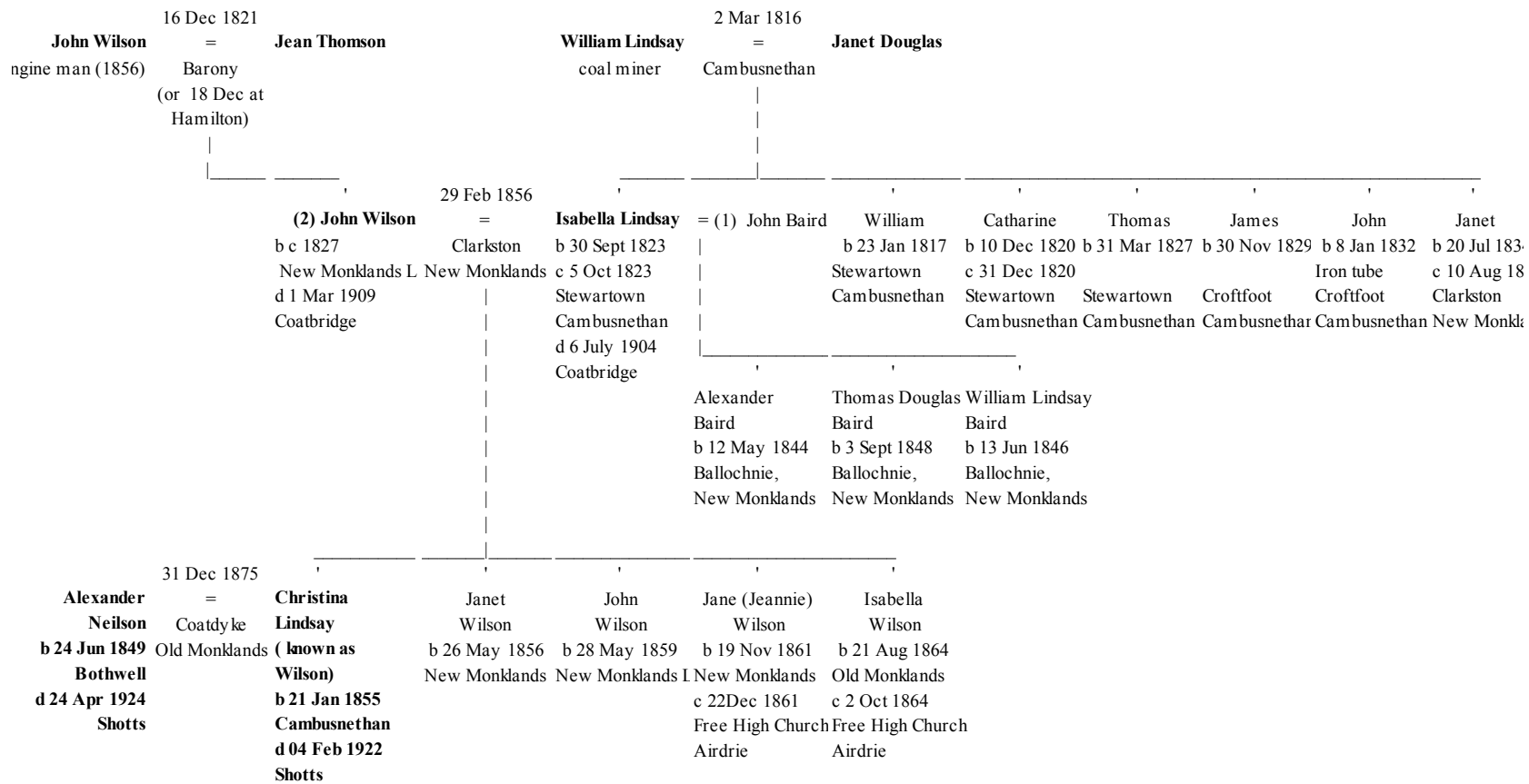


John Wilson and Isabella Lindsay

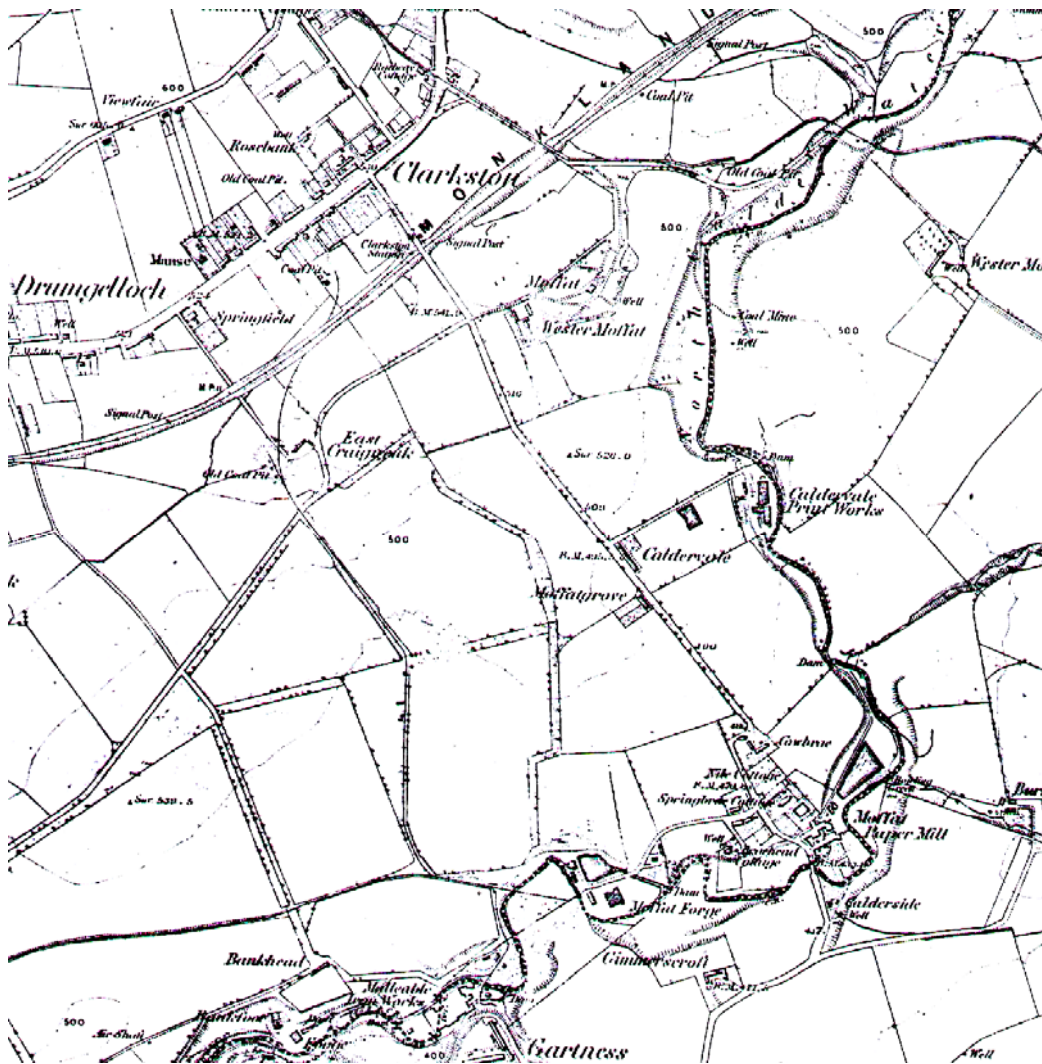


John Wilson and Isabella Lindsay

John and Isabella were married on 29 February 1856 at the manse of Clarkston. Isabella was the widow of John Baird and a near neighbour of John's in the hamlet of Moffat. Prior to this, on 23 January 1855 Isabella, a widow for more than four years, had given birth to a child who was named Christina Lindsay.

The person who reported the birth to the Registrar and who had been present at the birth was John Wilson. John is not named as the father, that column on the certificate remaining blank. On Christina's marriage certificate in 1876, however John is named as her father despite the fact that she is still named Lindsay. In the 1861 and 1871 censuses Christina was listed with surname Wilson.

It seems likely that John was the father but perhaps did not record the fact perhaps to avoid trouble from the church. Research continues on this assumption.



Bottom right Cow Brae beside Moffat Paper Mill 1864.

By 1861, John and Isabella are living with five children in a house that has only one room with a window!

Census 1861 dist 651 book 15

Village of Moffat, Houses West of Cow Brae (see above map)

Wilson John	h	m	34	Engine keeper	Lks, New Monkland L
Wilson Isabella	w	m	35		Lks, Wishaw
Baird Alexander	stepson	u	16	Paper maker	Lks, New Monkland L
Baird Thomas	stepson	u	12	Paper maker	Lks, New Monkland L
Wilson Christina	d		6	scholar	Lks, New Monkland L
Wilson Janet	d		4		Lks, New Monkland L
Wilson John	s		1		Lks, New Monkland L

The address “Houses West of Cow Brae” has a certain charm about it nowadays. In the year 2000 when seeking out a map of the area, but not really believing that Cow Brae would be on any map, it was interesting to hear the reaction of the assistant in Airdrie Library to the request “Oh! One of my colleagues lives there”!

Ten years later, the two Baird boys have moved out, probably married, and Isabella has been born. Janet, who would have been fourteen, is missing. Perhaps a childhood death or she might have been in service somewhere. The family is now occupying a house with two windowed rooms, a big improvement!

John is now working in the iron industry. Some of the effects of this industry had been described in 1869 by David Bremner in “Industries of Scotland”:

Coatbridge is a most interesting seat of industry. It is anything but beautiful. Dense clouds of smoke roll over it incessantly, and impart to all the buildings a peculiarly dingy aspect. A coat of black dust overlies everything, and in a few hours the visitor finds his complexion considerably deteriorated by the flakes of soot, which fill the air, and settle on his face. To appreciate Coatbridge it must be visited at night, when it presents a most extraordinary and – when seen for the first time – a startling spectacle. From the steeple of the parish church, which stands on a considerable eminence, the flames of no fewer than fifty blast furnaces may be seen. In daytime these flames are pale and unimpressive; but when night comes on, they appear to burn more fiercely, and there is developed in the sky a lurid glow similar to that which hangs over a city when a great conflagration is in progress. For half a mile round each group of furnaces, the country is as well illuminated as during full moon, and the good folks of Coatbridge have their streets illuminated without tax or trouble.

1871 census District 652/1

The address was difficult to read but appeared to be 4 Harvies Road.

Wilson John	h	m	45	Mould shovel welder	Lks, New Monkland
Wilson Isabella	w	m	46		Lks, Cambusnethan
Wilson John	s		11	scholar	Lks, New Monkland
Wilson Christina	d	u	16	cotton weaver	Lks, New Monkland
Wilson Jane	d		9	scholar	Lks, New Monkland
Wilson Isabella	d		6	scholar	Lks, Old Monkland

1881 Dist.652/3 book 2 page 18.

79 Stewarts Land

Wilson	John	h	m	54	Iron tube labourer	Lks, New Monkland
Wilson	Isabella	w	m	55		Lks, Wishaw
Wilson	Jane	d	u	19	Cotton weaver	Lks, New Monkland
Wilson	Isabella	d	u	16	Cotton weaver	Lks, Old Monkland
Wilson	John	br.1	u	48	Iron tube labourer	Lks, Wishaw

The last census available to us at the time of writing is the one of 1891. It shows John and Isabella on their own in what looks like the same house. (A guess, based on the fact that their houses in both 1871 and 1881 have the same number)

1891 Dist 652/2 book 7 page 2.

79 Cliftonhill Buildings

Wilson	John	h	m	65	tubeworker labourer employed	LKS Airdrie
Wilson	Isabella	w	m	65		LKS Wishaw

2 rooms with windows.

Isabella died in 1904 and John in 1909.

Isabella's birth:

O.P.R. Cambusnethan, Lanark FR 577

Isobel, daughter to William Lindsay and Janet Douglas born 30 Sept bapt. 5 Oct 1823.

Marriage:

1856 New Monklands L No.4

On the 29th day of Feb 1856 at the manse of Clarkston.	signed John Wilson storekeeper (bachelor)	29	Moffat Mill	John Wilson Engineman (deceased) Jean Thomson	John Campbell Minister of Clarkston
Marriage (after Banns) was Solemnized between us according to the forms of the Church of Scotland.	signed Isabella Lindsay (widow)	30	Moffat Mill	James Lindsay Collier	

Witnesses: James Thomson & Robina Clark

1904 652/2 No. 471

Isabella Wilson Married to 1 st John Baird, coal Miner. 2 nd John Wilson, tube Work labourer.	1904 F July 6th 11.50 pm 16 6/2 East Stewart Street, Coatbridge.	77	William Lindsay coal miner (deceased) Janet Lindsay M.S. Douglas (deceased)	Intra capsular fracture of femur 18 days Valvular disease of heart duration uncertain.	Isabella Kirkland daughter present Railway Cottages Dalmuir.
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1908 652/2 No 115

John Wilson Hammerman. Widower of Isabella Lindsay or Baird	1909 March 1 st 11h 30m p.m. 501b Main St Coatbridge	M	85	John Wilson Paper Mill worker (deceased) Christina Wilson M.S. Thomson (deceased)	Gangerine of foot present	John Baird Step g - son present
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Isabella Lindsay's life with John Baird

There is no record of a marriage between Isabella and John Baird so the earliest record of them is at the birth of their first child in 1844.

O.P.R. Clarkston New Monklands 651/6 FR 1555

Alexander Baird son of John Baird miner Ballochney and Isabella Lindsay his spouse was born 12 May and baptised 6 June 1844.

Two other children followed:

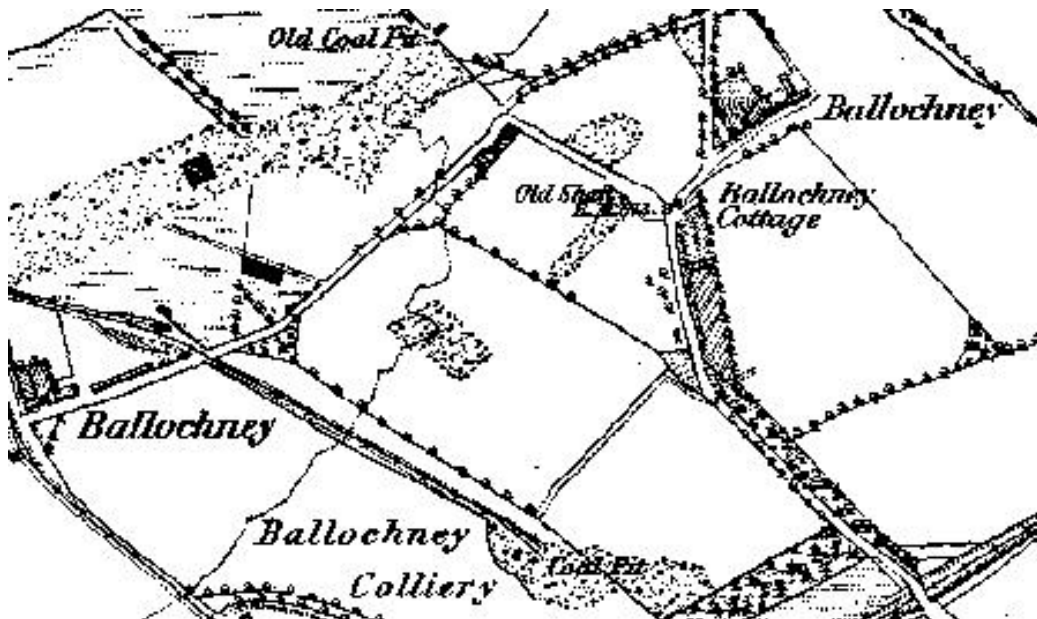
FR 1574

William Baird son of John Baird miner Ballochney and Isabella Lindsay his spouse was born 13 June and baptised 19 July 1846.

FR 1596

Thomas Douglas Baird son of John Baird miner Ballochney and Isabella Lindsay his spouse was born 3 Sept. and baptised 1 Oct. 1848.

Ballochney, the village, as opposed to the farm, was located some three miles East-North-East of Airdrie. It consisted of twenty-two single story, stone built houses erected in the early years of the 19th century to house miners and their families. Both coal and ironstone were mined in the district but the close proximity of Ballochney Colliery makes it likely that John was a coal miner. Extensive open cast mining has been carried out in the district and all traces of Ballochney have been wiped out.



Nearly three years after the birth of Thomas, in the census of 1851, Isabella is a widow and working and living at Moffat, where she was to meet her second husband. The fact that Isabella was a widow by age 25, suggested looking for a mining accident as the cause of John Baird's death but an attempt to follow this up at the

Scottish Mining Museum revealed that recording of pit accidents did not start nationally until 1855.

1851 District 651 (formerly 642) book 13 page 2 sch 6

Moffat Hamlet, Clarkston.

Lindsay Isabella	h	wid	25	paper maker	LKS Cambusnethan
Baird Alexander	s	u	6	scholar	LKS New Monkland
Baird Thomas	s	u	2	scholar	LKS New Monkland
Paterson Margaret	lodger	u	21	paper maker	LKS Glasgow
Paterson Christina	lodger	u	21	paper maker	LKS Glasgow

Son William, who would have been four, is missing, almost certainly an infant death.