

**THE RAMSAY FAMILY OF WISTON**  
**(c1720-1980)**

**by**

**Max W. Ramsay**

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NOTES

- 1 'O.P.R.' is the recognised abbreviation for pre-1855 Old Parish Registers, all of which in Scotland are now housed and accessible in New Register House, Edinburgh.
- 2 Post-1855 Birth, Marriage and Death certificates and decennial Census Returns, 1841 to 1891 inclusive, are also available at the same place.
- 3 In legal documents and on gravestones in Scotland, a married woman usually appeared under her maiden surname, followed by 'spouse of' or 'wife of'.
- 4 The age of a person at death is verified where possible from officially recorded dates of birth and death. Ages on gravestones are occasionally widely incorrect, and ages in Census Returns are very unreliable.
- 5 An estimated or indirectly calculated date, e.g. from an age given on a gravestone, is preceded by 'c'.

THE RAMSAY FAMILY OF WISTON

In searching the region for Ramsays, it was found that two major families emerged. One family originated at Snaip and Nisbet farms at Culter and later became firmly identified with Biggar, Symington and Skirling, mainly as coopers, successive managers of the gasworks, and no less than five postmen at the same time. The dominant forename in this family was George, and of course William, a ubiquitous Ramsay name. Richard appears only once.

The other family is the subject of this history and its earliest known members were associated with Wiston. The dominant forename is undoubtedly Richard which occurs seven times in the early family and is repeated several times in later generations of different surname. Again, William is common. George, common in the Culter family, is quite unknown in the Wiston family. Alexander a familiar Ramsay name, does not appear in either family until introduced extraneously for Alexander Ramsay (140).

Many Ramsays in the region could not be knitted into either family or into a third family. These include no less than seven Richards born between 1761 and 1815. In view of the comparative rarity of this name, particularly in a Ramsay connotation, it is reasonable to assume that they almost certainly were related to the Wiston family.

As Wiston and Culter are close, it is likely that the two families had a common ancestor a generation or two earlier. There are later links by marriage.

In the Wiston family, the name Ramsay has been used at least twelve times as a forename when it has been lost as a surname through female descent.

The earliest firmly identified member of the Wiston family is Richard Ramsay (1), but there are two earlier possibilities. As Richard's eldest son was William, it is likely that his father's name was William, as it was customary in Scotland to name the eldest son after his paternal grandfather. (In the same way, an eldest daughter was sometimes named after her maternal grandmother). The first possibility is William Ramage of Wiston/Roberton who married Margaret Patoun on 27.12.1706. He could well have been Richard's father. Earlier, Margaret Shanks, spouse of John Ramage of Mylnrig, Wiston died 25.5.1657. The reference to Mylnrig could be significant in view of later family connections with East and West Millrig Farms. However, these are conjectures only.

RICHARD RAMSAY

Little is known of him. He was probably born about 1720. In the birth entry of his eldest son he is described as 'Carter in West Milrig', at that time tenanted by Thomas Pret, also a direct ancestor. (Appendix IV). In the birth entries of his later sons he is described as 'Mealman'. The name of his wife is unknown, but as there were two granddaughters Grissal and Grizzel, it is possible that this was her forename.

They had four sons:-

William Ramsay (3) b. 1746

Christopher Ramsay (40) b. 1748

Richard Ramsay (165) b. 1749

John Ramsay (195) b. 1751

WILLIAM RAMSAY

Eldest son of Richard Ramsay (1). He was born at Wiston 25.9.1746. He married Marion Clerk (later Clark) at Wiston on 27.6.1767. He was a farm labourer at different times at Wiston Townhead, Bagbie, and again Wiston, illustrating the movement resulting from annual hiring. There were seven children, all born at Wiston:-

Marion Ramsay (5) b. 1773

Grissal Ramsay (13) b. 1774

William Ramsay (14) b. 1777

Christian Ramsay (17) b. 1779

Elizabeth Ramsay (15) b. 1780

Jane Ramsay (20) b. 1786

William Ramsay (16) b. 1788

MARION RAMSAY

Eldest daughter of William Ramsay (3). She was born 17.3.1773 and died 20.7.1822. She married 20.7.1804 William Tuito tenant of East Millrig farm. He must have been descended from a very old local family as his name is obviously derived from Tinto Hill ('Hill

of Fire' from its basaltic origin) on the lower slopes of which his farm lay. There were five children:-

William Tuito b. 9.2.1805

William Tuito b. 21.6.1807

Margaret Tuito b. 6.11.1809

Thomas Tuito b. 4.6.1810

Margaret Tuito b. 13.11.1814

Richard Tuito b. 18.5.1818

The first William and Margaret must have died in early childhood. Nothing is known of the others, except that 1841 Census Return for Wiston records:-

'Margaret Tinto, Agricultural Labourer'.

Grissal Ramsay b. 8.1.1774

William Ramsay b. 30.1.1777

Elizabeth Ramsay b. 6.7.1780

William Ramsay b. 2.7.1788

Second, third, fifth and seventh children of William Ramsay (3). Nothing further is known of them, but William (14) must have died before 2.7.1788.

#### CHRISTIAN RAMSAY

Third daughter of William Ramsay (3) ('Christian' in Scotland is always a feminine name). She was born 17.3.1779 and married 26.12.1800 John Hamilton, a servant at Hillend, ½ m. south of Roberton. They had a son William Hamilton born 27.9.1807 at which time the father was a private in the Lanarkshire Militia, probably enrolled for the Napoleonic emergency.

#### JANE RAMSAY

Fifth daughter of William Ramsay (3). She was born c. 1786 (there is a gap in the register here) and died at Douglas 30.9.1863 aged 76 years and was interred at Wiston. The grave was probably that of her father and mother, as it is one of four parallel graves, of which

two were his brothers and the other the daughter of her third brother. This is supported by the custom that a new grave is only allotted to a late member of the parish.

She married at Wiston 11.4.1806 Thomas Templeton, shepherd at Bodinglee, Wiston and later at Maidengill(?), Douglas. They had a large family, the first child being born at Wiston, and the remainder at Douglas:-

David Templeton b. 6.7.1807

William Templeton (31) b. 1809

Marion Templeton b. 6.8.1811

Janet Templeton b. 17.5.1813, d. 10.10.1863 aged 50 years

Thomas Templeton b. 22.12.1814

Jean Templeton b. 16.6.1816, d. before 1822

Michael Templeton (37) b.1817

Jane Templeton b. 27.12.1819, d. infant

Jean Templeton b. 31.3.1822

Martha Templeton b. 15.5.1824

Mary Templeton b. 12.5.1827

#### WILLIAM TEMPLETON

Second son of Thomas Templeton (21). He was born 15.10.1809 and died at Goran 27.8.1902, aged 92 years. Like his father, he was a shepherd. He married Grace Laidlaw who died at Wishaw 17.6.1905 aged 84 years. Their children were:-

    - Templeton

Jane Ramsay Templeton d. 4.9.1931 aged 77 years

Grace Smeaton Templeton d. 8.5.1880 aged 23 years

William J. L. Templeton

Nothing is known of the eldest daughter. The only indication of her existence is the description, on the gravestone at Pettinain, of Jane R. Templeton as the second daughter. The only evidence of the son is that he informed the Registrar of the death of his father.

MICHAEL TEMPLETON

Fourth son of Thomas Templeton (21). He was born 26.10.1817 and died 2.4.1882 aged 64 years. His wife was Mary Bryce and they had a daughter Mary Stephenson Templeton born at Carmichael 13.6.1846.

There are two shepherds named Templeton, father and son, at the present time in the Walston area, 6 miles north of Biggar. Their calling indicates that they may be connected, but this has not been followed up.

CHRISTOPHER RAMSAY

Second son of Richard Ramsay (1). He was born at West Milrig 14.4.1748 and died 9.11.1816, probably at Lamington but interred at Wiston. Like his father, he was a meal dealer at Wiston until after 1801, but by 1805 he was at Lamington Mains. He married Janet Pret at Wiston in Sept. 1797. She was born there 13.10.1769 and died at Lamington 19.3.1860 aged 90 years. In the Births O.P.R. at Lamington the minister wrote:- 'N.B. Janet Prett the mother of Mrs William Watson and hence the child's great grandmother was present at this Baptism and though 87 years of age was in the enjoyment of apparent good health and all her mental faculties.' This evidently impressed him more than the fact that the child was born exactly two months after he had married the parents!

The 1851 Census Return shows that her unmarried son and a nephew and niece were living with her. They had three children:-

Richard Ramsay (42) b. 1800

Janet Ramsay (43) b. 1801

William Ramsay (133) b. 1805

RICHARD RAMSAY

Eldest son of Christopher Ramsay (40). He was born at Wiston 24.2.1800 and died at Lamington 26.1.1877 aged 76 years (77 years on gravestone). He was a shoemaker at Lamington and was unmarried.

JANET RAMSAY

Daughter of Christopher Ramsay (40). She was born at Wiston 24.11.1801 and died at Lamington 18.8.1876 aged 74 years and is interred there. She married William Watson who died 6.3.1869 aged 77 years. He came from an old Lamington family and was a farmer, first at Mid Town Farm, and shortly before his death at Hill House Farm.

Janet must have had either a strong or loveable character as three granddaughters were named after her:- Janet Ramsay Prett Dempster (52), Janet Ramsay Watson White (125) and Janet Ramsay Swan Watson (129). A few years ago, the writer met an elderly lady in Lamington who knew them all and recited their names precisely.

There were seven children, all born at Lamington:-

Janet Watson (45) b. 1826

Jean Watson (54) b. 1829

Adam Watson (56) b. 1831

Helen Watson (57) b. 1833

Mary Watson (58) b. 1835

Christopher Watson (127) b. 1837

Richard Watson (131) b. 1839

JANET WATSON

Eldest daughter of Janet Ramsay (43). She was born 27.11.1826 and died at Lamington 6.3.1899 aged 72 years. She married Alexander Dempster at Lamington 27.1.1850, seven weeks before the birth of their first child! Alexander died 30.11.1895 aged 74 years. They had six children:-

James Dempster b. 17.3.1850, d. 20.2.1853 aged 2 years 11 months.

William Watson Dempster (51) b. 1853

James Dempster b. 13.8.1855, d. 24.2.1857 aged 1½ years.

Janet Ramsay Prett Dempster (52) b. 1859

Agnes Dempster b. 1861, d. 23.6.1862, aged 10 months.

Alexander Dempster b. 1863, d. 9.1.1864



WILLIAM WATSON DEMPSTER

Second son of Janet Watson (45) and the only son to outlive infancy. He was born 3.1.1853 and died at New York 29.4.1930 aged 77 years. It is not known if he was married.

JANET RAMSAY PRETT DEMPSTER

Elder daughter of Janet Watson (45). She was born 1859 and died 14.3.1928 aged 68 years. She married Richard White, a first cousin, born 1864 and died 10.10.1932 aged 68 years. There were no children. Richard White was a cashier.

JEAN WATSON

Second daughter of Janet Ramsay (43). She was born 6.5.1829 and died 15.9.1902 aged 73 years. She married John Stewart on 14.8.1860. He died at Shuttlefield Lamington 24.11.1878 aged 56 years. There were no children.

ADAM WATSON

Eldest son of Janet Ramsay (43). He was born 22.5.1831 and died unmarried 13.8.1899 aged 68 years.

HELEN WATSON

Third daughter of Janet Ramsay (43). She was born 20.5.1833 and died unmarried 4.4.1899 aged 65 years. With Jean Ramsay (135) she jointly inherited the household effects of Thomas Pret. (Appendix IV).

MARY WATSON

Fourth daughter of Janet Ramsay (43). She was born 1.6.1835 and died 27.10.1912 aged 77 years. She married Adam White, a first cousin, who was a forester. He died 6.6.1910 aged 81 years. The marriage was on 9.11.1855 and the birth of the first child was 9.1.1856 (referred to earlier under Janet Pret (41)). Both marriage and birth are entered in the O.P.R. which means that the minister hung on to the register long after the official closing date

## THE RAMSAY FAMILY OF WISTON

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31.12.1854, when all registers were ordered to be sent to Register House, Edinburgh for permanent retention. It is safely there now. There were eight children:-

John White (60) b. 1856

Adam White (69) b. 1858

William White (74) b. 1859

Richard White (53) b. 1864

Janet Watson White (117) b. 1866

Christopher White (119) b. c. 1868

Alexander White (121) b. 1870

Janet Ramsay Watson White (125) b. 1872

### JOHN WHITE

Eldest son of Mary Watson (58). He was born 9.1.1856 and died at Glasgow 18.6.1908 aged 52 years. He married Mary Binnie Robson who died 14.11.1918 aged 62 years. Their two children were:-

(1) Adam White who married Elizabeth Smith and they had four children:-

Janette White

Mollie White

Elsie White, all married, and

Ian White, unmarried.

(2) Mary White who was unmarried.

### ADAM WHITE

Second son of Mary Watson (58). He was born 1858 and married Margaret Aitcheson. They had two sons:-

(1) Christopher Watson White, born 1904. In 1935 he married Mary French Noble at Broughton. There were no children. Both are now deceased.

(2) William Aitcheson White, born 1907. He was unmarried and is now deceased.

WILLIAM WHITE

Third son of Mary Watson (58). He was born 1859 and died at Brookside, Lamington 24.3.1919 aged 60 years. He married Isabella Fallow Donald who died 25.6.1949 aged 70 years. She was a daughter of James Donald, tenant of Langholme Farm, Lamington. The children were:-

Margaret White, b. and d. 11.5.1905

Margaret Fallow White d. 24.4.1947 aged 41 years. Unmarried.

Richard Adam Ramsay White (78) b. c. 1907

Mary Watson White (79) b. 1909

William James Donald White (99) b. 1914

RICHARD ADAM RAMSAY WHITE

Elder son of William White (74), was born c. 1907 and died 27.12.1972 aged 65 years. He was unmarried.

James Donald, father-in-law of William White (74) tenanted Langholme until he died in 1923 and his daughter Jessie Jane Donald continued the tenancy until she retired. It was then taken over jointly by the two sons of William White who had pre-deceased the Donalds. Richard A. R. White outlived his brother and continued the tenancy alone until he retired, when it passed to William J. D. White, Junior (113) who still holds it.

MARY WATSON WHITE

Third daughter of William White (74). She was born in 1909 and married 1.6.1933 Walter Anthony John Marshall Watt a gamekeeper, born 22.4.1899 and died 26.10.1957 aged 58 years. Mrs Watt has been very helpful in giving me the framework of the branch of the family descended from Mary Watson (58), and her daughter Heather Watt had made a good attempt at a family tree of the White family. There are five daughters:-

(1) Isabella Donald White Watt, born 1934 and married in 1963 Daniel Craig. Their two sons are:-

James Craig b. 1963

Robert Craig b. 1965

(2) Margaret Peddie White Watt born 1935 and married in 1958 William Plenderleith.

Their children are:-

Ian Plenderleith b. 1962

Alison Plenderleith b. 1963

(3) Heather White Watt born 1937 is unmarried. She is a school teacher in Biggar.

(4) Mary White Watt born 1938 and married in 1961 James Palmer. Their three children are:-

Jill Mary Palmer b. 1962

James Rogerson Palmer b. 1964

Heather Elizabeth Palmer b. 1968

(5) Elizabeth Jane Watt born 1940 and married in 1966 Eric Robison. Their two children are:-

Jane Elizabeth Robison b. 1972

Gary Robison b. 1973.

#### WILLIAM JAMES DONALD WHITE

Younger son of William White (74). He was born in 1914 and died at Langholme 22.2.1963 aged 48 years, where he was joint tenant with his brother Richard A. R. White (78). He married in 1944 Janet Riddel Shankie. Their five children are:-

(1) Alice Hamilton White born 1945 and married in 1966 James Donald Barrie. Their children are:-

Alison Shankie Barrie b. 1967

Gillian Donald Barrie b. 1968

Linda White Barrie b. 1971

(2) Isabel Donald White born 1947 and married in 1971 Matthew George Leslie. Their children are:-

William Scott Leslie b. 1972

Sylvia Jane Leslie b. 1974

(3) Janette Margaret Shankie White born 1949 and married 1975 Robert Struthers. They have one son:-

Robert Orr Struthers b. 1977

(4) William James Donald White born 1957. He married in 1974 Catherine Hamilton. He is the present tenant of Langholme. There is one daughter:-

Jacqueline Hamil White b. 1975

(5) Joyce White born 1962

RICHARD WHITE (53)

Fourth son of Mary Watson (58). He married a first cousin Janet Ramsay Prett Dempster (52) (q.v.).

JANET WATSON WHITE

Elder daughter of Mary Watson (58). She was born 1866 and died 26.7.1940 aged 73 years (incorrectly 'Jane' on gravestone). She married McQueen Russell who died 9.11.1929 aged 67 years. There were no children.

CHRISTOPHER WHITE

Fifth son of Mary Watson (58) was born c. 1868. He married \_\_\_\_\_ Cowie, but there were no children.

ALEXANDER WHITE

Sixth son of Mary Watson (58) was born 1870. He married Jean \_\_\_\_\_ and they had two sons:-

Watson White

Andrew White

JANET RAMSAY WATSON WHITE

Younger daughter of Mary Watson (58). She was born 1872 and died 15.7.1934 aged 62 years. She married 30.1.1913 James Weir who died 25.5.1949 aged 77 years. There were no children. (Note the similarity of names of the two sisters (117) and (125)).

CHRISTOPHER WATSON

Second son of Janet Ramsay (43). He was born 6.7.1837 and died 21.5.1911 aged 73 years. For part of their childhood, he and his sister Mary Watson (58) lived in Lamington village with their grandmother Janet Pret (41) and uncle Richard Ramsay (42). After the death of his father, Christopher carried on the tenancy of Hillhouse. He married 31.12.1878 Mary Swan who died 1.3.1899 aged 49 years. (There were four deaths in the Watson family within six months in 1899). Their two children were:-

(1) Janet Ramsay Swan Watson b. 21.4.1880 and died unmarried 10.10.1945 aged 65 years.

(2) William Watson born 24.5.1883 and died unmarried 20.5.1947 aged 63 years. He had carried on the tenancy after his father, and it has now passed out of the family.

RICHARD WATSON

Third and youngest son of Janet Ramsay (43). He was born 17.5.1839 and died at Bo'ness 4.8.1902 aged 63 years. He was a docks checkweighman and his death resulted from a railway accident. He married Jane Gemmel in 1876. No children have been traced.

WILLIAM RAMSAY

Younger son of Christopher Ramsay (40). He was born at Lamington Mains 29.1.1805 and died at 5 John Street, Biggar 15.8.1886 aged 81 years. He is interred at Wiston. On 6.6.1834 he married Jean Smith at Grange Farm, Pettinain (not Grange Hill Farm as recorded in the family bible). She was born at Netherton, Carmichael 11.4.1803 and died at Biggar 17.1.1868 aged 64 years (see Appendix V).

During the next few years William moved about quite a lot. On the marriage certificate he is described simply as 'in the parish of Biggar', but just a year later his first child was born at Carwood, a farm about two miles north of the town. He was probably a farm labourer of some sort. In 1837, two years later, his elder son was born at Lamington, and two years later his younger son was born at Callands, Lamington, where he was definitely a labourer.

By 1841 he had crossed the river to Symington where he remained for more than 20 years. Census Returns record him as 'Land Steward' living in the village in 1841, as 'Coal Agent' living at Newlands, Symington in 1851, and 'Coal Merchant' again living in the village in 1861. Before the death of his wife in 1868 the family had moved to 5 John Street, Biggar where he remained until his death in 1886 and his daughter continued there until 1898. It is not known how long he continued his coal business as Census Returns for 1871 and 1881 do not record his occupation.

#### INSET CHAPEL COAL

The above is a reproduction of a receipted bill, one of many among a batch of papers sent in to Gladstone Court Museum, Biggar a few years ago.

On his death, William left all his estate to his daughter, "who has for many years kept house for me without receiving any wages." There were three children:-

Jean Ramsay (135) b. 1835

Christopher Ramsay (136) b. 1837

Alexander Ramsay (140) b. 1839

#### JEAN RAMSAY

Daughter of William Ramsay (133). She was born 11.6.1835 and died at Selkirk 22.3.1907 aged 71 years and she was interred there but recorded on the family gravestone at Wiston. The birth record is unusual and for some reason it was delayed two years. The entry in O.P.R. reads 'Jean, daughter of William Ramsay, Carwood, and Jean Smith his wife was born 11th June 1835, entered 21st June '37.' Although she was baptised 'Jean', in all later documents she appears 'Jane', probably to distinguish her from her mother Jean. She remained

unmarried, no doubt due to heavy family responsibilities. She must have looked after her mother before her death in 1868, and her father from that date until his death in 1886. In addition, she was in Glasgow for her elder brother's fatal illness (he was by then separated from his wife), and she reared her nephew certainly from that date (and possibly some years before) until 1888 when she was finally released from any further responsibility for him. She thus well merited her late father's estate.

In 1879 she inherited, equally with Helen Watson (57), a first cousin, who was also unmarried, the household effects of Thomas Prett (or Pratt as he was then known), a distant cousin of them both, who had died in the South of England. With her father's legacy, she must have been quite comfortably placed, as Census Return for 1891 gives her occupation as 'private means'. There is a suspicion that some of this may have passed to her nephew in questionable circumstances.

In 1898 she sold all her household effects and removed to Selkirk where she remained until her death.

### CHRISTOPHER RAMSAY

Elder son of William Ramsay (133). He was born at Lamington 7.6.1837 and died at Glasgow 11.2.1870 aged 32 years. He is probably interred at Glasgow but is recorded, like his sister, in the family gravestone at Wiston, which describes him as 'Accountant in the Royal Bank of Scotland'. His will simply describes him as 'Clerk' and his death certificate as 'Bookkeeper'. He married at Glasgow 9.9.1861 Marion Brown Alexander, 'Teacher of English', whose age was given as 18 years. (Christopher was 24 years of age). There was one child, William Ramsay (138) b. 1862. Between this birth and the death of Christopher the marriage must have broken up completely. Marion was still living when Christopher died but she was not mentioned in his will, drawn up a few days previously, in which his son was legally placed in the care of William Ramsay (133) and his daughter Jean. Nothing further could be found concerning his wife in marriage and death registers, so she must have left Scotland.

Christopher must have been quite a 'man about town' compared with the country folk from whom he came. An inventory of articles which belonged to him and which were handed



over to his son in 1884 were 'Two trunks, Cabinet, Timepiece and Watch, Two Scarf Pins, Umbrella and Walking Stick, Two Hand Bags and Opera Glass'.

WILLIAM RAMSAY

Son of Christopher Ramsay (136). He was born at Glasgow 17.8.1862 and died at Kirkintilloch 23.5.1924 aged 61 years, as a result of a fracture of the spine, probably an accident on the railway where he was employed. He married at Aberdeen 21.12.1892 Elizabeth Jane Findlay who died 3.8.1920 aged 61 years. There were no children.

It is not known at what age he was first in the care of his grandfather and aunt, but he was legally in their hands from 1870. In Biggar Census Return for 1871 he was 'Scholar', in 1881 'Pupil Teacher' but had departed before 1891, evidently to Aberdeen where he married. He had quite clearly given up his teaching career, as his marriage certificate describes him as 'Shorthand Writer', his wife's death certificate as 'Weighing Clerk' and his own death certificate as 'Railway Clerk'.

There are three documents concerning the closing of the 'Ramsay Trust' under which his early life had been supervised. The first, dated 20.10.1884 listed the personal articles of his father handed over to him and noted earlier. The second, dated 16.6.1886 was an acknowledgement by William of the careful management by his trustees and releasing them from any further responsibility. It is interesting to note that the two witnesses of this document were Adam White (58) and Mary White (?? Watson), relatives in Lamington. The third item was a receipt for £150 deposit in the Royal Bank of Scotland and a release from any further financial claim on his sole trustee at that date 29.8.1888, i.e. Jean Ramsay, as her father had died two weeks earlier. One witness was Robert Boa, iron monger, whose name still graces the shop at the corner of John Street. The other witness was William's cousin, William Ramsay (143), father of the present writer, who must have been in Biggar on a visit from Liverpool, probably to attend his grandfather's funeral. He was 17 years of age at that time, and presumably qualified legally as a witness in Scotland.

When Jean Ramsay (135) died in 1907, she was intestate and her next of kin were her nephew William (138) and her brother Alexander Ramsay (140) resident in Liverpool. The Biggar solicitor had difficulty in getting any reply from William in Aberdeen and he

appointed a local solicitors as agent who soon found "a party named Ramsay residing at 4 Mackie Peace ... he stated that any sums he had received from his late aunt were gifts and he declined to depart from his legal rights' ... . It looks as if he had been lying low, expecting to be called upon to repay loans. However, he and his uncle shared the estate equally. It amounted only to £79-16-4, as she had latterly been living on an annuity with the Scottish Provident Institution.

ALEXANDER RAMSAY

Younger son of William Ramsay (133). He was born at Callands, Lamington 12.10.1839 and died at Birkenhead 14.3.1919 aged 79 years. (It may be noted that in this case 'Alexander' is not a Ramsay name. It was derived from his maternal grandparents, Alexander Smith and Jean Alexander).

He was trained as a marine engineer and served his apprenticeship at Blackmore and Gordon at Port Glasgow, probably 1855 to 1860. It is not known when he first went to sea. The earliest reference to marine work is a testimonial letter dated 18.1.1870 certifying that he had been Foreman Engineer for three years in the African Steam Ship Company of Liverpool, in charge of repairs of engines, boilers and hulls. There is a note listing sailings from 27.3.1875 to 25.4.1900 at first as Junior, then 2nd Engineer, several as Chief Engineer and finally two as Refrigerating Engineer. He was 61 years of age at the time of his last sailing. It is believed he was the first to sail under the designation 'Refrigerating Engineer'. He was blind in one eye and must have bluffed his eye test for his 'ticket'. He was regularly seasick at the commencement of a voyage.

He was awarded his Board of Trade Certificate no 13356 as 'First Class Engineer in the Merchant Service' on 9.11.1878. It bears the unusual date 'Issued at Liverpool, 11th day of Liverpool 1878!'

There are gaps of some years among his sailings and it is not known what he did during these intervals. About 1927, his son William (143) and grandson (the present writer) were sorting photographic negatives at Cammell Laird and Co. One was of a painting of H.M.S. Agincourt, sail and steam, and William remarked "your grandfather sailed in her." This would not be unusual, as engineers in the Royal Navy were civilians until 1914.

Obviously it was his profession which took him to Liverpool where he lived continuously after his marriage and probably several years before that. His period as Foreman, mentioned above, began in 1866 or 1867, and it is likely that he married on the strength of this promotion on 5.8.1867. His wife was Janet Gray born at Neilston, Renfrew 24.6.1827 and died at Seaforth, Liverpool 10.3.1909 aged 81 years.

He was a member of the 'Free Operatives Biggar of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, Dated 17.10.1866'. He made his will on 8.9.1885.

During his widowed years he was a great walker. The writer accompanied him on many of these walks and acquired a detailed knowledge of Liverpool. He also latterly made annual visits to Biggar, sometimes via a coasting vessel. In 1916 when 76 years of age he climbed Tinto Hill 2320ft (a feat emulated by the writer at the same age). He found a poem stuffed in a crevice in the cairn at the top. It had been written by Dora (Endora) Dickson, a daughter of the schoolmaster at Corington and it led to a correspondence. She became Registrar and continued living at School House, unmarried, until her death in August 1971 aged 75 years.

There were two children:-

Mary Gray Ramsay b. 3.10.1868, d. 13.1.1874 aged 5 years.

William Ramsay (143) b.1871.

### WILLIAM RAMSAY

Son of Alexander Ramsay (140). He was born at Liverpool 1.1.1871 and died during a visit to London 9.1.1929 aged 58 years<sup>1</sup>. He was educated at Liverpool Institute and University College, Liverpool, Victoria University, where he studied Chemistry from 1887 to 1890 when he passed the examination for associateship of the Institute of Chemistry. He was admitted A.I.C. at the same date when he was 19 years of age. This was irregular as the minimum age for admission was 21 years. He was elected to Fellowship, F.I.C. in February 1905.

His occupation immediately after qualifying is not known. From September 1891 to August 1894 he was Assistant Lecturer/Demonstrator at University College of Wales,

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<sup>1</sup>of pneumonia.

Aberystwyth, followed by a short period of two months as Chemist at The Mawdach Copper Works, near Dolgelly but the job was cut short when the mine closed temporarily for installation of boring machinery. In 1895 he was engaged in a soap and oil refinery, and later in the year became Chief Chemist at Laird Brothers, Birkenhead (later Cammell Laird and Co. Ltd.) where he remained until August 1927, i.e. 32 years. He was greatly interested in marine engineering problems, particularly corrosion of bronze propeller blades and brass condenser tubes, and he published articles on each. His final interest was a commercial process for chromium plating condenser tubes and this was adopted by J. Stone & Co. Ltd. Deptford<sup>2</sup>.

He married at Langebrüch, Saxony on 13.8.1898 Marca Türk, born at Dresden, Saxony 31.3.1871. She died at Bebington, Cheshire 29.6.1963 aged 92 years. There are three children:-

Marie Margarethe Ramsay (145) b. 1899

Alexander Gray Ramsay (149) b. 1902

Max William Ramsay (158) b. 1903

### MARIE MARGARETHE RAMSAY

Daughter of William Ramsay (143). She was born at Seaforth, Lancashire 31.5.1899 and baptised at Langebrüch, Saxony 26.8.1899. She was educated at Birkenhead Girls Secondary School, and was employed in the Inland Revenue Department, Birkenhead. She married James Leonard Dingwall on 19.5.1925. He was born 24.8.1898 and died at Bebington, Cheshire 26.5.1974 aged 75 years. He served with the Royal Flying Corps in World War I and for the whole of his working life was a marine engineer in companies associated with Royal Mail Lines, finally becoming Senior Chief Engineer. There were two children:-

James Ramsay Dingwall b. 10.1.1930, d. 24.1.1930 aged 2 weeks.

Andrew Ramsay Dingwall (148) born 1932.

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<sup>2</sup>He named the technique the 'RAMAR' process, a name given by his widow to the house in Bebington where she lived with Marie Dingwall née Ramsay (145).

ANDREW RAMSAY DINGWALL

Younger son of Marie M. Ramsay (145). He was born at Birkenhead 13.3.1932 and was educated at Birkenhead School. He was a student apprentice at Leyland Motors Ltd. 1950/3 and then in their Sales Office until 1955, at the same time studying mechanical engineering at Preston. His career was interrupted by National Service with the R.A.F. 1955/7. On resuming with the company he became sales representative in Pakistan 1958/61, in Export Sales Department, London 1962/75, becoming Deputy Export Sales Manager in 1967, then Export Manager Middle East Operations and Director for the Company on the board of a Turkish associate, and since 1975 has been London Manager for this associate.

ALEXANDER GRAY RAMSAY

Elder son of William Ramsay (143). He was born at Birkenhead 6.1.1902 and baptised at Langebrüch, Saxony 28.7.1903. He was educated at Birkenhead Institute and studied chemistry at the University of Liverpool. B.Sc. (Class I Hons.) 1921. Ph.D. 1923, elected A.I.C. 1924, C.Chem. 1975.

In 1923 he was appointed Chemist, Lever Bros. Ltd., Port Sunlight, Cheshire<sup>3</sup>. In 1925 he joined British Copper Manufacturers, Ltd. on its formation from several smaller companies, as Experimental Officer, and in 1929 when taken over by I.C.I. Ltd., he became General Works Manager, Swansea. In 1936 he became Deputy Production Manager of I.C.I. Metals Ltd. at Witton, Birmingham.

In 1946 he joined Mond Nickel Co. Ltd., (later International Nickel Co. Ltd.) as General Manager of the nickel refinery at Clydach, Swansea and in 1951 he was appointed to the Board of the Company. In 1962 he was appointed Managing Director of Henry Wiggin & Co. Ltd., a subsidiary of International Nickel Co. Ltd., at their new plant at Hereford. In 1964 he became Vice-Chairman of the International Nickel Group and transferred to London. He retired in 1967.

His further industrial activities include secondment with the rank of Lieut. Colonel to Germany for two months in 1945, in charge of a team assessing more than sixty non-ferrous metal plants for reparations purposes.

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<sup>3</sup>They made him redundant!

He was a Member of the Government Advisory Committee on Welsh Industry and was for two years President of the Industrial Association of Wales. He was also a Vice-President of the Institute of Metals.

Alongside his industrial career, he was involved in much academic activity. In 1962 he joined the Governing Body of the College of Advanced Technology Cardiff. In 1965 the Robbins Committee recommended its elevation to University status, and he was appointed Chairman of the Academic Advisory Committee to draft the Charter and Regulations for Submission to the Privy Council. In 1967 in the official presentation of the Charter by the Chancellor of the University of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, he was awarded the Honorary Degree of LL.D. In 1968 he was appointed Chairman of the first Council of the College, now the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology, and a member of the Council of the University of Wales. He retired from these appointments in 1974.

He was a Justice of the Peace for the County of Glamorgan, and had been Master of the Lodge of Progress, South Wales.

On 9.7.1928 he married at Birkenhead Elizabeth John, born 7.5.1904 at Barthomley, Cheshire. There are two daughters:-

Marca Mary Ramsay (151) b. 1932

Elizabeth Ann Ramsay (154) b. 1936

#### MARCA MARY RAMSAY

Elder daughter of Alexander G. Ramsay (149). She was born at Swansea 28.5.1932. She was educated at King Edward's School, Birmingham and St. Winifrides High School, Swansea and studied at University College, Swansea 1949/1953 obtaining degree of B.Sc. (Wales). She was Junior Biology Mistress at Taskar's High School for Girls, Haverford West 1953/4, and Senior Biology Mistress at St Winifride's High School, Swansea 1954/8. She married at Clydach 6.9.1958 Michael Frederick Ralph Willatt, born 29.3.1929, an industrial manager. His National Service was with the Army in Malaysia during the communist rising. Their son is:-

Steven Alexander Willatt born at Gloucester 16.9.1960 and educated at Millfield School, Somerset.

ELIZABETH ANN RAMSAY

Younger daughter of Alexander G. Ramsay (149). She was born at Birmingham 10.7.1936 and was educated at Edgbaston High School for Girls, Birmingham and St. Winifride's High School, Swansea, and studied at University College, Swansea 1953/7 obtaining degree of B.Sc. (Hons. II Geography) Wales. She was Science Mistress at Harlington Secondary School, Middlesex 1957/9 and at Hengrove Comprehensive School, Bristol 1959/1962. She married at Clydach 22.8.1959 Graham Herlow Jones, born 13.1.1932, an industrial chemist and keen small scale farmer. His National Service was with the Royal Air Force. There are two daughters:-

Sally Ann Jones born at Bristol 24.10.1962

Helen Clare Jones born at Bristol 22.10.1965

Both are attending Royal Forest of Dean Grammar School, Coleford.

MAX WILLIAM RAMSAY

Younger son of William Ramsay (143). He was born at Birkenhead 21.11.1903 and educated at Birkenhead Institute. He studied Chemistry at the University of Liverpool 1920 to 1925. B.Sc. (Class II Hons.) 1923, Ph.D. 1925. elected A.I.C. 1926 and F.R.I.C. 1943. C.Chem. 1975.

His entire working career was concerned with industry. He was Chemist at Cammell Laird & Co. Ltd., Birkenhead Nov 1925/March 1928 and Assistant to C.K. Bamber, India Office Analyst, Westminster, April 1928/Aug. 1936. He was Chemist and later Manager of the Nitroglycerine Section, Royal Naval Cordite Factory, Holton Heath, Dorset from Sept. 1936 to Sept. 1946. He was Technical Officer and Manager of Nitric Acid Plants and Ammonia-based Fertilisers at Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., Agricultural Division from Sept. 1946 until his retirement in December 1966. He is the writer of this history. He married Annie Nelson Ballantine on 7.7.1932 at Birkenhead. She was born there 10.5.1903 and died at Middlesborough 1.12.1974 aged 71 years. There is one son:-

MAX ROY MACGREGOR RAMSAY

Son of Max William Ramsay (158). He was born at Harrow-on-the-Hill, Middlesex 25.7.1934 and was educated at Poole Grammar School and Middlesbrough High School. He was engaged in National Service in the Royal Navy, 1952/4, serving as Coder (Educational) in H.M.S. Devonshire and later in H.M.S. Triumph, spending almost all the time at sea. He studied Natural Sciences at Balliol College Oxford, 1954/8, B.A.(Oxon) Class III Hons. 1958 and M.A.(Oxon) 1961. He was Cox of his College Boat.

He has adopted an academic career. He was Assistant Master at Wellington College, Berkshire 1958/67 during which time he was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant (T.A.) and later Flight Lieutenant R.A.F.V.R (T). In Sept 1967 he was appointed Lecturer and later Senior Lecturer at St. Katherines College, Liverpool. He married at Sittingbourne 2.1.1960, Wendy Christina Law, born 22.12.1935. She is an Occupational Therapist. There are three children:-

ANGUS CHARLES ALEXANDER RAMSAY

Elder son of Max R.M. Ramsay (\*\*). He was born at Wokingham, Berkshire 25.5.1963 and was educated at Frodsham Secondary Modern School. He was indentured as a Craft Apprentice (Fitter/Turner) with Imperial Chemical Industries Plc. Mond Division, Cheshire in Sept. 1979 and completed his training/indenture in Aug. 1983. After a years service with the company he was made redundant. During the period of his service with I.C.I. he studied at Halton Technical College obtaining an O.N.C. and H.N.C. mechanical and production engineering. With his redundancy money he purchased a dilapidated Victorian Terraced House (2 Moreton Terrace, Marsh Lane Frodsham) and spent a year renovating the property.

He studied engineering at Liverpool Polytechnic from Sept. 1985 to Dec. 1989 obtaining a M.Eng. with commendation in Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering. In January 1989 he was appointed Design Analyst at G.K.N. Technology Limited, Wolverhampton. In October 1990 he began research at the University of Exeter receiving his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering in June 1994. The period April 1994 to May 1995 was spent in the Instituto Superior Technico of the Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal where he continued his research in Finite Elements.



ALASTAIR JAMES DOUGLAS RAMSAY

DIANA KATHARINE RAMSAY

RICHARD RAMSAY

Third son of Richard Ramsay (1). He was born at Wiston 18.9.1749 and died at Culter 3.5.1823 aged 73 years. He married at Wiston 8.11.1780 Mary Simpson, when he was described as 'Porter to Mr Porteous', the minister of Wiston. They had a son Richard Ramsay born at Wiston 16.10.1781 when the father was described as 'Servant'. As he was the only child, it seems that the mother died at the birth or soon after, and the son must have died before 1798 when his namesake was born. Richard is next found in Culter where he had a 'natural' son Robert Ramsay born 16.6.1791 who must have died before 1814 when a second Robert was born. On 31.5.1795 Richard married Marion Inglis at Culter. She died 23.10.1853 at the Manse of Rhynd, Perthshire where her son Richard Ramsay (180) was minister. She is recorded on her husband's gravestone at Wiston but no age is given. They had six children, all born at Culter:-

Grizzel Ramsay (172) b. 1796

Richard Ramsay (180) b. 1798

John Ramsay (182) b. 1801

William Ramsay b. 3.11.1804, d. 10.4.1835 aged 30 years

James Baillie Ramsay (194) b. 1807

Robert Ramsay b. 4.6.1814, d. 26.7.1825 aged 11 years.

GRIZZEL RAMSAY

Only daughter of Richard Ramsay (165). She was born 6.4.1796 and died at Nemphlar 10.2.1870 aged 73 years. She is probably interred in St. Kentigern's Kirkyard in Lanark. Her father was described on her death certificate as 'Ploughman'. On 23.11.1817 she married at Lanark, James Breckenridge who was born there 20.7.1793 and died 28.4.1883 aged 89 years.

He was illiterate and signed himself 'X his mark'. He was a handloom cotton weaver. There were four known children:-

Agnes Breckenridge who married James Nimmo Dryburgh of Cathcast, manager of a copper works. He died in 1886 aged 59 years. They had a daughter Mary Dryburgh born 1850 who seemed to live with her grandparents (census returns 1851 and 1861)

Marion Breckenridge born c. 1826

Robert Breckenridge born c. 1835

John Breckenridge born c. 1840, died March 1905.

None of these births are registered, and as there are wide gaps there may have been others.

### RICHARD RAMSAY

Third son of Richard Ramsay (165). He was born at Culter 10.3.1798 and died at Rhynd, Perthshire 24.9.1877 aged 79 years. He married 19.8.1847 Janet Mortimer who died 21.9.1874 aged 72 years. There were no children. Nothing is known of his early years. On 9.7.1844 he was ordained minister of Thornton, Fifeshire, having been licensed from Biggar Presbytery. The time of the appointment is significant. The disruption of the Church of Scotland occurred in May 1843 when 451 out of 1203 ministers seceded and formed the Free Church of Scotland. The large number of vacancies provided opportunities for many who were not qualified. Richard Ramsay was one of these. He had no degree but must have been well enough educated to receive rapid training for his appointment in 1844. He may possibly have been a village schoolmaster. He remained minister at Thornton until his translation to Rhynd on 1.7.1847, remaining there until his death.

The writer was in the region and paid a visit to Rhynd in 1975. There is no village and the present church and Manse stand quite alone. They were both built after Richard Ramsay's time. Only slight remains of the old kirk still stand in the kirkyard about two miles away, close to the bank of the Firth of Tay. The kirkyard is large and well mounded with graves but there is a surprising scarcity of stones. It looks as if kirk, manse and graves have been stripped for building stone. Inside the present kirk, the list of incumbents includes the name of Richard Ramsay as 13th after the Reformation, the present minister being 16th.

Richard Ramsay's Will, drawn up about a month before his death is very detailed and runs to nearly six foolscap pages. After several bequests, the residue was left equally to the families of Grizzel Ramsay (172) and John Ramsay (182), both of whom had predeceased him.

JOHN RAMSAY

Fourth son of Richard Ramsay (165). He was born at Culter 20.5.1801 and died at Edinburgh 11.4.1876 aged 74 years. It is not known when he went to Edinburgh, and the earliest reference to him was found in The Post Office Directory for Edinburgh 1835/6 (the earliest one available), which has the entry:- 'Ramsay Jo. & Co, Pianoforte Warehouse, 28 Elder Street, Pianoforte Makers.' He must have been there much earlier to learn his craft, gain experience and establish his own business, so he must have been an enterprising man. Census Return 1861 describes him as 'Master Pianoforte Maker' and his two sons as 'Journeyman Pianoforte Makers.' During the next few years the business must have been sold or closed down as Census Return 1871 describes all three simply as 'Music Sellers'.

He married Jane Pollock, born c. 1800. She died between 1861 and 1871 when he was described as a widower. Their four known children were:-

Janet Ramsay born c. 1833

Richard Ramsay (186) born c. 1838

John Ramsay (193) born c. 1839

Jane Ramsay born c. 1842

all born at Edinburgh. The two daughters were still unmarried in 1871.

RICHARD RAMSAY

Elder son of John Ramsay (182). He was born c. 1838 and died at Edinburgh 4.1.1928 aged 90 years. As noted earlier, he was a journeyman pianoforte maker, then a music seller and in Census Returns 1881 and 1891 he was described as 'Piano Tuner'. In an old notebook of Alexander Ramsay (140) an entry made after August 1913 is 'Richard Ramsay, Pianoforte Maker' with an Edinburgh address. He could not have been a pianoforte maker at that date (he

was then 75 years of age) and the note must have been copied from a very much earlier item. However, his death certificate gives him as 'Pianoforte Maker (retired).'

He first married 6.8.1869 Margaret Johnston who died 22.9.1870 aged 26 years, at the birth of their son:-

JOHN JOHNSTON RAMSAY

His record of birth is quite regular and he evidently survived, but there is no further trace of him in marriage or death registers, or even in the Census Return a few months after his birth.

Richard married again and his second wife was Sophie Maria Coleman. The marriage was probably about 1880 but it is not recorded in Scotland. As she was born in Co. Antrim, it probably took place in Ireland. She died in Edinburgh in 1930 aged 78 years. There were three daughters:-

Eleanor Edgar Ramsay born 1882

Sophie Maria Coleman Ramsay born 1887

Isabel Margaret Johnston Ramsay born 1890

all at Edinburgh. The second daughter was still unmarried when she registered her father's death in 1928.

JOHN RAMSAY

Younger son of John Ramsay (182). He was born c. 1839 and little is known of him beyond the entries in Census Return 1861 that he was a journeyman pianoforte maker with his father and in 1881<sup>4</sup> a music seller, still at home. He had moved away or died before 1881.

JAMES BAILLIE RAMSAY

Sixth son of Richard Ramsay (165). He was born at Culter 25.5.1807 and died 17.9.1826 aged 19 years. Nothing is known of him, but interest lies in the name 'Baillie', possibly derived from his mother's family. A marriage is recorded at Wiston 12.5.1815 between Thomas Ramsay and Margaret Baillie and she may have some connection. Thomas

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<sup>4</sup>Probably 1871 is meant here.

Ramsay was 'Workman at Milneridge' a suggestive designation, but unfortunately he cannot be traced as his birth is not recorded.

JOHN RAMSAY

Fourth and youngest son of Richard Ramsay (1). He was born 3.8.1751 and the date of death is unknown. He and his wife were probably interred in the fourth of the row of four Ramsay graves in Wiston Kirkyard (see under Jane Ramsay (20)), but the stone, erected some time after 1873 does not record their names. Like his father and brother Christopher, he was a meal dealer. He married Isabel Muir and there were four children:-

Jean Ramsay (198) born 1789

Richard Ramsay born 10.5.1792. Nothing further known.

Isabel Ramsay (208) born 1799

Helen Ramsay (222) born 1804

JEAN RAMSAY

Eldest daughter of John Ramsay (195). As with other Jeans in the family, she was later known as Jane. She was born 23.12.1789 and died at Wiston 7.4.1877 aged 87 years. She married 8.7.1814 George Wilson described as 'Joiner and Crofter' and also 'Wright in Wiston', who died 17.8.1855 aged 65 years. There were five children:-

John Wilson died 9.5.1824 aged 9 years

Hannah Wilson born 28.3.1817

Isabel Wilson born 8.3.1825, died 18.6.1828, aged 3 years

John Ramsay Wilson (204) born 1828

Agnes Wilson born 12.4.1831

JOHN RAMSAY WILSON

Younger son of Jean Ramsay (198). He was born at Wiston 27.11.1828 and died at Biggar 16.11.1900 aged 71 years. He married Lilias Watson who was born 25.2.1830 and died 2.3.1882 aged 52 years. There were two children:-

Mary Wilson born 3.9.1856, died 8.4.1883 aged 26 years.

## THE RAMSAY FAMILY OF WISTON

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George Wilson born 25.5.1859, died 10.1.1887 aged 27 years.

Both were unmarried.

### ISABEL RAMSAY

Second daughter of John Ramsay (195). She was born at Wiston 20.1.1799 and married William Davidson 11.6.1830. They had eight children:-

(1) Alexander Davidson born 5.12.1830, married 5.12.1851 Janet Ramsay (not identified) and they had a son John Davidson born 21.1.1852.

(2) Jean Davidson born 3.8.1832

(3) William Davidson born 31.12.1833 died before 22.7.1850

(4) Edgar Davidson (220) born 1835

(5) Thomas Davidson born 9.5.1837, married Janet White (see (220) below)

(6) Grizel Davidson born 26.2.1840

(7) Marion Davidson born 1849

(8) William Davidson born 22.7.1850 and died 19.3.1855 aged 4 years. The last two births are remarkable as the mother was then 50 and 51 years of age.

### EDGAR DAVIDSON

Third son of Isabel Ramsay (208). He was born at Wiston 8.12.1835. No further detailed information is known about him, but he was married with a family as a gravestone at Wiston records 'Erected by the Family of the Late Edgar Davidson in Memory of Their Uncle Thomas Davidson and Their Aunt Janet White, also Their Grandfather William Davidson and Their Grandmother Isabella Ramsay, all Late of Moorhead, Robertson, July 1915'. This indicates that they were a farming family.

### HELEN RAMSAY

Third and youngest daughter of John Ramsay (195). She was born 14.10.1804 and died at Wiston 10.12.1873 aged 69 years. She married 31.12.1830 Robert Howison 'Joiner in White Hill', Lamington, close to the supposed position of Callands. He died 8.1.1850 aged 59 years. Before the marriage he had an illegitimate daughter, Catherine Howison or Telfer born

1828. The mother was Isabel Telfer. Helen Ramsay is interred at Wiston and Robert Howison at Lamington. Both gravestones are of blue slate of identical design, the only ones of this stone in the kirkyards and they were unique in being the only two blown down in the winter of 1975. The name is 'Howison' in early records but later seems to have settled down to 'Howieson'. The former is retained in this history. There were six children all born at Lamington:-

James Howison (226) born 1831

John Howison (229) born 1833

Richard Howison (233) born 1835

Robert Howison (251) born 1839

Isabella Howison (254) born 1842

Helen Howison (267) born 1845

#### JAMES HOWISON

Eldest son of Helen Ramsay (222). He was born 29.8.1831 and married Helen Watson. They had a son Robert Howison who died 8.1.1850.

#### JOHN HOWISON

Second son of Helen Ramsay (222). He was born 10.7.1833 and died 31.12.1907 aged 74 years (76 on gravestone). He married 31.12.1869 Janet Somerville who died 19.7.1896 aged 64 years. They had two children neither of whom married:-

Mary Short Howison born 1870 and died 19.5.1957 aged 87 years.

John Ramsay Howison born 23.4.1872, died 17.9.1954 aged 82 years.

#### RICHARD HOWISON

Third son of Helen Ramsay (222). He was born 27.11.1835 and died 20.5.1916 aged 80 years, having outlived three wives. A granddaughter informed the writer that he liked to refer to himself as Richard Ramsay Howison but this was not his baptismal name. He was a farm labourer. His first wife was Mary Little whom he married 29.11.1861 and she died 30.5.1873 aged 38 years. There were seven children:-

## THE RAMSAY FAMILY OF WISTON

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(1) James Little Howison born 1863 and died at Biggar 14.2.1938 aged 74 years. He married Catherine Devine who died 14.1.1951 aged 84 years. They are interred at Wiston. No children are known.

(2) Robert Howison born 1804. He married Helen Dergie and they had a daughter Mary Little Howison born 16.9.1882.

(3) William Little Howison born 1865 and died at Carluke 1936. There were two sons:-

Robert Howison, late of Elsrickle, whose widow is still alive with several descendants.

William Howison, of Biggar, whose only son died of leukaemia in his early twenties.

(4) John Howison ('Johan' on gravestone) died 30.4.1892. He married Margaret Ramsay of the Biggar family born 23.2.1872. There were no children.

(5) Michael Little Howison born 1869

(6) Mary Little Howison born and died 11.3.1871

(7) Mary Little Howison born 1873

In 1876 Richard married his second wife Margaret Derryman ('Dairyman' on his death certificate) who died 28.11.1878 aged 30 years. They had a daughter Janet Derryman Howison who died 3.3.1897 aged 20 years.

His third wife was Mary Jane Bell whom he married 1.7.1881. She died 30.3.1913 aged 53 years. There were no children.

### ROBERT HOWISON

Fourth son of Helen Ramsay (222). He was born 6.5.1839 and married Lilias Gibson. They had one son John Ramsay Howison born 6.5.1876 and died in 1890 aged 14 years.

### ISABELLA HOWISON

Elder daughter of Helen Ramsay (222). She was born 18.5.1842 and died 1879 aged 37 years. She married her first husband Michael Little 18.1.1867, a brother of Mary Little (234) Richard Howison's first wife. He died soon after the marriage which was childless. She



married again about 1870 Thomas Laurieston. They lived at Hamilton and there were four children:-

(1) Helen Laurieston who married \_\_\_\_\_ Thomson and they had three children:-

Carlyle Thomson named after Thomas Carlyle a famous distant relative of the father.

Cecil Thomson, who lived abroad and married a Japanese lady.

Esme Thomson who was in charge of the catering department of Glasgow City Chambers, her duties including supervision and menus for banquets for royalty and V.I.Ps. She was unmarried and retired about 1960.

(2) Susan Laurieston born 1873 and died 1887

(3) George Laurieston died 1876

(4) Isabella Laurieston died 1956. She married \_\_\_\_\_ Forbes but there were no children.

#### HELEN HOWISON

Younger daughter of Helen Ramsay (222). She was born 10.12.1845 and died at Symington 13.11.1917 aged 71 years (68 years on gravestone). She had an illegitimate daughter Helen Ramsay Howison born 2.5.1868 and died 14.7.1868 aged 2 months. She married 3.12.1869 William Watson. He was a platelayer and later a coal agent at Symington. He was a widower with a family and he died 25.2.1925 aged 84 years. There were four children:-

Robert Howison Watson (271) born c. 1871

Helen Ramsay Watson born 9.1.1873, died 31.7.1893 aged 20 years, unmarried.

Isabella Howison Watson (273) born 1877

John Alexander Watson (294) born 1880

#### ROBERT HOWISON WATSON

Elder son of Helen Howison (267) was born 1870 or 1871. He was married in Glasgow and had a daughter born in 1917, but he was later divorced. He was an alcoholic. He worked on an estate at Symington and was killed when cycling to work in 1939.

ISABELLA HOWISON WATSON

Second daughter of Helen Howison (267). She was born at Symington 15.11.1877 and died 1950. She married 10.6.1904 Thomas Laing who died 1969. There were three children:-

(1) Thomas Laing married Mary Semple. There was one son Norman Watson Laing, born 1944, married with two daughters.

(2) William Laing married Agnes Bone and there are two sons:-

Thomas Watson Laing, married with three daughters

William Laing, in U.S.A., unmarried.

(3) Helen Howison Watson Laing born 1911 and married John Hogg 1932. There are two children:-

(a) Isabel Watson Hogg, born 1934 and married in 1957 Robert Patrick Jeffers, and there are two sons:-

Robert Jeffers born 1959, and

Patrick Jeffers born 1961.

(b) Helen Laing Hogg, born in 1936 and married 6.10.1956 Brian Alexander Lambie, born 1930. He has an ironmonger/seedsman business in Biggar, and will long be remembered as the founder of the Gladstone Court Museum (he is a great great nephew of William Ewart Gladstone) and he has in many ways developed the town's ancient heritage. There are four children:-

Helen Margaret Lambie born 1957

Susan Isabel Lambie born 1959

Elizabeth Jane Lambie born 1963

Anna Janina Lambie born 1968

JOHN ALEXANDER WATSON

Younger son of Helen Howison (267). He was born 6.12.1880, was married and had two daughters, one of whom was killed in an accident. The other was Helen Watson, born in 1930.

Max W. Ramsay

June 1980

STOP APPENDIX I

REGISTER

The number allotted to a name is the marginal number against that name in the order in which it appears in the history. Identical names are distinguished by date of birth. When there is a break in the \*\*\*, there is a reference to the parent with his or her number. e.g.

133

William Ramsay

Second son of Christopher Ramsay (40).

Thus any name can be traced directly back to the first known member of the family.

Aitcheson, Margaret	70		Davidson, Alexander	210
Alexander, Marion B.	137		" Edgar	220
Ballantine, Annie W.	159		" " children	221
Barrie, Alison S.	103		" Grizel	217
" Gillian D.	104		" Jean	213
" James D.	102		" John	212
" Linda W.	105		" Marion	218
Bell, Mary J.	250		" Thomas	215
Bone, Agnes	279		" William (c 1800)	202
Breckenridge, Agnes	174		Davidson, William (1833)	214
" James	173		" William (1850)	219
" John	179		Dempster, Agnes	49
" Marion	177		" Alexander (1821)	46
" Robert	178		" Alexander (1863)	50
Bryce, Mary	38		" James (1850)	47
Clark, Marion	4		" James (1855)	48
Coleman, Sophie M.	189		" Janet R.P.	52
Cowie,	120		" William W.	51
Craig, David	82		Dergie, Helen	238
" James	83		Derryman, Margaret	248
" Robert	84		Devine, Catherine	236

**THE RAMSAY FAMILY OF WISTON**

Dingwall, Andrew R.	148	" Mary L. (1882)	239
" James L.	146	" Mary S.	231
" James R.	147	" Michael L.	245
Donald, Isabella F.	75	" Richard	233
Dryburgh, James W.	175	" Robert (c. 1790)	223
" Mary	176	" Robert 1839 (((	251
Findlay, Elizabeth J.	139	" Robert (c. 1850)	228
Forbes,	266	" Robert 1864 (((	237
Gemmel, Jane	132	" Robert (c. 1890)	241
Gibson, Liliias	252	" William	242
Gray, Janet	141	" William L.	240
Hamilton, Catherine	114	Ingles, Marion	169
" John	18	Jeffers, Patrick	287
" William	19	" Robert	286
Hogg, Helen L.	288	" Robert P.	285
" Isabel W.	284	John, Elizabeth	150
" John	283	Johnston, Margaret	187
Howison, Catherine	224	Jones, Graham H.	155
" Helen	267	" Helen C.	157
" Helen R.	268	" Sally A.	156
" Isabella	254	Laidlaw, Grace	32
" James	226	Laing, Helen H.W.	282
" James L.	235	" Norman W.	277
" Janet D.	249	" Thomas (c. 1875)	274
" John (1833)	229	" Thomas (c. 1915)	275
" John (c.1867)	243	" Thomas W.	280
" John R. (1872)	232	" William (c. 1915)	278
" John R. (1876)	253	" William (c. 1940)	281
" Mary L. (1871)	246	Lambie, Anna J.	293
" Mary L. (1873)	247	" Brian A.	289

**THE RAMSAY FAMILY OF WISTON**

" Elizabeth J.	292	Ramsay, Christian	17
" Helen M.	290	" Christopher (1748)	40
" Susan I.	291	" Christopher (1837)	136
Lamieston, George	264	" Diana K.	164
" Helen	257	" Eleanor E.	190
" Isabella	265	" Elizabeth	15
" Susan	263	" Elizabeth A.	154
" Thomas	256	" Grissal	13
Law, Wendy C.	161	" Grizzel	172
Leslie, Matthew G.	107	" Helen	222
" Sylvia J.	109	" Isabel	208
" William S.	108	" Isabel M.J.	192
Little, Mary	234	" James B.	194
" Michael	255	" Jane (c 1780)	20
Mortimer, Janet	181	" Jane (1789) ***	198
Muir, Isabel	196	" Jane (c.1842)	185
Noble, Mary F.	72	" Janet (1801)	43
Palmer, Heather E.	94	" Janet (c. 1830)	211
" James	91	" Janet (c. 1833)	184
" James R.	93	" Jean	135
" Jill M.	92	" John (1751)	195
Plendesleith, Alison	88	" John (1801)	182
" Ian	87	" John (c. 1839)	193
" William	86	" John J.	188
Pollock, Jane	183	" Marca M.	151
Pret, Janet	41	" Margaret	244
Ramsay, Alastair J.D.	163	" Marie M.	145
" Alexander	140	" Marian	5
" Alexander G.	149	" Mary G.	142
" Angus C.A.	162	" Max R.M.	160

**THE RAMSAY FAMILY OF WISTON**

Ramsay, Max W.	158	Stewart, John	55
" Richard (c. 1720)	1	Struthess, Robert	111
" " 's wife	2	" Robert O.	112
" Richard (1749)	165	Swan, Mary	128
" Richard (1781)	167	Telfer, Isabella	225
" Richard (1792)	197	Templeton, David	22
" Richard (1798)	180	" Grace S.	35
" Richard (1800)	42	" Jane	27
" Richard (c. 1838)	185	" Jane R.	34
" Robert (1791)	168	" Janet	24
" Robert (1814)	171	" Jean (1816)	26
" Sophie M.C.	191	" Jean (1822)	28
" William (1746)	3	" Marion	23
" William (1777)	14	" Martha	29
" William (1788)	16	" Mary	30
" William (1804)	170	" Mary S.	39
" William (1805)	133	" Michael	37
" William (1862)	138	" Thomas (1781)	21
" William (1871)	143	" Thomas (1814)	25
Robison, Eric	96	" William	31
" Gary	98	" " 's daughter	33
" Jane E.	97	" William J.L.	36
Robson, Mary B.	61	Thomson, Carlyle	259
Russell, Mcqueen	118	" Ceal	260
Temple, Mary	276	" " 's wife	261
Shankie, Janet R.	100	" Esme	262
Simpson, Mary	166	" -	258
Smith, Elizabeth	63	Tinto, Margaret (1809)	9
" Jean	134	" Margaret (1814)	11
Somerville, Jane	230	" Richard	12

**THE RAMSAY FAMILY OF WISTON**

" William (c. 1775)	6	Weir, James	126
" William (1805)	7	White, Adam (c. 1829)	59
" William (1807)	8	" Adam (1858)	69
Türk, Marca	144	" Adam (c. 1885)	62
Watson, Adam	56	" Alexander	121
" Christopher	127	" " 's wife Jean	122
" Helen (c. 1830)	227	" Alice H.	101
" Helen (1833)	57	" Andrew	124
" Helen (1930)	296	" Christopher	119
" Helen R.	270	" Christopher W.	71
" Isabella H.	273	" Elsie	66
" Janet	45	" Ian	67
" Janet R.S.	129	" Isabel D.	106
" Jean	54	" Jacqueline H.	115
" John A.	294	" Janet	216
" " daughter	295	" Janet R.W.	125
" Liliás	205	" Janet W.	117
" Mary	58	" Janette	64
" Richard	131	" Janette M.S.	110
" Robert H.	271	" John	60
" " daughter	272	" Joyce	116
" William (c. 1792)	44	" Margaret	76
" William (c. 1840)	269	" Margaret F.	77
" William (c. 1883)	130	" Mary	68
Watt, Elizabeth J.	95	" Mary W.	79
" Heather W.	89	" Mollie	65
" Isabel D.W.	81	" Richard	53
" Margaret P.W.	85	" Richard A.R.	78
" Mary W.	90	" Watson	123
" Walter A.J.M.	80	" William	74



**THE RAMSAY FAMILY OF WISTON**

---

White, William A.	73	" George (c. 1790)	207
" William J.D. (1914)	99	" Hannah	201
" William J.D. (1951)	113	" Isabel	202
Willatt, Michael F.R.	152	" John	200
" Steven A.	153	" John R.	204
Wilson, Agnes	203	" Mary	206
" George (c. 1790)	199		

APPENDIX II

ORIGIN AND NAME OF THE RAMSAY FAMILY

The use of fixed surnames or descriptive names began in France about the years 1000 and reached Scotland through the Normans about 100 years later, though the usage was not common until much later. As it was introduced by the Normans, the use of the prefix "de" became fashionable and certainly does not guarantee french origin.

In his "History of Scotland", published 1527 Hector Boece says that at a general council at Forfar King Malcolm Cearnmor (1057-1093) directed his chief subjects to adopt surnames from their territorial possessions, and he there created "The first \*\*\* that ever was in Scotland", and

"many surename also les and \*\*\*,  
Was maid that tyme quhilk wasuocht bevoir,  
As Calden, Lokart, Gorfown and Setown,  
Gallowa, Lauder, Wawane and Libertown,  
Meldrum, Schow, Leirmond and Cargill,  
Strathesme, Rattsay, Dundas als Thaistill,  
With Cockburne, Mai and Leslie"

and he adds that with the future queen Margaret \*\*\* (about 1067):-

"Lyndesay, Wallace, \*\*\* and Lovell Ramsay, Prestonn, Sandilands, Basset, Soulis, Maxwell, Wardlaw, Gifford, Maule, Borthwick, also Fethickson, Creichtown all this and no mo." and five of these

"Come with Edgar out of Ungary"

Margaret was an english princess whose brother was Edgar Aethling, born in Hungary where his father Prince Edward, son of King Edmund Ironside, was exiled, so all who accompanied her would be english.

Sir Thomas \*ay in his "Scalachionica", referring to the return of William the Lion to Scotland after his liberation from the English in 1175, says

"wherefore he toake with hym many of the younger \*\*\*\* of the nobyl men of England that base hym good wyll and gave them landes in Scotland of them that were rebelles to hym. These were the names of the gentilmen he toke with him:-

Balliol, Breuse, Souilly, Moubsey, Santelese, Hay, Giffard, Ramsay, Laundel, Dysey, Berkeley, Walenge, Boys, Montgonery, Vaulx, Coleville, Fresis, Grahm, Gurley and dyverse other."

This group of englishmen arrived about 100 years after the first lot, so the two Ramsays mentioned were quite different persons.

The Ramsays (the name originally meant "wild garlic island") are thought to have come from the County of Huntingdon where Ramsey is a local name, including town, abbey and mere. As the Earldom of Huntingdon, including ownership of the county, was at that time a title of the King of Scotland, it is possible that the Ramsays had come down earlier from Scotland.

The first of the name recorded in Scotland as SIMUND DE RAMESIE who witnessed several charters before 1200. Other variants of the name followed - DE RAMESHES (1200), DE RAMISSEIA (1220), RAMESSAY (1233), DE RAMESEYE (1293), REMISSAY (1320), RAMHISHAY (1328) and RAMSA (1510). The name has settled down to RAMSAY, but even as late as 1800 abbreviation to RAM was common and RAMAGE occasionally appeared as a variant.

In the Clan hierarchy the Ramsays are formely established. Legally "Clan" appears only in the Borders and Highlands. In the Lowlands the families, of which Ramsay is one, are designated "Names", but they have \*\*\*\* and characteristic tartans in the same way as the clans. Chieftanship is very carefully defined under Act of 1672. Chiefs comprise persons officially recognised as such by inheritance of ancestral arms "without \*\*\*\* of mark of cadency" under decree of the Lion Court, i.e. the arms of the chief must be "undifferenced" (not halved, quartered, etc.). This automatically excludes from chieftanship any person with a double or multi-barrelled name. This was challenged as recently as 1950. Self-styled chiefs, of those "elected" by clan societies are totally discountenanced.

Thus, out of well over 1000 scottich surnames, including about 500 varieties of "Mac", only 75 hereditary Chiefs are recognised by the Lion Court. The Earl of Dalhousie, head of the Ramsay family, is one of them. Most clans include septs or branches under another name. For example Clan Macmillan includes Baxter, Bell and Brown, and Clan MacDonald

embraces more than 100 other names. On the other hand Ramsay is one of the select few families which do not include any subsidiary name.

In the records of the Wiston Ramsays, the abbreviation "Ram" is frequently found (session desks were prone to do this, e.g. "McCbg" for "MacCubbing"), and occasionally "Ramage" appears, probably from illiteracy and mis-hearing. The following example relates to father, son and granddaughter

"William, to Richard Ram" (birth O.P.R.)

"William, Ramsay and Marion Clerk" (marriage O.P.R.)

"Jane Templeton daughter of William Ramage and Marion Clark" (death certificate)

"Jane Ramsay, wife of Thomas Templeton" (gravestone)

Throughout this history, Ramsay is used.

APPENDIX III

THE RAMSAY COUNTRY

The country of the Wiston Ramsay family just about co-incides with the Upper Ward of Lanarkshire, now part of Strathclyde. It is almost entirely agricultural and early members of the family all followed occupations such as tenant farmers, shepherds, casters, meal dealers, etc. When a farm is mentioned in O.P.R's it probably refers to a tied cottage of that farm unless "tenant" is specified.

The area southwest of the dominant Tinto Hill was settled by flemish incomers, Wiston, Roerton and Ramington were named after Wice, Robert and Lambire, and Symington after Simon Loccard.

The River Clyde meanders round the whole area and in places has changed course to the benefit of some farms and loss to others. A local event is "Stooky Sunday", the first Sunday after the corn has been gathered in, when the farmers climb Tinto Hill to view the old course of the river, assuming they can see it after their refreshment!

There was very little movement of population in the area until mid-nineteenth century. Since that time some villages have grown to miniature towns whilst others have to all intents and purposes dis-appeared.

All kirkyards in the area are very well maintained and the lettering on gravestones appears to be as good as when cut, indicating how suitable the stone used was for the purpose.

BIGGAR

This is an important market town. The kirkyard is very large and is now extended as a modern cemetery. No Wiston Ramsays are interred here, but many of the Culter family spread here and are buried in the kirkyard. The last two surviving members of this family carrying the surname Ramsay, two unmarried sisters, still live here.

William Ramsay (133) lived here at the time of his marriage and for a few years after it. Then after a long break his family returned here for many years.

CARMICHAEL

There is a kirk, now known as West Gate, and Kirkyard, but Carmichael House has long been in \*\*\*\*\* and the village is quite extinct. P\*\*\*\*\* ancestors (Appendix IV) are buried here but none of their graves are marked.

### COVINGTON AND THANKERTON

These are two villages about a mile apart, following a single parish with the kirk at Covington, although Thankerton is very much larger. One of the Wiston Prets farmed at Covington, and Alexander Smith (V) was at one time a weaver in Thankerton.

### CULTER or COULTER

(Invariably pronounced "Cooter"). This is a large expanding village, almost dormitory for Biggar. The kirkyard does not contain any relevant gravestones, but the O.P.R. teem with Rams, Ramsays and Ramages, interchangeable in the early entries but later separating into distinct Ramsay and Ramage families.

Snaip and Wisbet. These two farms, about a mile S.E. of the village were the birth places of the earliest known members of the Culter Ramsays.

### DOUGLAS

Maidengill Farm is about 2 miles from Douglas and in that parish. Thomas Templeton (21) who married Jane Ramsay (20) moved here as shepherd early in his marriage and their numerous children were registered at Douglas. Jane Ramsay's death was also registered here, but her body was laboriously transported over six miles of moorland to be interred at Wiston.

### LAMINGTON

This is a large and growing village and in the kirkyard there are about a dozen gravestones of descendents of William Watson (44) and Janet Ramsay (43).

Lammington \*\*\*\*\*. Christopher Ramsay (40) was here when his younger son was born. He probably died here but was interred at Wiston. His widow, eldest son and daughter Janet, referred to above, all remained for the rest of their lives at Lammington.

Callards, or \*\*\*\*\*. This is where the two sons of William Ramsay (133) were born. It has now completely disappeared and its site is doubtful, but its approximate position close to the present day Overburns farm, was suggested by Mr. Brian Lambie.

Mid Town Farm. William Watson was tenant in the 1850's and 1860's.

Hill House Farm (pron. "Hillus") William Watson (44) took the tenancy in the late 1860's and it was carried on by his family until 1945.

Laugholm Farm was tenanted by James Donald and the tenancy came into the family through the marriage of his daughter with William White (74). It is still carried on by his grandson. The farm suffered considerable loss of land when the river changed its course, bringing the farmhouse much nearer to the water.

### LANARK

This is the principle town in the area. It had a thriving cotton weaving industry, considerably extended around 1800 when New Lanark was built to make use of water power from the river and to house the enhanced number of workers. Nevertheless, hand loom cotton weaving was carried on alongside power weaving until at least the 1850's. James Breckenridge (173) and his son were handloom weavers.

### NEMPHLAR

This was a nearby village which housed weavers, including the above James Breckenridge, probably working in their own houses. The old village has gone and it now consists of a few modern houses.

### PETTINAIN

There is a kirk and kirkyard but the village is now barely a dozen houses.

Grange Farm is about a mile east of the village. It was for several generations tenanted by the Smith family (Appendix V) and William Ramsay (133) was married there.

Grange Hall Farm is very close to Grange farm and the two farm yards are, to all intents and purposes, a single one with gateway leading to Southholm, a third farm.

### ROBERTON

This thriving village, 2 miles S.W. of Wiston, has its own kirk and kirkyard but is a joint parish with Wiston. There are no relevant gravestones. Some of the White and Watt families are living there at present.

Muirhead, about 1½ miles N.W. of the village was tenanted by William Davidson, who married Isabel Ramsay, and their descendants.

### SYMINGTON

This is quite a thriving community and is now quite modern. In the mid 1800's however, it was quite small and census returns gave the address of the inhabitants simply as "The Village" or "Younhead". The latter seems to be quite unchanged. One puzzling exception is that in 1861 the address of William Ramsay (133) was given as "Newlands, Symington". (This is quite distinct from the village of Newlands which is 12 miles distant). Older residents to whom the writer spoke were quite unable to recall the name. One possibility is that it referred to the new land added to the Symington bank when the river changed its course.

### WISTON

This is now a very scattered community and b\*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\* the same village. It is however the real centre of the Ramsays of this history. The kirkyard has twelve ramsay and related gravestones and those of three other Ramsays which it has not been possible to link up. The O.P.R.'s are full of Ramsays and associated names but unfortunately there is a break of a few years. The two farms associated with the family still exist.



East Millrig variously written "Milrig", "Mydrig" and "Mulneridge" was tenanted by William Tinto (6) who married Marion Ramsay (5).

West Millrig. This farm was tenanted by the Prer family. Census returns give it as 900 acres so it was quite extensive.

Bodinglee. William Templeton was shepherd here at the time of his marriage, later moving to Mandengill.

Greenhill. This old ruined mansion house stood about  $\frac{3}{4}$ m. west of W. Millrig. It had C\*\*\*\*\* associations. In 1975 demolition was commenced and all materials were transferred to Biggar Braes where the house has been re-erected and restored to its condition of 1685. It was opened in 1981.

#### OTHER VILLAGES

There are Ramsays interred in many surrounding villages such as Carmwath, Carstaiss, Crawford, Dunsyre, Lanark, Lesinahagow, Newlands, Skirling and W. Linton. Although Allan Ramsay, poet, was born at Leadhills, there are no Ramsay gravestones or entries in O.P.R.'s. But the main street is Ramsay Road.

There is the "Ramsay Inn" at Caslops.

#### TINTO HILL

The hill is 2320 feet in height and dominates the area. When Alexander Ramsay (140) climbed it in 1916 and found a poem pushed into a crevice in the cairn of the top of the hill, the cairn was presumably the traditional heap of small stones properly piled up. It is very different today. As a result of the custom of each climber taking up a stone, many of which are quite massive, the cairn has grown to a huge mound which the writer estimates as about 25 feet high and 75 feet diameter at the base. It almost overflows the triangulation pillar on the true top of the hill.

APPENDIX IV

THE PRET AND PRIMROSE FAMILIES

Both these families are direct forebears of the Ramsays descended from Christopher Ramsay (39) and they are recorded a generation earlier than Richard Ramsay (1).

The Prets were a Wiston family. Thomas Pret (d. 1779) does not appear in O.P.R.'s but only on his gravestone on which he is described as "Tenant of Millrig of Wiston". His son William Pret (1739-1793) appears several times in birth records and is described for the first time as "Tenant of W. Milrig" in 1780, evidently succeeding his father.

William Pret married Helen Primrose (1743-1826) on 19.8.1768 and they had a large family of ten children, the eldest of whom, Janet Pret (41) married Christopher Ramsay (40) and thus started a large branch of the family recorded in this history. Little is known of the other children, apart from William Pret (b. 1780) who tenanted Langlands, Covington and was unmarried, and Adam Pret (1772-1860) who succeeded his father as tenant of W. Millrig. He married Jane \*\*\*\* (1774-1854) at Wiston on 30.4.1805 and they had six children, four of whom died before their parents. The surviving two were Thomas Pret (1810-1869) and the second Violet Pret (1812-1872) who is in fact recorded in the O.P.R. as "Voilet". Both were unmarried and died at "Langly, South of England", so no doubt Violet had kept home for her brother.

The profession of Thomas is unknown, but he seems to have been quite well off. When he died he made one or two minor bequests and left the bulk of his money in the form of a trust, named in a letter from William Ramsay (133) to his son Alexander (140) as the "\* and V. Pret Bursary" and in 1976 it provided £3 \*\* (i.e. head scholar) prizes at Wiston and Lammington Schools and £38 for distribution among old age pensioners and needy sick persons. Its present title is "The Thomas Pratt Trust". He left his grandfather's long case clock to the above William Ramsay. The clock was known as "Old Tom" and is still going well. The remainder of his household effects were distributed equally between Jean Ramsay (135) and Helen Watson (57) his\* first cousin, both of whom remained unmarried.

When Jean Ramsay left Biggar for Selkirk in 1898 she disposed of her household effects. Her brother Alexander Ramsay (140) bought in the better pieces which no doubt were part of the Pret legacy to her. These were a mahogany glass-fronted bookcase now belonging

to Alexander G. Ramsay (149), and also a chest of drawers and a sideboard, both of mahogany, which together with the above-mentioned clock are in the possession of Marie M. Ramsay (145) who also has some of Violet Pret's table silver engraved "V.P."

The name "Pret" underwent some changes, first to "Prett" and later anglicised to "Pratt". This latter is somewhat puzzling. The gravestone of Thomas Pret and his son William Pret was "renewed in 1872 by Thomas Pret, grandson of the above William Pret". Yet sometime before that date, the same Thomas Pret and his sister (who died in 1872) had erected a stone to their parents, brothers and sisters, and the names on it, including his own, are engraved "Pratt". Both Pret gravestones are very close to the row of four oldest Ramsay stones in Wiston.

The primroses were a Carmichael family, probably farming stock but this is not recorded. Adam Primrose (d. 15.2.1795) was married three times, and it was Helen(2) Primrose (1743-1826 a daughter of his second marriage on 9.7.1740 to Janet Lithgow, who married William Pret in 1768. The eldest daughter of this marriage, Janet Pret (41), provided the link with the Ramsays when she married Christopher Ramsay (40) in 1797.

The small attached "tree" shows all these relationships.

APPENDIX V

THE SMITHS OF PETTINAIN

In Pettinain Kirkyard there is a table monument, of which only the top stone now exists flat in the turf, which records five Smiths who were successively Tenants of Grange, a farm about a mile east of the kirk.

William Ramsay (133) married Jean Smith (134) at Grange on 6.6.1834. A link with the above Smith family seems obvious but it is not firmly established. The parents of Jean Smith were Alexander Smith (1774-1810) and Jean Alexander (c. 1766-1821), his second wife, and during their short married life of about nine years, there were four children whose ages ranged from 8 years down to 1 year when he died. If he were in fact closely related to the Smiths of Grange, it seems more than likely that the family was taken into the farm which could always employ the widow and children as they grew to a useful age. They were all still "teenagers" when the mother died. This would account for marriage of Jean Smith and William Ramsay taking place at Grange.

Alexander Smith, from his date of birth, could have been either (1) elder brother of James Smith (d. 1877), but this can be ruled out as he would have been Tenant, or (2) younger brother of James Smith (d. 1810) but unfortunately this cannot be authenticated.

The gravestone at Pettinain shows that he was at Thankerton when his first wife died, but he was at Netherton, Carmichael, the adjacent parish to Pettinain, throughout his second marriage. However he must have had strong ties with Pettinain to be interred there.

The gravestone is worthy of comment. It is beautifully engraved by a competent craftsman, but he seems to have gone about it without considering the arrangement, words being broken at unorthodox places and letters being squeezed in. It reads as:-

"Erected by Ale=  
=xander Smith in  
Thankerton  
in memory of ELIZAB  
ETH LIGHTBODY his Wi  
fe who Died 27 Mar<sub>ch</sub>

1800 Aged 27 years.

Also is interred the Said

ALEXANDER SMITH

who died 7th Dec 1810

aged 36 years"

His second wife, the one involved in this history, is commemorated on the reverse side of the stone:-

"and of JEAN ALEXANDER

his wife who died 22nd July 1821

aged 55 years."

**THE RAMSAY FAMILY OF WISTON**

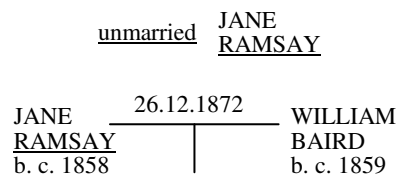
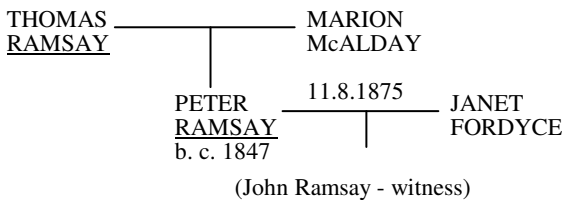
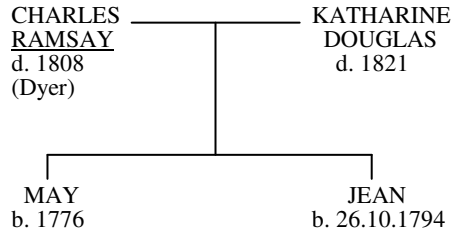
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APPENDIX VI

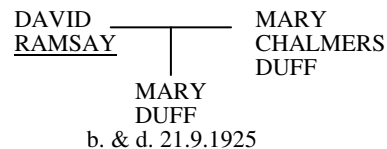
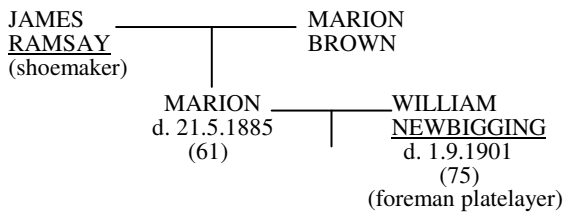
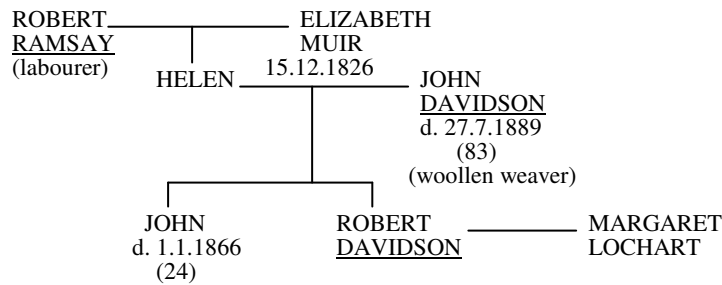
OTHER RAMSAYS IN THE LOCALITY

Excluding the large Culter/Biggar family, there were several other Ramsays in the area. Many were of a later date, so they were probably "incomers".

LAMINGTON



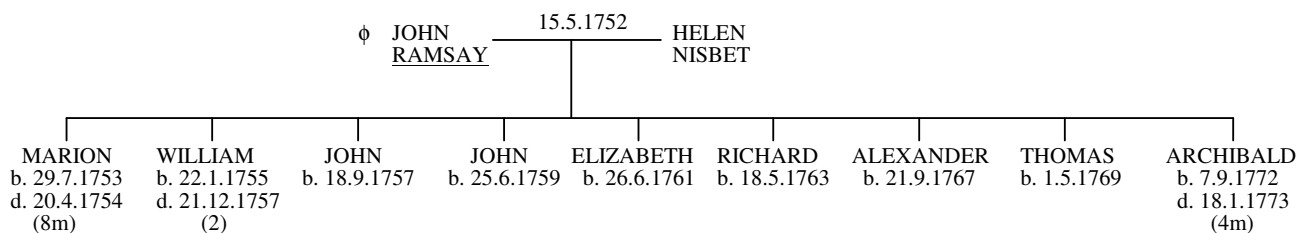
SYMINGTON



## THE RAMSAY FAMILY OF WISTON

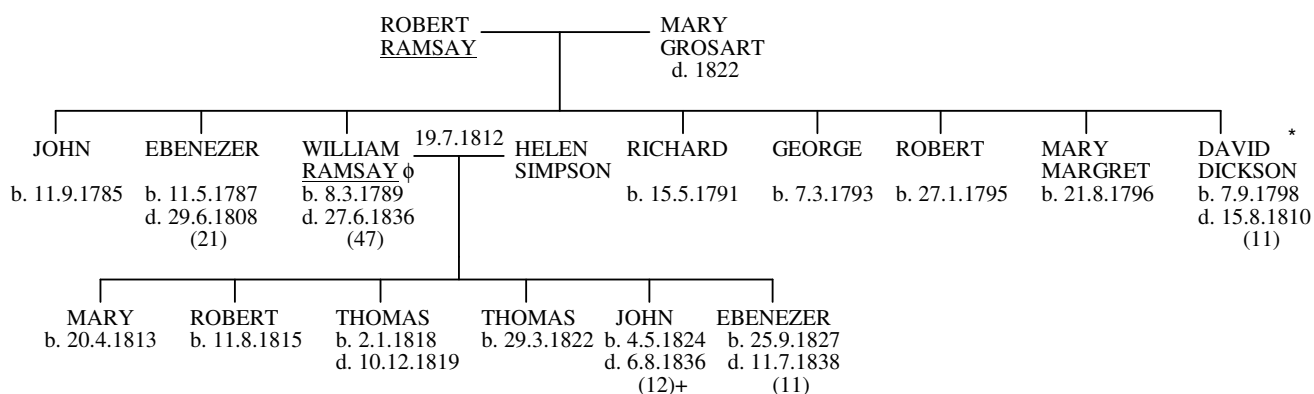
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### CULTER



φ Appears in O.P.R.'s as Ram, Ramage and Ramsay

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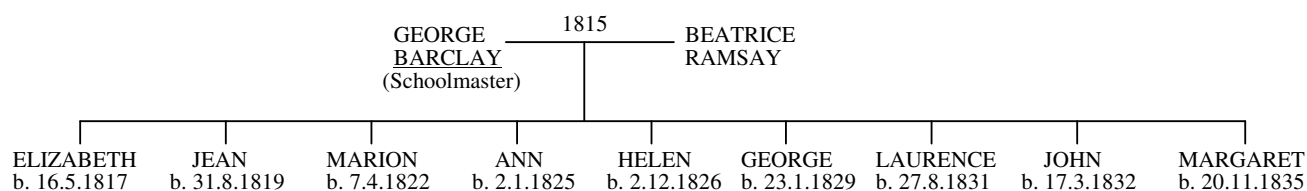


φ Probably Blacksmith. In Register of Volunteers about 1815

\* Robert Ramsay was "servant to MMM Dickson".

+ Age 8 years on gravestone.

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Deaths:-

RICHARD RAMSAY in Cormister 23.3.1791

RICHARD RAMSAY at Scarland -.1.1813

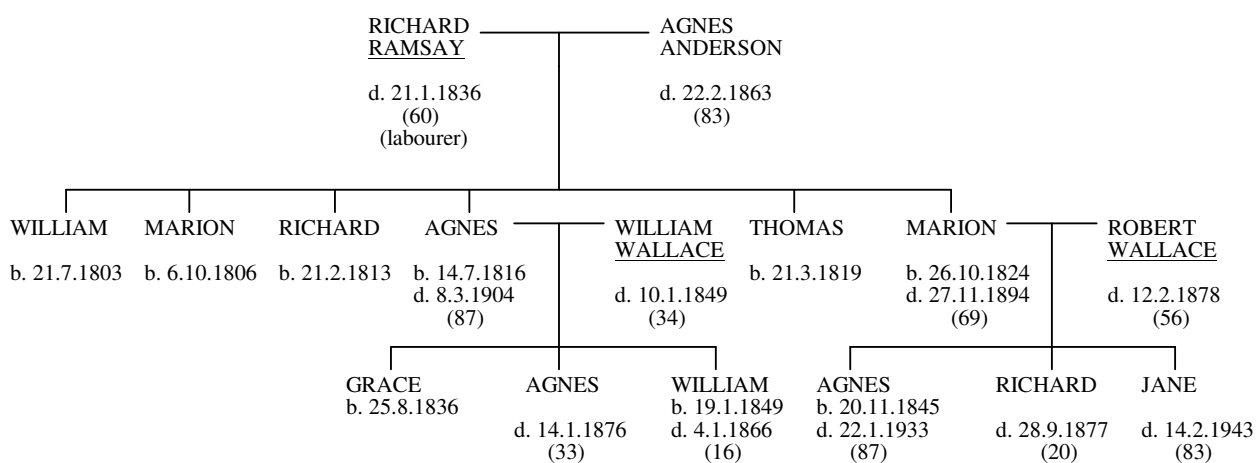
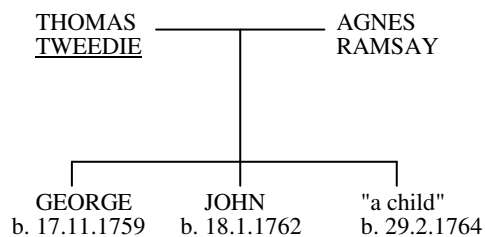
These could be the sons of John and Robert Ramsay above.

There are many other Ramsays, etc. in O.P.R.'s.

## THE RAMSAY FAMILY OF WISTON

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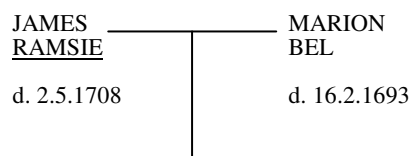
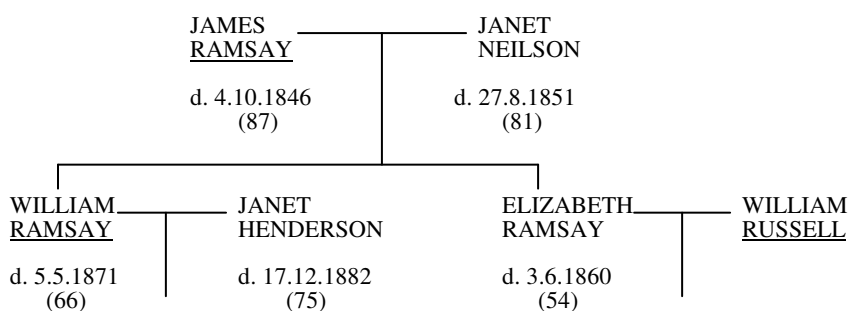
### CRAWFORD



William and Robert Wallace were shepherds and probably brothers.

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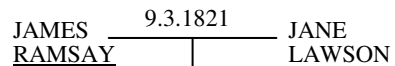
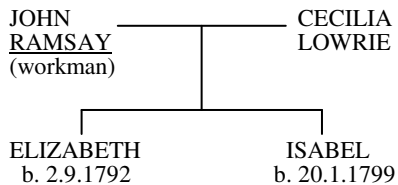
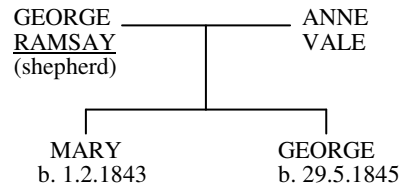
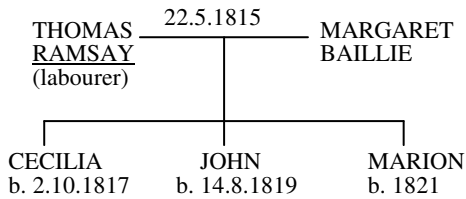
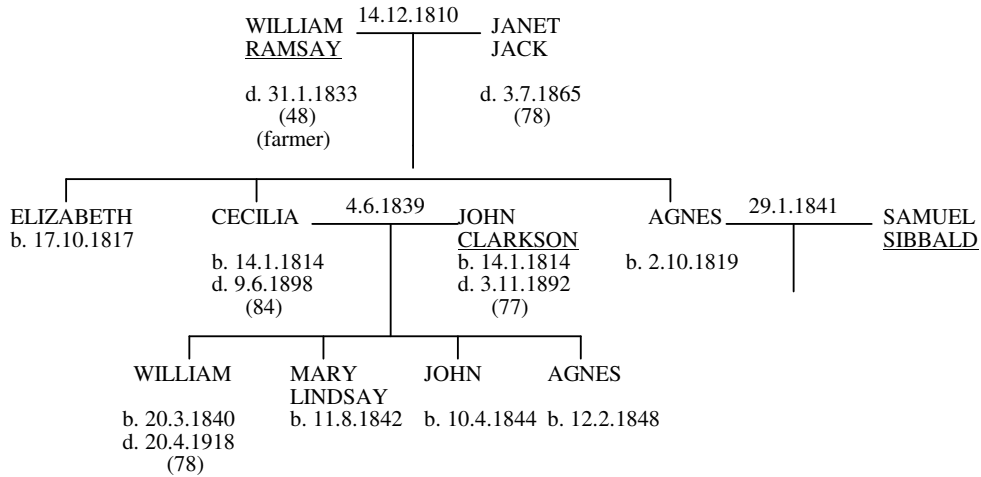
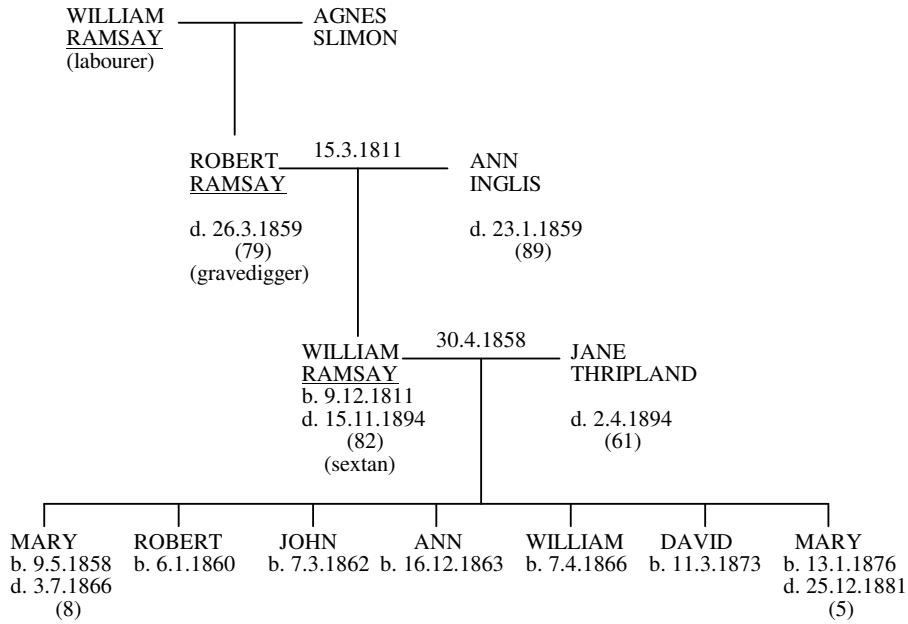
### PETTINAIN





THE RAMSAY FAMILY OF WISTON

WISTON



APPENDIX VII

O.P.R. ENTRIES OF INTEREST

O.P.R.'s vary very much in the importance attached to different items. All are strict about birth entries, or more likely baptisms, as it is not always clear which has been entered. Marriage follows in importance but are much fewer, as a simple declaration by the parties that they accepted each other as man and wife was quite legal in Scotland until 1855, and such marriages were not recorded but were severely frowned on by the church. In some cases O.P.R.'s record the publishing of Banns but not the actual marriage. Deaths are quite frequently not recorded at all, reliance being placed on the epitaphs on the gravestones.

The following items of interest were encountered during the search.

CARMICHAEL

This item was written about 1710 in *pro forma* style, indicating frequent usage.

"The Oath of Purgation

I ----- being accus'd to have committed Fornication and to have had Carnal Dealing with -  
----- Do Swear and Protest here before the Great God, before Jesus Christ who will be my  
Judge in the great Day of Judgement before his Angels and all their Witnesses here present,  
that I had never Carnal Dealing with her nor has at any time committed Fornication with -----  
--- Wishing all the fearful Curses of the Law of God and the Woes of the Gospel may fall  
upon Me, that I never thrive in this world, And that my conscience hence never give me  
Peace, but torment me as it did Cain and Judas. And that I never have Hope of Mercy at the  
hand of God but may Die in Desperation and in the great Day be Cast into Hell, if this my  
Oath be not true from my heart."

Deaths were not recorded, but there is a full record of charges paid for use of the mortcloth, i.e. pall to cover the coffin, and this is undoubtedly an accurate list of deaths. The charge was usually 2/6 but varied from 1/- up to £1-1-0 for the Dowager Countess of Hyndford.

CULTER

If a child of a marriage by declaration referred to above (in earlier days known as "Handfasting") was brought to the minister for baptism, he would put the parents through the mill and record it as in this example:-

"Helen, to William Ramage, Culter 10 July 1768. The parents having undergone a course of Discipline and was absolv'd from the scandal of the sin of fornication and Restor'd into Communion with the Church."

A child of such a marriage was legitimate without benefit of the church.

Another birth entry:-

"Elizabeth Howison Antonine, lawful daughter of Alexander Strachan, Asst. Commissary General attached to the Army of Occupation in France, at present in Valenciennes, and of Antonine Marie Hortense Frederick his wife, born 21st July was baptised 29th August 1817 in Valenciennes by Maurice James, Chaplain to the Forces."

Under "Deaths".

"Cesar, a negro, died at Culter 20 March 1778."

It is difficult to appreciate how a negro could end his days in such an obscure village at that time. Possibly he was a servant of a retired trader or planter.

### LAMINGTON

The following has already been quoted under Janet Pret (41):-

"W.B. Janet Prett the mother of \*\* William Watson and hence the child's great grandmother was present at his Baptism and though 87 years of age was in the enjoyment of apparent good health and all her mental faculties"

### WISTON AND ROBERTON

The death at Robertson is recorded of

"The Princess Dowager of Wales 8 Feb 1772"

She was Augusta of Saxe Colburg, the wife of Frederick Louis (1707-51) who was Prince of Wales but did not succeed as he pre-deceased his father George II (1683-1760). Her son George William Frederick came to the throne as George III. How such a distinguished person came to die at a small unimportant village is rather puzzling. If she was residing in the

district one would have expected her to be at Crawford, as very fashionable resort only 6 miles from Robertson. As the village is on the main road south from Glasgow and Edinburgh, it may have been the result of an illness while travelling.

"Lanark 3rd May 1826

The Presbytery of Lanark having examined the foregoing register [Wiston.] find the same to be irregularly kept, containing the names of several children of the same family recorded in the same page. After hearing the Session Clerk's explanation, stating that scarcely any children had been baptised in the church for the last twenty years & that the private baptisms are not \*\* communicated to him ---- the Presbytery enjoin that children should be baptised in the church according to the laws and practices of the church when the congregation may have the benefit of hearing instructions concerning the nature and obligations of Baptism, at least that no private baptism should be administered without receiving the Session Clerk's dues & transmitting as soon as possible the name of the child & date of birth and baptism to the Clerk.

W.M. Menzies. P.Clark."

It seems fairly evident that the minister had been pocketing the clerk's fees!

APPENDIX VIII

UP-DATING

Michael Frederick Ralph Willath, died 22.8.1957 aged 52 years.

Frederick Findlater Parry, born 22.8.1960, married Steven A. Willatt (153) 28.6.1986.

Roger Michael Garbett, Environmental Health Officer, born 28.5.1960 married Sally A. Jones (156) Occupational Therapist 20.6.1987.

Katherine Ann Garbett, daughter of Sally A. Jones (156) born 27.1.1990.

Lynda Diane Hough, Radiologist born 7.3.1965 married Alastair J.D. Ramsay (163), 21.4.1990.

George Alexander Richard Willatt, son of Steven A. Willatt (153) born 25.8.1990

Marie Margarethe Ramsay died at High Wycombe 17.4.91 aged 91 years.

I would suggest that we (ACAR and MRMR):

- 1) perform updating to present date.
- 2) add photocopies of interesting documents and photographs to this family tree