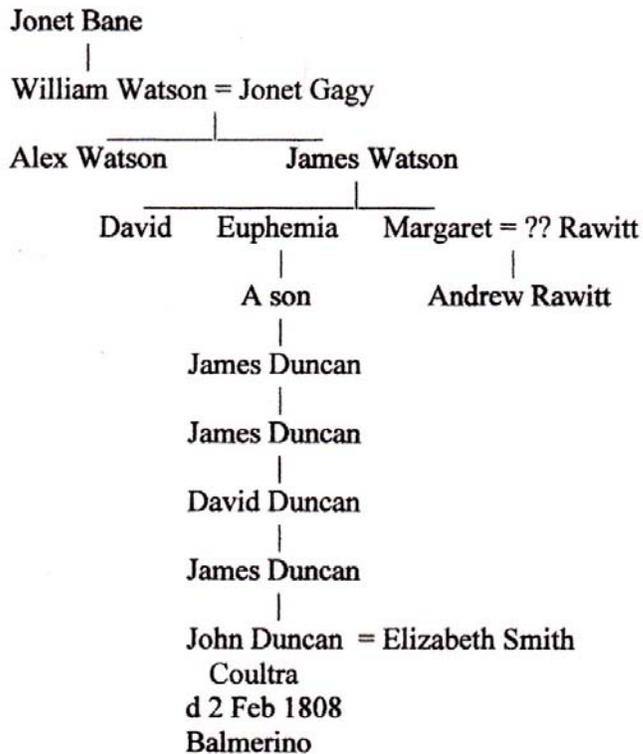


Possible ancestors of John Duncan and Elizabeth Smith



The normal sources give no further help in tracing the family and the remainder of the history relies on the following extracts from the 1899 edition of "Balmerino and its Abbey" by Rev. J Campbell, onetime minister at Balmerino. The reasons for thinking that the chart records the correct family are firstly, the family are living at Cultra. Although they no longer own the land, the sale, in 1791, seems to have been part of a drive by the Estate of Balmerino to enlarge by buying up all the little parcels of land that have existed since pre-reformation. David may have received an offer he couldn't refuse to part with the ownership of the land but the family may have thereafter rented the land. Secondly, the naming pattern of John and Elizabeth's family, is consistent with the suspected ancestry and, in particular, the name Helen **Watson** given to one child help to make the line plausible.

Appendix No.XXVII
Transmission of Landed Property.

§ 1.Estate of Balmerino.

(7). Two acres in Bottomcraig.

Before 1568 occupied by Jonet Bane and William Watson (her son?). In 1568 Commendator Hay and Convent give charter of this land to said W.W. and Jonet Gagy his spouse, in whose favour Jonet Bane resigned it, reserving for herself free possession one acre on west side, occupied by her. In 1630 William Watson's heirs. 1631, Thomas Glen.....

§2. Abbey lands now included in the Estate of Naughton.

(7). Dochrone.

Two acres in Dochrone. Watson acquired these probably from the last Abbot. In 1595, Alexander Watson. Afterwards, James Watson. 1631, David Watson, son of the last. 1635, Euphemia and Margaret Watson, sisters of David. 1674, James Duncan in Cultra got ½ of the two acres, as grandson of Margaret Watson's sister. Andrew Rawitt (1650) seems to have got the other half. Afterwards Thomas Morton. Now, Naughton.

§5. Henderson's Lands of Cultra.

Six acres in Cultra. 1624 David Watson. 1635 Euphemia and Margaret Watson, sisters of David, get each half of these lands, and of the two acres of Dochrone belonging to their late father, James. In 1674, Andrew Rawitt, probably the son of one of the Watsons, has two of the six acres in Cultra and James Duncan, 'Great-grandson of Margaret Watson's sister' has the remainder. Then Andrew Rawitt makes over his share to James Duncan. 1680, James Duncan his son. 1712 David Duncan, son of James, who in 1719 sells the property to Henry Mitchell....

Other, possibly connected, events in the parish are:

Balmerino 409/1

1754 FR 376

June 21st A child was baptized to James Duncan at y^e Ch..... named John.

1755 FR378

August 13th A child baptized to James Duncan in Boghall named John.

FR 370 1752

October 4 James Duncan in Boghall had a daughter baptized called Margret.

FR 389 1760

Feb^y. 17th A child baptized for James Duncan, Boghall named David.

FR 395 1762

14th Feb^y. A child baptized to James Duncan at Boghall named Jean.

FR 380 1755

October 3rd A child baptized to James Duncan at Norham and named George.

FR 367 October 11th 1751

....also James Duncan and Jean Cupar both this in parish gave up their names for proclamation in order to marriage and was ordrelly don and marriad ye 1 Nov^r.

FR 292 David Duncan married Elspline 9 June 1714 Balmerino

No trace of Elizabeth's ancestry has been found.

The following series of extracts from "Balmerino and its Abbey" gives some background information about the people in the tree.

1.-In the County of Fife.

Two aikers in Bodincraig in y^e bar. of Balmerinoth set to Watson for 4 puld. & 15s. 4d.

Two aikers of y^e toun & lands of Docheron in y^e barony of Balmerinoth set to Watson for 4 puld. & 15s. 4d.

Page 624

Excerpt from copy rental of the feu duties of the Barony of Balmerino in sederunt book of High Commission in Tiend office. Page 28.

Entry on P626:

Douchron 32 aikers, whereof the airis of James Watsoun to, paying 15s 4d
Item of powtrie 4

Page 627

Valuation of the teinds of the parish of Balmerinoch 13 July 1631. From certified copy (these valuations show also the rental or at least the estimated annual value in 1631 of the lands named in them they are here re-printed from teind court papers).

David Watsoune

6 aikers of land in Cowtray and two in Deuchrone ilk aiker in stok and teynd 6 firlots bear
Inde y^e teynd 2 bollis 1 firLOT 2 bekes $\frac{1}{5}$ 3 pekes bear.

Page 631

Appendix XXVI

Stent roll of heritors contributions for the schoolmasters salary of 100 merks in 1658. (from Kirk session records).

Margaret Watson £0-6s-8d.

Andrew Rawit £0-3s 4d

(note: This was out of a total of £66-13s-4d)

Appendix XVII

Farmers and rental of the parish in 1694.

[From the revaluation or valued rent of Fife in the Sheriff Clerk's office. The rents were then paid in the value of certain quantities of grain which are here reduced to sterling money according to the prices assumed by the comissionars: the chalder of wheat £5, 11s- $1\frac{1}{3}$ d.; the chalder of bear, £4; the chalder of oats, £3, 1s 8d.; The chalder of meal, £3, 6s 8d.; the chalder of meal of miln rent and black oats £2-15s- $6\frac{2}{3}$ d.; sterling but given in Scots money in the original.] then:

Page 633. Listed under "Alexander Preston's portion of Kilburns", among small feuars are:

James Duncan (Coultra) £2-5s-5d

Andrew Rawitt (Dochrone) £0-17s- $8\frac{1}{2}$ d

James Watson £2-0s-5d

From Hearth Tax records 1694 the only possibly connected names seem to be:

Dav: Dunkan – 1.

Rob: Dunkan – 1.

Geo. Dunkan – 1.

Some oddments:

Death 1856

Oct 12 Duncan Elspet daughter of John Taylor, Coultra & Janet
Henderson, marr to George Duncan.

From scraps of old records:

Apr 16 1747 Duncan John Duncan, Boghall buried.

1747 Feb 5 Duncan Ann, daughter of John Duncan, Boghall.

1752 Watson Elizabeth Duncan Adam Watson

1869

Nov 12 Duncan, George Agricultural Labourer and Margaret Shields domestic servant
Balmerino gave in Marr. 22 Nov 1869.

July 5 Duncan Robert Duncan and Isabel McLeish gave in... Marr. 12 Jul.

1865 George Melville & Janet Duncan, Kirkton Married in Dundee.

1881 James Duncan seaman & Margaret Heggins Edington Newport parish of Forgan.