remained the property of the Fergussons of Kilkerran, who, again, had acquired the Drummellan lands from the Kennedy family, lands that included Drumburle.

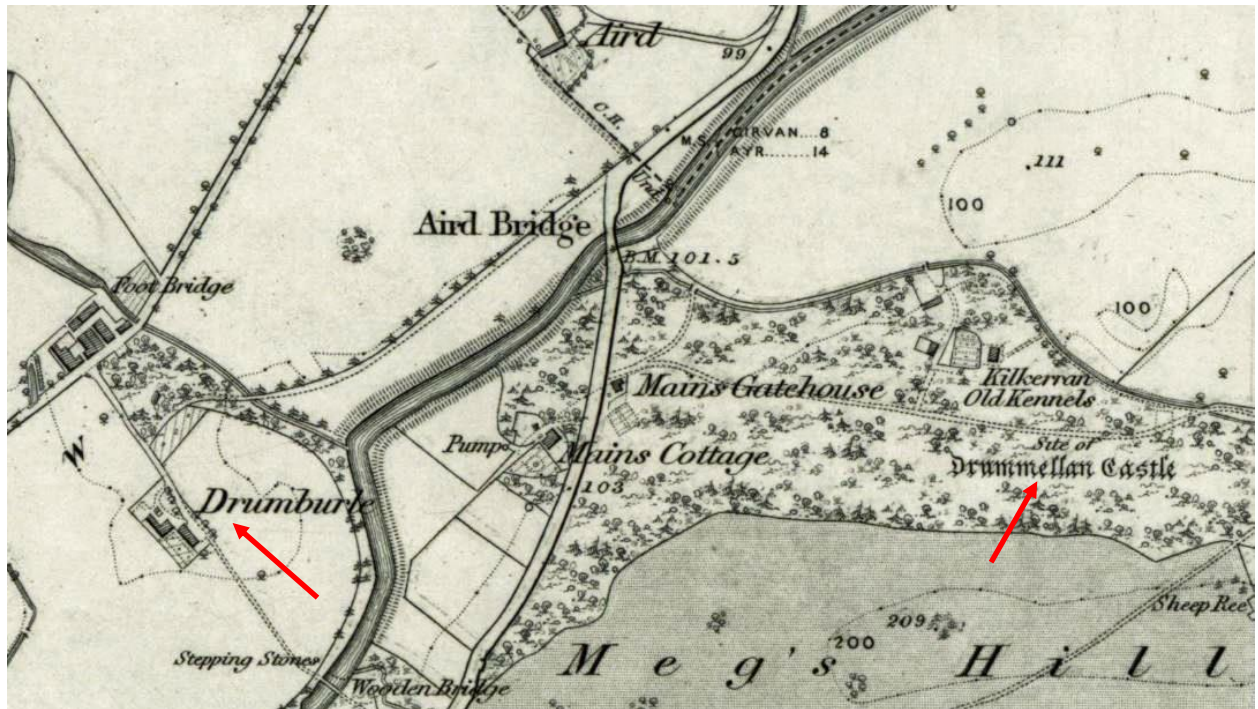
This timeline suggests that when the Watsons lived at Drummellan, what was left of the original Drummellan Castle was already torn down and incorporated into part of the Kilkerran Estate manor house, and the Watsons lived at what was once Gateside of Drummellan, “Drumillan” on the 1821 map, and today’s Drumburle. How long they may have stayed at Drumburle is not known – the next time John Watson and Jane Lambie appeared in known records was when they emigrated to New York in 1834.



This 1755 map shows Drummellan (Drumalland) and Kilkerran, formerly Barclanachan. Drumburle, on the north side of Girvan Water, was part of Drummellan Estate at this point.



This 1821 map shows Drummellan (Drumillan) at the site of Gateside of Drummellan. It shows Kilkerran across the Girvan Water. It also shows the Old Kilkerran Castle ruins site, but the original Drummellan Castle is not marked, and the name Drumburle was not in use.



This 1856 map shows Drumburle to the left across Girvan Water, and the site of Drummellan Castle to the right. All of this was once part of the Kennedy family's Drummellan Estate.



This 1872 map shows Drumburle and Kilkerran. Drummellan Castle once stood just to the east of the Old Kennels.

Photos of Drumburle, formerly Drummellan, and Kilkerran



The entrance to Drumburle



Drumburle was known as Drummellan (Drumillan) when John Watson and Jane Lambie lived here.



Drumburle in 2012



Drumburle



Drumburle



Drumburle outbuildings



Part of the old Drummellan Estate and now part of Kilkerran Estate. Drummellan Castle once stood beyond the trees.



The Kilkerran Estate manor house stands where Barclanachan Castle once stood. The wings of the manor house were built using stone from the Drummellan Castle ruins. The Kilkerran Estate today includes the former Drummellan Estate lands.



Kilkerran

When I first visited this part of Ayrshire in 2010, the only property near Dailly that I could find on the map I had with a name similar to Drummellan was this property named Drumellan near Maybole. I later learned of the Drummellan Castle site near Kilkerran, and then the history surrounding that estate. When Drummellan in Dailly Parish was renamed Drumburle, the Drummellan name was transferred to this property near Maybole and to its then-Kennedy owners.



1856 map of Maybole area including Drumellan



The former seat of Mr. Kennedy's "near to Maybole" is today's Drumellan.



This Google Satellite image shows Drumburle (A) and the former grounds of Drummellan and Barclanachan, now combined into the present-day Kilkeran Estate, including the approximate site of Drummellan Castle (B) and the Kilkeran Estate manor house (C).



This Google Satellite image features Drumburle, known as Drummellan when John Watson and Janet Lambie lived here.

Prepared by Mark David Wasson
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