



# LAWSON

## A HISTORY OF THE LAWSON FAMILY

*FROM ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND ISLE OF MAN*

COMPILED BY  
REV. CAPTAIN WILLIAM BROWN MCCREADY, JR

FIRST EDITION - FEBRUARY 2019

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**DEDICATED TO:**

**THE DESCENDANTS OF**

**FRANK EDWARD LAWSON**

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**WILLIAM BROWN MCCREADY, JR**

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**THIS PUBLICATION IS NOT INTENDED FOR SALE.  
ITS SOLE PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE HISTORICAL AND  
GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN  
ORIGINS OF THE LAWSON FAMILY**



# LAWSON FAMILY HISTORY

*FROM ENGLAND, SCOTLAND AND ISLE OF MAN*

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### Your Name

*It came from your father,  
it was all he had to give.  
So it's yours to use and cherish,  
as long as you may live.*

*If you lose the watch he gave you,  
it can always be replaced.  
But a black mark on your name, Son,  
can never be erased.*

*It was clean the day you took it,  
and a worthy name to bear.  
When I got it from my father,  
there was no dishonor there.*

*So Make sure you guard it wisely,  
after all is said & done,  
You'll be glad the name is spotless,  
when you give it to your Son.*

**Author Unknown**

*There is no king who has not had a slave among  
his ancestors, and no slave who has not had a  
king among his.*

**Helen Keller**

*You live as long as you are remembered.*

**Russian proverb**

*Everyone has ancestors and it is only a question  
of going back far enough to find a good one.*

**Howard Kenneth Nixon**

*When a society or a civilization perishes, one  
condition can always be found. They forgot where  
they came from.*

**Carl Sandburg**

*He who has no fools, knaves, or beggars in his  
family was begot by a flash of lightning.*

**Old English proverb**

*I've learned that regardless of your relationship  
with your parents,  
you'll miss them when they're gone from your life.*

**Maya Angelou**

*A man who makes boasts of his ancestors  
doth but advertise his own insignificance.*

**Benjamin Franklin - Poor Richard's Almanac**

*Why waste your money looking up your family  
tree? Just go into politics and your opponents will  
do it for you.*

**Mark Twain**



Only **4 in 10 Americans**  
know both of their grandmother's maiden names

**1/3 of Americans**  
cannot name any of their great-grandparents

**27% of Americans**  
don't know where their family lived  
before coming to America

**22% of Americans**  
don't know what either of their grandparents  
do/did for a living

Any **2 People**  
will share an ancestor if you back far enough

# INTRODUCTION

We begin with an overview of our Lawson surname, then we look at our ancestors who left a mark in history and we end with a detailed family tree. But, this is not just a story of who is in our bloodline but more importantly how the Lawson family has survived for more than a thousand years. Along the way we find amazing connections that take us to France, England, Scotland, the Isle of Man and, finally to America. We discover that our direct line of ancestors stretches back to the early Middle Ages and beyond.

Our first goal was to identify, compile and document Lawson ancestors as far back as data would allow. Second, we built a detailed picture of the historical context within which our ancestors lived; to explain not just who our ancestors are but also how their lives were shaped by the people and events that surround them. Third, we reveal many surprising facts and anecdotes about our family. And, fourth, we uncover and correct a number of historical and genealogical errors and inconsistencies. In all of this, we try to provide clear documentation for our findings and sources for further examination.

In the Middle Ages, few people had or used family names. Most people were identified by what they did, where they came from or how they looked. Thus, the Lawson name may have first identified them as coming from a location. Or, the Lawson family members may simply come from the sons of Law. In any event, family names in the Middle Ages and beyond were often recorded at the whims of scribes who applied their own particular spelling variations. Thus, we find the Lawsons connected to families with the names: Laweson, Lawsson, Lawwson, Lawison, Llawson, Lawason, Leawson, Lawsaon, Lawsion, Lawsone, Lawsonn, Lavwson, Lhawson, Laawson, Lawsoon, Lawsonn, Lawsomn, Lawsion, Leawson, Lauwson, Lawshon, D'Lawson, McLawson, Maclawson, Lawsonne, Labson, Lowson, Lawsen, Lawsom, Lawsan, Lavson, Lawsun, Lfson, and Lawrence among others.

While tracking our family line seem to be create a daunting task, in reality the farther back in time you go the fewer people stand out in the historical and genealogical record. Our task has been to sift through our ancestral grains of sand and build a coherent record. We review and discuss existing genealogical work and then we tell the story of our Lawsons from its beginnings, through the Middle Ages in England and Scotland, to our pioneer ancestors in the Isle of Man and America. We also review some notable Lawsons of modern times; present timelines of our Lawson family in history; and, build family trees.

The primary intent of this Lawson family history is to provide a record for my children, grandchildren and their descendants. If this work is helpful to others interested in finding their Lawson roots then that is an added benefit.

My work began as a simple project to learn more about my Lawson grandparents in Batavia, New York. I remembered family stories about origins on the Isle of Man but little else. Years, and thousands of pages of research later, I am amazed at how much information that I was able to find about our Lawson family. My journey turned into an amazing trek through early North American history as well as back in time in Europe. The real work was following the various trails back in time, making sound connections to build our family tree, and understanding the historical context of the lives of our ancestors.

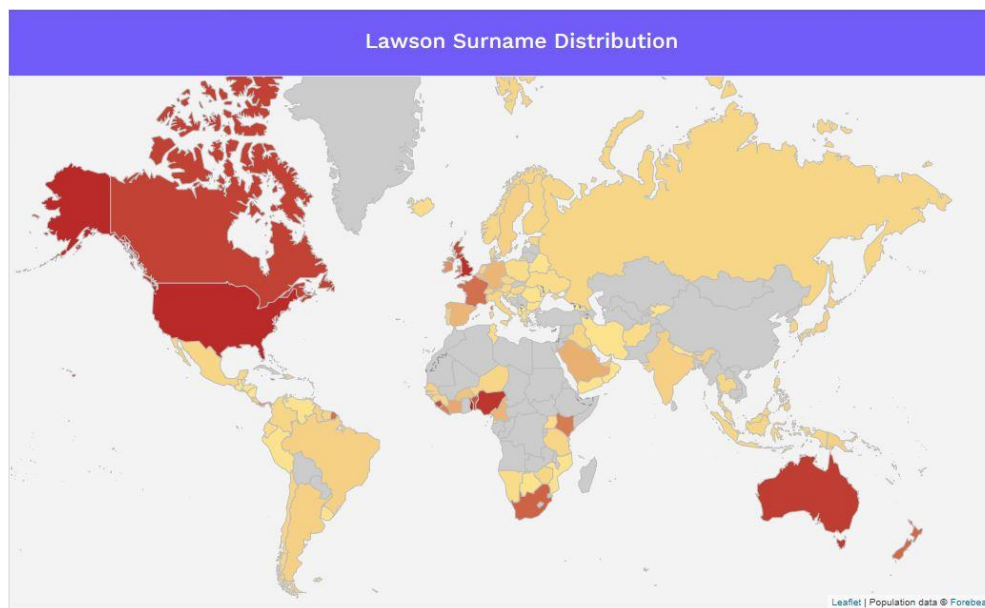
Ultimately, I was able to build our Lawson family tree going back many generations in America, the British Isles and continental Europe. Along the way, I discovered some remarkable stories - from nobles and knights, to people who influenced the evolution of western culture and to common people with uncommon stories. The result is a book that I think paints a fairly complete picture of our ancestors and their times. Others who want to know more are welcome to build on this work.

Most of the information presented should interest all members of the Lawson family. However, there is a point where the story turns onto a road that is unique to my own Lawson line, but only after hundreds of years. I say this without shame or embarrassment because this work is intended as a legacy for my descendants. Readers may notice that I lose interest in the English and Scottish Lawson lines soon after 1600. This is when my direct ancestor James Lawson emigrates to the Isle of Man and the family tree establishes a new branch. Likewise, after 1865, I leave our Lawson family on the Isle of Man behind and follow Thomas Moore Lawson to America. I am sure that there are many more interesting family connections and stories in recent history, but this is work for others.

Here, our final result is the revelation of a rich and fascinating story of a family that has endured for centuries.

# LAWSON SURNAME

The family name Lawson is the 1,344th most common surname in the world. Approximately 408,783 people bear this surname. The chart and map below show the geographic distribution of people with the surname Lawson in the year 2014. The chart **highlights** the countries of Lawson ancestors for our branch of the family. As we will learn our Lawson ancestors can be traced from Normandy in France to England, to Scotland, Ireland and the Isle of Man, and then to the United States. Some peculiarities are noteworthy: the small West African nation of Togo has the largest number of people named Lawson; and the Isle of Man, an important location for our ancestors, now is among the smallest with only 39 people with the name Lawson.



| Place                | Incidence      |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Togo                 | 157,155        |
| <b>United States</b> | <b>148,298</b> |
| <b>England</b>       | <b>26,436</b>  |
| Nigeria              | 23,912         |
| Australia            | 12,968         |
| Canada               | 9,144          |
| <b>Scotland</b>      | <b>5,560</b>   |
| Sierra Leone         | 5,254          |
| Benin                | 3,103          |
| Jamaica              | 3,049          |
| South Africa         | 2,568          |
| New Zealand          | 2,554          |
| <b>France</b>        | <b>1,693</b>   |
| <b>Ireland</b>       | <b>728</b>     |
| Wales                | 726            |
| Germany              | 186            |
| Spain                | 185            |
| <b>Isle of Man</b>   | <b>39</b>      |

## Phonetically Similar Names

| Surname  | Similarity | Incidence |
|----------|------------|-----------|
| Llawson  | 92         | 12        |
| Lawsson  | 92         | 8         |
| Lawwson  | 92         | 4         |
| Lawsonne | 92         | 2         |
| Laawson  | 92         | 1         |
| Lawsoon  | 92         | 1         |
| Lawsonn  | 92         | 1         |
| D'Lawson | 86         | 4         |
| Lawsonne | 86         | 2         |
| Labson   | 83         | 2,059     |
| Lowson   | 83         | 1,559     |
| Lawsen   | 83         | 112       |
| Lawsom   | 83         | 54        |

Spelling and phonetic variants of the Lawson family name include: Laweson, **Lawsson**, **Lawwson**, Lawison, **Llawson**, Lawason, Leawson, Lawsaon, Lawsion, **Lawsonne**, Lawsonn, Lawwson, Lhawson, Laawson, Lawsoon, Lawsonn, Lawsomn, Lawsion, Leawson, Lauwson, Lawshon, D'Lawson, McLawson, Maclawson, Lawsonne, Labson, Lowson, Lawsen, Lawsom, Lawsan, Lavson, Lawsun, Lfson and others. Those with closest phonetic similarity (92%) to Lawson and highest incidence in 2014 are highlighted above. Curiously, some spellings that are less phonetically similar (83%) have a significantly higher incidence of people with those names. These spellings are: Labson, Lowson, Lawsen, and Lawsom.

### Lawson Family Crest / Coat of Arms

At first a coat of arms was practical on the battlefield and in tournaments. With a helmet covering a knight's face, and armour encasing his body from head to foot, the only means of identification for his followers, was the insignia painted on his shield and embroidered on his surcoat, the flowing and draped garment worn over the armour.

For the name Lawson, there are no less than seventeen coats of arms. All but one were granted to northern name holders, and all seem to be associated with the Lawson family of Brough Hall in Yorkshire, whose origins are traceable back to the time of Richard III and "The War of the Roses". This Lawson family coat of arms, which is believed to be the original grant, has the blazon of a silver field, charged with a chevron between three martlets, all black. All of the Lawson family coat of arms suggest that the original holder of the surname of Lawson was a loyal person who lived by the sword rather than supporting himself with income from an estate. However, this changed in later years as the family established itself on estates including Nesham Abbey, Durham, Longhirst in Cumberland, Boroughbridge Hall, Cairnmuir in Peebles, Scotland, etc. All of this indicates that the family fortunes improved over the centuries.



In Scotland, a coat of arms for the family Lawson was first recorded in Sir Bernard Burkes General Armory as associated with Sir Richard Lawson, Provost of Edinburgh, Lord Justice Clerk (Justice of the Scots Supreme Court) and holder of estates and manors at Hierigs, Cairnmuir, Cambo & Boghall. More about him when we discuss the Lawsons of Scotland.

The four main symbols in the Lawson crest are the martlet, chevron, crescent and garb. The three main colors are vert, sable and argent.

**Vert** is a deep green color often used in heraldry. Some say this color signifies *Hope and Joy*, but others say vert represents *Loyalty in Love*. It has other names also, the French call it *sinople*, perhaps after a town in Asia Minor from where the best green die materials could be found. More fanciful heralds liked to associate vert with the planet *venus* and the precious stone *emerald*. More strangely, there is some evidence that the term *prasin* was anciently used, being the Greek for the vegetable we call the Leek.

**Sable**, a deep black believed to named for the animal of the marten family known in the middle ages as a *Sabellinæ* and noted for its very black fur. Although the color sable sometimes denotes grief, it more commonly means Constancy.



**Argent** is a metallic Silver and sometimes shown as very pure white. It is also known more poetically as pearl, moon (or luna).

The **martlett** is the most common bird in British Heraldry, perhaps only equaled by the *eagle*, however it is not a species ever to be found in an ornithologists handbook! The word itself is thought to come from the French word *merlette*, a female blackbird used in French Heraldry. Over time the image has become stylized, with no visible legs or distinctive feathers.

The **chevron** is one the major shapes used on a shield, known as *ordinaries*. The inverted 'V' of the chevron is said to represent a military scarf folded on a shield. It also has the meaning of "Protection... granted... to one who has achieved some notable enterprise" .

For easy recognition of the items on a coat of arms, and hence the quick identification of the owner, bold simple geometric shapes were often used. The **crescent** is a typical example of this and it is said to signify both *honour by the sovereign* and *hope of greater glory*.

**Lawson Family Motto:** *Leve et reluis* Translation: *Arise and illuminate*.

The motto was originally a war cry or slogan. Mottoes first began to be shown with arms in the 14th and 15th centuries, but were not in general use until the 17th century. Thus the oldest coats of arms generally do not include a motto. Mottoes seldom form part of the grant of arms: Under most heraldic authorities, a motto is an optional component of the coat of arms, and can be added to or changed at will; many families have chosen not to display a motto.

### Origins of the name Lawson

Surnames did not become wide spread until they became necessary to record and track land ownership and governments introduced personal taxation. The employment of the use of a second name, or surname, was a custom that was first introduced by the Normans. Soon after, the use of a second name was adopted in England and Scotland. Before surnames, people were known by location, their occupation, or nicknames describing a distinguishing characteristic, such as their appearance, their moral or mental peculiarities, their habits, or their manner of dress. The use of a surname became a mark of gentler blood, and it was soon deemed a disgrace for gentlemen to have but one single name, as the common peasants had. It was not until the reign of Edward II ( 1307-1327 ) it became general practice amongst all people.

The Lawson surname has ancient roots. According to some etymological studies (studies of the origin of words and their historical meanings), the earliest origins of the name Lawson is linked to ancient pre-Christian Anglo-Saxon culture of Britain. In this case, Law was most likely derived from the Old English *hlaw*, meaning a hill. The studies postulate that Lawson developed from a patronymic of Law. A patronym, or patronymic, is a component of a personal name based on the given name of one's father, grandfather, or an even-earlier male ancestor and is a means of conveying lineage. In Old English, patronyms were formed by adding a variety of suffixes to personal names. For example, after the Norman Conquest, *sunu* and *sune*, which meant *son*, were the most common patronymic suffixes. Thus, the surname Lawsune or Lawson was originally derived from the given name of the father of the bearer and meant in Old English "someone who is the son of he who lives on or near the hill". (Source: *The Manx Lawsons and Related Families*, Volume II, by Brian Lawson, 1999 and 2005)

A possible alternative origin of Law is from a common nickname often used as a term of endearment in Medieval times that later became the baptismal name of Law . This use of Law is derived from the Old French name of Laurence or Lawrence, which later became the Middle English name of Lorens. Both names are derived from Laurentium, a town in Italy famous for its laurel trees or bay trees. Laurentium means "winner" or "victor". Lawson in Latin is *Laurentii filius*. Names based on location were first taken by the family of the Lord or owner of the land from which the name derives. Others may have used this location when they migrated out of the area because it was easiest to identify people new to an area by the name of their birthplace. Some studies postulate that the surname of Lawson, describes a person who is the son of a person from the Italian city of Laurentum. Thus, the father would be named Lawrence, nicknamed Law and his son would be called Lawson, meaning a son of Law or son of Lawrence from Laurentium. (Source: *An Etymological Dictionary of Family and Christian Names*. by William Arthur, London: 1857) (Many other sources note that the surname Lawson is derived from the meaning son of Laurence or Lawrence including: *Surnames of the United Kingdom*, by Henry Harrison, 1912; *Dictionary of American Family Names*, by Elsdon Coles Smith, 1956; *An Etymological Dictionary of Family and Christian Names*, by William Arthur, 1857; and, *The Origin and Signification of Scottish Surnames*, by Clifford Stanley Sims, 1862)

Other studies say the surname Lawson originated in the Holy Land. It is believed to have been brought there by 12th century crusaders who later "brought back" the name in a changed form to England and Scotland. For reasons that are unclear, Lawson genealogy shows the name was a much more common surname in northern England and Scotland with the heaviest concentrations in Yorkshire and Lancashire. The earliest known reference is at Littondale, Upper Wharfedale, Yorkshire in the 14th century.

In this work, we will examine the roots of our Lawson family in both England and Scotland, as well as the Isle of Man. In fact, our Lawson roots may weave through all of these lands on the way to finally settling in the US.

# LAWSON IN FRANCE AND ENGLAND

Lawsons were living in France, England and Scotland about the same time in the early Middle Ages. Like many other families it is almost impossible to definitively determine a place of family origin. The family name can be found in one of a variety of forms in Normandy, England and Scotland.

The most likely explanation is that Lawson family members followed the historical movement of kings. In 1066, William I, Duke of Normandy, rallied nobles from across France to support his claim to the English crown. After the "Conquest" these nobles were rewarded by King William with estates in England that were for the most part seized from the losing Anglo-Saxons. Some of the French and Norman nobles stayed in England, some returned to France and other nobles divided their French and English holdings among heirs.

Later, these French conquerors returned in the 12th century to take control of Normandy and much of France during the reign of the Angevin/Plantagenet kings of England. The Angevins of the French House of Plantagenet ruled over an area covering half of France, all of England, and parts of Ireland and Wales, and had further influence over much of the remaining British Isles. The empire was established by Henry II, as King of England, Duke of Normandy, and Count of Anjou (from which the Angevins derive their name), as well as Duke of Aquitaine by right of his wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine. The Angevin Empire lasted until 1216.

For the Lawson family, the period between the conquest of England in 1066 and the end of the Angevin Empire in 1216, was marked by two things. First, the intermarriage between Norman/French and Anglo-Saxon families which promoted family alliances and upward mobility between knights and higher ranking noble families. And second, frequent periods of anarchy where various claimants to thrones fought in open warfare in England, Scotland and on the continent. Thus, families blended, sometimes moving back and forth across the English Channel. The families that survived and thrived were largely unthreatening and below the radar of competing royal rivals. They tended to be the lesser noble knight/barons whose abilities were in demand and whose allegiance was valued. Thus, while fighting in battles and wars, they would avoid engagement in high level political intrigue or were politically flexible and astute in their choices. The result is that our ancestral line has survived from early medieval Normandy to the present day. However as we look back we find multiple variants of the names used by our Lawson ancestors in France and England.

## Lawson in France

Throughout the centuries, surnames in countries evolved often leading to radical variations of the original spelling. One of our earliest known Lawson ancestor is **Walter Loison**, living in Normandy in the years 1180 to 1195, recorded in the *Magni Rotuli Scaccarii Normanniae 1184*. (Source: *The Norman People and Their Existing Descendants in the British Dominions and the United States of America*, by Henry S. King, 1874) The name Loison/Lawson may have been carried to France by Anglo-Saxon/Norman descendants, where it appears today as De Lauzun. In France the name developed as: Laweson in 1480; Losoun in 1532; Lauzun in 1534, Lausone in 1540, Losone in 1544; Loson in Posen, 1593; Lason in 1599; Lawsoune in 1607; Lasoun in 1640; and, Lasone in 1661. (Source: *The Surnames of Scotland*, by George Fraser Black 1946)

Noble surnames, such as Lauzun, evoke images of the ancient homeland of the French people. The original bearer of the name Lauzun, which is a local surname, once lived, held land, or was born Lauzun in the beautiful Guyenne region of France. In France, hereditary surnames were adopted according to fairly general rules and during the late Middle Ages, names that were derived from localities became increasingly widespread. Local names originally denoted the proprietorship of the village or estate. The

Lauzun family originally lived in the village of Lauzun, a commune in the Lot-et-Garonne department in southwestern France. The village of Lauzun is located in the north of Lot et Garonne, in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region. This town is the seat of the Comtes de Lauzun.

The surname Lauzun was first found in Guyenne where they held a family seat in the seigneurie of Caumont. Guyenne was an old French province which corresponded roughly to the Roman province of Aquitania Secunda and the archdiocese of Bordeaux. The name "Guyenne" comes from Aguyenne, a popular deformation of Aquitania. In the 12th century it formed, along with Gascony, the duchy of Aquitaine, which passed under the dominion of the kings of England by the marriage of Eleanor of Aquitaine to Henry II.

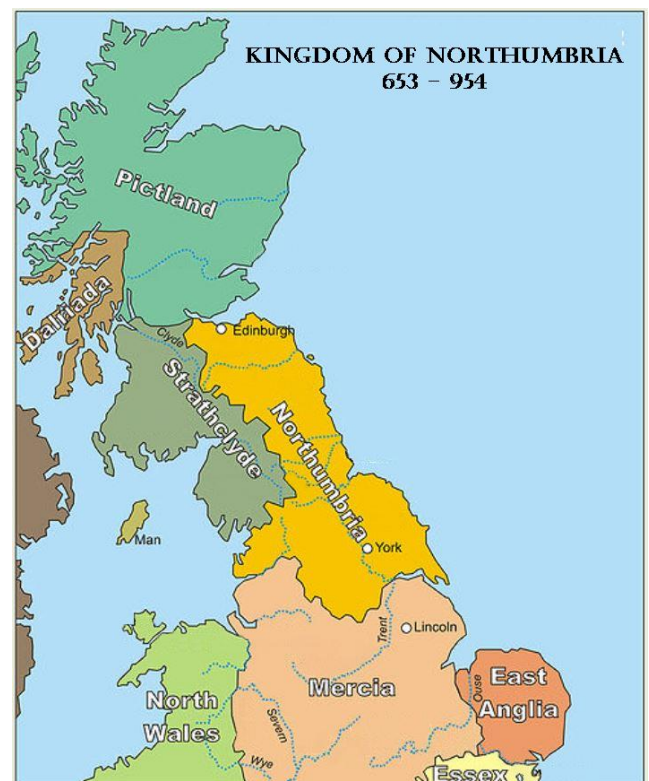
Gabriel Nompar de Caumont, was the first *comte de Lauzun* in 1534. Antoine Nompar de Caumont (1633–1723), 7th duc de Lauzun, was a Lord at the Court of Louis XIV, and was under house arrest for 10 years at Pignerol. The Pignerol was an ancient French prison in a strongly fortified citadel in the Italian Alps. Today it is the Italian village of Pinerolo, a pleasant little town of 40,000 inhabitants situated on a hill in Piedmont about 23 miles southwest of Turin. From 1536 to 1814, the Pignerol was used by France to hold special prisoners who knew information that threatened the king or the government. These political prisoners were deemed "an embarrassment to the state" and included the legendary Man in the Iron Mask and Nicolas Fouquet, Minister of Finance under King Louis XIV.

Armand Louis de Gontaut Biron (1747–1793), 8th duc de Lauzun, was a French soldier and politician, known for the part he played in the American War of Independence and the French Revolutionary Wars. In the American Revolution, he was part of the advance party of the French army of Rochambeau sent to reinforce General George Washington at the Siege of Yorktown. He returned to France as deputy to the Estates-General and supported the French Revolution. He commanded many armies during and after the Revolution and was Constable General and Marshal of France. Ultimately, he was accused of incivisme ("lack of civic virtue", the equivalent of treason under the Reign of Terror) and undue leniency to the insurgents, deprived of his command, imprisoned, sentenced to death by the Revolutionary Tribunal and guillotined.

Gilles Lauzon, born in 1631, son of Pierre and Anne (née Boivin), travelled from Normandy to Canada in The Great Recruitment of 1653. After arriving in Quebec he married Marie Archambault, daughter of Jacques and Françoise (née Toureau), in Montreal on 27th November 1656. They remained there together until Gilles passed away on 21st September 1687.  
(Source: *Ancient Canadian Family Ties*, by Reginald L. Olivier, Everton Publishers, 1972)

### Lawson in England

The Lawson family in England settled in the northern lands once known as the ancient kingdom of Northumbria, which covered northern England and southern Scotland. The lands are today in the counties of Northumberland, Durham and Yorkshire in the northeast of England and the border counties of Scotland. At one point the kingdom of Northumbria ranged from York in the south to Edinburgh in Scotland.



As land ownership became more dispersed and governments introduced personal taxation schemes tied to property ownership, surnames became necessary as a means to distinguish one man named John in an area from another. In England, **the first recorded appearance of the name Lawson (sometime spelled Lawesson) was in 1135.** This is when **John Lawson of Cramlington** signed as a witness to King Henry I's royal grant of the manors of Embleton and Cramlington to Nicolas de Grenville, Lord of Ellingham. A few years later in 1139, John Lawson witnesses another royal grant of lands called *Bradiere* on the River Tyne by King David I of Scotland to Nicholas de Grenville. (Source: *The Charters of King David I: the acts of David I, King of Scots.* . .)

These royal transactions indicate that John Lawson was a highly respected knight with a fief or fiefs in Cramlington within the barony of Nicolas de Grenville. Nicolas is a descendant of Sir Richard de Grenville, one of the 12 knights of Glamorgan who served in the Norman conquest of Wales. Nicolas Grenville's manor in Ellingham is located on the eastern coast of northern England approximately midway between Newcastle upon Tyne and Edinburgh, Scotland. Cramlington is located on the eastern coast of northern England approximately 9 miles north of Newcastle upon Tyne. Embleton is located 5 miles southeast of de Grenville's manor in Ellingham. At the time all were in the royal county of Northumberland, the northernmost county of England.

English Poll Tax records reveal some other early relatives. **Richard Lawisson** is listed in the 1327 Subsidy Rolls of the county of Cumberland, during the reign of King Edward III (1327 -1377). The 1379 Poll Tax Rolls of Yorkshire lists: **Willelmus Lauson, Henricus Laweson, Agnes Law-wyf, and Law Robynson.** In 1554, we find the marriage record of **Elizabeth Lawson** and James Castelys in London. The 1576 Register of the University of Oxford records **William Lauson** of Lancashire as a student. And in 1664, **Jone Lawson**, the daughter of **Randall Lawson** is baptised at the church of St. James in Clerkenwell, London. (Source: *A Dictionary of English and Welsh Surnames: With Special American Instances*, by C.W. Bardsley, Heraldry Today, 1872-1896)

It is noteworthy that these and other Lawsons who settled in the northern English counties of Northumberland, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cumberland and Westmorland all descended from **John Lawson of Cramlington**, as do the later Lawson baronets in England and Scotland.

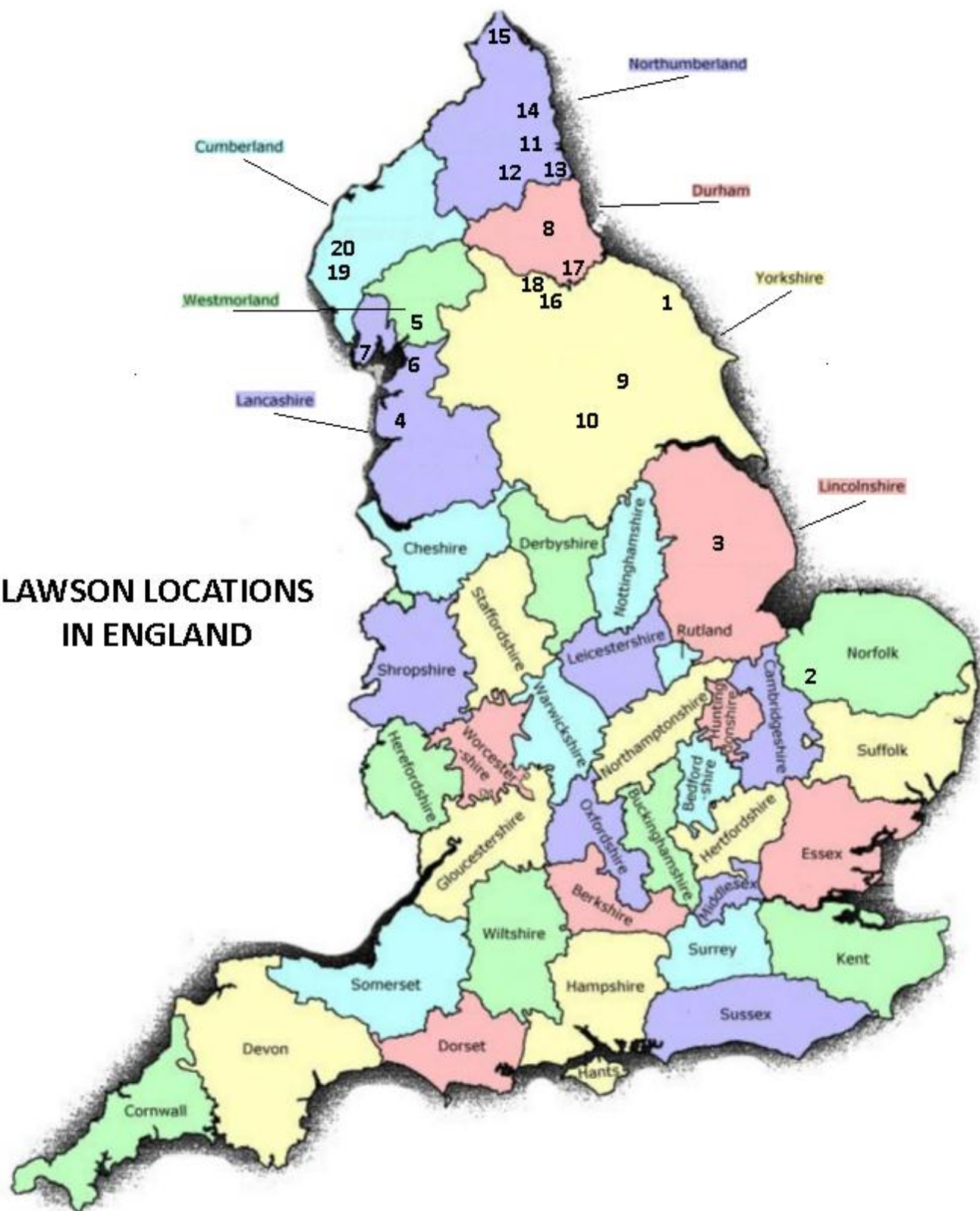
At this point, before we track our lineage forward in time, we need to examine the years before the Norman conquest for ancient ancestors of **John Lawson of Cramlington**. The result is a Lawson family history that begins circa 990 in Normandy with hints of a lineage dating from 400 BC.

### **From Taillebois To Lawson**

Most genealogists begin our ancestral line around the year 990 with Rolf (Reinfrid) de Taillebois a Norman knight of Viking descent and we provide this information here. Little is known about him other than his name, that he is from Taillebois, a village in the Orne region of Normandy in northwest France, and that he is the father Reinfrid Taillebois, the Prior of Whitby. What is noteworthy of Taillebois is that it is a village about 12 miles from the castle of Falaise, the home and birthplace of William the Conqueror in 1027.

**Reinfrid de Taillebois**, known as the Prior of Whitby Abbey, was born circa 1019 at Taillebois, the son of Rolf and an unnamed woman. Reinfrid was a Norman knight who accompanied Norman Duke William I, on his conquest of England. Reportedly, Reinfrid was a valiant soldier whose experiences in battle moved him to service in the Church. He is said to have been so moved by sorrow at the wasted holy places at Whitby and elsewhere in the northern campaign, that he entered the monastery of Evesham

## LAWSON LOCATIONS IN ENGLAND



## LAWSON LOCATIONS IN ENGLAND

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                            |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1  | <b>Whitby</b> - Reinfried de Taillebois is the Prior of Whitby Abbey                                                                                                                                                                                    | 1096                       |
| 2  | <b>Ely</b> - site of seige of Ely by armies of William the Conqueror and Ivo Taillebois                                                                                                                                                                 | 1071                       |
| 3  | <b>Lincoln</b> - Ivo Taillebois is the Sheriff of Lincoln (all Lincolnshire)                                                                                                                                                                            | 1086                       |
| 4  | <b>Chester</b> - Lucy Malet, Countess of Chester, marries Ivo Taillebois                                                                                                                                                                                | Circa 1070                 |
| 5  | <b>Kendal / Kendal Castle</b> - Ivo Tallebois made Baron of Kendal by King William Rufus                                                                                                                                                                | 1087                       |
| 6  | <b>Lancaster / Lancashire</b> - town and county - part of Barony of Kendal<br>Lawrence Lawesson marries daughter of 6th Baron of Kendal, takes the name<br>Lawrence Fitzwilliam de Lancaster                                                            | 1190-1260                  |
| 7  | <b>Furness</b> - part of the Barony of Kendal                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                            |
| 8  | <b>Durham</b> - city and county (the Palentine of Durham) governed by the Church                                                                                                                                                                        |                            |
| 9  | <b>York, Yorkshire</b> - town and county - large estates of Barony of Kendal<br>John Lawson, Lord Fawlesgrave establishes a family seat in Yorkshire<br>George Lawson, Mayor of York<br>Richard Lawson, Mayor of York                                   | 1220<br>1530<br>Circa 1700 |
| 10 | <b>Leeds, Yorkshire</b> - site of <b>Weetwood Grange</b> - a Lawson family estate<br>Arthur Lawson, established as the 1st Baronet of Weetwood Grange<br>Godfrey Lawson, Mayor of Leeds                                                                 | 1900<br>1600s              |
| 11 | <b>Cramlington, Northumberland</b> - seat of Lawson Baronet of Cramlington<br>Sir Thomas Lawson knighted for service at the Battle of Agincourt, known as the<br>"Gentleman of Cramlington"                                                             | 1415                       |
| 12 | <b>Bywell, Northumberland</b> - home of Thomas Lawson of Bywell<br>Lawsons of Cramlington descend from Lawsons of Bywell                                                                                                                                | 1229                       |
| 13 | <b>Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Northumberland</b> - James Lawson, Merchant Adventurer and<br>Mayor of Newcastle-upon-Tyne                                                                                                                                      | 1475-1525                  |
| 14 | <b>Longhirst, Northumberland</b> - part of Lawson of Cramlington estate<br>Robert Lawson, 1st recorded at Longhirst estate                                                                                                                              | 1545-1610                  |
| 15 | <b>Berwick, Northumberland / Berwick, Scotland</b> - city straddles border that is<br>the river Tweed - George Lawson, Treasurer of Berwick and King's agent in city                                                                                    | 1530                       |
| 16 | <b>Brough Hall, Yorkshire</b> - Lawson Baronet created for John Lawson of Brough Hall                                                                                                                                                                   | 1665                       |
| 17 | <b>Nesham, Yorkshire</b> - site of Nesham Abbey, Joan Lawson, daughter of William Lawson of Cramlington, is<br>Prioress of Nesham Abbey. Nesham Abbey acquired by her brother James Lawson, Merchant<br>Adventurer and the Mayor of Newcastle-upon-Tyne | Circa 1490                 |
| 18 | <b>Lartington Hall, Durham</b> - part of Lawson Baronet of Brough Hall. Property was acquired by marriage of<br>Sir Henry Lawson to Anna Anastasia Maire                                                                                                | Circa 1700                 |
| 19 | <b>Isell, Cumberland</b> - seat of the Lawson Baronet of Isell, created for Sir Wilfrid Lawson                                                                                                                                                          | 1688                       |
| 20 | <b>Brayton Hall, Cumberland</b> - part of the Lawson Baronet of Isell, recreated for<br>Sir Wilfrid Lawson (not the Wilfrid above)                                                                                                                      | 1831                       |



with the intention of becoming a monk. In fact, the Abbot of Evesham was Æthelwig, one of the few Anglo-Saxon nobles trusted by the new King William. Æthelwig was given authority over part of western England including Evesham in the Worcester district of southern England.

After his time at Evesham, Reinfrid returned to northern England to restore the ancient ruined monastery in Whitby. This monastery was founded in 657 by the King of Northumbria and for centuries it was an Anglo-Saxon center of learning with spiritual significance to the Roman Church. The monastery was destroyed between 867 and 870 in a series of raids by Vikings and the site remained desolate for more than 200 years until the area was granted to William de Percy who in 1078 donated land in Yorkshire to found a new monastery as well as the town and port of Whitby and mill village of Hackness. Reinfrid de Taillebois joined Serlo de Percy, the founder's brother, and others in restoring



Ruins of Whitby Monastery

this new monastery for the Benedictine Order. The records of the Abbey note that *"Prior Reinfrid, having ruled the monastery many years, was accidentally killed at Ormesbridge by a piece of timber falling upon him"*. Reinfrid was buried in the cemetery of St. Peter at Hackness and he was succeeded by Serlo de Percy as prior. The old monastery ruins of Whitby are located 70 miles southeast of Newcastle where the mouth of the River Esk empties into the North Sea. (Source: "Houses of Benedictine monks: Abbey of Whitby", in *A History of the County of York*, Volume 3, by Victoria County History, London, 1974)

Reinfrid is said to be the father of **Ivo (Ives) de Taillebois** of Normandy (1036-1094) a standard bearer at Battle of Hastings, the Sheriff of Lincoln and 1st Baron of Kendal who married 1st to Gundreda Countess of Wessex and 2nd to Lucy Countess of Chester. Ivo is the father of Beatrix de Taillebois, heiress of Kendal.

While we can definitively trace our **Lawson lineage** back to **Ivo de Taillebois**, it is not clear who Ivo's parents were. However, we do know: the dates of Ivo's life; that all stories of Ivo's parentage consistently refer to his illegitimacy and his accepted ancestry as a descendant of Charlemagne via the House of Anjou; and connections to an Ermengard or Emma. With this information, let's examine potential parents for Ivo:

1. Most genealogists say that Ivo was the illegitimate son of Reinfrid de Taillebois, the Prior of Whitby and Ermengard of Anjou the eldest child of Fulk IV Count of Anjou and descendant of Charlemagne. However, this cannot be, because Ermengard was born 30 years after Ivo's birth.
2. Another option would be Reinfrid and Ermengard-Gerbera the daughter of Geoffrey I Count of Anjou and a descendant of Charlemagne. However, Ermengard-Gerbera died 12 years before Ivo was born.



3. Our research indicates that Ivo is most likely the son (perhaps not illegitimate) of **William III Taillefer** (circa 970–1037) the Count of Toulouse and his wife Emma, the daughter of Ermengarde of Burgundy and Rotbold II Count and Margrave of Provence. **William III Taillefer** is the son of Adelais (also known as Adelaide-Blanche) of Anjou, the eldest daughter of Fulk II, Count of Anjou and a descendant of Charlemagne. It is also noteworthy that the House of Taillefer was the first dynasty of Counts of Angoulême (839–1246) also known as the kingdom of Aquitaine in western France during the Carolingian Empire. So, in this lineage of Ivo we have:

- dates that are consistent with Ivo's life;
- ancestral links to Charlemagne through the House of Anjou;
- a connection to an Ermengarde and Emma;
- a curious similarity of the surnames Taillefer and Taillebois.
- and finally, as we will learn below, connection of the Taillefer surname with Ivo at the Battle of Hastings.



Adelais de Anjou  
Countess of Toulouse  
Queen of Aquitaine

Taillefer (Latin: *Incisor ferri*, meaning "hewer of iron") was the surname of a Norman *jongleur* (minstrel), whose first name is given as "Ivo". He travelled to England with William the Conqueror in 1066. At the Battle of Hastings, Ivo asked William for the honor of first strike against the English. William agreed and Ivo rode out alone and earned immortality. History says Ivo put on a show, juggling his lance and sword while singing the *Chanson de Roland* at the English troops. An enraged English warrior stepped forward and challenged Ivo to single combat. Ivo slew the challenger and took his head for a trophy. Taillefer then led the Norman charge into the English lines. *Chanson de Roland* (Song of Roland) is an epic poem about a battle during the reign of Charlemagne. It is the oldest surviving major work of French literature.



THE SONG OF TAILLEFER AT THE BATTLE OF HASTINGS  
BY G. H. GARDNER

1872 Wood-engraving in the British Museum  
Ivo Taillefer at the Battle of Hastings

Robert Wace (circa 1110 –1174) Canon of Bayeux, was a Norman monk and poet who describes the feats of Taillefer in his epic poem *Roman de Brut* (*Romance of Brut* the 1st King of Britain). Written circa 1155, this is a history of the Dukes of Normandy through the conquest of England up to 1106.

*Taillefer, qui mult bien chantout,  
sor un cheval qui tost alout,  
devant le duc alout chantant  
de Karlemaigne e de Rollant,  
e d'Oliver e des vassals  
qui morurent en Rencesvals.*

*Taillefer, who sang right well,  
Upon a swift horse  
Sang before the Duke  
Of Charlemagne and of Roland  
And of Oliver and their vassals  
That died at Roncesvalles.*

*Roman de Rou*, lines 8013–8019

The story of Taillefer is repeated by several other contemporary Medieval sources: Geoffrey Gaimar an Anglo-Norman chronicler; Henry of Huntingdon a 12th-century English historian and author of a history of England, the *Historia Anglorum*; William of Malmesbury the foremost English historian of the 12th century; and in the *Carmen de Hastingae Proelio* (Latin: *Song of the Battle of Hastings*) attributed to Bishop Guy of Amiens, the chaplain of Matilda of Flanders, William the Conqueror's queen. The accounts differ, some mentioning only the juggling, some only the song, but all have elements in common. The story of *Taillefer* was set to music by Richard Strauss in 1903 and a later version drawn from all the sources can be found in Winston Churchill's *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*.



Plaque dedicated to Robert Wace  
author of *Roman de Rou*

(Sources: *Carmen Widonis - The First History of the Norman Conquest*, transcription, translation and commentary by Kathleen Tyson, Granularity Press, 2018; *The Carmen de Hastingae Proelio* of Guy Bishop of Amiens, edited by Catherine Morton and Hope Muntz, Clarendon Press, 1972; "The Carmen de Hastingae Proelio" by R. H. C. Davis, in *The English Historical Review* 1978; and, "Latin Poetry and the Anglo-Norman Court 1066-1135: The *Carmen de Hastingae Proelio*" by Elisabeth van Houts, in *Journal of Medieval History* 1989)



William of Malmesbury  
Stained glass window  
in Malmesbury Abbey

Taillefer and Taillebois are probably different spellings of the same name. In any event, we do know that Ivo a direct descendant of Charlemagne, the Holy Roman Emperor. A 1,980-page chart listing the descendants of the Emperor Charlemagne shows that Ivo is a member of the House of Anjou and is clearly a descendant of the Emperor Charlemagne (742-814). **As a descendant of Charlemagne, Ivo would then also descend from Charlemagne's forefathers who are documented back to Antenor, King of the Cimmerians, who died in about 443 B.C.**

We do know that **Ivo Taillebois** was born in 1036, in Taillebois, Normandy and followed his father Reinfrid and Duke William in the Norman Conquest of England. These Taillebois were among the Norman nobles who were loyal to William and eventually replaced the old Anglo-Saxon elite. Before sailing to England, William and his knights heard Mass in the church at Dives-sur-Mer, Normandy, France. A plaque in this church lists the companions in the invasion including "*Ivo Taillebois*". As one of William's commanders, Ivo would have been among the elite knights who provided ships, horses, men, and supplies for the invasion of England, in return for which William granted them English baronies and earldoms forcibly taken from conquered Saxon lords. (Source: *Histoire du Canton d'Athis, Orne, et de ses Communes*, by Hector de la Ferrière-Percy, 1858)

Ivo was the knight commander in charge of King William's 1071 siege of Ely, then an island in the fens (marsh) of East Anglia. This was the final battle in the Norman conquest. William had almost overcome all resistance to his authority in England when this last serious challenge arose with the invasion of eastern England by an army led by the Danish king Sweyn II. Sweyn probably did not anticipate a successful invasion, more likely he was leading a typical Viking raid and hoping to bring home some booty. The Viking landing did give the few remaining Saxon rebels, led by Hereward the Wake, a last chance to overthrow the new Norman order in England. The focal point of this rebellion was Ely Abbey which was a stone fortress that presented a formidable challenge to the attackers led by William and Ivo. Siege engines had to be brought in over a causeway that had to be built and fortifications were set up to encircle the abbey. All of these pre-attack preparations, combined with William's military reputation, brought swift dividends, and the defenders, realizing a long siege was about to get underway, either escaped in small boats or gave themselves up. William was victorious without any actual fighting and the Norman conquest was finally complete.

Ivo profited well from the Norman invasion. He was a prominent administrator throughout the reign of William I and well into that of William II (William Rufus) and gained large estates in Lancashire, Westmorland and Lincolnshire. He was also given custody of the See of Durham after the expulsion of the bishop for taking sides against the king. He became Sheriff of Lincolnshire in 1086. He was given the official title of *Dapifer*, the grand master or steward of the king's household in 1091 at which time the king gave him the Lordship of Kendal, that consisted of a large portion of Northern Lancashire and Southern Westmorland, however he kept his seat of power in Lincolnshire. Ivo is shown as an extensive landowner in the *Domesday Book* of 1086-7: "*Tallboys, Ivo. Also called 'cut-bush'. Married Lucy. In charge of siege of Hereward the Wake at Ely, 1069. Steward to William II. Holdings in Lincolnshire and Norfolk.*"



Ruins of Kendal Castle



There is some debate as to how Ivo acquired the barony of Kendal (or Kendale). Some say that he married a Saxon Noblewoman, Lucy Malet, Countess of Chester, whose lands in Kendal would have come to Ivo through this marriage, however, he was also given lands by William I's son and successor, William Rufus. In addition to Kendal, Ivo was also the Lord of Furness, a peninsula in northwestern England that is a historic part of Lancashire. Lancaster Castle may have been part of Ivo's Barony of Kendal or it may have been acquired soon after Ivo. In any event, the descendants of Ivo Taillebois adopted the surname Lancaster. These Lancaster Barons of Kendal ultimately merge with our **Lawson** ancestors when **Lawrence Lawesson** marries a daughter of William Lancaster, the 6th Baron of Kendal,

Ivo may have been married several times. In addition to Lucy some say that he was also married to Gundreda, Countess of Wessex and perhaps others. In addition to being a **Lawson** ancestor, Ivo was an ancestor of Katherine Parr, Henry VIII's sixth queen, and also of George Washington.

Ivo Taillebois died circa 1094 at the approximate age of 58, in Kendal, Cumbria, England. He was a notable and ruthless warrior and royal official. His support was crucial to several victories of William the Conqueror. Ivo's value can be seen in his reward of the Barony of Kendal that was formed out of several possessions put together for the first time under one lord, possibly as part of a quite deliberate policy of the King to establish a strong man near the tough Scottish border. It is certainly likely that Ivo played an important role in administering the disputed Saxon lands closer to Scotland.

The following description of Ivo is probably fairly accurate and is taken from the *Gesta Herewardi*:

*A proud man was Ivo de Tailleboise as he rode next morning out of Spalding Town with a hawk on his fist, hound at heel, and a dozen men-at-arms at his back. . . An adventurer from Anjou, brutal, ignorant, and profligate, low-born too . . . valiant he was, cunning, and skilled in war. Called 'thou old butcher' by King William, he and his group of Angevin [i.e., of Anjou] rutters had fought like tigers by William's side at Hastings".*

(Source: The *Gesta Herewardi* or *Herwardi* was written around 1109–31 and is said to be a translation of an earlier and now lost work in Old English)

Other accounts of Ivo also are not flattering. An early history spoke of accusations made by Ivo as having ruined the Saxon Abbot of Croyland Abbey, so that a friend could be installed in his place. The common Saxon people in Ivo's barony also had little love for him. Ivo required that they "supplicated as their lord on their bended knees" and "tortured and harassed, worried and annoyed, incarcerated and tormented them". The people were not the only recipients of Ivo's allegedly abusive treatment. It was said that Ivo:

*would follow the various animals of the people of Croyland in the marshes with his dogs; drive them to a great distance, drown them in the lakes, mutilate some in the tail, others in the ear; while often, by breaking the feet and the legs of the beasts of burden, he would render them utterly useless.*

Such was the Saxon perception of Ivo, biased as it probably was.

(Sources: *The Northerners*, by J.C. Holye, Oxford, 1961; "Antecessor Noster: The Parentage of Countess Lucy made plain", by Katharine S.B. Keats-Rohan, in *Prosopon Newsletter* Issue 2, 1995; Rev. H. C. FitzHerbert, "An Original Pedigree of Tailbois and Neville" *The Genealogist*, 1886; and Charles Clay (ed.), *Early Yorkshire Charters*, vol. 5, Yorkshire Archaeological Society, 1936)

Questions arise as to who were the children of Ivo de Taillebois, and indeed whether he had any children at all. According to one source, Ivo never had issue so his title and estates were left to his brother, Gerard. But most genealogists and historians now side with the Oxford scholar Lady Katherine Keats-Rohan who asserts that Ivo and Lucy did, in fact, have issue, but only one child, a daughter named Beatrice. However, the estates and lands of Ivo were never held by Beatrice but rather by Lucy and her later husband named Ælfred (or Eldred) "The Englishman", who then assumed the last name Taillebois. Other historians assert that Beatrice de Taillebois was actually the daughter of Lucy and Ælfred.

**Ælfred "The Englishman" Taillebois, 2nd Baron of Kendal**, was born in 1059 and died in 1120. He was also known as Eldred or Aelfred of Workington. Ælfred could very well be an illegitimate bastard child of Ivo and inherited his estates. Whether there is a genetic link between Ivo de Taillebois and Ælfred is not absolutely clear but for Ælfred to have been born to Ivo, he (Ivo) would have had to have married a very high status Saxon lady (his marriage to Countess Lucy was evidently contracted late in life).

(Sources: *Records Of Kendale*, vol. 1, edited by John F. Curwen; *List Of Knights Accompanying William The Conqueror On His Invasion Of England, 1066*, by Robert Bunker, Hong Kong; *Companions Of Duke William At Hastings* this list is "a combination of all the known Battell Abbey Rolls"; "Famous Cambridgeshire Men and Women" in *Cambridgeshire Genealogy*; Katherine S.B. Keats-Rohan, "Antecessor Noster: The Parentage of Countess Lucy Made Plain" in *Prosopon: Newsletter Of The Unit For Prosopographical Research*, no. 2, May 1995, Linacre College, Oxford; *The Plantagenet Ancestry*, by William Henry Turton, 1968; *Ancestral Roots of Certain American Colonists*, 7th Edition, by Frederick Lewis Weis, additions by Walter Lee Shippard Jr., 1999; and, *The Origins of Some Anglo-Norman Families*, by Lewis C Loyd, 1999)

During the reign of Henry I, the baronial estates and title pass to **Ketel FitzEldred (son of Eldred/ Ælfred) "Taillebois" de Kendal, 3rd Baron Of Kendal**. "Ketel, son of Elfred", appears on the pedigree drawn in the *1615 and 1666 Visitations of Cumberland and Westmorland Counties*. He was born sometime before 1070 in Workington, Cumberland, England, and died 1120-1150 in either Kendal, Westmoreland, England or Seton, Scotland. His wife is listed on the *Visitations* pedigree as Christiana. The name Ketel is also found spelled as Ketil, Chetil and Ketellus.

Some historians speculate that Christiana was a daughter of Ivo de Taillebois by Lucy and marries Ketel, son of Ælfred/Eldred of Workington. Through this marriage the Barony of Kendal flows to Ketel, not through Eldred. However, the much-respected and generally accepted work, *Domesday Descendants*, notes Ketel as the son of Ælfred/Eldred and either the wife or daughter of **Ivo de Taillebois**.

Ketel had several wives and mistresses, most of whom gave him many children. What is important for our Lawson lineage is Ketel's son with Christiana: **Gilbert FitzKetel de Lancaster (de Taillebois), 4th Baron of Kendal**. Not much is known about Gilbert and the most significant thing that he did was to father the next in line of our lineage.

**William FitzGilbert de Lancaster, 1, 5th Baron of Kendal**, was born circa 1109, probably at Kendal, Westmoreland, England. He died circa 1170 at the same location of his birth. He married twice. His first wife is unknown, but his second marriage was to Gundred de Warenne, Countess of Warwick with whom he had five children. William was the Lord of Lancaster Castle and according to at least one document, he was known as William de Tailboys (de Taillebois) as a young man. He later became "**William de Lancaster, baron of Kendal**" taking for himself the name of his castle. One prominent historian notes that William received permission from King Henry II to change his name to Lancaster. This begins the line of the Lancaster family. (Source: *Monasticon Anglicanum: a history of the abbeys and other monasteries, hospitals, frieries, and cathedral and collegiate churches, with their dependencies, in England. . . .*, by Sir William Dugdale, London, 1849)

Next in line is **William II de Lancaster, 6th Baron of Kendal**, born circa 1150 at Kendal Castle, Westmoreland, England. He died in 1184, at 34 year of age, at Barton, Westmoreland and was buried at Furness Abbey in Cumbria. William married Helewise de Stuteville, the daughter of Robert de Stuteville IV, Sheriff of Yorkshire and Lord of Cottingham. William and Helewise had four children. William is also noteworthy as the last true Baron of the whole of the Barony of Kendal. After his death, the Barony was divided between the husbands of his daughters. (Source: *Records Relating To the Barony of Kendale*, Volume 3, ed. John F Curwen, 1926)



Lancaster Castle

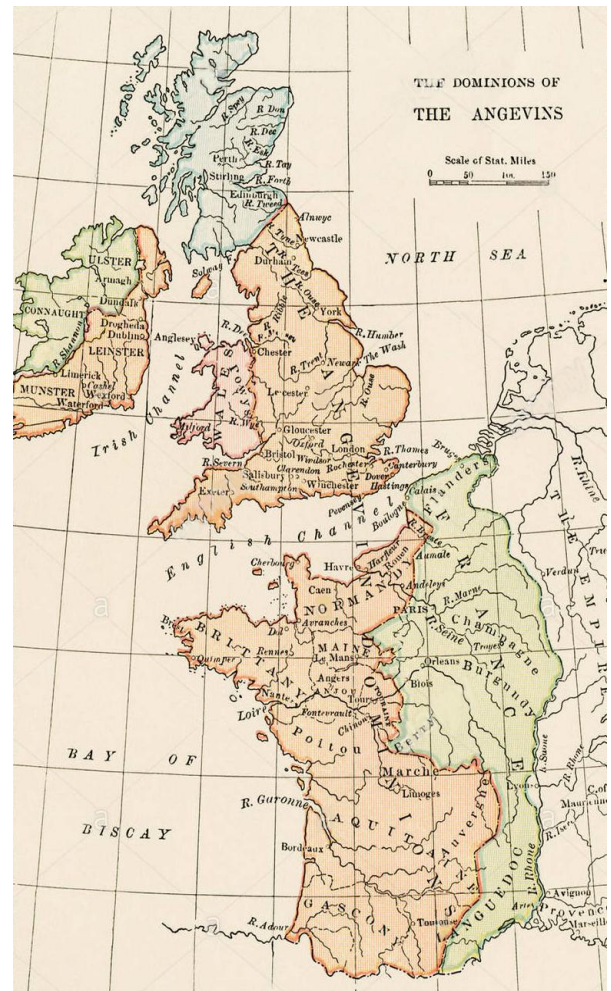
**Lawrence FitzWilliam de Lancaster** was born circa 1190 and died in 1260 at Bywell, Northumberland. He was the husband of one of the daughters of William and Helewise. As a young man he was also known as **Lawrence Lawesson** but adopted the name de Lancaster after his marriage. Little is else is known about **Lawrence Lawesson** other than his name, that he had at least one son **Thomas Lawesson**, and that he died in 1260 at Bywell, Northumberland County. Bywell is located about 15 miles west of Newcastle-on-Tyne and 20 miles southwest of Cramlington. We also know that Lawrence married into one of the most prominent families in northern England with extensive land holdings including those in Northumberland that have important connections to the Lawson family. Lawrence Lawesson links the Taillebois/Lancaster/Lawesson line with Lawson family of Cramlington.

At this point we reach a crucial point in our lineage with the near simultaneous appearances of **John Lawson of Cramlington** (1135) mentioned previously and **Lawrence Lawesson** (1190-1260). Both men's lives overlap, they have the same last name, they lived no more than 20 miles from each other and they both from a family of a prominent stature. All of which creates a strong possibility that John and Lawrence are related and most likely that John is the father of Lawrence.

After **John Lawson** and **Lawrence Lawesson** we enter the dark ages of Lawson family history. For a period of almost 200 years and 7 generations we know little about our descendants other than who they are and that they all lived in the area of Bywell, Northumberland County.

A quick look at the period from 1250 to 1489 may tell us why if we examine the major historical events that affecting the lives of these ancestors. This is a time when the Plantagenet/Angevin kings ruled an empire that included England, Ireland and most of France.

Lawrence Lawesson lived at the time of, and indeed may have been one of the English barons that forced King John to sign the **Magna Carta**, defining noble rights and privileges and limiting the powers of the king. Succeeding years saw continuing conflict between the more independent minded barons and the King. Then in 1297, William Wallace leads a revolt of Scots demanding freedom from English rule. Battles rage back and forth across the border until Wallace is captured and killed. Ultimately, Robert the Bruce rallies the Scots, defeats a much larger English army at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, and re-establishes an independent Scottish kingdom. Devastating Scottish raids continued throughout northern England. For years our **Lawson** ancestors were either hunkered down defending their estates, fighting with or for kings, or maintaining a delicate negotiated peace with all sides. Despite defeat at Bannockburn and the capture of the northernmost English stronghold at Berwick in 1318, Edward II refused to renounce his claim to Scotland. Conflict continued along the Scottish border until 1327, when the English deposed Edward II in favor of his son, Edward III, who renounced all claims to sovereignty over Scotland.



Next in 1337, the Hundred Years' War with France begins and lasts until 1453. It was fought between England and France and was a series of battles with long periods of peace in between. It began when King Edward III, claimed that he was the rightful heir to the French crown. Instead of Edward, the French made Philip VI their king. When King Philip seized control of Aquitaine from the English in 1337, King Edward III decided to invade France. Other disputes between the countries including control of the valuable wool trade, disputes over land, and French support of Scotland, kept fighting going for over one hundred years. **Lawson barons and knights would have been called upon to support the King's wars.** Throughout the Hundred Years War both England and France are ravaged by years of The Black Death (bubonic plague) that kills millions of people in England and France. Finally, in 1453, the Hundred Years War ends. Inspired by Joan of Arc's leadership and sacrifice, the French ultimately push the English army out of France.

### **Vassal Knights and Feudal Barony**

In the kingdom of England, a feudal barony or barony by tenure was the highest degree of feudal land tenure. In addition to land, these barons had certain duties and privileges which cannot be defined exactly as each was negotiated separately with the king. But for the most part they involved the duty of providing soldiers for the royal army on demand by the king, and the privilege of attendance at the king's court, the precursor of parliament.

William the Conqueror established his favored followers as barons with large fiefdoms. Such barons were not necessarily always from the greater Norman nobles, but were selected often on account of their personal abilities and usefulness. Lands forming a barony were often located in several different counties, not necessarily adjoining. The name of a barony was generally the name of the chief manor or residence within it. The date of creation of most feudal baronies cannot be determined, as their founding charters have been lost. However, many are first recorded in the *Domesday Book* survey of 1086.

The feudal obligation imposed by the grant of a barony was termed in Latin the *servitium debitum* or "service owed" and was set as a quota of knights to be provided for the king's service. It bore no correlation to the amount of land of the barony, but was fixed by a bargain between the king and the baron. It was at the discretion of the baron as to how these knights were found. The usual method was for the baron to split his barony into several fiefs of 100 to 1,000 acres. Each fief was then granted to a knight by the tenure of knight-service. This tenure gave the knight use of the fief and all its revenues, on condition that he should provide to the baron, now his overlord, 40 days of military service, complete with retinue of esquires, horses and armor. These fiefs were known as a knight's fee. Alternatively a baron could keep the entire barony, or a large part of it, under his own management and use the revenues it produced to buy the services of mercenary knights.

Some ancestors of the Lawson family were among the early Norman barons, but our early **Lawson** ancestors were also knights holding fiefs in service to a baron. As we look back at the history of these **Lawsons**, we need to understand what was going on in Northern England and southern Scotland in the 100 years following William of Normandy's conquest of England.

For the most part the early 12th century was relatively peaceful between England and Scotland. This was 200 years before the Scottish revolts of Wallace and Bruce. The environment was favorable for Norman settlement in the north. Border security was less of a concern for English kings who might have otherwise commanded powerful lords to hold the frontier. Instead, the boundaries of the new northern baronies were much larger than usual which created incentives for settlement and pacification in the new northern counties. Indeed, for the most part the barons of the north were not among the leading lords or royal officials. Many, if not most, including the **Lawsons**, had cross border interests.

As we examine the border relations between England and Scotland, we begin with David, son of Malcom III and 21st in the line of ancient Kings of Scotland. David was first the Prince of the Cumbrians from 1113 to 1124 and later King of the Scots from 1124 to 1153. He spent most of his childhood in Scotland, but was exiled to England temporarily in 1093, when his uncle became the King of Scots and later would spend more time in the English court.

#### MONARCHS OF ENGLAND - TO 1714

House of Wessex  
 St Edward the Confessor (1042–1066)  
 Harold Godwinson (1066)

Normans  
 William the Conqueror (1066–1087)  
 William II (1087–1100)  
 Henry I (1100–1135)  
 Stephen (1135–1154)

Angevins  
 Empress Matilda (1141)  
 Henry II (1154–1189)  
 Richard I, the Lionheart (1189–1199)  
 John (1199–1216)  
 Henry III (1216–1272)  
 Edward I (1272–1307)  
 Edward II (1307–1327) (deposed)  
 Edward III (1327–1377)  
 Richard II (1377–1399) (deposed, died 1400)

Lancastrians  
 Henry IV (1399–1413)  
 Henry V (1413–1422)  
 Henry VI (1422–1461 and 1470–1471)

Yorkists  
 Edward IV (1461–1470 and 1471–1483)  
 Edward V (uncrowned) (deposed 1483, possibly assassinated)  
 Richard III (1483–1485)

Tudors  
 Henry VII (1485–1509)  
 Henry VIII (1509–1547)  
 Edward VI (1547–1553)  
 Jane (uncrowned) (1553) (deposed, beheaded 1554)  
 Mary I (1553–1558)  
 Elizabeth I (1558–1603)

Stuarts (also Kings of Scotland)  
 James I (1603–1625)  
 Charles I (1625–1649), also King of Scotland  
Interregnum (Civil War 1642–1652 - King vs Parliament)  
 Oliver Cromwell, Lord Protector (1649–1658)  
 Richard Cromwell, Lord Protector (1658–1660).

Stuarts (restored)  
 Charles II (1660–1685)  
 James II (1685–1688) (deposed, died 1701)  
 William III (1689–1702) and Mary II (1689–1694), co-monarchs  
 Anne (1702–1714)



While in England he became a friend of future English King Henry I, the fourth son of William the Conqueror. On William's death in 1087, Henry's elder brothers Robert Curthose and William Rufus inherited Normandy and England, respectively, leaving Henry landless until he purchased the Cotentin peninsula in western Normandy from Robert. For many years the brothers fought with each other until William died in a hunting accident in 1100, and Henry seized the English throne.

King Henry I reigned from 1100 to his death in 1135. Soon after he was crowned King, Henry married Matilda of Scotland, daughter of Maclom III and a sister of David. This marriage made David the brother-in-law of the ruler of England and David quickly became an important figure at the English court where he came under the influence of Anglo-French culture. William of Malmesbury wrote that it was in this period that David "rubbed off all tarnish of Scottish barbarity through being polished by intercourse and friendship with us".

In 1124, David's brother King Alexander I died and with the support of English King Henry I, David became King of Scotland (1124-1153). David soon married Maude, the daughter of the Earl of Northumbria who was the last of the major Anglo-Saxon earls to retain power after the Norman conquest of England in 1066. Maude's mother was also the niece of William the Conqueror. Through this marriage, David gained control over his wife's vast estates in northern England, in addition to his Scottish lands.

Many historians designate the time of his reign as the "Davidian Revolution", with major changes in Scotland that included the foundation of burghs and regional markets, implementation of the ideals of Gregorian Reform, foundation of monasteries, a Scottish government based on the Norman model, and the introduction of feudalism through immigrant French and Anglo-French knights. This latter is important to the history of the **Lawsons** as they were among the vassel knights who helped settle northern England and southern Scotland. Over time these **Lawson** descendants branch our lineage into several major lines that eventually form the Lawson Baronets in England and Scotland.

#### **Lawson Baronets in England:**

##### **In Northumberland county:**

Lawson of Cramlington (*origin of Lawson Baronets*)  
Lawson Baronet of Longhirst (*branch of Brough Hall*)

##### **In York county:**

Lawson Baronet of Brough Hall, later the  
Howard-Lawson Baronet of Brough Hall  
Lawson Baronet of Weetwood Grange  
Lawson Baronet of Knavesmire Lodge

##### **In Durham county:**

Lawson Baronet of Nesham Abbey

##### **In Cumberland county:**

Lawson Baronet of Isell  
Lawson Baronet of Brayton Hall

#### **Lawson Baronets in Scotland:**

##### **In Peebles county:**

Lawson Baronet of Boghall and Cairnmuir

##### **In Haddington county:**

Lawson Baronet of Humble and Hartside

##### **Edinburgh county:**

Lawson Baronet of Hairiggs (Lord Provost 1863)

(Source: *General Amory of England, Scotland, . . . a registry of the armorial bearings from the earliest times to the present time*, by Sir Bernard Burke, London, 1884)

## Lawson Baronets in England

### Lawsons of Cramlington and Bywell

Cramlington is a town and civil parish in Northumberland, England, 9 miles north of Newcastle upon Tyne. From the 12th century onwards, its history has been mostly rural, incorporating several farms and the parish church of St. Nicholas. During the early 19th century, coal mining brought industry and more people.

The name Cramlington suggests a probable founding by Danes or Anglo-Saxons. The first record of the Manor of Cramlington is in 1135 when the land was granted to Nicholas de Grenville in a charter witnessed by **John Lawson** of Cramlington. The original village developed around the manor house and chapel, dedicated to Saint Nicholas. The register of the early chaplains begins with "*John the Clerk of Cramlington*", in the early 12th century. This register has been continued to the present day. This John the Clerk is most likely **John Lawson** of Cramlington. Today, *John the Clerk of Cramlington* is the name of a pub located at Low Main Place in Cramlington, Northumberland.



The village of Bywell is situated on the north bank of the River Tyne about 10 miles from Newcastle upon Tyne and less than 20 miles from Cramlington. Bywell has existed since the 9th century but there is almost no recorded history before the 1400s. Bywell Castle, now a ruins, is said to be based on a castle founded by Guy de Balliol (more about him later) soon after 1094 and is mentioned in 1122. The earliest reference to Bywell Castle is in 1464, when Henry VI fled there after the battle of Hexham. He found shelter for only a short time, since it was quickly surrendered to the victorious Lord Montague. Montague found the King's sword, helmet and crown and the trappings of a horse left behind as Henry abruptly had to flee for his life.



Given the close proximity of Cramlington and Bywell to Newcastle-upon-Tyne it is not surprising to both villages and the Lawson family are influence by the events and circumstances of the city. The history of Newcastle upon Tyne dates back almost 2,000 years, during which it has been controlled by the Romans, the Angles and the Norsemen amongst others. Originally known by its Roman name *Pons Aelius*, the name "Newcastle" has been used since the Norman conquest of England. Due to its prime location on the River Tyne, the town developed greatly during the Middle Ages as a trading hub.

The first recorded settlement in what is now Newcastle was *Pons Aelius* (*Hadrian's bridge*), a Roman fort and bridge across the River Tyne named after the Roman Emperor Hadrian, who founded it circa 120 AD. The Romans also built Hadrian's Wall which stretched across northern England from Newcastle to the west coast. Fragments of Hadrian's Wall are still visible in parts of Newcastle. The settlement of Cramlington is slightly north of the wall and Bywell is only a few hundred yards south of the wall.

After the Roman departure from Britain, completed in 410, Newcastle became part of the powerful Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria, that covered most of northeastern England and Scotland up to Edinburgh. After the Norman Conquest, Robert Curthose, son of William the Conqueror, erected a wooden castle there in the year 1080 because of the strategic importance of the site. The town was henceforth known as *Novum Castellum* or *New Castle*. The wooden structure was replaced by a stone castle in 1087. The castle was rebuilt again in 1172 during the reign of Henry II. Much of the keep which can be seen in the city today dates from this period. (Sources: *Britannia, the Roman Conquest and Occupation of Britain*, by George Patrick Welch, Wesleyan University Press, 1963; and, *Origins of (the) New Castle upon Tyne*, by Graham Dodds, Newcastle University, 2015)

Throughout the Middle Ages, Newcastle was England's northern fortress, first incorporated by a charter from Henry II (1133-1189). A 25-foot high stone wall was built around the town in the 13th century, to defend it from invaders during the border wars against Scotland.

Peace between England and Scotland in the early 12th century created an environment more favorable to Norman settlers in the far north of England than before. Guy de Balliol and William de Percy were the two dominant Norman barons who were granted extensive lands in northern England circa 1090 by King William Rufus, as part the carve-up of the earldom of Northumberland into the earldoms of York and Northumberland, with much land going to the prince-bishopric of Durham. According to historian Frank Barlow, these families originated in the reign of William the Conqueror and were "*planted ... in the frontier areas in order to protect and advance the kingdom*". Historian Geoffrey Stell said that the northern territories were given "*almost certainly in return for support rendered in William's campaigns on the eastern frontier of Normandy in 1091 and 1094*". Both the Baliol and Percy families would go on to play a large role in the history of both England and Scotland. Indeed, Scottish affairs were often of more concern than those in England. (Sources: *William Rufus*, by Frank Barlow, New Haven, 2000; and, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Balliol, Bernard de*, by G. P. Stell, Oxford University Press, 2004)

The northern earls also created many new lordships, especially in the vicinity of today's city of Newcastle upon Tyne. Among these were: Gilbert of Newcastle, William de Merlay, and Nicholas de Grenville, among others. Many of these families also had cross border links. (Sources: *Red Book of the Exchequer*, 3 vols., ed. H. Hall, 1896; *England and Her Neighbors 1066-1453, Essays in Honor of Pierre Chaplais*, edited by Michael Jones and Malcolm Vale, Hamledon Press, London, 1989; *Cramlington Through the Ages*, by Alf Smith, 1994; and, *John The Clerk of Cramlington*, by J.D. Wetherspoon, 2015)

The descendants of John Lawson of Cramlington (1135) and Lawrence Lawesson de Lancaster of Bywell (1190-1260) were born and for the most part lived their lives in the northern most English county of Northumberland. Bywell and Cramlington are less than 20 miles apart and less than 70 miles from the Scottish border. While we can identify the villages of Bywell and Cramlington as separate today, 800 years ago they were most likely part of one large



Old postcard of Cramlington in early 1900s

feudal estate, with the Lawsons holding Knight-service. Knight-service was a form of feudal land

tenure under which a knight held a fief or estate of land termed a knight's fee (fee being synonymous with fief) from an overlord conditional on him as tenant performing military service for his lord. From these earliest Lawsons we can trace our line to the Baronets of England.

**John Lawson**, chaplain/clerk of Cramlington (1135). His son is likely Lawrence who follows.

**Lawrence Lawesson de Lancaster** of Bywell, Northumberland (1190-1260). Married the daughter (name unknown) of the 6th Baron of Kendal and inherited part of the Barony. His son is likely John who follows:

**John Lawson (Lawesson)**, of Bywell, Northumberland (circa 1216-circa 1272). Lived during the reign of Henry III who granted John the title of Lord Fawlesgrave and estates in Yorkshire. (Source: *Patronymica Britannica, A Dictionary of Family Names of the United Kingdom*. by Mark Anthony Lowe, London: John Russel Smith, 1860) (Note: Almost all Lawson histories and genealogies state that our ancestors descend from John Lawson, Lord Fawlesgrave but they then fail to accurately place him on family trees and lists. Since all sources note he lived during the reign of Henry III, his placement here in this sequence is accurate.)

**Thomas Lawesson** of Bywell, Northumberland (also known as Thomas FitzLawrence de Lancaster) (1250-???). Was a gentleman who lived as a contemporary to King John. His son follows:

**Ralph Lawesson** of Bywell, Northumberland (1275-???). Ralph was a defendant in a plea of trespass during the time of Henry III and was called Ralph fil (son of) Thomas Lawesson. Ralph married a woman named Alina and they had two children: a daughter named **Mary Lawesson** and a son who follows:

**Robert Lawesson** of Bywell, Northumberland (1300-???). His son follows:

**Thomas Lawesson** of Bywell, Northumberland (1325-???). Alive during the reigns of Edward II and Edward III. Thomas had at least three children: **John Laweson**, **Robert Lawson** and **William Lawson**. With Robert and William we have the first correct spelling of the last name **Lawson** since **John Lawson of Cramlington** in 1135. His son John follows:

**John Lawson** of Bywell, Northumberland (1345-1386). In 1374, he was a defendant in a claim by William de Akrigg and Margaret his wife of messuage (a dwelling house with outbuildings and land assigned to its use), land etc. in Sedburgh. John Lawson was a witness to a deed of Robert de Insula in 1374 and was a juror at Corbridge (near Bywell). He had two sons: **Gilbert Lawson** and John who follows:



Cramlington Hall

**John Lawson** of Bywell, Northumberland (circa 1360-circa 1400) was witness to a deed of Walter de Tindall dated 1374 and was Executor to his father's will in 1386. His son William follows:



**William Lawson** of Cramlington (circa 1400-1480). He lived during the reign of Henry VI of England (1421-71) and in 1425, he married Agnes Cramlington (1407-1466), daughter of William Cramlington. On the death of Agnes' father, she inherited the manor of Cramlington and at that time **William Lawson** added "of Cramlington" to his name. William Lawson and Agnes Cramlington had the following children: **Sir Thomas Lawson, Wiliam Lawson of Cramlington, John Lawson, Richard Lawson, and George Lawson** living at Bywell, Northumberland in 1458.

**Thomas Lawson**, of Bywell, Northumberland (circa 1440-1489). He was born circa 1440 in Bywell and died in 1489 and was buried in Cramlington. Again we note the proximity of Bywell and Cramlington (20 miles apart) which leads to our assertion that the **Lawsons of Bywell and Cramlington** are the same family. Thomas married Isabella Killinghall and they had two children, a daughter **Margaret Lawson** and son Robert who follows.

*(Authors note: Several genealogists record a legend that **Sir Thomas Lawson** was a Knight at the Battle of Agincourt with Sir John Neville. This is one of the greatest English victories in the Hundred Years' War. This battle took place in 1415 in northern France. England's unexpected victory against a numerically superior French army boosted English morale and prestige, crippled France, and started a new period in the war during which the English began enjoying great military successes. It is said that **Sir Thomas Lawson** was knighted and awarded estates in Yorkshire by King Edward III. I have not been able to find any confirming record of this and it cannot be correct because of inconsistencies in the dates. The Battle of Agincourt took place in 1415; the reign of Edward III was 1327–1377; Thomas Lawson was born in 1440; Sir John Neville was not at Agincourt; and the Lawson estates in Yorkshire were awarded to John Lawson, Lord Fawlesgrave in the 1200s by King Henry III. It is much more likely that **Thomas Lawson** fought with Sir John Neville in the civil war between the Lancastrians and Yorkists to control the throne of England. The only Lawson who could have fought at Agincourt would be **William Lawson** the father or Thomas. William would have been 15 or 20 years old at the time. Another often repeated error lists Agnes Cramlington as the wife of Thomas but she is his mother.)*



Painting of Battle of Agincourt

**Robert Lawson** of Bywell, Northumberland (circa 1460-circa 1540). He was living in the time of King Henry VI (1422-1461). Robert married Anne of Bywell (last name is unknown) and he also had a second wife (name unknown). Robert had three children: a daughter Joan Lawson and two sons (half brothers) John Lawson and his oldest son and heir William who follows:

**William Lawson**, of Cramlington, Northumberland (circa 1480-1518). He was born circa 1480 at Cramlington and he died in 1518 at Newcastle-On-Tyne. William married Anne Horsley daughter of Richard Horsley a prominent citizen of Thernham, Northumberland and the couple had seven children: **Thomas Lawson** who was the heir to the family estate in Cramlington; **James Lawson**, a Merchant-adventurer and later the Mayor of Newcastle on Tyne, who is heir to the estate of Brough Hall and would eventually receive a grant from the Crown for Nesham Hall following the death of his sister; **Robert Lawson** who inherits the family estate of Longhirst; **George Lawson**, a prominent barrister who becomes the Lord Mayor of York and Treasurer of Berwick; **Joan Lawson** who becomes Prioress of Nesham Abbey which was probably founded and funded by her father; and, **Barbara Lawson** and **Agnes Lawson** about whom little is known.

From this point on the **Lawson lineage** divides into several major lines that will eventually form the **Lawson Baronets in England**.

- **Lawsons of Bywell and Cramlington** descend from Thomas Lawson
- **Lawsons of Brough Hall** descend from James Lawson, merchant and mayor of Newcastle
- **Lawsons of Longhirst** descend from Robert Lawson
- **Lawsons of Nesham Abbey/Nesham Manor** descend from Joan the Prioress of Nesham Abbey whose monastery estates are seized by the Crown and then sold to her brother James Lawson.
- **Lawsons of Isell and Brayton Hall**
- **Lawsons of Weetwood Grange**
- **Lawsons of Knavesmire Lodge**
- **Lawson Lords** were also the Mayors of York and Leeds, influential members of Parliament and local leaders in Yorkshire.

From these may come the **Lawson Baronets** of Scotland that we will examine later in this work.

There have been six baronetcies created for persons with the surname of **Lawson**, two in the Baronetage of England and four in the Baronetage of the United Kingdom. King James I created the hereditary Order of Baronets in England in 1611. The Baronetage of England comprises all baronetcies created in the Kingdom of England before the Act of Union in 1707. In that year, it was replaced by the Baronetage of Great Britain which in turn was replaced in 1801 by the Baronetage of the United Kingdom.

The two earliest **Lawson** baronets were created in the 1600s: the baronet of Brough Hall (1665) and the baronet of Isell (1688). The later Lawson baronets are: the baronet of Brayton (1831), the 2nd baronet of Brough Hall (recreated after a period of dormancy in 1841), the baronet of Westwood Grange (1900), and the baronet of Knavesmire Lodge (1905).

The **Lawson Baronets of Brough Hall (1665 creation)** are:

- **Sir John Lawson**, 1st Baronet (1627–1698)
- **Sir Henry Lawson**, 2nd Baronet (1663–1720)
- **Sir John Lawson**, 3rd Baronet (1689–1739)
- **Sir Henry Lawson**, 4th Baronet (1712–1781)
- **Sir John Lawson**, 5th Baronet (1744–1811)
- **Sir Henry Lawson**, 6th Baronet (1750–1834)

The estate of Brough Hall existed long before the title Baronet of Brough Hall was created. In fact, this property came to the Lawsons through the marriage in 1568 of Sir Ralph Lawson to Elizabeth Brough. Sir Ralph Lawson is a descendant of the Bywell/Cramlington Lawsons. Elizabeth Brough inherited Brough Hall in Yorkshire from her father Roger Brough.



Brough Hall

Brough (pronounced Broog) was originally written *de Breux*. In the 12th century, it was changed to *de Burgh* (sometimes *de Burg*). It means "*stronghold*", coming from the Roman ruins discovered in a field which is now called "*The Burrs*" at Brough. An old Roman Road ran through the place extending on to Lincolnshire.

The de Burgh Family came over with William the Conqueror. One branch became the Earl of Ulster, marrying into the Plantagenets and eventually furnished a king. The other branch stemmed from the man who was one of the signers of the Magna Carta at Runnymede.

The **Lawsons** were for generations seated in the vicinity of Bywell and Cramlington in Northumberland, then at Brough Hall, Yorkshire.

The **Lawson Baronet of Brough Hall** in the County of York, was created in 1665 in the Baronetage of England for **John Lawson, of Brough Hall**. After the death of the sixth Baronet in 1834, the title became extinct and his estates were divided but the Brough Hall estate remained in the family and the Baronetcy was later revived in 1841. The manor at Lartington Hall passed to his nephew Henry Thomas Maire (Silvertop) Witham, son of his sister Catherine. The Brough Hall manor passed to his great-nephew, in whose favor the baronetcy was later revived in 1841.

Brough is a village in northern most Yorkshire near the border with Durham. Brough Hall is a country manor house which has now been converted to apartments. It was originally built in the 1400s but has been altered and extended several times since then. Brough Hall is today a Grade I listed historic property (for buildings of exceptional interest).



The former Roman Catholic **Church of St Paulinus** on the grounds of Brough Hall was built for the recusant **William Lawson** and is a Grade II listed historic building (particularly important buildings of more than special interest). The term "recusant", derived from the Latin *recusare* (to refuse or make an objection) referred to those who remained loyal to the pope and the Roman Catholic Church and who did not attend Church of England services.

Church of St Paulinus

The Brough Hall baronetcy included **Lartington Hall** in county Durham to the north of York. Lartington Hall is a 17th-century country house, at Lartington, Teesdale, County Durham, England. It is a Grade II listed building (particularly important buildings of more than special interest). The Roman Catholic family of Maire acquired the manor of Lartington by marriage in 1654. It passed to the Lawson family when **Sir Henry Lawson Baronet of Brough Hall** married Anna Anastasia, the Maire heiress. Their grandson Henry Thomas Maire Silvertop inherited the estate and then married Eliza Witham and changed his surname to Witham. As Henry Witham he was High Sheriff of Durham in 1844. His fourth son Right Reverend Monsignor Thomas Edward Witham lived in the Hall from 1847 until his death in 1897 when the estate passed to his grandnephew



Lartington Hall



Francis Silvertop of Minsteracres who sold it out of the family in 1911. In 2011, Lartington Hall was purchased and extensively restored. Lartington Hall is now available as a luxury, high end, exclusive hire venue.

The **Lawson Baronets of Brough Hall (2nd creation of 1841)** are:

- **Sir William Lawson**, 1st Baronet (1796–1865)
- **Sir John Lawson**, 2nd Baronet (1829–1910)
- **Sir Henry Joseph Lawson**, 3rd Baronet (1877–1947)
- **Sir Ralph Henry Lawson**, 4th Baronet (1905–1975)
- **Sir William Howard Lawson**, 5th Baronet (1907–1990)
- **Sir John Philip Howard-Lawson**, 6th Baronet (born 1934)
- The heir is Sir John's son, Philip William Howard

From 1834 to 1841, the Lawson Baronet was dormant. It was restored in 1841 for **William Lawson** and became known as the **Lawson (later Howard-Lawson) Baronet of Brough Hall (2nd Creation)**. Born William Wright, he was the son of John Wright, of Kelvedon, by **Elizabeth Lawson**, daughter of the 5th Baronet of the original 1665 line. John Wright assumed his mother's surname rather than use his own patronymic. **Elizabeth Lawson**, had earlier inherited the Lawson family seat of Brough Hall. Their grandson, Sir Henry Lawson the 3rd Baronet of the restored line, married Ursula Mary Howard in 1899. She was the only living heir of Sir Philip John Canning Howard, of Corby Castle, Cumberland, a descendant of Sir Francis Howard, son of Lord William Howard, third son of Thomas Howard, 4th Duke of Norfolk.



Corby Castle

On the death in 1975 of the 4th Baronet, **Sir Ralph Henry Lawson**, the estate of Brough Hall was left to his two daughters, **Valerie Lawson Worthington** and **Jill Lawson**. The title of Baronet of Brough Hall passed to his younger brother **William Lawson**, 5th Baronet of the restored line, who moved his seat to Corby Castle, Cumbria, ancestral home of the Howard family. This 5th Baronet was a Deputy Lieutenant of Cumbria. Later, in 1962, the 6th Baronet obtained a Royal License to assume the Howard name and arms but later resumed use of the **Lawson** name in 1992. In 1994, the 6th Baronet sold Corby Castle to Lord Ballyedmond. Then in 2010, Philip Howard sued his father **Sir John Philip Howard-Lawson** the 6th Baronet, for unlawfully selling the ancestral home of Corby Castle. Howard claimed his father defaulted on terms of the 1934 will of his great-grandfather, Sir Philip John Canning Howard, that said his heirs must change their name to Howard and apply to adopt the family coat of arms within a year in order to inherit, and that consequently he, Philip Howard, was the heir by default and the rightful owner of the proceeds of the castle sale. In 2012 the suit was rejected by the original court and again on appeal.

### The Lawson Lords of Longhirst

- **Robert Lawson**, (1600)
- **Robert Lawson**, (1622)
- **William Lawson**, (1652)
- **John Lawson**, (1679)
- **William Lawson**, (1684)
- **John Lawson**, (1769)
- **William Lawson**, (1775-1855), Gentleman Magistrate and Deputy Lieutenant, Northumberland
- **William John Lawson**, (1822-1859), who died at age 37 in Pau, France, after a lingering illness.
- **Reverend Edward Lawson**, (1824-1882), Vicar of Bothal
- **William Edward Lawson**, (1855-1944)



**Longhirst** is a village and ecclesiastical parish 10 miles north of Cramlington and 3 miles from the ancient market town of Morpeth on the river Wansbeck. From the Norman Conquest till 1875 the township was in the medieval Norman or Saxon parish of Bothal. Several building associated with the **Lawson** family dominate Longhirst.

The Church of St. John the Evangelist in Longhirst was built in 1876. It was commissioned and paid for by local landowners, the **Lawson family of Longhirst Hall**, who gave the church to the village under the direction of the late **Rev. Edward Lawson**, the vicar of Bothal (1859-61). This church is a stone building consisting of chancel, nave of four bays, south aisle, transepts and a western tower with octagonal spire containing 6 bells, which form a carillon. The nave has an open timbered roof, and the arcades are supported by clustered granite columns. An elaborately carved *rearedos* (an ornamental screen covering the back of an altar) was erected by parishioners and friends as a memorial to the **Rev. Edward Lawson** who died in 1882. The east and west windows are stained glass and there is



a prominent brass eagle lectern. The church has seats for 360 people. At the entrance to the churchyard is a *lych gate* of stone with a timber roof, erected in 1885 by the children of the late **Rev. Edward Lawson** as a memorial to their father. Many churches have a *lych gate* built over the main entrance to the enclosed area around the church. The name, also spelled *lich* or *lytch*, is from the Anglo Saxon "*lich*" meaning corpse. The gate marks the division between consecrated and unconsecrated ground, where coffin bearers sheltered while waiting for the clergyman to lead the procession before a burial.

Another building in the village is the National School built of stone in 1870 by the late **Rev, Edward Lawson** to educate local children.

Longhirst Hall is a mansion standing in a park of about 40 acres. The total area of the estate today is 1,769 acres. Today this imposing country house is enjoying a renaissance after a spell in the doldrums. Longhirst Hall, at Morpeth, has been divided into four luxury properties along with several newly built townhomes on its grounds. The centrepiece of the development is Longhirst Hall itself, boasting the

original main entrance, a pedimented portico suspended on giant Corinthian columns which opens into an large central hall with Ionic columns, and a central glazed dome. The sweeping Imperial staircase on one end has a wrought-iron balustrade that wraps around the galleried first-floor landing. Above, the coffered dome is a direct replica of the Roman Pantheon.



Longhirst Hall was built between 1824-1828 for **William Lawson**, local landowner and member of a prosperous Northumberland farming family. The architect was John Dobson, one of the founders of the Gothic Revival style. **William Lawson** (1775-1855) lived at Longhirst until his death when the property passed to his eldest son, **William John Lawson** (1822-1859), who died at Pau, in the south of France, after a lingering illness. He was the custodian of Longhirst Hall for only four years.

By the death of his eldest brother, the **Reverend Edward Lawson** (1824-1882), succeeded to the family estates. He was a well educated man who served the church and for two years was the rector of Bothal. Edward qualified as a magistrate in 1861 and was responsible for working the coal found underneath the estate. He created the nearby model colliery village, built schools and had genuine regard for its inhabitants. Following his death in 1882, Longhirst Hall was inherited by his son, **William Edward Lawson** (1855-1944), who turned out to be the last of the family to live here. He did not to have had much interest in the house and would rent it to tenants.



The entrance lobby and stairway at Longhirst Hall

By 1887, Longhirst Hall and its 740 acres had fallen into disarray and was put up for sale. After a spirited competition it was bought by a Newcastle coal baron named James Joicey, who was one of the largest coal-producers in England.



After Joicey, there were several owners who again let the property deteriorate. For a time it was rented to Northumbria University. In 1992 it was bought by a private investment company who completed extensive renovations, combined with new facilities, to become a management training and conference center with a 77-bedroom country house hotel, popular as a wedding venue. The hotel closed in March 2014 after its parent company went bankrupt. Next, in 2015, Longhirst hall was sold for £1.65 million to a real estate development company. Work started almost immediately to add an additional 28 luxury homes to the estate.

Longhirst Hall today is a magnificent Grade II listed country home surrounded by trees and open green spaces. The impressive mansion, with its extensive grounds has finally been restored to its former glory.



The **Lawsons of Nesham Abbey** are:

- **Jone (Joan) Lawson**, Prioress of Nesham Abbey (???-1557).
- **James Lawson**, of Byker and Newcastle-upon-Tyne (circa 1500-1547)
- **Ralph (or George) Lawson** of Newcastle & Nesham Abbey (circa 1546-1589)
- **Henry Lawson** of Nesham Abbey (1547-1607)
- **James Lawson** of Nesham Abbey (1568-1631)
- **James Lawson** of Nesham Abbey (1624-1644)

The priory/abbey of Nesham was built sometime before 1157 for the Benedictine order of nuns. It was located on the river Tees, near Stockburn, Durham on the border with Yorkshire. In all formal ecclesiastical documents the house is spoken of as a priory. In February, 1157, Pope Adrian IV confirmed the privileges of the monastery by a bull in which he spoke of it as already well established. The nunnery of Nesham was the only religious house within the limits of county Durham that stood independent of the powerful church and Bishop of Durham.

By the 1400s, the convent of Nesham Abbey held lands, a mill, houses, or rents in Neasham, Hurworth, Little Burdon, Shildon, Washington, Hutton, Bishop Auckland, Bishopton, Long Newton, Coniscliffe, Darlington, Hyndale, Windlestone, Sadberge, and Gateshead, in the county of Durham; and in Yarm, Skelton, and Ellingstring, in the county of York. However, the independence of the Abbey from the Bishop of Durham led to a deteriorating relationship. In 1436, the Bishop cited the prioress and nuns to appear before him and gave them strict injunctions as to their behavior. He laid special stress upon the observance of the canonical hours, the rule of silence, and the daily meeting of the sisters in the chapter-house. The nuns when not engaged in divine service, or at refectory, were to be occupied in reading, prayer, or meditation. The defects in the church, cloisters, and other buildings were to be made good before the following midsummer, and the chalices, jewels, and ornaments, then in the hands of sundry creditors, were to be redeemed. No secular person was to pass the night in the house, nor were the nuns, unless indisposed, to sleep elsewhere than in the dormitory; doors were to be shut at a certain hour; and the sisters were to hold no intercourse with secular persons, except for the service of the house and with the permission of the prioress.

By letters patent in 1537, King Henry VIII appointed "*Jane (Jone) Lawson, prioress of the Order of St. Benet*" to be prioress of the priory of Neasham. Possibly foreseeing a coming storm that was the Dissolution of Monasteries in 1537, the prioress at once granted a lease of the possessions of the priory in Nesham to her brother, James Lawson, a merchant of Newcastle, under a rent of £2. Then in 1540, Prioress Jone (Joan) Lawson surrendered all of the Priory property to agents of the King and the priory/abbey was dissolved. Soon after, James Lawson purchased all of the lands and building of the priory/abbey for a consideration of £227 5s.

Jone Lawson survived the dissolution of her house some seventeen years probably living in one of the convent buildings possibly a tenant of her brother. Jone died in 1557 and the inventory of her will shows that she was a practical and successful farmer. The inventory includes land at Nesham and elsewhere, live-stock, and a quantity of corn, standing and in the barn. She left funds to four of her former nuns who were still living and to each one of her "*god-bairns*" in Hurworth.

In 1577, Henry Lawson acquired the estate known as *Inglebie's Manor* in Hurworth near Nesham. This property was owned by Robert Tailbois (Taillebois) a descendant of Ivo Taillebois. Since before the 1800s a house known as Nesham Abbey has sat on this site.

The **Lawson Baronets of Isell** (1688 creation) are:

- **Sir Wilfred Lawson**, the Grand Steward of Northumberland (1545-1632)
- **Sir Wilfrid Lawson**, 1st Baronet (c. 1610–1688)
- **Sir Wilfrid Lawson**, 2nd Baronet (1664–1704)
- **Sir Wilfrid Lawson**, 3rd Baronet (1697–1737)
- **Sir Wilfrid Lawson**, 4th Baronet (c. 1732–1739)
- **Sir Mordaunt Lawson**, 5th Baronet (c. 1733–1743)
- **Sir Gilfrid Lawson**, 6th Baronet (1675–1749)
- **Sir Alfred Lawson**, 7th Baronet (died 1752)
- **Sir Wilfrid Lawson**, 8th Baronet (c. 1707–1762)
- **Sir Gilfrid Lawson**, 9th Baronet (c. 1710–1794)
- **Sir Wilfrid Lawson**, 10th Baronet (c. 1764–1806)

The **Lawson Baronet of Isell** in the County of Cumberland, was created in the Baronetage of England in 1688 for **Wilfrid Lawson**, Member of Parliament for Cumberland. The 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 8th Baronets were also Members of Parliament. The title became extinct on the death of the 10th Baronet in 1806, however, it was restored in 1831 as the Lawson baronet of Brayton Hall (see below).

Isel is a rural community, with a church, the manorial Isell Hall and several farms ranging from dairy to poultry, but lacking any shops, public house or post office. Isel Hall of the Lawson Baronet is an ancient residence on a steep rise on the bank of the River Derwent, near Bassenthwaite Lake (one of the largest lakes in the Lake District) and the ancient market town of Cockermouth. The estate was once the home of the **Lawson family in Cumberland** and is a grade I listed building (for buildings of exceptional interest).



Isell Hall

The **Lawsons of Isell** trace their ancestry to **John Lawson, Lord Fawlesgrave**. A long line of ancestors arrives at Sir Wilfred Lawson (1545–1632) who the Earl of Northumberland named the Grand Steward of all his estates. He was also the High Sheriff of Cumberland and was elected a Member of Parliament for Cumberland. He was knighted in 1604. **Wilfred Lawson** died childless in 1632 and was succeeded by his great nephew also **Sir Wilfred Lawson** and also a member of Parliament. In 1688, the second **Sir Wilfred Lawson** became the 1st Baronet of Isell when he purchased a baronet's patent from King James II. He also purchased the Brayton Hall estate. After his death, he left the family estate at Isel to his grandson Wilfred (son of his first son William), who became the 2nd Baronet of Isell; and to his 2nd son, also named Wilfred, he left the estate of Brayton Hall, founding the line of "**Brayton**" **Lawsons**.

The **Lawson Baronets of Brayton Hall** (1831 creation) are:

- **Sir Wilfrid Lawson**, 1st Baronet (1795–1867)
- **Sir Wilfrid Lawson**, 2nd Baronet (1829–1906)
- **Sir Wilfrid Lawson**, 3rd Baronet (1862–1937)
- **Sir Hilton Lawson**, 4th Baronet (1895–1959)

The **Lawson Baronet of Brayton Hall** in Cumberland, was created in the Baronetage of the United Kingdom in 1831 for **Wilfred Lawson**. The estate of Brayton was at one time part of the Baronet of Isell. Born Wilfred Wybergh, he obtained a Royal license to use the surname of **Lawson** in lieu of his patronymic. He was the son of the sister of the **Sir Wilfrid Lawson**, the 10th Baronet of Isell (see above). The 2nd and 3rd Baronets of Brayton Hall were both Members of Parliament. The title became extinct on the death of the 4th Baronet in 1959.



Brayton Hall circa 1900

At the time that the **Lawsons** acquired the Brayton Hall manorial estate it was comprised of 20 houses, 20 homesteads, 20 gardens, 260 acres of land, 100 acres of meadow, 200 acres of pasture and 300 acres of moor. Although there was an existing Manor House, this was greatly improved and the adjacent grounds were developed converting an existing deer park into a landscaped park with extensive botanical gardens with views of the surrounding countryside and the mountains of the Lake District in the background. The Brayton Hall library, collected at a great expense, held books, prints, paintings, suits of armor and a rich collection of works on the subject of natural history. Among the pictures were many of the best works of contemporary English masters. Ultimately, the Brayton Hall manor house was destroyed by fire in 1918 and is now only a ruin in Cumbria, England. Later owners built a nine-hole golf course, while continuing to allow fishing in the lake. The gardener's cottage is now a restaurant.



The ruins of Brayton Hall

The **Lawson Baronets of Weetwood Grange** are:

- **Sir Arthur Tredgold Lawson**, 1st Baronet (1844–1915)
- **Sir Digby Lawson**, 2nd Baronet (1880–1959)
- **Sir John Charles Arthur Digby Lawson**, DSO, MC, 3rd Baronet (1912–2001)
- **Sir Charles John Patrick Lawson**, 4th Baronet (born 1959)
- heir apparent is **Jack William Tremayne Lawson** (born 1989), eldest son of the 4th Baronet.

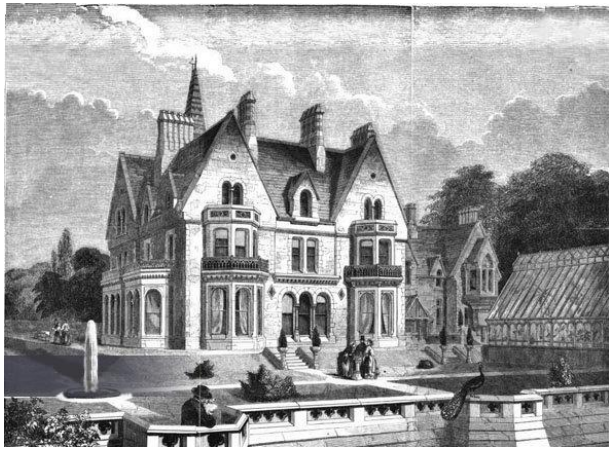
The **Lawson Baronet of Weetwood Grange** (sometimes Westwood Grange) in Headingley-cum-Burley in the West Riding of the County of York, was created in the Baronetage of the United Kingdom in 1900 for philanthropy and services to industry by **Arthur Lawson**. Weetwood is an area between Headingley and Meanwood in northwestern Leeds, West Yorkshire, England.



The area's earliest name, Wetewode, means the wet wood to the west of Meanwood Beck. The main activities of the area were quarrying the sandstone which underlies it and charcoal burning and later iron smelting occurred from 1240 to 1550. For most of this time the land was owned by Kirkstall monastery. Following the dissolution of the monasteries, the estate was privately held and the manor house, Weetwood Hall was built in 1625. Weetwood Hall was taken over by the University of Leeds in 1919 and was a hall of residence until 1993. Weetwood Hall is now a luxury hotel and conference centre, which includes the original manor house. Weetwood Hall is a Grade II listed building (particularly important buildings of more than special interest).



Weetwood Hall



Fox Hill manor house

Fox Hill is the name of both a hill and a prominent manor hall built in 1863 within the Weetwood Grange baronet. It is now used as a school and is also a Grade II listed building. Weetwood Croft was another manor hall located on the grounds of the Weetwood Grange baronet. Built in 1898, Weetwood Croft is now a student residence of Leeds University known as Oxley Hall.



Weetwood Croft  
now Oxley Hall at  
Leeds University

**Arthur Lawson**, the first Baronet of Weetwood Grange was the Chairman of Fairbairn Lawson Combe Barbour Ltd, textile machinery manufacturers. This 1st Baronet was also a Director of the Great Eastern Railway and the *Yorkshire Post*. The 2nd Baronet, **Sir Digby Lawson**, was also Chairman of the manufacturing company.

The 3rd Baronet of Westwood Grange was **Colonel Sir John Charles Arthur Digby Lawson**. He served with the 11th Hussars and was considered by Montgomery "*the best Squadron leader in the 8th Army*". In 1939, he was awarded the Military Cross for service with the Trans-Jordan Frontier Force and he later won the DSO at the battle of El Alamein and the subsequent advance to Tripoli.

**Colonel Sir John Lawson** was born in 1912, at Tadcaster, Yorkshire, the eldest son of Sir Digby Lawson. John was educated at Stowe and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst and was commissioned into the 11th Hussars (Prince Albert's Own) in 1933. With Hitler coming to power in Germany, the Army was mechanizing, and the 11th Hussars was issued Rolls-Royce armored cars while still retaining its cavalry. In 1934, the 11th Hussars sailed to Egypt to join the Cairo garrison, and were soon involved in quelling riots in Palestine and patrolling the Egyptian frontier. From 1939 to 1940, Lawson served with the Trans-Jordan Frontier Force. He saw action against the Italians in the Western Desert, as second-in-command of B Squadron. After the Italians' collapse, Lawson returned to Cairo where he became second-in-command, and later Squadron commander.

In 1939, while on detachment to the Trans-Jordan Frontier Force (TJFF) at Beisan, **Lawson**, at 26 years old, was commanding a mixed Squadron of horse cavalry and mechanized infantry. His men were mostly Jordanians and Circassians, and **Lawson** was the only British officer. The TJFF had been formed to protect Jordan's frontiers, but by 1939 had acquired the additional role of protecting the Baghdad-Haifa oil pipeline, and Jewish colonies, from attacks by dissident Arabs. Abudorra tribesmen from Syria would often cross the Jordan and hide in Arab villages before making these attacks. On one occasion **Lawson**, acting on information that a group of 12 raiders were in the area, led a troop of cavalry to round them up. As they crossed the valley below Beisan they came under heavy rifle fire, and **Lawson** gave the order to draw swords and charge. This action so surprised the enemy that they jumped to their feet and surrendered. This is believed to have been one of the last sabre charges carried out by the forces of the Crown. It was for this action, and for distinguished service with the Trans-Jordan Frontier Force, that Lawson was awarded his Military Cross.

By August 1942, **Lawson** was back with the 11th Hussars, commanding a squadron, at Moghra in the Western Desert. The Regiment was equipped with jeeps and armored cars, and was employed in a reconnaissance role but was under constant air attacks. During Montgomery's attack on Axis positions at El Alamein, Lawson provided important information about gaps in the surrounding minefields. Two of his three other officers were killed and it was only due to his efforts under intense artillery fire that communications were maintained. During the pursuit of the Germans after the Battle of Alamein, **Lawson's** Squadron located elements of 21st Panzer Division which enabled 22nd Armoured Brigade to engage them successfully. **Lawson** also managed to lead troops through a German screen of anti-tank guns to capture 11 trucks and 150 Germans. As the advance continued a driving rain turned the desert into a quagmire but **Lawson** succeeded pushing forward and his Squadron was the first British troops to enter Benghazi. Lawson's Distinguished Service Order award notes his "exceptional ability and courage" during the advance from El Alamein to Tripoli.

After the fall of Tripoli, he was sent as a liaison officer to the US Army in Tunisia. Montgomery said: *"I have picked **Lawson** because I wanted to send General Eisenhower the best Squadron Leader in the 8th Army."* **Lawson** then served with the II corps, US Army, as an adviser and military observer; he was later awarded the US Legion of Merit.

Following the Axis surrender in Tunisia, **Lawson** went back to England and attended the Staff College. He next went to America to attend the US Marine Corps Staff Course at Quantico. Originally destined for the Pacific with the 5th US Marine Division, he was ordered back to England at the last minute for the invasion of Europe, and was assigned to Montgomery's HQ as a liaison officer. He continued in this role until shortly before the Rhine crossings when he received a personal order from Montgomery to take command of the Inns of Court Armored Car Regiment. After crossing the Rhine, the regiment

advanced rapidly, taking casualties from enemy bazookas and supporting troops until they reached the Kiel canal on the day that Germany surrendered.

**Lawson** and his regiment spent the next few months patrolling the Danish border. During this time the regiment acquired some racehorses from the Gestapo stables in Berlin, and **Lawson** was able to trace their breeding back to the Rothschilds' stables in France and made sure that they were returned to their rightful owners. In early 1946, the regiment was disbanded and **Lawson** returned to Britain in an Intelligence post at the War Office. Finally, he retired from the Army and moved to Belfast to work for the family firm, Fairbairn Lawson Combe Barbour, which made machinery for the textile industry world-wide. He rose to be chairman and chief executive, retiring in 1979, when he moved to Spain.

He married twice, first in 1945 to Rose Fiske (dissolved) and second in 1954 to Tresilla dePret Roose. **Colonel Sir John Charles Arthur Digby Lawson, 3rd Baronet of Westwood Grange**, died aged 89, in 2001. Col. Lawson was survived by a son, **Charles Lawson**, born in 1959, who became the 4th baronet. (Source: *Daily Telegraph*, December 14, 2001, obituary of Sir John Lawson, 3rd Baronet, of Westwood Grange)

The **Lawson Baronets of Knavesmire Lodge** are:

- **Sir John Grant Lawson**, 1st Baronet (1856–1919)
- **Sir Peter Grant Lawson**, 2nd Baronet (1903–1973)

The **Lawson Baronet of Knavesmire Lodge** in the City of York, was created in 1905 in the Baronetage of the United Kingdom for **Sir John Grant Lawson**, 1st Baronet (1856–1919), a British Unionist politician. In 1892, Lawson was elected Member of Parliament for a division of the North Riding of Yorkshire. He served as Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board from 1900 to 1905. In 1905 he was created Baronet of Knavesmire Lodge in the County of York. He did not contest the 1906 general election and never returned to the House of Commons. He died in 1919 and was succeeded by his son **Peter Lawson**, 2nd Baronet of Knavesmire. The title became extinct on the death of the second Baronet in 1973. Knavesmire Lodge Manor is now a hotel in York.



Knavesmire Lodge Manor

The **Lawson Lords of Yorkshire and Northumberland**

- **Sir George Lawson**, Lord Mayor of York and Treasurer of Berwick (circa 1493-1543)
- **George Lawson**, Constable and Captain of Wark Castle
- **Admiral Sir John Lawson** (1615–1665)

Other **Lawsons** in the Northern English counties of Yorkshire and Northumberland were prominent knights or local politicians granted Lorships. Perhaps the earliest is **Sir George Lawson, Lord Mayor Of York And Treasurer Of Berwick (1493-1543)**. For the last 15 years of his life **George Lawson** was the wealthiest and most powerful alderman of York who owed his ascendancy to his work for the crown.

Little is known about Lawson before 1513, when he was admitted to the Inner Temple, known officially as *The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple*. The Inner Temple, is one of the four Inns of Court (professional associations for barristers and judges) in London. To practice law in England and Wales,

an individual must belong to one of these Inns which provide legal training, selection, and regulation for members. The Temple, named after the Knights Templar, was a distinct society from at least 1388.

**George Lawson** emerges from the Inner Temple as a rising crown servant with responsibilities for garrison supply and fortifications at Berwick-upon-Tweed and Tournai. In 1514, he was deputy to the captain of Berwick and in 1515 he was made a master mason there. Later, in 1516 and again in 1519, **George Lawson** was at the city of Tournai in what is now Belgium on the King's work. Tournai was captured in 1513 by Henry VIII of England, making it the only Belgian city ever to be ruled by England. The city was handed back to French rule in 1519, but while under English rule it was administered by Sir William Blount, the 4th Baron Lord Mountjoy. **Lawson's** importance is revealed in 1516, when he left Tournai and Lord Mountjoy asked Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, the Archbishop of York and Lord Chancellor of England (the King's chief adviser), to send him back 'for he is old and wise, and hath good sight in such causes'. **Lawson** did return but only briefly as he would spend the rest of his life in the north of England. Within a decade he established himself as a political handyman in Yorkshire and Northumberland. At Berwick he served as receiver, treasurer, master of the ordnance, customer and comptroller, bridge-master, master carpenter and master mason. He then became prominent in Yorkshire, where in 1522, **Sir George Lawson** was one of the three richest laymen in York.

**Lawson's** rapid rise in York was largely due to his importance as a royal official. He came regularly to York since before 1523 to collect money for border defense, and maintained a house in the city. By 1525, he was the treasurer of the Duke of Richmond's household at Sheriff Hutton Castle in north Yorkshire. In 1527, he joined the merchants' guild and was elected an alderman. In 1529, he was elected one of the city's Members of Parliament and in 1530, was elected the Mayor of York.

**Lawson** was occasionally used by the city as an intermediary with Lord Cromwell (the King's adviser) with whom he had a close relationship and who often called upon Lawson to work for the crown. **Lawson** was knighted in 1530 and began to figure even more prominently in county administration. In 1533, he was a commissioner for administering the oath of allegiance in Yorkshire. He also spent much of the year collecting money for the King's garrison.

Then in 1535, King Henry VIII separated from the Pope and the Catholic religion and made himself the supreme head of the church in his lands. One of his first actions was to impose taxes on the clergy. Taxes traditionally paid by clerics to the Pope were now to be given to the King. To properly assess the new tax a survey of all church property and revenues was made. **Sir George Lawson** was the commissioner charged with compiling this survey, the *valor ecclesiasticus*, in Yorkshire.

**Lawson** was known for putting service to the government before solidarity with his colleagues, once writing to inform against three citizens of York, one a fellow-alderman, who had under-assessed themselves for taxes. His only setback during these years was his dismissal by the Duke of Richmond in 1534, a step which caused the King to command the Duke to continue to pay **Lawson's** yearly fee.

In 1536 and 1537 a number of revolts against King Henry VIII took place in Northern England. These were collectively known as the "*Pilgrimage of Grace*". This uprising in Yorkshire followed an earlier revolt in Lincolnshire. "*Commoners*" made up the bulk of the rebels but some nobles were also in its ranks. A key feature of the Yorkshire rebels was that they were well led by Robert Aske, a lawyer from a prominent Yorkshire family. A skilled orator, Aske was also a very competent organizer. He wanted the rebellion to maintain the highest of standards so that no one could call them a rabble and to not frighten away other nobles from joining. It was Aske who deliberately coined the phrase "*Pilgrimage of*

Grace" to describe their actions. He believed that Pilgrimage would put a holy slant on the rebellion. Aske wanted Henry to stop his attacks on the Church and the monasteries and return the country to following the Pope. He believed that Henry himself was not at fault as he was thought to be a decent and well-meaning king. But rather the blame was on 'evil' advisors, especially Thomas Cromwell, whom were believed to be polluting the king's mind. Aske thought that once Henry saw the rebellion for what it was – a spiritual pilgrimage – he would revert to old policies and remove from power those who were misleading him. However, to reinforce that the rebels had the means to gain what they wanted, the "pilgrims" had a well-organized army.

The Pilgrimage of Grace put **George Lawson** in an awkward position. Many of the rebels were associates including his friends the noble Lords Darcy and Percy who would often stay at Lawson's house in Lendal, York. The evidence is unclear whether he actually sympathized with the rebels but when the crunch came he did not act like a determined supporter of the government.

**Lawson** and the mayor of York did write to the King asking for help, but only days later the Pilgrims were admitted into the city and Robert Aske went directly to stay at Lawson's home and it was there that Darcy's steward, Sir Thomas Percy and other rebel leaders all dined and perhaps lodged. All that is known of **Lawson's** behavior at this stage is that he claimed that he was ill in bed and did not hear the rebel say at dinner in his house that Cromwell was a traitor.

**Lawson** also later attended a rebel council at Pontefract, where he again, perhaps conveniently, fell ill. Then he led a York delegation to the Pilgrims' meeting with the Duke of Norfolk and the Earl of Shrewsbury who King Henry had ordered to the north to confront the rebels. Norfolk came across as a sympathizer of the rebel demands and he persuaded them to disband while a deputation of rebels were escorted to London. The deputation of rebel envoys did not include any major leaders who remained behind to maintain their organization. However, Henry was a clever politician. He received the rebel demands – but failed to give a reply to them for several weeks. In this time he hoped that the rebel organization would start to show weaknesses. Henry then bought more time by asking the pilgrim envoys to clarify certain points that he failed to fully understand. He suggested that the leaders construct a clearly written and detailed set of demands. The rebel nobles met but the great majority in the rebellion, the commoners, were not invited. The rebel demands were presented to Norfolk and he agreed that if the rebels disbanded:

- 1) The king would receive the demands.
- 2) A freely elected Parliament would discuss them.
- 3) All pilgrims would be pardoned for their part in the rebellion.

Aske and the other rebel leaders believed that they had won a great victory. Aske went to London to meet with Henry who had asked to be briefed about the feelings of the people so that any future problems could be avoided. Aske saw this as a sign that the king was a decent person. In fact, Henry was simply buying time. He had already determined that the north had to be taught a military lesson. However, he wanted from Aske as many names as was possible so that individuals could be brought to account.

Aske returned to Yorkshire where he became a vocal supporter of King Henry. Other rebels were suspicious that the promised pardon had yet to arrive. At the same time Norfolk was ordered to end the rebellion in whatever way he thought necessary and it was apparent that Henry would judge him by the way he put down the rebellion. Norfolk feared that Henry believed that he was sympathetic to the rebels and that now he needed to show above all else his loyalty to the king.



By now the pilgrims were in disarray and with no chance of successfully fighting Norfolk's army. The leaders of the Pilgrimage of Grace agreed to Henry's order that they should come to London to answer questions. When they did, the main leaders were arrested and found guilty of treason. Most were executed in London but Aske was taken back to Yorkshire where he was executed. The defeat of the rebels showed the populace of England who held real power.

For **Sir George Lawson**, the King and his government decided to take no action against him. In fact **Lawson** writes letters to Cromwell protesting his loyalty and was reassured - enough so that **Lawson** boldly complains to Cromwell that for the first time he had received no New Year's gift from the King. Norfolk advised Cromwell that **Lawson** was both well thought of in Yorkshire and diligent in the King's service, an opinion echoed six months later by the council in the north, which testified to his ability to keep order among the citizens of York and his skill as a repairer of the King's northern castles. He was commissioned to repair Sheriff Hutton Castle and to survey others. By 1540, **Lawson** was himself a member of the council in the north.

Between 1537 and 1539 **Lawson** helped with the surrender of 29 religious houses in Durham, Nottinghamshire, Northumberland and Yorkshire. With Cromwell's help he acquired leases of two of them, the Whitefriars at Newcastle and the Augustinian priory at York adjacent to his own house. He had already acquired an interest in two other York religious houses, as steward of St. Leonard's hospital and bailiff of St. Mary's Abbey in York. He may have turned the York priory to commercial use, because in 1540 another citizen complained to Cromwell that **Lawson** had recently built "a great new garner (granary) over against his house" and was intending to make malt on a large scale. In his last years, **Lawson** was still busy with northern administration, and complaining to Cromwell of his need for support in his old age. His final service was a great effort in 1542 to provision Berwick with enough bread and beer for an army against the Scots. **Sir George Lawson** died in February, 1543. No Will is known but he left significant estates. We know of at least two large land leases near York that he secured for his wife and sons at the instigation of Cromwell. (Sources: *Complete baronetage*, by George E. Cokayne, W. Pollard & Co.; *Debrett's Peerage and Baronetage*, (1990 edition). Charles Kidd and David Williamson (editors), New York, 1990; *Leigh Rayment's list of baronets*; Case summary: Howard v Howard-Lawson [2012] EWCA Civ 6 12 March 2012; *Homes of Family Names in Great Britain* (1890) by Henry Brougham Guppy; and, *Daily Telegraph*, December 14, 2001, obituary of Sir John Lawson, 3rd Baronet, of Westwood Grange)

One of the sons of **George Lawson** was also named George Lawson and in 1543 he continued the work of his father in preparing defense on the northern border. The younger George was Constable at Wark Castle and later in 1558 he was given command as Captain of Wark Castle. As Captain he was in charge of 500 men who were to defend Wark Castle at a time when tension between the reign of Elizabeth I and the de Guise regency of Scotland "made the safety of the border a matter of prime importance"

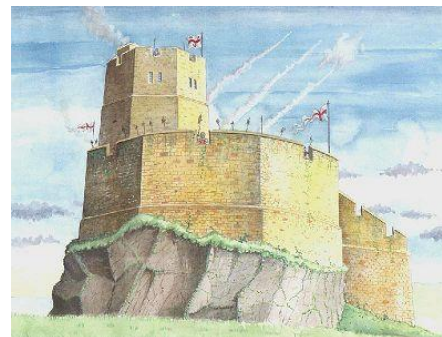


Illustration of Wark Castle 1500s

The ruin of Wark Castle sits today in Northumberland beside the river Tweed and is little more than a large rock and rubble mound. The site is less than 1000 feet from the Scottish border. The ruin is all that's left of the ancient motte and bailey castle of Wark, or as it was sometimes called the castle of "*Carham*" that was important to prevent the Scots from crossing the River Tweed. The castle originally had an unusual six sides and was five stories high overlooking the present day village of Wark. Wark Castle is largely regarded as a minor castle compared others but it still played a part in border history. Wark was attacked

by King David I of Scots (1124-1153) on three separate occasions in 1126 when it was taken and held by the Scots for a short time. It was then besieged unsuccessfully by the Scots in 1138, and again in 1139, when the English used it as a base for retaliatory strikes into Scotland. Eventually the English garrison surrendered on the condition they could leave with their lives and possessions while the castle was destroyed. In 1157 Wark was rebuilt by King Henry II of England (1154-1189). But by 1216 it had again been destroyed by the Scots before being rebuilt again.

In 1349 a legendary event occurred at Wark Castle. King Edward III of England was attending a court ball at the castle and noticed that Lady Salisbury had dropped her garter. As he bent down to offer the garter back to the embarrassed Lady he saw some of his courtiers whisper and snigger. The King quickly put the garter on himself and rebuked them saying one day they would be honored to wear the garter. Thus, the Order of the Garter was established - today regarded as the most prestigious British order of chivalry.

Wark Castle continued to be a hub of English and Scottish fighting and changed hands repeatedly. In 1419, a force of only 23 English troops climbed into the castle through its sewage pipe and all the Scots were killed and their heads were put on stakes on the Castle's battlements as a warning to other Scots raiders. Then, in 1513 the English invaded France and by the terms of the "*Auld Alliance*" between Scotland and France this was an act of war against Scotland. King James IV of Scotland invaded England with a large army and used a giant cannon called "*Mons Meg*" to bombard and capture Wark Castle. This was one month before the Battle of Flodden where the Scots army was destroyed and King James was killed. With a barrel diameter of 20 inches, *Mons Meg* is one of the largest cannons in the world by caliber. This medieval cannon was built by the French, given to Scotland in 1454, and was used repeatedly in castle sieges until the middle of the 16th century. *Mons Meg* is now on display at Edinburgh Castle.



*Mons Meg* at Edinburgh Castle today

Wark castle was quickly repaired by the English as an ideal location for mounting cavalry raids into Scotland. This became important in 1543 when the English failed through bribes to bring about the marriage of the infant Mary Queen of Scots (1542-1567) to the English Prince Edward by bribes. They then resorted to raids of fire and sword throughout Scotland from 1544 to 1549 to try and force the marriage. This period became known as the wars of the 'Rough Wooing'. Wark Castle along with several other English border keeps were used as bases to conduct these raids.

**George Lawson** was given command of Wark in 1543 largely to use skills learned from his father to repair and expand the castle and to organize and train the English border militia. It appears that once this work was done, he returned to York. Later in 1558, Lawson returned to Wark Castle to again restore the castle that had been extensively bombarded and stormed by the Scots and French armies under General Andre' de Montalbert, Sieur d'Esse'. The castle was breached with bloody hand to hand fighting. This was lamented in the words,,

*"Auld Wark upon the Tweed  
Has been mony a man's deid"*

In later years, Wark Castle was eventually abandoned with its stones used in the 1700's to build houses and walls in the nearby village.

### Lawsons in the English Navy

Another important Lawson ancestor is a descendant of Lawsons of Yorkshire as well as James Lawson, the merchant adventurer of Newcastle upon Tyne.

**Admiral Sir John Lawson** (1615–1665) was the son of a merchant from Scarborough, Yorkshire, who became an English naval officer and republican. He was an *anabaptist*, a radical Protestant that advocated baptism and church membership of only adult believers and the separation of church and state. Despite his distinguished service record as a naval officer, he was always under suspicion for his political views.

**John Lawson** was originally the master of a collier (a coal carrying ship) that was probably one of the trading ships of his family. He publicly used the arms of the **Lawsons of Longhirst** in Northumberland and doubtless belonged to a branch of that family.

(Source: *Le Neve's Pedigrees of the Knights*, edited by George Marshall, 1873)

When the First English Civil War broke out in 1642 between royalists and republicans, Lawson offered his services to Parliament and was given command of the *Covenant*, an armed merchantman. He rose rapidly in the navy from 1642-1656: from ship commander, to squadron commander, to Rear-Admiral of England and then Vice-Admiral of England by 1653. In 1650, **Lawson** was appointed commander of the 40-gun *Centurion* in the North Sea. After supporting Oliver Cromwell's campaign in Scotland, he was sent to the Azores to join the pursuit of the navy of Prince Rupert in the Mediterranean. Although Rupert evaded them, **Lawson** helped in the capture of 36 French and Portuguese prize ships by the time he returned to England in March 1652.



Admiral Sir John Lawson by Sir Peter Lely

During the First Anglo-Dutch War (1652-4), **Lawson** commanded the *Fairfax*. He was promoted to vice-admiral in 1652. At the naval battle of Portland in 1653, **Lawson's** maneuvering exploits were a major factor in the English victory. Promoted to rear-admiral of the fleet, **Lawson** commanded the *George* at the naval battle of the Gabbard and bore the brunt of fighting on the first day. Ultimately, the 100 ships of the English fleet defeated the Dutch and seized control of the English Channel. After the war, **Lawson** was promoted to vice-admiral and given command of the North Sea fleet blockading the Dutch coast.

**John Lawson** was a radical in politics and religion. In October 1654, he endorsed (and probably authored) a naval petition calling for the abandonment of impressments (forced service), provision for widows and the settlement of other grievances. Regarded with suspicion by Cromwell, **Lawson** was too popular with officers and crews to be dismissed. So, an inexperienced but trustworthy general-at-sea was appointed by Cromwell to serve over Lawson 1656. After this **Lawson** resigned his commission amid rumors of his involvement in conspiracies with Fifth Monarchists (an extreme Puritan Sect). Eventually, Cromwell lost patience with him and ordered his arrest in 1657. After a brief imprisonment in the Tower, **Lawson** was banished to his home in Scarborough.

In 1659, after Cromwell's death, **John Lawson** was reinstated as vice-admiral and appointed commander-in-chief of the Channel fleet. After Cromwell's death a group in the military seized power in a *Coup d'etat*. With rioting in the streets of London and with Parliament under the control of the army, **Vice-Admiral John Lawson** took his fleet of twenty-two warships into the Thames and, in defence of Parliament, blockaded the city. The intervention of Lawson and the Channel fleet was the decisive factor in bringing down the *Coup d'état*, and Parliament rewarded him with a grant of land. **Lawson** was appointed to the Council of State but was soon out maneuvered by politicians and military leaders who secured control and engineered the Restoration of the monarchy in May 1660. **Lawson** reluctantly accepted the Restoration, which in turn assured the loyalty of the Channel fleet. In recognition of **Lawson's** popularity and influence in the navy, a grateful King Charles II of England rewarded him with money and a knighthood.

From 1661-4, **Lawson** commanded a squadron in the Mediterranean securing English commerce and shipping against the corsair states of Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli. In June 1661, with his flagship the *Swiftsure*, **Lawson** accompanied the Earl of Sandwich, to the Mediterranean to stem the burgeoning pirate activity of the Barbary States that was interfering with English trading ship. **Lawson** helped the English forces take Tangier and he bought property in the new English possession. After Sandwich returned to England, **John Lawson** remained in command of a strong squadron with instructions to coerce Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli into observing treaties not to molest English shipping. After capturing several corsair ships, releasing some two hundred captives and selling about the same number of Moors into slavery, he compelled them to renew the treaties.

**Admiral John Lawson** returned to England on the outbreak of the Second Anglo-Dutch War (1665-1667) and was appointed vice-admiral of the English fleet. Early in the war, **John Lawson** was wounded in action at the battle of Lowestoft and died of his wounds three weeks later. (Sources: *The Royal Navy : a history from the earliest times to the present*, Vol. II, by William Laid Clowes; *Lawson Lies Still in the Thames-the extraordinary life of Vice-Admiral Sir John Lawson*, by Gill Blanchard, Amberley Publishing, 2017; "Lawson, John (d. 1665), in *Dictionary of National Biography*, Sidney Lee, ed. Cambridge University Press, 1903; and, *Tangier, England's Lost Atlantic Outpost*, by Enid Routh, London, 1912)

Admiral John Lawson was married to Isabella Jefferson of Whitby and they had three daughters: Isabella, Elizabeth and Anna.



*The Battle of Lowestoft* by Hendrik van Minderhout showing HMS Royal Charles and the Dutch ship Eendracht



A relic of **Admiral John Lawson** was discovered in 2005 in the Thames river estuary 40 miles east of the city of London. Naval archeologists found the sunken wreck of a 76-gun ship of the line named *London* that had been commanded by **Lawson**. *London* was accidentally blown up in 1665 and sank. According to the record of Samuel Pepys, the Chief Secretary to the Admiralty, 300 of *London's* crew were killed, 24 were blown clear and survived, including one woman. Lawson was not aboard at the time of the explosion but many of his relatives were killed.

*London* was launched in June 1656 and gained fame as one of the ships that escorted Charles II from Holland back to England during the English Restoration under the command of James Lawson.

The ship was lost in 1665. She had been briefly transferred back to John Lawson's command for the purpose of bringing her from Chatham to the Thames, when her powder magazine was accidentally ignited. The subsequent explosion caused immense damage, leaving little but wreckage on the surface of the river. On hearing of the loss, Samuel Pepys wrote that:

*"This morning is brought me to the office the sad newes of the London, in which Sir J(ohn) Lawson's men were all bringing her from Chatham to the Hope, and thence he was to go to sea in her; but a little a'this side the buoy of the Nower, she suddenly blew up. About 24 [men] and a woman that were in the round-house and coach saved; the rest, being above 300, drowned: the ship breaking all in pieces, with 80 pieces of brass ordnance. She lies sunk, with her round- house above water. Sir J(ohn) Lawson hath a great loss in this of so many good chosen men, and many relations among them. I went to the 'Change, where the news taken very much to heart."*

*The Diary of Samuel Pepys.*

Another famous diarist of the period wrote that he, "went to receive the poor creatures that were saved out of the *London* frigate, blown up by accident, with above 200 men".

The precise cause of the explosion is unknown but coffee-house gossip blamed the easy availability of poor quality gunpowder.

With the discovery of the wreck of *London*, port authorities had to change the route of the shipping channel to prevent further damage and to allow archaeologists to investigate. The site where the remains lie was designated under the *Protection of Wrecks Act* in 2008. The wreck is considered important partly for its historical references and partly for its insight into an important period in British naval history.

(Sources: "The *London*: After 350 years, the riddle of Britain's exploding fleet is finally solved", by David Keys, *Independent News & Media*, August 4, 2015; *Lawson Lies Still in the Thames: The Extraordinary Life of Vice-Admiral Sir John Lawson* by Gil Blanchard, 2017; *The Diary of Samuel Pepys: The Ship of the Line – Volume 1: The development of the battlefleet 1650–1850*, by Brian Lavery, Conway Maritime Press, 2003; *British Warships in the Age of Sail 1603–1714: Design, Construction, Careers and Fates*, by Rif Winfield, Seaforth Publishing, 2009)



Sonar image of HMS *London* on bottom of Thames River

The **Lawsons** mentioned above are all possible roots for some, or all, of our **Lawson** descendants in Scotland who follow in the next chapter.



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# TIMELINE OF LAWSON IN FRANCE AND ENGLAND

## Year

|                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Ancestors of Lords of Isell</b>                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Ancestors of Lords of Brough Hall</b>                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Ancestors of Mayors of York and Members of Parilaent</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Other Lawson - ancestry unknown</b>                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>6000 BC</b>                                              | The British Isles are formed as water levels rise separating them from mainland Europe.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>2200 BC</b>                                              | The construction of Stonehenge is completed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>600 BC</b>                                               | The Celtic peoples begin to arrive and establish their culture.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>55 BC</b>                                                | Roman leader Julius Caesar invades Britain, but withdraws.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>43</b>                                                   | The Roman Empire invades Britain and makes Britannia a Roman province.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>50</b>                                                   | The Romans found the city of Londinium (which later becomes London).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>122</b>                                                  | Roman Emperor Hadrian orders the construction of Hadrian's Wall.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>410</b>                                                  | The last of the Romans leave Britain.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>443</b>                                                  | <b>Antenor, King of the Cimmerians and ancestor of Charlemange and Lawsons</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>450</b>                                                  | The Anglo-Saxons begin to settle in Britain. They rule much of the land until the Vikings arrive. Saxons were people from north Germany who migrated to the island of Britain around the 5th century. There were actually three main peoples: the Saxons, the Angles, and the Jutes. After moving to Britain became known as Anglo-Saxons. Eventually the name "Angles" became the "English" and their land became known as England. The Anglo-Saxons were the dominant peoples on the island of Britain from 550 to 1066. At first the lands were divided up into many small kingdoms, but eventually certain kingdoms began to dominate. The first kingdom to dominate was Northumbria in the early 600s, a kingdom to the north that was settled by the Angles. Then the Kingdom of Mercia rose to power in the 700s. Finally, in the 800s the Kingdom of Wessex conquered the land. The King of Wessex was considered the king of all England. In the mid-800s the Danes (from Denmark) began to invade England. At first they just raided the coastlines, but soon they were taking over land and establishing settlements. In 870, the Danes attacked the kingdom of Wessex. A young prince by the name of Alfred led the Saxons against the Danes and won a great victory at the Battle of Ashdown. |
| <b>597</b>                                                  | Christianity is introduced by Saint Augustine.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>617</b>                                                  | The kingdom of Northumbria is established as the dominant kingdom.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>742-814</b>                                              | <b>Charlemange, Holy Roman Emperor</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>793</b>                                                  | The Vikings arrive. Originally from Scandinavian lands of Denmark, Sweden, and Norway. The Vikings played a major role in Northern Europe during the Middle Ages, especially during the Viking Age which was from 800 CE to 1066 CE. The word Viking means "to raid" in Old Norse and Vikings in long ships raided villages on the northern coast of Europe and the British Isles. They first raided villages in England in 787. The Vikings attacked defenseless monasteries which earned them the reputation as barbarians, but to the Vikings, monasteries were wealthy, undefended, easy targets. Eventually Vikings settled in lands beyond Scandinavia. In 9th century they settled parts Britain, Germany, and Iceland. In 10th century they settled into northeastern Europe and along the coast of northern France, where they established Normandy, which means "northmen".                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>802</b>                                                  | The kingdom of Wessex becomes the dominant kingdom.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>866</b>                                                  | The Vikings invade Britain with a large army. They defeat Northumbria in 867.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>871</b>                                                  | Alfred the Great becomes king of the Wessex.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>878</b>                                                  | Alfred is nearly defeated by the Vikings. He narrowly escapes. Alfred gathers an army and defeats the Vikings at the Battle of Edington.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>923</b>                                                  | The Saxons defeat the Vikings and retake the Danelaw.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>970-1037</b>   | <b>William III Taillefer</b> , Count of Toulouse, son of Adelaïs of Anjou, and husband of Ermengarde of Burgundy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>990</b>        | <b>Rolf (Reinfrid) de Taillebois</b> , a Norman-Viking knight from Taillebois, in Orne region of Normandy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>1016</b>       | The Danish conquer England and King Canute of Denmark becomes King of England.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>1019</b>       | <b>Reinfrid de Taillebois</b> , the Prior of Whitby Abbey                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>1036-1094</b>  | <b>Ivo de Taillebois/Taillefer</b> , a standard bearer for William the Conqueror and jongleur who sang and juggled his sword at the Battle of Hastings. Awarded by William as the 1st Baron of Kendal.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>1059-1120</b>  | <b>Alfred "The Englishman" Taillebois</b> , 2nd Baron of Kendal, bastard son of Ivo.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>1066</b>       | The Norman Conquest occurs. William of Normandy becomes king. In 1066 the King of England, Edward the Confessor, dies without an heir. Three men all claimed the crown: King Harald Hardrada of Norway - Before Edward, England was ruled by Viking King Cnut the Great who left England to Edward when he died. King Hardrada thought he was the rightful King of England; Earl Harold Godwinson of England was Edward's brother-in-law and also one of the most powerful men in England who felt should be king; Duke William of Normandy who had a family connection to Edward and claimed Edward had promised him the throne. The first to act was Earl Harold Godwinson, choice of the English nobles who crowned him King Harold II immediately after the death of Edward. But, both King Hardrada and Duke William were going to fight for the crown. King Hardrada invaded England from the north in the fall of 1066 and battled the English at Stamford Bridge. King Hardrada was killed in the battle and the English won. Some historians mark this as the end of the Viking Age. Only a few days after the Battle, Duke William of Normandy led his army across the English Channel. King Harold moved his army south and the two armies fought a day long battle at Hastings. William's advantage was more archers and cavalry and he won the battle when King Harold was killed by an arrow. The English still resisted but William would not be denied. He fought and won more battles until the English nobles finally crowned him, William I King of England on Christmas day 1066. Norman rule had a lasting effect in England. Many English nobles fled to Ireland, Scotland, and the Scandinavian countries. The Normans instituted new laws and brought French culture. William instituted the Domesday book to track who owned what areas of land as the basis for a tax system. |
| <b>1086</b>       | A survey of all England called the Domesday Book is completed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>circa 1070</b> | <b>Ketel FitzEldred (son of Alfred) Taillebois de Kendal</b> , 3rd Baron of Kendal, marries Ivo's wife or daughter                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>circa 1090</b> | <b>Gilbert FitzKetel de Lancaster (de Taillebois)</b> , 4th Baron of Kendal                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>circa 1109</b> | <b>William FitzGilbert de Lancaster</b> , 5th Baron of Kendal. Was named de Taillebois, got King Henry II's permission to change his name. Begins the Lancaster line.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>1135</b>       | <b>John Lawson (Lawesson) of Cramlington</b> , witness to grant by King Henry I to Nicolas de Grenville.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>circa 1150</b> | <b>William II de Lancaster</b> , 6th Baron of Kendal. His estate was divided among sons and daughters.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>1154</b>       | Henry II becomes king beginning the Plantagenet/Angevin rulers of England, Ireland and most of France.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>1180-1195</b>  | <b>Walter Loison</b> living in Normandy                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>circa 1190</b> | <b>Lawrence FitzWilliam de Lancaster</b> , formerly <b>Lawrence Lawesson</b> , took name Lancaster after marriage. Assumed Lancaster estates at Bywell, Northumberland. <b>Father of Thomas Lawesson of Bywell.</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>1215</b>       | King John is forced to sign the Magna Carta.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>1216-1272</b>  | <b>John Lawson</b> , lord of Fawlesgrave, contemporary of Henry III                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>circa 1220</b> | <b>John Lawson</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>circa 1229</b> | <b>Thomas Lawson</b> , in Bywell, St Andrews, Northumberland - same as Thomas below ???                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>circa 1238</b> | <b>Thomas Lawson</b> , in Tyrwhitt, Northumberland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>circa 1260</b> | <b>Ralph Lawson</b> , in Bywell, St Andrews, Northumberland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>circa 1270</b> | <b>Jane Lawson</b> , in Tyrwhitt, Northumberland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>1272-1307</b>  | <b>Thomas Lawson</b> , contemporary of Edward I, son of John above                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>circa 1280</b> | <b>Robert Lawson</b> , son of Thomas above                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>circa 1280</b> | <b>Robert Lawson</b> , in Bywell, St Andrews, Northumberland - same as Robert above ???                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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| <b>1297</b>       | William Wallace leads Scots in their defeat of the English. He is defeated a year later at the Battle of Falkirk.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>circa 1300</b> | <b>Thomas Lawson</b> , in Bywell, St Andrews, Northumberland - same as Thomas above ???                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>1327</b>       | <b>Richard Lawisson</b> listed in the Subsidy Rolls of County Cumberland during reign of King Edward III                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>1330-1386</b>  | <b>John Lawson</b> , in Bywell, St Andrew, Northumberland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>circa 1335</b> | <b>Richard Lawson</b> , son of Robert above                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>1337</b>       | The Hundred Years' War with France begins and lasts until 1453. It was fought between England and France and was a series of battles with long periods of peace in between. It began when King Edward III, claimed that he was the rightful king of France following years of small disputes and battles between the French and English. Other disputes between the countries including control of the valuable wool trade, disputes over land, and French support of Scotland kept fighting going for over one hundred years. King Edward III believed he was the rightful heir to the French crown. Instead of Edward, the French made Philip VI their king. When King Philip seized control of Aquitaine from the English in 1337, King Edward III decided to invade France. |
| <b>1349</b>       | The Black Death of the Bubonic plague kills much of the English population. The Hundred Years war stops for a long period during the Black Death.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>circa 1351</b> | <b>Richard Lawson</b> , son of Richard above                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>1379</b>       | <b>Willelmus Lauson, Henricus Laweson, Agnes Law-wyf, and Law Robynson</b> listed on Yorkshire Poll Tax rolls.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>circa 1408</b> | <b>Roger Lawson</b> , son of Richard above                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>1400-1480</b>  | <b>William Lawson</b> , born Bywell, died Cramlington (Brough Hall Line)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>1415</b>       | When Henry V became king of England in 1413, he again laid claim to France and invaded, winning a decisive battle at Agincourt. Eventually, the French gave in and King Charles VI named Henry as his heir to the throne.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>circa 1426</b> | <b>John Lawson</b> , son of Roger above                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>1429</b>       | Southern France did not accept English rule so the English invaded and laid siege to the city of Orleans. A young peasant girl, Joan of Arc, claimed a vision from God and led the French to victory at Orleans and in several other battles until she was captured by the English and burned at the stake.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>1440-1489</b>  | <b>Thomas Lawson</b> born Bywell, died Cramlington (Brough Hall Line), son of William                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>1440-1515</b>  | <b>William Lawson</b> of Little Osworth, son of John above                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>1459-1512</b>  | <b>Thomas Lawson</b> of Little Osworth, son of William above, brother of Robert and William                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>1460-1547</b>  | <b>Robert Lawson</b> of Rowkesby, son of William above, brother of Thomas and William                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>circa 1444</b> | <b>Thomas Lawson</b> , son of John above                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>1453</b>       | Hundred Years' War ends. Inspired by Joan of Arc's leadership and sacrifice the French continued to fight and ultimately push the English army out of France. The wars actually lasted 116 years during which France transformed from a number of competing feudal nobles into the beginning of a nation state.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>1455</b>       | War of the Roses begins a 30 year civil war between faction supporting Plantagenet or Lancaster family claims rule England. The battles were mostly small and years apart.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>1475-1568</b>  | <b>John Lawson</b> of Washington, contemporary of Edward IV, son of Thomas above and father of William                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>1475-1525</b>  | <b>James Lawson</b> of Cramlington (Brough Hall Line), Merchant-adventurer of Newcastle, son of Thomas                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>1485</b>       | The War of the Roses ends as Henry Tudor crowned as King Henry VII. The House of Tudor begins its reign.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>1493-1543</b>  | <b>Sir George Lawson</b> , Lord Mayor of York and Treasurer of Berwick                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>1498-1550</b>  | <b>Thomas Lawson</b> , Lord Mayor of York, son of Sir George Lawson above                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>1500-1560</b>  | <b>Edmund Lawson</b> , son of James of Cramlington (Brough Hall)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>1500-1577</b>  | <b>William Lawson</b> , son of William above, brother of Thomas and Robert                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>1508</b>       | Henry VIII is crowned king.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>1525-1603</b>  | <b>Sir Ralph Lawson</b> , of Brough Hall, son of Edmund                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>circa 1530</b> | <b>George Lawson</b> of Little Osworth, son of Thomas above                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|                   | <b>Sir Wilfred Lawson</b> of Isell, son of Thomas above, brother of George and Gylford 1632??,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                   | <b>Gylford Lawson</b> , son of Thomas above, brother of George and Wilfred                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1534</b>       | Henry VIII forms the Church of England.<br>Gabriel Nompar de Caumont, the first <i>comte de Lauzun</i> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>1536</b>       | England and Wales are joined by the Act of Union.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>1545-1610</b>  | <b>Robert Lawson</b> of Longhirst, son of Edmund                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>1550-1584</b>  | <b>Peter Lawson</b> of Poppleton, York, son of Thomas Lawson, Lord Mayor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>1550-1635</b>  | <b>Roger Lawson</b> , of Heaton, son of Sir Ralph of Brough Hall                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>1558</b>       | Elizabeth I becomes Queen and Elizabethan Era begins. She reigns for 44 years. Her brother King Edward died at the age fifteen and was followed by Queen Mary, Elizabeth's half sister. Mary was a devout Catholic who demanded all England become Catholic. Those that didn't were imprisoned or killed. The English people didn't like Mary and she worried that Elizabeth would try to take her throne. She imprisoned Elizabeth in the Tower of London for two month for being a Protestant. Elizabeth was under house arrest when Mary died and she was crowned Queen. She set up a council of advisors called the Privy Council that helped her deal with other countries, work with the army, and other important issues. Many people tried assassinated her and seize the throne including her cousin Mary Queen of Scots who tried many times to kill Elizabeth Finally, Elizabeth had Mary captured and killed. |
| <b>circa 1560</b> | <b>Thomas Lawson</b> of Little Osworth, son of George, brother of Edward and Robert                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                   | <b>Edward Lawson</b> , son of George, brother of Thomas and Robert                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                   | <b>Robert Lawson</b> , son of George, brother of Thomas and Edward                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>circa 1565</b> | <b>William Lawson</b> of Isell, son of Gylford, inherit title from Sir Wilfred above, no issue                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>1575-1610</b>  | <b>George Lawson</b> of Poppleton, York, son of Peter Lawson, above                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>1576</b>       | <b>William Lauson</b> of Lancashire registers as a student at University of Oxford                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>1580-1635</b>  | <b>Henry Lawson</b> of Brough Hall, died 1635                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>1580</b>       | Explorer Sir Francis Drake completes his journey around the globe.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>1588</b>       | The English fleet led by Sir Francis Drake defeat the Spanish Armada. Queen Elizabeth avoided fighting wars. She did not want to conquer other countries and only wanted England to be safe and prosper. But, when she had Mary killed, King Philip of Spain sent the Spanish Armada to conquer England. Outgunned English navy was able to set fire to many Spanish ships. Then a huge storm hit the Armada sinking many ships. The English somehow won the battle and fewer than half of the Spanish ships returned to Spain.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>circa 1600</b> | <b>Wifred Lawson</b> , son of Edward above, brother of Thomas and Robert                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                   | <b>John Lawson</b> , son of Edward above, brother of Thomas and Robert, a merchant in Denmark                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                   | <b>Godfrey Lawson</b> , son of Edward above, brother of Thomas and Robert, Mayor of Leeds, died 1709                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>1600</b>       | The East India Company is established.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>1602</b>       | James I becomes king and rules over England and Scotland. He is the first of the Stuart family to rule.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>1605</b>       | Guy Fawkes fails in his attempt to blow up Parliament.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>1606-1670</b>  | <b>Rev. George Lawsoen</b> of Moreby, rector of Eakring, son of George Lawson above                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>1610-1688</b>  | <b>Sir Wilfred Lawson</b> 1st Bart of Isell, son of William Lawson of Isell, son of Gylford, died 1689                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>1620</b>       | The Pilgrims set sail for America aboard the Mayflower.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>1620-1670</b>  | <b>Willaim Lawson</b> , son of Sir Wilfred 1st Bart of Isell                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>1627-1698</b>  | <b>Sir John Lawson</b> , 1st Bart of Brough Hall, son of Henry Lawson of Brough Hall, died 1698                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>1659-1699</b>  | <b>George Lawson</b> of Moreby, son of Rev. George Lawson - could be George below???                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>circa 1660</b> | <b>George Lawson</b> son of Godfrey, Mayor of Leeds                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>1663-1726</b>  | <b>Sir Henry Lawson</b> , 2nd Bart of Brough Hall, was second son, first is unknown                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>1664-1704</b>  | <b>Sir Wilfred Lawson</b> , 2nd Bart of Isell, son of William above, dired 1705                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>1664</b>       | <b>Jone Lawson</b> , daughter of <b>Randall Lawson</b> , is baptised at the Church of St. James in Clerkenwell, London                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>1666</b>       | The Great Fire of London destroys much of the city.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |



|                  |                                                                                                                   |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1685-1761</b> | <b>Marmaduke Lawson</b> of Moreby and Seaton Rose, son of George of Moreby, brother of Richard                    |
| <b>1687-1754</b> | <b>Richard Lawson</b> , Mayor of York, son of George Lawson of Moreby, brother of Marmaduke                       |
| <b>1689-1739</b> | <b>Sir John Lawson</b> , 3rd Bart of Brough Hall, son of Sir Henry                                                |
| <b>1689</b>      | The English Bill of Rights is established giving more power to the parliament.                                    |
| <b>1696-1737</b> | <b>Sir Wilfred Lawson</b> , 3rd Bart of Isell, son of Wilfred 2nd Bart                                            |
| <b>1707</b>      | England and Scotland are united as one country called Great Britain.                                              |
| <b>1756</b>      | The Seven Year's War begins.                                                                                      |
| <b>1770</b>      | The Industrial Revolution begins in England.                                                                      |
| <b>1776</b>      | The American colonies declare their independence from Britain.                                                    |
|                  | Armand Louis de Gontaut Biron, <b>8th duc de Lauzun</b> , assists Gen. George Washington at the Seige of Yorktown |
| <b>1801</b>      | The British and Irish parliaments are joined by the Act of Union to create the United Kingdom.                    |
| <b>1805</b>      | The British fleet defeats Napoleon at the Battle of Trafalgar.                                                    |
| <b>1837</b>      | Queen Victoria is crowned queen. The Victorian Era begins.                                                        |
| <b>1854</b>      | The Crimean War is fought against Russia.                                                                         |

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## LAWSON FAMILY TREE IN ENGLAND

**IVO (IVES) DE TAILLEBOIS** of Normandy (1036-1094). Standard bearer at Battle of Hastings, Sheriff of Lincoln and 1st Baron of Kendal. Married 1st to Gundreda Countess of Wessex and 2nd to Lucy Countess of Chester. Father of Beatrix de Taillebois, heiress of Kendal

All stories of Ivo's parentage consistently refer to his illegitimacy and his accepted ancestry as a descendant of Charlemagne via a connection to the House of Anjou.

1. Most genealogists say that Ivo was the illegitimate son of Reinfrid de Taillebois, the Prior of Whitby and Ermengard of Anjou the eldest child of Fulk IV Count of Anjou and descendant of Charlemagne. However, Ermengard was born 30 years after Ivo's birth.
2. Another option would be Reinfrid and Ermengard-Gerbera the daughter of Geoffrey I Count of Anjou and descendant of Charlemagne. However, Ermengard-Gerbera died 12 years before Ivo was born.
3. Our research indicates that Ivo is most likely the son (perhaps not illegitimate) of **William III Taillefer** (circa 970 –1037) the Count of Toulouse and his wife Emma, the daughter of Ermengarde of Burgundy and Rotbold II Count and Margrave of Provence. **William III Taillefer** is the son of Adelais (also known as Adelaide-Blanche) of Anjou, the eldest daughter of Fulk II, Count of Anjou and a descendant of Charlemagne. The House of **Taillefer** was the first dynasty of Counts of Angoulême (839–1246) also known as the kingdom of Aquitaine in western France during the Carolingian Empire. In this lineage we have:
  - dates that are consistent with Ivo's life;
  - ancestral links to Charlemagne through the House of Anjou;
  - a connection to an Ermengarde and Emma;
  - and finally the curious similarity of the surnames Taillefer and Taillebois which are most likely different spellings of the same name.

**Taillefer** (Latin: *Incisor ferri*, meaning "hewer of iron") was the surname of a Norman *jongleur* (minstrel), whose first name is given as "Ivo". He travelled to England with William the Conqueror in 1066. At the Battle of Hastings, **Taillefer** sang the *Chanson de Roland* at the English troops while juggling with his sword. An English soldier ran out to challenge him and was killed by Taillefer, who then led the Norman charge of the English lines. *Chanson de Roland* (Song of Roland) is an epic poem based on the Battle of Roncevaux Pass in 778, during the reign of Charlemagne. It is the oldest surviving major work of French literature.

Robert Wace (circa 1110 –1174) Canon of Bayeux, was a Norman monk and poet describes the feats of Taillefer in his epic poem *Roman de Brut* (Romance of Brut the 1st King of Britain). Written circa 1155, this is a history of the Dukes of Normandy through the conquest of England up to 1106.

*Taillefer, qui mult bien chantout,  
sor un cheval qui tost alout,  
devant le duc alout chantant  
de Karlemaigne e de Rollant,  
e d'Oliver e des vassals  
qui morurent en Rencesvals.*

*Taillefer, who sang right well,  
Upon a swift horse  
Sang before the Duke  
Of Charlemagne and of Roland  
And of Oliver and their vassals  
That died at Roncesvalles.  
Roman de Rou, lines 8013–8019*

The story of **Taillefer** is repeated by several contemporary Medieval sources: Geoffrey Gaimar an Anglo-Norman chronicler; Henry of Huntingdon a 12th-century English historian and author of a history of England, the *Historia Anglorum*; William of Malmesbury the foremost English historian of the 12th century; and in the *Carmen de Hastingae Proelio* (Latin: *Song of the Battle of Hastings*) attributed to Bishop Guy of Amiens, the chaplain of Matilda of Flanders, William the Conqueror's queen. The accounts differ, some mentioning only the juggling, some only the song, but all have elements in common. The story of **Taillefer** was set to music by Richard Strauss in 1903 and a later version drawn from all the sources can be found in Winston Churchill's *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*.

(Sources: *Carmen Widonis - The First History of the Norman Conquest*, transcription, translation and commentary by Kathleen Tyson, Granularity Press, 2018; *The Carmen de Hastingae Proelio of Guy Bishop of Amiens*, edited by Catherine Morton and Hope Muntz, Clarendon Press, 1972; "The Carmen de Hastingae Proelio" by R. H. C. Davis, in *The English Historical Review* 1978; and, "Latin Poetry and the Anglo-Norman Court 1066-1135: The *Carmen de Hastingae Proelio*" by Elisabeth van Houts, in *Journal of Medieval History* 1989)

**ÆLFRED "THE ENGLISHMAN" TAILLEBOIS**, 2nd Baron of Kendal (1029-1120). He was also known as Eldred or Aelfred of Workington. Married to Countess Lucy after Ivo de Taillebois' death. Ælfred could very well be an illegitimate bastard child of Ivo and inherited his estates. Whether there is a genetic link between Ivo de Taillebois and Ælfred is not absolutely clear.

**KETEL FITZELDRED (SON OF ELDRED/ ÆLFRED) "TAILLEBOIS" DE KENDAL**, 3rd Baron Of Kendal. (1070-circa 1550) "Ketel, son of Elftred", appears on the pedigree drawn in the *1615 and 1666 Visitations of Cumberland and Westmorland Counties*. He was born in Workington, Cumberland and died in either Kendal, Westmoreland or Seton, Scotland. His wife is listed on the *Visitations* pedigree as Christiana. The name Ketel is also found spelled as Ketil, Chetil and Ketellus. Some historians speculate that Christiana was a daughter of Ivo de Taillebois by Lucy and married Ketel, son of Ælfred/Eldred of Workington. Through this marriage the Barony of Kendal flows to Ketel, not through Eldred. However, the much-respected and generally accepted work, *Domesday Descendants*, notes Ketel as the son of Ælfred/Eldred and either the wife or daughter of **Ivo de Taillebois**. Ketel had several wives and mistresses, most of whom gave him many children. What is important for our Lawson lineage is Ketel's son with Christiana:

**GILBERT FITZKETEL DE LANCASTER (DE TALLEBOIS)**, 4th Baron of Kendal. Not much is known about Gilbert and the most significant thing that he did was to father the next in line of our lineage.

**WILLIAM I FITZGILBERT DE LANCASTER**, 5th Baron of Kendal, (circa 1109-circa 1170). He married twice. His first wife is unknown. His second marriage was to Gundred de Warenne, Countess of Warwick with whom he had five children. William was the Lord of Lancaster Castle and according to at least one document, he was known as William de Tailboys (de Taillebois) as a young man. He later became "**William I de Lancaster**, baron of Kendal" taking for himself the name of his castle. One prominent historian notes that William received permission from King Henry II to change his name to Lancaster. This begins the line of the

**WILLIAM II DE LANCASTER**, 6th Baron of Kendal (circa 1150-1184) He was buried at Furness Abbey in Cumbria. William married Helewise de Stuteville, the daughter of Robert de Stuteville IV, Sheriff of Yorkshire and Lord of Cottingham. William and Helewise had four children. William is also noteworthy as the last true Baron of the whole of the Barony of Kendal. After his death, the Barony was divided between the husbands of his daughters. (Source: *Records Relating To the Barony of Kendale*, Volume 3, ed. John F Curwen, 1926)

## THE LAWSONS

**Generation 1 JOHN LAWSON** of Cramlington (1135) is most likely the father of **Lawrence Lawesson** below.

**Generation 2 LAWRENCE LAWESSON** of Bywell, Northumberland (circa 1190-1260). Married the daughter (name unknown) of the William II de Lancaster and Helewise and adopted the name **LAWRENCE FITZWILLIAM DE LANCASTER** after his marriage. His son follows:

**Generation 3 THOMAS LAWESSON** of Bywell, Northumberland (1250-???). Was a gentleman lived contemporary to King John and had a son who follows:

**Generation 4 RALPH LAWESSON** of Bywell, Northumberland (1275-???). Ralph was a defendant in a plea of trespass before Henry III and called Ralph fil Thomas Lawesson. He had a son who follows:

**Generation 5 ROBERT LAWESSON** of Bywell, Northumberland (1300-???) Robert Lawson had the following children:

- THOMAS LAWSON, his heir
- William Lawson of Aberford, married to Agnes..

**Generation 6 THOMAS LAWESSON** of Bywell, Northumberland (1325-???). Thomas had children:

- John Lawson, his heir;
- Robert Lawson of Bywell;
- William Lawson of Farleton, Westmoreland.

**Generation 7 JOHN LAWSON** of Bywell, Northumberland (1345-1386) In 1374, he was a defendant in a claim by William de Akrigg and Margaret his wife of messuage (a dwelling house with outbuildings and land assigned to its use), land etc. in Sedburgh. Was a witness to a deed of Robert de Insula in 1374. Was a juror at Corbridge. John Lawson had children:

- John, his heir;
- Gilbert Lawson.

**Generation 8 JOHN LAWSON** of Bywell, Northumberland (circa 1360-circa 1400) was witness to a deed of Walter de Tindall dated 1374 and was Executor to his father's will in 1386. His children were:

- William, his heir;
- John Lawson of Bywell;
- Robert Lawson;
- Richard Lawson

**Generation 8 WILLIAM LAWSON** of Cramlington (circa 1400-1480) In 1425, he married Agnes Cramlington (1407-1461), daughter of William Cramlington. During reign of Henry VI of England (1421-71) acquired Cramlington Hall by marriage. William Lawson and Agnes Cramlington had the following children:

- Thomas Lawson his heir,
- William Lawson of Cramlington (who seized half of the manor of Cramlington in right of his mother as well as lands in Bywell),
- John Lawson,
- Richard Lawson,
- George Lawson living at Bywell, Northumberland in 1458.



**Generation 9. THOMAS LAWSON** of Bywell, Northumberland (circa 1440-1489) He married Isabella Killinghall in 1480. Thomas Lawson of Bywell, was at the battle of Agincourt with Sir John Neville, heir male to his nephew William Lawson Esq. He died 1489 at a great age, was buried at Cramlington having married Isabella, daughter of John Killinghall of Middleton St. George. He had a son who follows:

**Generation 10 ROBERT LAWSON** of Bywell, Northumberland (circa 1460-1540) He was living in the time of King Henry VI. Robert Lawson had the following children:  
William Lawson, heir to his grandfather Willam (7 above)  
John Lawson of Bywell, defendant in a plea of trespass 1484, plaintiff plea of debt 1501.

**Generation 11 WILLIAM LAWSON** of Cramlington, Northumberland. (circa 1460-1518). He was born circa 1480 at Cramlington and he died in 1518 at Newcastle-On-Tyne. William married Anne Horsley daughter of Richard Horsley a prominent citizen of Thernham, Northumberland and the couple had seven children: **Robert Lawson** who inherits the family estate of Longhirst, age 40 at time of his father's death; **Thomas Lawson** who was the heir to the family estate in Cramlington; **James Lawson**, a Merchant-adventurer and later the Mayor of Newcastle on Tyne, who is heir to the estate of Brough Hall and would eventually receive a grant from the Crown for Nesham Hall following the death of his sister; **George Lawson**, a prominent barrister who becomes the Lord Mayor of York and Treasurer of Berwick; **Joan Lawson** who becomes Prioress of Nesham Abbey which was probably founded and funded by her father; and, **Barbara Lawson** and **Agnes Lawson** about whom little is known.

**THOMAS LAWSON** of Cramlington (circa 1500- ) wife's name unknown. Children:

Barbara Lawson Collingwood

Elizabeth Lawson

**ROBERT LAWSON** of Longhirst (1478- ) marries Margaret (?) with children:

William Lawson of Cramlington ( ) Kings Bailiff & Keeper of Park at Raskel,

York, marries Anne, daughter of Sir George Lawson, Knight. No children.

Thomas Lawson, heir to his brother. marries Esther Grey, daughter of Sir Roger Grey of Horton. Children:

William Lawson of Cramlington & Raskell (1572- ). Only daughter:

Mary

Robert Lawson, heir to brother William, sells Cramlington estates to Sir Ralph Lawson

Margaret Lawson living in 1557, in great aunt Jone/Joan Lawson's will

Ann Lawson, wife of Thomas Cramlington

**GEORGE LAWSON** ( -1558) Captain of Warke Castle 1557. Marries Elizabeth Fenwich children:

Timothy Lawson

Edward Lawson of Rosedale, York - 1568

Agnes Lawson

**JONE (JOAN) LAWSON**, Prioress of **Nesham Abbey** (???-1557). The priory/abbey of Nesham was built sometime before 1157 for the Benedictine order of nuns. It was located on the river Tees, near Stockburn, Durham. In 1540, Prioress Jone (Joan) Lawson surrendered the property to agents of the King and the priory/abbey was dissolved. Later in 1540, her brother James Lawson purchases the lands of the priory/abbey. Since 1800s (perhaps earlier) a house known as **Nesham Abbey** has sat on this site.

**BARBARA LAWSON**

**AGNES LAWSON**, Prioress of St. Bartholomews, died 1567

**Generation 12 JAMES LAWSON** of Byker and Newcastle-upon-Tyne (circa 1500-1547) Married Alice/Alicia Bertram. James Lawson was a Merchant-adventurer of Mele St. Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He was Sheriff 1523, Mayor 1529 and 1540. On April 8 1522 purchased of William Wardle, Merchant, a house and horse-mill in the Meal Market, Newcastle. Purchased from the Crown the lands etc. of the dissolved Monastery of **Nesham Abbey**/Priory in 1540. Was the Kings farmer and collector at Nesham. Had lands in Milburne and the Manor of West Matsen. Purchased the Manor of Byker in 1543 and the house in which he resided on Mele St. In 1544 he settles the Manor of Byker and West Matsen on his eldest son Edmund and settles the estates in Nesham, Cockfield, Little Burdon, Dynshall etc. on his younger sons. James Lawson died 1547. James and Alice/Alicia had the following children:

Ralph (or George) Lawson of Newcastle & **Nesham Abbey** (circa 1546-1589). unmarried  
Henry Lawson of **Nesham Abbey** (1547-1607). In 1577, Henry Lawson acquired the estate known as Inglebie's Manor in Hurworth near Nesham. This property was owned by Robert Tailbois (Taillebois) a descendant of Ivo Taillebois. Henry Lawson married Frances Conyers of Layton, Durham and their children are:

Thomas Lawson (1500s)

Elizabeth Lawson (1500s)

Ann Lawson (1500s)

Catherine Lawson (1500s)

Ralph Lawson (1500s)

Barbara Lawson (1500s)

Margaret Lawson (1500s)

Mary Lawson (1500s)

Janet Lawson (1500s) Married John Hodgson

James Lawson of **Nesham Abbey** (1568-1631). Married Jane (unknown)

w/children:

Ralph Lawson (1570-1620) of Hurwort-on-Tees, Darlington  
(near Nesham Abbey)

Ann Lawson (1573-1631). Married Henry Jenison

George Lawson (1575-1650)

Frances Lawson (1583-16330. Married Richard Braithwaite

James Lawson of **Nesham Abbey** (1573-1628). Married Frances w/son:

James Lawson of **Nesham Abbey** (1624-1644)

**Generation 13 EDMUND LAWSON** of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Byker (1545-1551). Heir to his father James Lawson. He married Margery Swynhowe. (She later re-married Robert Lawson Esquire of Rock, Northumberland and had issue). Manors of Byker and West Matsen and lands in the counties of Northumberland and Durham. Edmund Lawson and Margery Swynhowe had the following children:

James Lawson, heir (1545- died young)

Ralph Lawson, heir to brother James

Robert Lawson of Scremerston (Scrunkerston), Durham

**Generation 14 SIR RALPH LAWSON** of Brough Hall, York and Byker, Northumberland. (1547-1623) Heir to his brother James. Married Elizabeth Brough sole heiress of her father Roger Brough to the manor of Brough Hall. Ralph Lawson was knighted by King James I in 1603. Ralph Lawson and Elizabeth Brough had the following children:

Roger Lawson (1573-1613). Married Dorothy Constable.

Edmund Lawson married Frances Archer.

Marmaduke Lawson

James Lawson married Margaret Ramsey, daughter of Sir Robert Ramsay, Knight

Anthony Lawson

George Lawson

William Lawson

Alice Lawson. She married Thomas Ingleby.

John Lawson. Married Sarah Rowland. All of John Lawson's sons went to America.

John Lawson and Sarah Rowland had the following children:

Epaphroditus Lawson (1600-1656). Married Elizabeth Medestard.

Epaphroditus Lawson: Owned 6050 acres in Virginia and had a child:

Elizabeth Lawson, married Robert Payne.

Rowland Lawson (??-1661) Came to America in 1638. Justice of Lancaster County, VA (1652-1655). Married Letitia ??? had the following children:

Rowland Lawson II (1645-1706) Married ANNA KEEN JONES.

Henry Lawson (1650-1672).

John Lawson (1655-???). Married Mary Kirby in 1680.

Elizabeth Lawson.

Leticia Lawson. She married Fortunatus Sydnor in 1668.

Epaphroditus Lawson.

Joanna Lawson. She married Lancelot Sockwell in 1668.

Richard Lawson (???-1658), married Elizabeth ??

Jane Lawson. Married Thomas Rokeby

Henry Lawson.

Margaret Lawson. She married Thomas Rakely.

**Generation 15 ROGER LAWSON** of Heaton, Northumberland (1573-1613) Married Dorothy Constable. Roger was an attorney of the Inner Temple, London. Died in London 1613 or 1614 in his father's lifetime. After the celebration of Dorothy's marriage, it is stated that *"she was conducted from Wing to Burton, in external pomp and shew like a glorious bride. Shee rested att Burton untill all Holderness came to congratulate, some as friends and allies, others as servants and vassalls, but all promiscuously pretending tith to a proportion of the solmenity. From Burton shee departed towards Brough with a far larger retinue than before: But it most encreased at Leeman, a village six miles from the end of her journey, where she was forced to make a halt by Sir Ralph Lawson, who att his first approach (which was glorious to envy) with a hundred horse of his attendance, saluted her with ordinary salute of the kingdom, but after an extraordinary manner, not permitting her to alight; then he took her from horse himself, imparted his benediction, which she humbly craved on her knees in the dust, and mounted her again on a snow white steed he brought for her. ..."* (Source: *Life of Mrs. Dorothy Lawson of St. Anthony, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne*, by William Palmes, published by Charles Dolman, London, 1855)

Roger Lawson and Dorothy Constable had the following child:

Henry Lawson, heir to his grandfather

Ralph Lawson

James Lawson

**Generation 16 HENRY LAWSON** of Burgh Hall (1595-1636). Married Anne Hodgson. Successor and heir to his grandfather Sir Ralph Lawson at whose death he was aged 21 years old. Died 1636 buried at All Saints, Newcastle. Henry Lawson and Anne Hodgson had the following children:

James Lawson died young

Henry Lawson, heir to his brother James, Colonel in Royal Army and killed in Battle of Melton in 1644. Married Catherine Fenwick. Had only one daughter, Isabella Lawson.

John Lawson (1635-1698). Married Catherine Howard of Hawthorn Castle, Cumberland.

Ralph Lawson.

Francis Lawson, a monk. Died in 1712

**Generation 17 SIR JOHN LAWSON** of Brough Hall (1627-1698). He married Catherine Howard, daughter of Sir William Howard of Hawthorn Castle, Cumberland and sister of Charles Howard was first Earle of Carlisle. John Lawson was a captain of Horse in service of Charles I. He inherited Brough Hall and St. Anthony by act of Parliament 1653 on death of his brother James and Henry. His estate was confiscated by the Republicans and he was banished into exile to Ireland where his younger son, John Roger, married and settled. Restored King Charles II created John the Baronet of Brough Hall in 1665 and restored the estate of Brough Hall to him. He was succeeded by Sir Henry Lawson, his eldest son. Sir John and Catherine Howard may have had 10 sons, 3 of whom died in infancy.

John Roger Lawson (1651-???) Died in Ulster, Ireland.

Hugh Lawson came to America in 1727 on the ship George and Anne.

Sir Henry Lawson (1663-1726) 2nd Baronet Married Elizabeth Knightley.

Charles Lawson (???-1694) Charles Lawson accompanied his brothers, John and Henry to France in 1664, with their uncle and guardian, Francis Lawson. He was a Captain in the Duke of Monmouth's regiment and was slain in Germany in 1694.

William Lawson of York, whose heirs become vested with Brough Hall after the death of Sir Henry the 6th Baronet of Brough Hall in 1834. He married Elizabeth ??.

Ralph Lawson died in infancy

Philip Lawson (???-1692) Married Anna Maria Knowles. Philip becomes 1st Earl of Banbury

Thomas Lawson (1666-1750). A priest, with the Society of Jesus at Watten, later in 1702 was Chaplain at Burgh and for some time confessor to James III, the son of the exiled King, the Old Pretender and father of Bonnie Prince Charles. In 1724 was Chaplain to the Duchess of Norfolk (at her special request), In 1741 he was made Confessor and Spiritual Father of St. Omers.

**Generation 18 SIR HENRY LAWSON** (1653-1726) 2nd Baronet of Brough Hall. Married Elizabeth Knightley. They had two children:

Sir John Lawson

Henry Lawson, died in infancy.

**Generation 19 SIR JOHN LAWSON** (1689-1739) 3rd Baronet of Brough Hall. Married Mary Shelly

Sir Henry Lawson, his heir

Thomas Lawson, a priest and Rector of Brauges College

William Lawson, died in infancy

John Lawson, died in infancy

John Lawson of Bath (1723-1791)

**Generation 20 SIR HENRY LAWSON** (1712-1781) 4th Baronet of Brough Hall. Married Anastasia Maire of Lartington Hall, York. Their children:

- Sir John Lawson, 5th Baronet.
- Mary Lawson, a nun
- Catherine Lawson, Married John Silvertop

**Generation 21 SIR JOHN LAWSON** (1744-1811) 5th Baronet of Brough Hall. Married first, Elizabeth Scaisbrook and second, Monica Stapleton by whom he had children:

- Henry Lawson, died in infancy

**Generation 22 SIR HENRY LAWSON** (1750-1834) 6th Baronet of Brough Hall. Married Monica Stapleton (not the same as above). Died without children. Bequeathed all his estates to his grandnephew William Wright.

**Baronet of Brough Hall becomes extinct for a period of years.**

(SIR) JOHN LAWSON the Elder Of Whitby, Yorkshire (1756-1833). Descendant of William Lawson, the 4th son of Sir John Lawson, 1st Baronet of Brough Hall (1665 Creation). 7th Baronet de-jure. Married Elizabeth Readman and they had one son and seven daughters.

- (Sir) John Lawson, 8th Baronet de-jure
- Mary Lawson, died in infancy
- Ann Lawson
- Mary Lawson
- Susannah Lawson
- Frances Lawson
- Jane Lawson
- Elizabeth Lawson

(SIR) JOHN LAWSON (the younger) of Whitby, Yorkshire (1795-1874). 8th Baronet of Brough Hall de-jure. Married Ann White and they had four sons and seven daughters:

- William George Lawson
- Lucy Lawson
- (Sir) John Nicholas Lawson, 9th Baronet de-jure
- Henry Lawson
- Edwin Philip Lawson
- Emma Alice Lawson
- Anne Lawson
- Elizabeth Charlotte Lawson
- Frances Lawson
- Mary Lawson
- Jane Lawson, died in infancy

(SIR) JOHN NICHOLAS LAWSON of Whitby, Yorkshire (1823-1898). 9th Baronet of Brough Hall de-jure. Married Eliza Ann Rook. They had four sons and two daughters:

- (Sir) John Lawson, 10th Baronet de-jure
- William Lawson, father of Philip Hugh Lawson, Sheriff and Mayor of Chester.
- Arthur Lawson
- Henry Lawson
- Daughters are unknown

(SIR) JOHN LAWSON of Whitby, Yorkshire (1855-???). 10th Baronet of Brough Hall de-jure.

Married Rebecca Storm and they had four sons:

John Lawson, drowned on duty in India.

(Sir) Philip Lawson, his brother's successor as 11th Baronet de-jure

William Lawson, a gifted artist of miniature painting and water colors, also worked in stained glass and was a member of the Royal Academy

Henry Lawson, killed in action in WWI

(SIR) PHILIP LAWSON of Whitby, Yorkshire (1891-1962). 11th Baronet of Brough Hall de-jure.

Married Doris Boulby and they had a daughter and a son:

Margaret Boulby Lawson

John Philip Lawson, heir

(SIR) JOHN PHILIP LAWSON of Hull, Yorkshire (1926-???). 12 Baronet of Brough Hall de-jure.

Married Joan Alice Robinson and they had two daughters and a son:

Kathryn Joan Lawson

Karen Susan Lawson

David Philip Lawson, heir (1957- ) Married Pamela Ann Giblin with two daughters

Nicola Ann Lawson (1990- )

Rachel Lawson (1995- )

**Generation 23 SIR WILLIAM (WRIGHT) LAWSON** (1796-1865) 1st Baronet of Brough Hall (2nd Creation)

Assumed the Lawson name and arms by Royal License in 1834, created a Baronet in 1841. Married his second cousin Clarinda Catherine Lawson, heiress of John Lawson MD of York, son of John Lawson of Bath and nephew of Sir Henry Lawson, 4th Baronet of Brough Hall. They had 5 sons and 5 daughters:

Sir John Lawson, 2nd Baronet of 2nd Creation

Henry Lawson, drowned in 1857

William Lawson, a priest

Edward Lawson, died in infancy

Thomas Paulinus Lawson. Married Gertrude Sarah Addison

Clarinda Mary Lawson, a nun

Eliza Lawson, a nun

Grace Lawson, a Carmelite nun

Mary Lawson, died in infancy

Anne Lawson, died in infancy

**Generation 24 SIR JOHN LAWSON**, 2nd Baronet (1829–1910)

**Generation 25 SIR HENRY JOSEPH LAWSON**, 3rd Baronet (1877–1947)

**Generation 26 SIR RALPH HENRY LAWSON**, 4th Baronet (1905–1975)

**Generation 27 SIR WILLIAM HOWARD LAWSON**, 5th Baronet (1907–1990)

**Generation 28 SIR JOHN PHILIP HOWARD-LAWSON**, 6th Baronet (born 1934)

**Generation 29** The heir is Sir John's son, **PHILIP WILLIAM HOWARD**



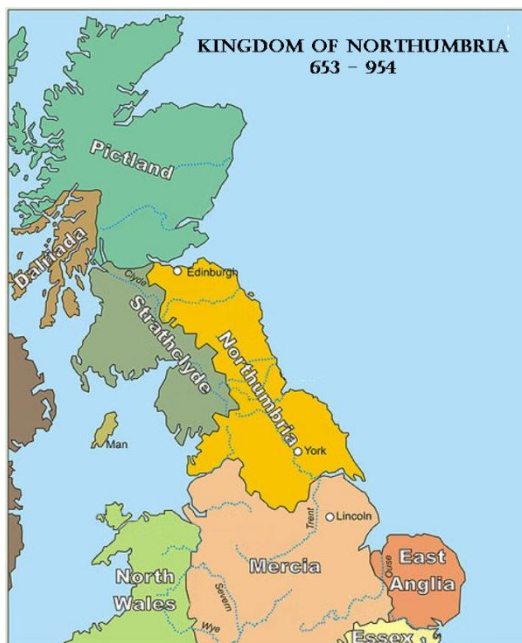
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# LAWSON IN SCOTLAND

## Scottish Rulers and Politics

People lived in Scotland for thousands of years before recorded history. Archaeologists have dated an encampment near Biggar in Lanarkshire to around 12,000 BC. (Curiously, this is the same location as the earliest recorded presence of a Lawson in Scotland.) These prehistoric peoples evolved over centuries into the pagan Celtic and Gaelic tribes who battled later Roman invaders and each other.

The recorded history of Scotland begins with Roman arrival. The Roman invasion of Britain began in AD 43 and by the year 71 the empire pushed north into Scotland where it faced formidable hostile northern pagan tribes. To defend against pagan attacks, the Romans built the Antonine Wall. This northernmost frontier barrier of the Roman Empire spanned 39 miles across the Central Belt of Scotland between the Firth of Forth in the east and the Firth of Clyde in the west. The wall was a 10 feet high and 16 feet wide turf and stone fortification with a deep ditch on the northern side. On top was a wood palisade adding an additional 10 feet in height. Although it took twelve years to build, the wall was soon overrun and abandoned after 160. Despite this prominent defensive structure and Hadrian's Wall further south in England, Roman control of Britannia was entirely lost by the mid-6th century.



until today the term Northumbria still refers to a region in northeastern England corresponding to the counties of Northumberland, Durham and Tyne and Wear.

Now the Picts emerged as the dominant force in northern Scotland, with various Celtic, Briton, Gaelic and Anglo-Saxon tribes occupying areas to the south and west. Viking raids and invasions forced some tribes to unite. This led to the creation of the kingdom of Northumbria in 604 which covered much of central and northeastern England including southern Scotland up to the Firth of Forth. In the mid-10th century Northumbria ceased to be an independent kingdom although from then

## MONARCHS OF SCOTLAND - TO 1707

### House of Alpin

Kenneth I (c. 843–858)  
Donald I (858–862)  
Constantine I (862–877)  
Aed (877–878)  
Giric (878–889)  
Donald II (889–890)  
Constantine II (900–943)  
Malcolm I (943–954)  
Indulf (954–962)  
Dub (962–967)  
Culen (967–971)  
Kenneth II (971–995)  
Constantine III (995–997)  
Kenneth III (997–1005)  
Malcolm II (1005–1034)

### House of Dunkeld

Duncan I (1034–1040)  
MacBeth (1040–1057)  
Lulach (1057–1058)  
Malcolm III (1058–1093)  
Donald III (1093–1094)  
Duncan II (1094)  
Donald III (1094–1097)  
Edgar (1097–1107)  
Alexander I (1107–1124)

### Saint David I (1124–1153)

Malcolm IV (1153–1165)  
William I (1165–1214)  
Alexander II (1214–1249)  
Alexander III (1249–1286)

Margaret, Maid of Norway (1286–1290)

### 1st Guardians of Scotland (1290–1292)

William Fraser, Bishop of St Andrews  
Duncan Macduff, 8th Earl of Fife  
Alexander Comyn, 2nd Earl of Buchan  
Robert Wishart, Bishop of Glasgow  
James Stewart, High Steward of Scotland  
John Comyn

### House of Balliol

John Balliol (1292–1296)

### 2nd Guardians of Scotland (1296–1306)

Andrew de Moray (1297)  
William Wallace (1297–1298)  
Robert the Bruce (1298–1300)  
John Comyn (1298–1301)  
William Lamberton, (1299–1301)  
Sir Ingram de Umfraville (1300–1301)  
John de Soules (1301–1304)  
John Comyn (1302–1304)

### House of Bruce

Robert I the Bruce (1306–1329)  
David II (1329–1371)

### House of Balliol

Edward Balliol (1329 – 1363)

### House of Stewart (Stuart)

Robert II (1371–1390)  
Robert III (1390–1406)  
James I (1406–1437)  
James II (1437–1460)  
James III (1460–1488)  
James IV (1488–1513)  
James V (1513–1542)  
Mary I (1542–executed 1587)  
Lord Darnley (1565–1567) Mary's husband  
James VI (1567–1625), Union of the Crowns (1603)  
Charles I (1625–1649)

**Lord Protectors of England & Scotland**  
Oliver Cromwell (1649–1658) executed Charles I  
Richard Cromwell (1658–1659)

### Restored Monarchy

Charles II (1649–1685) disputed claim during Cromwell reign, restored 1660  
James VII (1685–1689) deposed, recognized by France  
Mary II (1689–1694), co-monarch with William William II (1689–1702)  
Anne (1702–1714),

*Scottish throne replaced by Kingdom of Great Britain (1707)*

In 867 AD the Vikings were added to the mix of tribes when they seized the southern half of Northumbria, forming the Kingdom of York. They subsequently conquered much of England.

A 9th century union of Picts and Scots created the Kingdom of Scotland. Scottish kings and barons often raided northern England that eventually prompted William the Conqueror to invade and force the Scots king to submit to his authority, opening up Scotland to future claims of sovereignty by English kings.

An old undocumented Gaelic legend says that about the year 500, a man named **Loarn** or **Laurin** acquired the lands of his father on the northwestern coast of what would become Scotland. The name **Loarn** is written in Gaelic as **Labhran** and is pronounced in Gaelic as **Lawrin**. This is the first recorded occurrence in this region of a name that could be the root of the families Lawrence and Lawson. Indeed, the **Lawsons of Scotland** may begin with this ancient Gaelic ancestor whose descendants migrated to the continent and left a trail of ancestors who traveled from Normandy to England and back to Scotland.

We recently discovered more about Loarn his ancestors. We can now push this line back several generations to the Kings of Dál Riata (Dalriada) and the ancient High Kings of Ireland.

### **Lawson Family Founders**

**Eochaid Muinremuir** (circa 400-450) was the grandfather of Loarn and a descendant of the High Kings of Ireland as follows: Áengus Fert, son of Fedlimid, son of Oengus, son of another Fedlimid, son of Senchormaich, son of Cruitlinde, son of Findfece, son of Archircir, son of Eochaid Antoít, son of Fiacha Cathmail, son of Cairbre Riata, son of Conaire Cóem and Saraíd ingen Chuinn.

**Erc** (circa 430-474) was the father of Loarn and was a legendary king of the Irish Dál Riata (Dalriada) until 474. He came from Ireland to Scotland in 503 and with his family settled and controlled the land and islands of western Scotland. Erc was the father of three sons: Fergus Mór, Loarn and Oengus. Erc is significant as he is traditionally regarded as the ancestor (through his son Fergus Mor) of the kings of Dalraida, and through them the Kings of Scotland.

**Loarn (also Lawrin) macEirc of Dál Riata** (circa 450-510) came to Scotland with his father. In 503 Loarn inherited lands of his father in western Scotland that will become Argyll. Argyll today is a county in western Scotland that includes the land and islands north of Glasgow. Argyll covers the same area as the ancient kingdom of *Dál Riata*.

**Grandsons of Loarn** (circa 843-858) Three brothers who are descendants of Loarn supported Kenneth I King of the Picts (also known as Kenneth MacAlpin) and for their service they obtained the lands of Blaquhiddy. According to national myth, Kenneth MacAlpin is the 1st King of Scotland.

George Black in his work *The Surnames of Scotland, Their Origin, Meaning and History* says the following, "**Lawson, Son of Lawrence, through the diminutive Law.**" In addition, Black refers to **MacLaren** as the "**Son of Laurence.**" As we have learned in earlier chapters, minor differences in the spelling of surnames don't appear to be especially important. The spelling of surnames has been and still is an art form. Thus we often find **Lawson, Louson, Lawstone, Lawsoun** and other variants referring to the same family name.

MacLaren Crest



In Scotland, the surnames **Law**, **Lawson** and particularly **Lawrence** are connected with the surname **MacLaren**. The surname "**Law**" is a simple patronymic of the name **Lawrence** or **Lawrin**. The name **Lawson** is a more complex patronymic of the names **Law** or **Lawrence**, and it carries the same relationship as the surname **MacLaren**. **Lawson** includes the suffix "son" that means "*son of*". The suffix "*son*" may derive from Scandinavian, Pict, or Viking usage. The term "*son*" is used in surnames throughout Scotland and is sometimes referred to as a means for Anglicizing a Scottish clan name. The prefix Mac or Mc in the surname **MacLaren** also means "*the son of*". Both the genealogical research books *Scots Hith and Kin* and *Clan Finder* say that **Lawson is a sept of MacLaren**.

The original MacLaren chiefs were hereditary Celtic Abbots and derived their patronymic from the clan's 13th century founder, **Lawrence (or Laurence) the Abbot of Achtoch in Blaquhidder** (about 40 miles east of Perth). Abbot Lawrence probably adopted his name after hearing stories about an early Christian martyr of 258. When the Prefect of Rome ordered a monk named Lawrence to turn over his church treasures to the Emperor, Lawrence brought forward all of the poor people that he served. *"Behold in these poor persons are the treasures which I promised to show you; to which I will add pearls and precious stones, the widows and consecrated virgins, which are in the Church's crown."* The prefect was so angry that he had Lawrence burned to death.



View of Blaquhidder

The legend says that after St. Lawrence had suffered in fire for awhile, he told the prefect: *"I'm well done on this side. Turn me over!"* (Source: "St. Lawrence", in *My First Book of Saints*, by Fr. Paolo O. Pirlo, Sons of Holy Mary Immaculate – Quality Catholic Publications, 1997).

**Celtic Abbot Lawrence**, the founder of Clan MacLaren, established his church during the 1200s in Blaquhidder at the time part of Perthshire. Early records of Perthshire show that as surnames came into use during the 12th century. The names **Law**, **Lawson** and **Lawrence** were common in the region. Perthshire was the ancient County of Perth, Scotland and straddles both the Scottish Highlands and Lowlands. The city of Perth is the county seat and has been a Royal Burgh since the 13th century. Perth was also a Royal residence throughout the middle ages and is often referred to as the *Ancient Capital of Scotland*. Nearby is the ancient village of Scone that was the coronation site of Scottish monarchs. All kings and queens of Scotland were crowned there up until the union of Scottish and English crowns into the United Kingdom.



MacLaren clansman

## Religion in Scotland

Christianity was probably introduced to what is now Lowland Scotland by Roman soldiers and monks stationed in the north of the province of Britannia. After the collapse of Roman authority in the fifth century, Christianity survived among a few enclaves in the south of Scotland. From the fifth to the

seventh centuries, Christianity was spread in Scotland by Irish-Scots missionaries and, to a lesser extent, those from Rome and England. These missionaries founded monastic institutions and churches that served large areas, depended on shared clergy and practiced a distinctive form of Celtic Christianity, in which abbots were more significant than bishops, attitudes to clerical celibacy were more relaxed and other significant differences with Roman Christianity. Conversion to this form of Christianity may have helped to speed the longer term merger of tribes in Scotland.

In this period, there were few parish churches in Scotland. The churches that did exist shared clergy who were often tied to devotion to a particular saint and monastery. The result was that before the Norman Conquest, Scotland had little clear church structure.

In the Norman period, from the eleventh to the thirteenth centuries, the Scottish church underwent a series of transformations. After the Conquest, English Archbishops tried to claim superiority over the Scottish church but in 1192, the Pope granted the church in Scotland clear independence from England. Scotland became the "special daughter of Rome" run by special councils of Scottish bishops, with the bishop of St Andrews emerging as the most important figure. From this time on local Scottish Kings and noble lords began to adopt the continental practice of building churches on their property for the local population and endowing them with land and a priest. These churches were almost universal by 1274 and an administrative structure developed that was governed by the aristocracy.

### English emigration into southern Scotland in the Middle Ages

The marriage circa 1068 of Scottish King Malcolm III, later known as Malcolm Canmore (*caen mor* is Gaelic for *Great Chief*), with the Saxon princess Margaret of Wessex, has been commonly stated as the cause of the early immigration of English people into Scotland. *"But it had begun earlier, and many concurring causes determined at that time the stream of English colonization towards the Lowlands of Scotland,"* (Source: *Sketches of early Scottish history*, by E. Innes, Edinburgh, 1861) This influx of English people into Scotland with the consequent spread of English customs in the reign of Malcolm was opposed by the native Scots population. On Canmore's death warring factions sought to drive out the imported nobles of Malcolm's court (1093). Malcolm's son, with the support of an army of Normans and Englishmen, was ultimately recognized as king, *"but on condition that he would never again introduce into Scotland either Normans or Englishmen, or permit them to give him military service."* (Source: *The Ancient Kingdom*, by Mackenzie, 1930) This Gaelic opposition persisted because *"the later kings of Scots boast of being French [i.e. Norman] in race and in manners, language and culture; and after reducing the Scots [i.e. the Gaels] to utter servitude, they admit only Normans to their friendship and service."* (Source: *Memorials of William of Coventry*, ed. Stubbs, vol. 2) William the Conqueror's efforts to crush rebellion in the north of England also had an impact on southern Scotland: *"Those who escaped death fled to the south of Scotland, which was so stocked with English, both men and maidens, that they were to be found in all the farm houses and even in the cottages."* (Source: *Historia regum*, vol. 2, by Simeon of Durham, 1885)



Map of Scottish Borders



The people moving into the Scottish border counties were upper class families long settled in Northumbria, and Normans of the highest blood and names. They were men of the sword whose service was valued on either side of the border and they were fit for the society at court with many becoming the chosen companions of Scottish Princes. In Scotland the Normans came across the border not as conquerors but as peaceful citizens and were soon assimilated, but not until they had made many changes particularly during the reign of Scottish King David I. The Norman imports also gave Scotland many of her so-called nobility and three royal families — Balliol, Bruce, and Stewart.

The movement of English colonists into Scotland was quite rapid. Land was acquired by charter of the King and held in a feudal manner. Soon all the arable land in the south of Scotland was said to be held by English imports. The old native people gave way or took service under the English/Normans. Now the Norman knights created villages and towns, build castles and manors and distributed lands of his manor among his own followers and those natives he found attached to the soil as tenants.

In the *Ragman Roll*, which Edward I extorted from the people of Scotland in the course of his military progress throughout the country in the summer of 1296, and later in a parliament held at Berwick, are to be found *"the largest and most authentic enumeration now extant of the nobility, barons, landowners and burgesses as well as of the clergy of Scotland, prior to the fourteenth century."* No public records of Scotland, prior to that time have survived. (Source: *The Edwards in Scotland*, by Joseph Bain in his Rhind Lectures, Edinburgh, 1901; and, *Calendar of documents relating to Scotland preserved in Public Record Office*, 4 volumes, Edited by Joseph Bain. Edinburgh, 1881-84)

### Lawson in Scotland - The Middle Ages

Some genealogists say that **Richard Lawson (or Laurence)** (circa 990-1040) fought at the Battle of Carham (also called the Battle of Coldstream) around 1018. This was fought between the King of Northumbria and the combined Scots forces of Malcolm II, King of Scots and Owen the Bald, King of Strathclyde. The combined forces of the Scots won the day and the result determined the eastern border of Scotland. Carham (also known as Carham-on-Tweed) is a village in Northumberland, England on the south side of the River Tweed about 3 miles west of Coldstream. Later, Carham is the location of Wark Castle where we will find **George Lawson** is the constable and later captain. It is likely that this **Richard Lawson/Laurence** is the grandfather of **Richard Laurence of Byker** (below) and was rewarded by the King with lands comprising one or more of the family estates listed below.

That the name **Lawson** is derived from "son of Lawrence" can be seen in early Scottish records of the 13th and 14th centuries. For example: **Richard Laurence of Byker** (also spelled Biggar) in Lanarkshire, Scotland is recorded in 1296 as rendering his homage by signing the *"Ragman Roll"* of allegiance to King Edward I. Richard's sons all carried the name **Lawson** with estates in Humbie, High Riggs Edinburgh, Cambo, Cairnmuir and Bogwell. Their heirs and descendants all continued to carry the name **Lawson**: the sons of Lawrence. (Source: *Calendar of documents relating to Scotland preserved in Public Record Office*, 4 volumes, Edited by Joseph Bain. Edinburgh, 1881-84)



A segment of the Ragman Rolls



The *Ragman Rolls* are the documents in which the nobility of Scotland pledged allegiance to the English King Edward I, in 1291, 1291 and in 1296. These documents contain the acts of homage and fealty extorted by Edward from the Scottish nobles in the course of his progress through Scotland. The derivation of the word *ragman* is described in several conflicting accounts. However, Brewer's *Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* defines "*Ragman Roll*" as follows:

*originally meant the "Statute of Rageman" (De Ragemannis), a legate of Scotland, who compelled all the clergy to give a true account of their benefices, that they might be taxed at Rome accordingly. Subsequently it was applied to the four great rolls of parchment recording the acts of fealty and homage done by the Scotch nobility to Edward I in 1296; these four rolls consisted of thirty-five pieces sewn together. The originals perished, but a record of them is preserved in the Rolls House, Chancery Lane.*

Today's colloquial term *rigmarole*, meaning a rambling, incoherent statement, is derived from *ragman roll*.

In 1124, the Scottish crown passed to King David I, who had spent most of his life in the Norman French court of England. During his reign he replaced traditional native Scottish government with English and French institutions and encouraged Anglo-Norman nobles to supplant the Scottish aristocracy. David also introduced a system of feudal land tenure with knight service which encouraged castle building and gave the King an available body of heavily armed cavalry. He created Anglo-Norman style courts and local sheriffs to administer localities. He established the first royal burghs in Scotland and granted rights to particular settlements, which led to the development of the first true Scottish towns. All of this, along with introducing the first recorded Scottish coins, helped facilitate economic development. Finally, David also moved to reform Scottish celtic monasticism and church organization into a model similar to the rest of Western Europe.

After King David's reign in Scotland, rival factions continued to fight each other during frequent disputed successions. English king Edward I, also known as Edward Longshanks and the *Hammer of the Scots* (Latin: *Malleus Scotorum*), took advantage of Scottish succession disputes to launch a series of campaigns beginning in 1296. The results were that: Scotland formed an alliance with France that would endure for centuries (known as the *Auld Alliance*); the Wars of Scottish Independence in which Scotland passed back and forth between the House of Balliol (allied with the English) and the House of Bruce (seeking an independent Scotland). Ultimately, with Robert the Bruce's victory at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314, Scotland was "*de facto*" a fully independent and sovereign kingdom. This was legitimized in 1320, when Pope John XXII nullified the various acts of submission by Scottish kings to the English. Now, Scotland's sovereignty could be recognized by the major European powers. Eventually, in the 1328 *Treaty of Edinburgh*, even England was forced to acknowledge Scottish independence. Despite all this, England would still interfere in Scottish politics for generations, often with outright invasions.

By the 14th century, the name **Lawson** was a well established Midlothian name. Midlothian is a historic county formed in the Middle Ages when the larger county Lothian was divided into East Lothian, Midlothian and West Lothian. The county included Edinburgh and was formerly known as Edinburghshire, or more formally as the County of Edinburgh, until 1890. In the following centuries, the names **Law**, **Lawson**, and **Lawrence** were found in more than 20 counties in Scotland over a period from 1500 through the 1700's. (Sources: **Law, Lawson, Lawrence Surnames** by James Randall Lawson, Sr; **The MacLarens, A History of Clan Labhran**, by Margaret MacLaren, The Pentland Press, Edinburgh, 1984; **The Royal Clans of Scotland**, by Seamus MacThomas, Scotpress, 1988; **The Clans, Septs and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands**, by Frank Adam, revised by Sir Thomas Innes, 1984; and, **The Surnames of Scotland, Their Origin, Meaning and History**, by George R. Black, The New York Public Library, 1993)

## LAWSON LOCATIONS IN SCOTLAND



## LAWSON LOCATIONS IN SCOTLAND

|    |                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                            |                           |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1  | <b>Battle of Carham (Coldstream)</b>                                                                               | Richard Lawson (Laurence) in battle where Scots defeat Northumbria<br>Also site of Wark Castle (England)   | 1018                      |
| 2  | <b>Byker (Biggar)</b>                                                                                              | Richard Lawson of Byker in the Ragman Rolls                                                                | 1296                      |
| 3  | <b>Blaquhidder</b>                                                                                                 | Abbot Lawrence (Lawson)<br>Seat of Clan McLaren                                                            | 1300                      |
| 4  | <b>Edinburgh</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grothill</li> <li>• Heiriggs</li> <li>• Leith</li> </ul> | Richard Lawson the Canon of St. Giles Church<br>Home of Lawsons of Heiriggs<br>John Lawson in Leith        | 1370<br>1400-1628<br>1462 |
| 5  | <b>Boghall</b>                                                                                                     | Home of Lawsons of Boghall                                                                                 | 1500-1628                 |
| 6  | <b>Lyntoun (Linton/West Linton)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cairnmuir Estate</li> </ul>           | John Lawson<br>Home of Lawsons of Cairnmuir                                                                | 1376<br>1503-1900         |
| 7  | <b>Humbie</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hartside</li> </ul>                                         | Home of Lawsons of Humbie & Hartside                                                                       | 1406-1637                 |
| 8  | <b>St. Andrews</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cambo</li> <li>• Anstruther Easter</li> </ul>          | Rev. James Lawson at St. Andrews University<br>Lawson Cambo Estate<br>James Lawson is the bailee here      | 1568<br>1450-1670<br>1678 |
| 9  | <b>Newburgh</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lindores Abbey</li> </ul>                                 | Henry Lawson, landowner at Newburgh<br>Richard Lawson a monk at Lindores Abbey                             | 1481-1521<br>1470         |
| 10 | <b>Perth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scone</li> <li>• Easter Moncrieff</li> </ul>                 | Rev. James Lawson birthplace<br>Ancient capital of Scottish Kings<br>John Lawson is a witness in this town | 1538-1584<br>1420         |
| 11 | <b>Aberdeen</b>                                                                                                    | Ady (Andrew) Lawson - a forestaller<br>Also, several other Lawsons here                                    | 1402<br>1400-1500         |
| 12 | <b>Belhelvie Beach</b>                                                                                             | James Lawson dies in quicksand                                                                             | 1612                      |
| 13 | <b>Flodden, England</b>                                                                                            | Battle of Flodden - King James IV killed<br>Scottish army destroyed                                        | 1513                      |

In the mid 1300s, **Richard Lawson** was the canon (high priest) of St. Giles Church in Edinburgh and also is recorded as a landed gentleman, the laird (lord) of Grothil. **Richard Lawson** was most likely the progenitor of all our ancestors in Scotland (reported below). He is also the connection to our earlier ancestors, the **English Lawsons** of Bywell and Cramlington. **Richard Lawson** is the son of **Robert Lawson** of Bywell; son of **Ralph Lawson**; son of **Thomas Lawson**; son of **John Lawson** (lord Fawlesgrave); son of **Lawrence Lawson (Laweson)** who married a daughter of William II de Lancaster, the 6th Baron of Kendal and inherited part of the Kendal lands in Northumberland. **Lawrence Lawson (Laweson)** is a son or grandson of **John Lawson of Cramlington** in 1135, our earliest recorded ancestor in England.

St. Giles' Church is the High Kirk of Edinburgh positioned at the heart of the Scottish capital. St. Giles' was founded in 1124, and in the 16th century became the focal point of the Scottish Reformation. St. Giles Church is regarded as the Mother Church of World Presbyterianism.

St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh



1682 Map showing Grothil manor house

A Laird is an owner of a large, long-established Scottish estate and the title is roughly equivalent to a baronet in England. In the Scottish order of precedence, a laird ranks below a baron and above a gentleman. Grothil estate and manor house (later spelled Groathill) appears on a map from 1682, showing Grothil located a mile from the center of Edinburgh. In 1925, the Groathill manor house was demolished in order to build today's Telford Road. Only an echo of the original estate remains in the street named Groathill Road. In 1370 **Richard Lawson** sold Grothil to Walter Scot, a baxter (in early English: a baker). (Source: *Calendar of documents relating to Scotland preserved in the Public Record Office*, 4 volumes, Edited by Joseph Bain, Edinburgh, 1881-84)

Also during the reign of King Robert the Bruce (1306-1329), **George Lawson** is recorded as serving the King as Under Clerk of the Exchequer

**John Lawson de Lyntoun**, was a tenant under Douglas in the village of Linton in 1376. Linton a small village in the Scottish Borders area of Scotland. The landlord was probably William Douglas, the 1st Earl of Douglas and a Scots nobleman, peer, warrior and the nephew of Sir James Douglas (also known as Good Sir James and the Black Douglas) a Scottish knight and feudal lord who was one of the chief army commanders of King Robert I (known as *Robert the Bruce*) of Scotland during the Wars of Scottish Independence. Lyntoun could refer to two towns in the Scottish Borders that are 50 miles apart. This reference most likely refers to West Linton a small village formerly in the county of Peeblesshire that is about 16 miles southwest of Edinburgh. It is also the location of the Cairnmuir estate of Sir Richard Lawson the elder, described later in this work.

**Ady (Andrew?) Lawsoun**, was charged as a forestaller in Aberdeen in 1402. *Forestalling*, sometimes linked with *regrating* or *engrossing*, were the now obsolete crimes of: buying from merchants on the way to market to sell at a better price at the market; the buying of dead victuals for hoarding or

profiteering; and, buying a commodity in a market with a view to selling it in the same market at a better price. All were offences in Scotland and outlawed in the 1400s in an area within a four mile radius of a marketplace. Forestalling must have been fairly common practice in Aberdeenshire in the early 1400s as there are records of many people being charged with this offense. (Source: Collins Dictionary of Law, W.J. Stewart, 2006)

### **Lawson Baronets of Scotland**

From this point in time, we find the Lawsons identified with the prominent estates of Humble, Heiriggs and Cairnmuir. Other estates included in the Heiriggs and Cairnmuir holdings are: Lochtulloch, Boghall and Cambo. Apparently the Lawsons of Humble split into descendants in Humble and Heiriggs. The Heiriggs descendants split into Heiriggs and Cairnmuir. What is noteworthy is that through rights of inheritance as well as grants and purchases these properties exchanged ownership among the different lines. These lines also devolved to the several **Lawson** Baronets created in Scotland, some perhaps as early as the 1300s. These Lawson Baronets survived and prospered for hundreds of years despite wars, political intrigues and religious turmoil that would impact the country. All of these Scottish baronets show circumstantial evidence of connections to their counterparts in England.

In the 1400s, the struggle for control of Scotland moved to the Scottish kings versus factions of powerful Scottish nobles. In 1406, Scottish King Robert II sent his young son (future King James I) to safety in France. The English captured him en route and he spent the next 18 years as a prisoner held for ransom. With the death of King Robert and James a prisoner, Scotland was ruled by a series of regents until the ransom was finally paid. King James I, returned home in 1424, at the age of 32 with a new English wife and moved to centralize control of the country in the hands of the crown. This alienated the noble families and he was assassinated in 1437. His son James II, continued his father's policy of trying to weaken the great noble families. In the late 1400s, James III married Margaret of Denmark and acquired the Orkney and Shetland Islands as her dowry; and, his son James IV brought the western islands under Royal control. In 1503, James IV married Margaret Tudor, daughter of English King Henry VII, establishing the basis for the eventual Union of the Crowns in the 17th century.

### **Lawson Baronet of Humble**

Around 1420, **John Lawson of Edinburgh** (circa 1400-1465) was a witness at Easter Moncreiff, Perth. The Barony of Moncreiffe in Perthshire had at least two manors, one was the eastern most estate named Easter Moncreiff. In 1436, **John Lawson** (spelled **Lauson**) also is recorded as holding lands in Aberdeen. Later, in 1462, **John Lawson** (this time spelled **Lawson**) is recorded in Leyth (today spelled Leith). Leith sits on the coast of the Firth of Forth, at the mouth of the Water of Leith. The Water of Leith is the main river flowing through Edinburgh to the port of Leith where it flows into the sea via the Firth of Forth. Prior to a bridge being built in the late 1400s, Leith had settlements on both sides of the river. One side was the main port for loading and unloading ship cargoes and had many merchant houses. The other side of the river was a fishing and ship building village. Today Leith is within the city of Edinburgh about 1 mile north of the city center. (Source: *History of Leith, Edinburgh*, October 9, 2012) In the 1400s we find **John Lawson** of the Highriggs complaining to the magistrates that the water of the burgh loch had overflowed and *"drownit ane greit pairt of his land, and that he could get no remedy therefor"*. Finally, John was likely a son of **John Lawson** of Linton and a brother of **William Lawson** of Humble. John Lawson and William Lawson are the first lords of Humble.

Humble is a rural hamlet and parish near Haddington in East Lothian, about 15 miles southeast of Edinburgh. It was the site of a ruined castle, mentioned as a tower, fortalice and manor house in 1646. The last remains of the castle ruins were removed by 1853. The castle was replaced by *Humble House*, a mansion dating from the 18th century and known today as *Humble Old Place*. The Keith, Lawson,

Hepburn and Cockburn families all have connections to Humbie and in fact these families may all be related.

Originally, Humbie formed part of the Barony of Keith and the lands were held by Simon Fraser of Keith in the reign of King David I. The **Lawson** family acquired the estates of Humbie and Hartside in the 13th of 14th centuries most likely via charter from the Keith Barony. In 1586, James Lawson transferred ownership of Humbee and Hartside to Sir Adam Hepburn of Kirklandhill, Senator of the College of Justice, who was married to Agnes, daughter of Margaret Haldane Foulis, a daughter of James Haldane of Gleneagles, the son of **Marjorie Lawson Haldane**, the daughter of Richard Lawson of Heiriggs and the infamous *Lady of Gleneagles*. George Foulis, was the King's Master of the Mint, and the husband of Margaret Haldane (granddaughter of **Marjorie Lawson**). Another of George Foulis' daughters married John Cockburn who is the younger brother of **Margaret Cockburn Lawson** the wife of **James Lawson** of Heiriggs, Marjorie's brother.

The Scottish Baronial house known as *Keith Marischal* is still a prominent feature in Humbie. This may have been the seat of the **Lawsons** of Humbie from the 1400s. **Keith Marischal House** standing just a mile from Humbie was the ancient home of the barony. It is a long house with a vaulted ground floor, rebuilt on the site in 1589 by the Keiths.

Keith Marischal Baronial Manor House  
Humbie. Haddington



This beautiful baronial mansion in the country also has a tragic and horrific history. Keith Marischal House is the place where hundreds of witches spent their last night before being executed. More than three centuries ago, the condemned women were locked in the chapel near to this mansion in Humbie. Although now a place of tranquil beauty, Keith Marischal House was drawn into the North Berwick Witch hunts which took place between 1590 and 1678. These were sparked by the belief that severe storms had been conjured up by witches, a notion suggested by King James VI following a sea journey to Denmark. After “confessing” their sins at trials in North Berwick, one of which was attended by King James VI himself, condemned women were kept in the chapel the night before their execution. The sentences were carried out a mile away from the house, by burning or garrotting. The witch trials became so widespread that it has been predicted up to 4,000 accused men and women may have been killed in Scotland. Today the chapel bears no mark of the pain and suffering of the women held within. This hysteria leading to the persecution of people for witchcraft may be the reason that James Lawson disposed of this property.

**William Lawson of Humbie**, (circa 1390-1450) is the son of John Lawson of Linton and brother of John Lawson of Edinburgh. William is recorded on lands held in feudal service as a vassal knight to Thomas, the 1st Lord Somerville in 1406. (Source: *The Genealogy of Somerville*, manuscript) William could be the grandson of Richard Lawson, the laird of Grothil. Thomas Somerville was a member of the Parliament of Scotland and also the Justiciar of Scotia (Scotland) the highest legal official in Medieval Scotland. He was also recorded as the Warden of the Scottish Borders in 1424. Lord Somerville held land across southern Scotland as far north as Edinburgh. The family seat was in Roxburghshire on the border with Northumberland. **William Lawson** of Humbie was an important loyal official in Lord Somerville's administration. William had sons: **William II of Humbie**, **Richard Lawson of Humbie and Heiriggs**.



**William Lawson II of Humbie**, (circa 1450-1500) son William I above and brother of Richard Lawson of Humbie and Heiriggs (*see below*). He was a knight appointed in 1495 as one of the plenipotentiaries to meet with King Henry the VII of England's commissioners, not only to conclude a truce, but also to negotiate a marriage contract between King James IV and Henry's eldest daughter, Princess Margaret. This same **William II Lawson** was also appointed one of the conservators of a seven years truce between the two kingdoms of Scotland and England, which was concluded in 1497. (Source: *Martial Achievements*, Vol. II, by Dr Abercromby) **Marjorie Lawson** (1480-1553) was the wife of **William II Lawson** of Humbie and some historians say that she is the earliest recorded Lawson in Humbie. (*This Marjorie is not the Marjorie the Lady of Gleneagle mentioned above and detailed later on page 74+.*) **William II Lawson** and **Marjorie Lawson** had sons **Robert Lawson** of Humbie and **John Lawson** of Humbie.

**Richard Lawson of Humbie and Heiriggs**, (circa 1450-1513), the son of William I of Humbie and brother of William II of Humbie. Richard received a charter from John Tarbat dated 1505 for the property of Gilchranston, lying in the barony of Salton and shire of Edinburgh. In this time, Alexander Abernathy was the 4th Lord of Salton and Edinburghshire was known as Lothian and encompassed West, Mid, and East Lothian. The barony of Salton was the area of the villages of East and West Saltoun in East Lothian, about 5 miles southwest of village Haddington (the area of Humbie) and 20 miles east of Edinburgh. This is almost the exact site of the Keith Marischal baronial manor house. On moving to Heiriggs Manor in Edinburgh and acquiring Cairnmuir estate, Richard surrenders title to Humbie to his sons Richard and then Robert. (*More information about Richard Lawson of Heiriggs is on p. 72+*)

**Robert Lawson of Humbie** (1509-1581), the son of **William II Lawson of Humbie** held tenement lands in the burgh of Haddington. **Robert Lawson** married a woman whose name is not known and they had a son, **John Lawson** (heir to Humbie). **Robert Lawson** is said to have signed a bond at Hamilton in 1569 to stand by his sovereign Queen Mary and pledge his life and fortune to protect her against her rebellious subjects. By this act **Robert Lawson** was viewed as a hero by the supporters of the Queen. The seal of **Robert Lawson** was a saltire, and on a chief with a horsehead bridled between two garbs. (Sources: *Retours of Service for Haddingtonshire*, no. 35; *Chancery Records of 1581*; and, *A System of Heraldry*, Volume 2, by Alexander Nesbet, Edinburgh, 1722)

**John Lawson** of Humbie (circa 1530-1590) was son of **Robert Lawson**. Around the same time a **W. (William?) Lawson** also had an estate in Humbie. It is likely that John and William were brothers or at least cousins and both descendants of **Richard Lawson** mentioned earlier. **John Lawson** of Humbie inherited his father's lands and titles. (Source: *Chancery Records*, and, *Scottish Worthies* by Alexander Garden).

According to the *Edinburgh Council Records*, **John Lawson** was a *cautioner* that John Ramsay of Dalliousie shall not invade Richard Abercromby of Polton. In Scottish law, a *cautioner* was similar to a bondsman or guardian. One who binds himself in a bond with the principal for greater security. A cautioner's bond may be regarding a debt payment, or to undertake to produce the person of the party for whom he is bound. (Source: *Black's Law Dictionary*). The Earl of Dalhousie was a Midlothian noble and a title held by the Chief of Clan Ramsay. In 1577 and 1578-79, the Privy Council charged Ramsey along with his sons and others, with "*having committed serious outrages on the lands of Richard Abercromby of Polton, one of the bailies of Edinburgh. They had killed six horses, had deforced the messenger sent to summon them, killed one of the witnesses, and generally behaved most outrageously.*" Ramsay and his two sons "*appearand of Clatty*" (clatty meaning dirty and disheveled) had to find caution (a guarantee) for their good behavior, a very lenient sentence in the circumstances. **John Lawson** provided this caution.

The Chancellery Records say that **John Lawson** married Elizabeth Bellenden, daughter of Sir John Bellenden of Auchnoull. (Source: *The Scottish nation, or the surnames, families, literature, honours, and biographical history of the people of Scotland*, Vol. 1, 1867) This is the second marriage for Elizabeth who was the widow of John Ramsay mentioned above. **John Lawson** and Elizabeth Bellenden Lawson had at least one son **James Lawson**, and two daughters, **Barbara Lawson Borthwick** and **Janet Lawson Edmonstone**. **John Lawson** died in 1590 and Elizabeth died in 1630.

**Sir James Lawson of Humbie**, (circa 1564-1612), son of **John Lawson**, was a *Gentleman of the Bedchamber* to King James VI. A *Gentleman of the Bedchamber* was a title in the royal household of the Kingdom from the 11th century. There were always several holders of the office, who were invariably gentlemen and almost invariably peers, often important ones, as the regular access to the monarch which the role brought was the most valuable commodity of the courtier. The duties of the office involved waiting on the King when he ate in private, helping him to dress, guarding the bedchamber and water closet, and providing companionship. The average number of *Gentlemen of the Bedchamber* was 12.

Sir James died in 1612. At that time, he appears to have relocated north to properties near Aberdeen. His death occurred while he was out riding over lands he was unfamiliar with and strayed into quicksand. The location was on lands held by the **Lawsons** at Belhelvie beach near Aberdeen "in a standing lake called the Old Water gang." James drowned, his body was recovered, although his horse was never found. (Source: "Scottish Worthies," by Alexander Garden of Aberdeen, in Nisbet's *Heraldry*, vol. ii) Belhelvie is a small coastal village north of Aberdeen.

**John Lawson** of Humbie (circa 1590-1650) is the son of Sir James above. He inherited his father's lands and titles on James' death. Circa 1637, the **Lawson** lands of Hartside near Humbie in the Scottish Borders were sold by **John Lawson** to Sir Adam Hepburn of Humbie, a Senator of the College of Justice and a Colonel in the Covenanting army of David Leslie. Hartside is a large forested hill near Gilston about 4 miles south of Humbie. (Source: *Chancellery Records*; and, *Scottish Worthies* by Alexander Garden)



Hartside Hill in the Scottish Borders Region

**W. (William?) Lawson of Humbie** (circa 1600-1650) Son of John above. Recorded as a landowner in Humbie. May have inherited property following the death of **Sir James Lawson**.

### Lawson Baronet of Heiriggs, Lochtulloch, Boghall, Cairnuir and Cambo

This ancient **Lawson** baronet held family estates and manors at Heiriggs, Lochtulloch, Boghall, Cairnuir, and Cambo. These quite large landholdings were first accumulated by **Sir Richard Lawson, the elder**, and later were passed down through several generations of Lawson heirs.

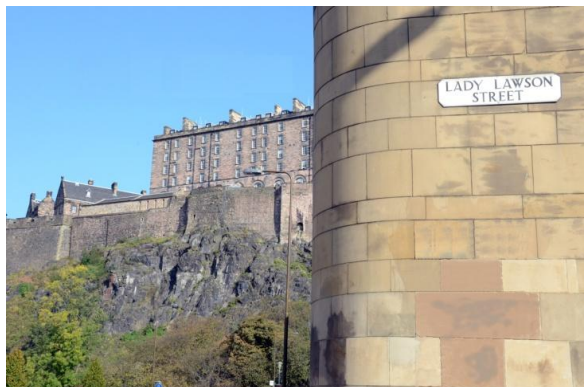


Edinburgh Scotland 1600s

**Heiriggs Manor** was the estate, manor house and seat of the Lawson family in Edinburgh. The home known as *Heiriggs Mansion* (sometimes Hariggs or Highriggs Manor). It was located in the area now occupied by George Heriot's Hospital/School within the borders of today's city of Edinburgh about 500 feet south of the cliffs of Edinburgh castle. The Lawsons and their mansion were intimately connected with the city. The mansion was demolished in 1877 and at the time may have been the oldest house in the city. Today the area is in the heart of Edinburgh but when Highriggs Manor was built in the fifteenth century it was quite isolated. The residence had crow stepped gables, dormers on the roofs, and remarkably small windows.



HIGHRIGGS HOUSE, 1854. (After a Drawing by the Author.)

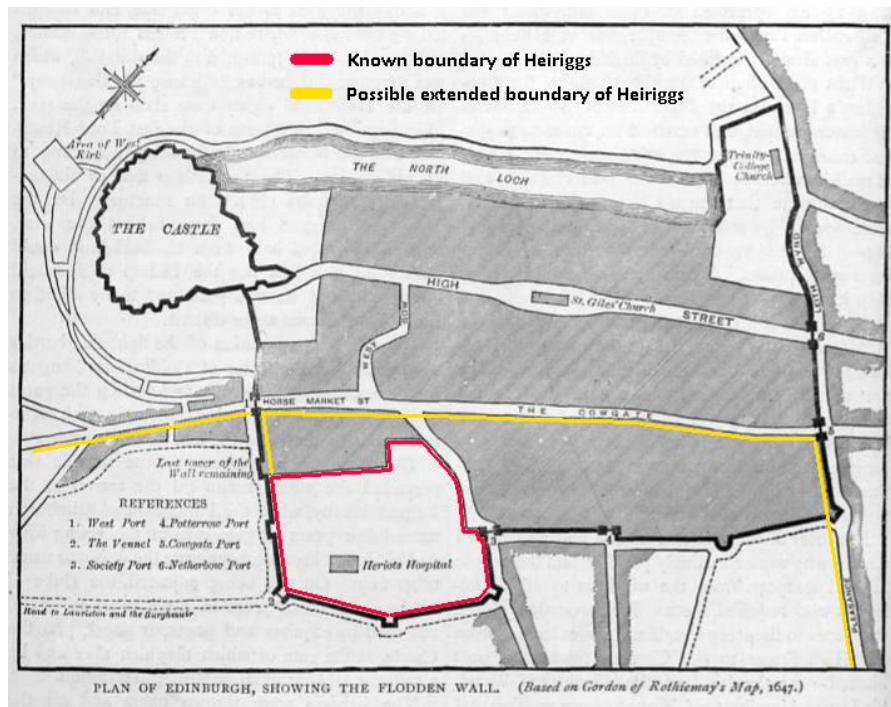


**Lady Lawson Wynd**, today called **Lady Lawson Street**, is a famous street in the High Riggs area of Edinburgh. This street was named in honor of **Lady Janet Elphinstone Lawson** (of the Semlyis family) who was the wife of **Richard Lawson** (the elder).

(Sources: *The Surnames of Scotland Their Origin, Meaning and History*, by George F. Black, New York: New York Public Library, 1946; and, *Cassell's old and new Edinburgh, Volume 2*, By James Grant)



The **Lawson** estate of Heiriggs was located south of the castle on lands near the West Port entry through the town wall. Following the disastrous Battle of Flodden where King James IV was killed and the Scottish army destroyed, the Edinburgh town council purchase land in Heiriggs from the Lawsons to extend the town wall to enclose the Heiriggs. Known as the Flodden Wall, it was completed in 1560.



Later, in 1628, George Heriot, a local businessman and philanthropist as well as a friend and courtier of King James VI of Scotland, acquired Heiriggs. He then built a hospital (then the name of a charitable school) for poor, fatherless children of the burgh. Today known as *Heriott's School*, it still stands as one of the historical monuments of this ancient city.

It is noteworthy that George Heriot was connected by marriage with the Primroses of Rosebery. This family includes the former Prime Minister of England, the Earl of Rosebery. George Heriot's wife, Alison Primrose, was the daughter of James Primrose, clerk of the privy council. Alison died before her twenty-first year and it was in her memory that George Heriot devoted the bulk of his large fortune to the foundation of the hospital for the education of the children of citizens of Edinburgh. The hospital/school bears his name, and today is still regarded as one of the chief charitable and educational institutions of the city - almost 400 year later. Alison Primrose was the daughter of James Primrose and his wife **Catherine Lawson**, the daughter of **Richard Lawson**, the younger, of Heiriggs. (More on Richard later in this work on page 77+)



Heriot's Hospital  
in the 1800s

(Sources: *Early History in Scotland*, by the Herriott Heritage Association; *The Buildings of Scotland: Edinburgh*, by Colin McWilliam, David Walker, and John Gifford, Penguin, 1984; *Edinburgh in the Nineteenth Century*, by William Matthews Gilbert, J. & R. Allan, 1901)

**Sir Richard Lawson, the elder (1450-1513)**, Some genealogist and historians say Richard may be "*a son of the house of Humbie*." If so, he is most likely the son to the first William Lawson of Humbie (see Humbie line above). Richard was called "*Richard Lawson of Humby, provost of Edinburgh*" (Source: *Lives of eminent men of Fife*, by James Bruce, 1846) By this line Richard was likely the grandson of Richard Lawson, the landed gentleman who was canon of St. Giles Church and Laird of Grothil in the 1300s. He is also descended from **Richard Laurence (Lawson) of Byker** (Biggar) who rendered homage in 1296 and **Richard Lawson (Laurence)** who fought at the Battle of Carham in 1018. Sir Richard was a prominent landowner who acquired the Lawson properties of Heiriggs, Lochtulloch, Boghall, Cairnmuir and Cambo through inheritance, grants for service and purchase.

**Richard Lawson** was an important Edinburgh and national Scottish politician. He was appointed the town clerk of Edinburgh in 1482. Later, in 1488, **Richard Lawson** is recorded as the laird of Heiriggs (spelled alternately Hieriggs, Harigs or High Riggs). In the same year, he was appointed clerk of the Lord Justice Clerk, the second most senior judge in Scotland and he was also one of the Regents appointed to manage the affairs during the minority of King James IV. As a Regent, he helped to form James IV's Council of State. In 1490, Richard was appointed the Clerk (Judge) (originally *clericus justiciarie*) of the Court of Justiciary. The Justiciary was the supreme criminal court in Scotland which was both a trial court and a court of appeal. Later **Richard Lawson** was Lord Justice Clerk (Justice of Scotland's Supreme Court). The Lord Justice Clerk is the second most senior judge in Scotland, after the Lord President of the Court of Session. From 1481-1505, **Richard Lawson** served in the Scots Parliament and was a member of the Secret Council.

He was the Lord Provost of Edinburgh for the years 1491, 1492, 1493, and 1498. The Lord Provost is the convener of the City of Edinburgh local authority. The Provost is elected by the city council and serves not only as the chair of that body, but as a figurehead for the entire city. The Lord Provost is *ex officio* the Lord-Lieutenant of Edinburgh. In many ways a Provost is similar to a Mayor or Burgess of a city. While some of Scotland's local authorities elect a Provost, only the four main cities (Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee) have a Lord Provost.

**Richard Lawson** was also appointed clerk to the ambassadors of King James IV of Scotland and was one of the commissioners to negotiate several treaties with the English in the 1490s. In 1503 he was appointed the King's Lord Advocate. (Source: *James Henryson and the Origins of the Office of King's Advocate in Scotland*, by John Finlay, Edinburgh University Press) The Lord Advocate (Scottish Gaelic: *Morair Tagraidh*, Scots: *Laird Advocat*), is the chief legal officer of the Scottish Government and the Crown in Scotland for both civil and criminal matters comparable to the Attorney-General of the US. He was the chief public prosecutor for Scotland. The officeholder is one of the Great Officers of State of Scotland. (Source: "Historical Background to the development of the office of Lord Advocate", by the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service, 2009)

**Richard Lawson** was knighted by King James IV and at that time he recorded a coat of arms for his family: "**Lawson** of Boghall. A saltire and chief, the later charged with three garbs". (Source: *Scottish Arms, Being a Collection of Armorial Bearings*, Volume 2, by Robert Riddle Stodart; and, *General Armory*, by Sir Bernard Burkes) This coat of arms is similar to that of **Robert Lawson of Humbie** described on page 68.

The Lawsons were a rich burgher family, who also had a town house in Lauriston on the waters of the Firth of Forth (known as *Cramond Regis*), the mansion house at *Heiriggs* in Edinburgh and large estates and manors at *Cairnmuir*, *Cambo & Boghall*. It is unknown if Richard inherited these properties or if they were awarded for his personal service to the king. We do know that Richard acquired an estate near the Burgh Loch (*Boghall*) and the barony of Brighall (this is probably *Cairnmuir* acquired in 1500

and 1503 from Andrew Graham). In 1500, he also acquired a 1/4 part of the estate of *Cambo* as well as *Cramond Regis* acquired from Janet Baillie the wife of **Robert Lawson of Cairnmuir** the son this **Richard Lawson** and Janet Elphinstone. Janet Baillie was the daughter and heiress of William Baillie of Cambo (Nisbet) **Janet Baillie** later remarried to John Gifford.



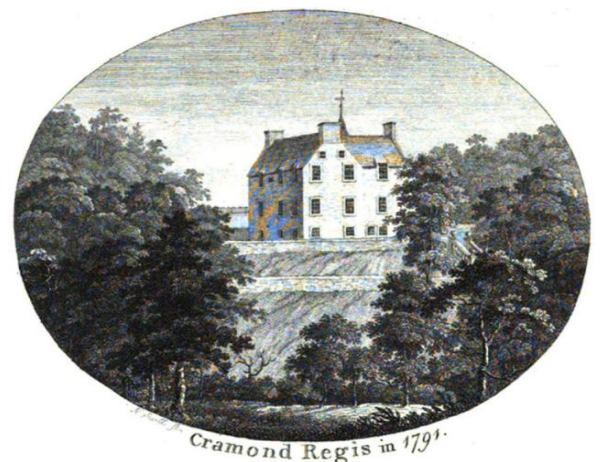
Cambo Manor

The 1500s are marked by the Scottish Reformation and French influence on Scottish politics. In 1512, Scotland renewed the *Auld Alliance* with France and under its terms, when English King Henry VIII invaded France in 1513, Scotland invaded England. The Scots were crushed by the English army at the Battle of Flodden with Scottish King James IV and many of his nobles killed and the Scots army destroyed.

Young James V then became king and Scotland was again ruled by regents during the King's minority. In 1528, James V assumed control and moved to pacify the rebellious Highlands, Islands and English border counties. He also strengthen the *Auld Alliance* by marriage to two French noblewomen with royal connections; first to Madeleine de Valois and after her death, Marie de Guise. The day before his death in 1542, James learned of the birth of an heir, a daughter by Marie de Guise, who would become Mary, Queen of Scots. From this point forward, French influence and religion will play major roles in Scotland

Circa 1500, **Richard Lawson** is granted the fourth and final part of the lands of Cambo by Bishop of Dunkeld following a surrender of rights by Janet Baillie, the wife of his son **Robert Lawson of Cairnmuir**. Then in 1503 he gains title to the lands of Cairnmiur from Andrew Graham of Cairnmuir.

**Richard Lawson, the elder**, married Janet Elphinstone, the daughter of James Elphinstone of Clan Elphinstone whose historic seat is the ruins of Elphinstone Tower near Stirling. Janet's mother was Isabella Bruce a granddaughter of King Robert the Bruce. **Janet Elphinstone Lawson** held in her own right the land of *Cramond Regis* a few miles north of Edinburgh on the Firth of Forth. Lady Lawson Street is named for Janet Elphinstone Lawson.



In St. Giles church was an altar to St. Apollonia that was endowed in 1508 by Janet Elphinstone, the widow of **Richard Lawson** of Heiriggs. (Source: In the National Records of Scotland (GD243/23/2) is a charter dated 23 September 1508 wherein Jonet Elphinstoun is mentioned as "relict of the deceased Master Richard Lausoun of Hieriggs")



Saint Apollonia was one of a group of virgin martyrs who suffered in Alexandria during a local uprising against the Christians. According to church tradition, her torture included having all of her teeth violently pulled out or shattered. Thus, St. Apollonia is associated with pulling teeth and is often shown holding a tooth in pincers. Her statue in the south-eastern chapel of Westminster Abbey holds a book in the right hand, and a pair of pincers in the left. At other churches she has an instrument like a tooth-extractor, and a clasped book with teeth lying upon it.

At St. Giles the altar to St. Apollonia was situated on the west side of the south door. Richard Lawson of Heiriggs granted lands in Cramond to benefit the minister of St. Giles and help endow the altar. Cramond is a village and suburb in the north-west of Edinburgh, at the mouth of the River Almond where it enters the Firth of Forth. It is the location of the Lawson manor Cramond Regis.



Sir David Lyndsay described this altar when he wrote:

*Sanct Apolline on aultar standis  
With all hir teith intill hir handis.*

(Sources: *Emblems of Saints*, by F. C. Husenbeth; *Westminster Abbey*, by F. Bond; and, *Parish of Cramond*, by J. P. Wood)

**Richard Lawson**, the elder, died in 1507. **Richard Lawson** and Janet Elphinstone had sons: **James Lawson of Heiriggs**, his successor; **Richard Lawson (the Younger) of Cairnmuir**; **Robert Lawson of Cairnmuir**; and, **Patrick Lawson the Prebendary of Corstorphine**. (Source: *The Historie and Chronicles of Scotland, 1436–1565*, by Robert Lindsay of Pitcottie) Richard Lawson (the younger) and Robert Lawson are both successively the lairds of Cairnmuir. Richard Lawson the elder and Janet Elphinstone also had a daughter, **Margaret (Marjorie) Lawson Haldane**, the *Lady of Gleneagles*, over whom Lord Stirling and Squire Meldrum fought.

**Marjorie Lawson** is mentioned in a famous chivalric poem *The Historie And Testament Of Squyer Meldrum*, written in the mid 16th century by Sir David Lyndsay. This is a biography of Lyndsay's acquaintance and neighbor in northeast Fife, Squire William Meldrum. In the poem, **Marjorie Lawson** is described as a girl "*possessed of great attractions*" with several suitors. One is Lord Lewis Stirling who had been paying much attention to her but his efforts were proving less successful than Squire William Meldrum of the Byres. Meldrum was a dashing hero, well tested in battle, whose feats of chivalry were famous. Lord Stirling, frustrated by his lack of success with **Miss Lawson**, led fifty armed men on horses and ambushed Meldrum and eight followers near Holyrood House. In this mortal combat with sword and axe, "*Meldrum unhorsed Sir Lewis, and would have slain him had not his faithful henchman step between and received the sword-thrust in his own heart.*" The prowess of Meldrum's friends is evinced in the fact that they killed 26 of Stirling's men, but the remainder finally overcame Meldrum and company. Stirling and his men left Meldrum for dead, covered with wounds; "*yet, be the mychtie power of God he escaped death, and lived fiftie years thairaftir.*"

This vicious roadside attack ends Meldrum's fighting career and very nearly his life. Meldrum and **Marjorie Lawson** never see each other again. Meldrum lives his remaining decades in quiet but useful employment as a sheriff-deputy of Fife, a medical practitioner, and a member of the household of the Lords Lindsay of the Byres at Struthers Castle, Fife. As for Lord Lewis Stirling, the Lieutenant-Governor, Chevalier de la Beaute, led a posse of mounted French soldiers in pursuit Stirling. He was captured and imprisoned at the Castle of Edinburgh, where he was sentenced to death, but was pardoned and set free. (Sources: *Historie and Cronicles of Scotland*, by Robert Lindesay of Pitscottie; and, *The Historie And Testament Of Squyer Meldrum*, by Sir David Lyndsay, circa 1550)

**Marjorie Lawson**, later marries Sir John Haldane of Gleneagles, Perthshire, in 1508. After their marriage Marjorie soon became known as the **Lady of Gleneagles**. Sir John was a knight who was killed along with King James IV at the Battle of Flodden, making Marjorie a widow in 1513.. Marjorie and John had two sons: James and Archibald Haldane.

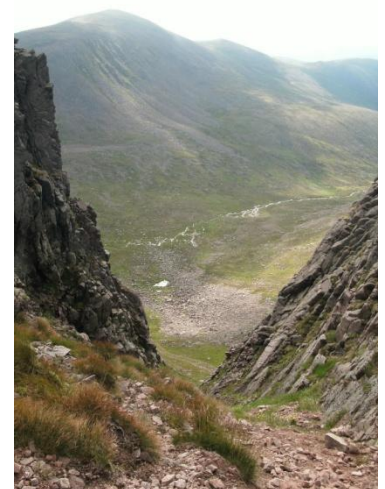
**James Lawson of Heiriggs, Lochtulloch, Boghall, Cairnmur and Cambo**, (circa 1480-1563) This 1st son of Richard Lawson of Heiriggs the elder becomes the baronet of the combined estates after the death of his brother Robert. James followed in his father's footsteps and served as the Provost of Edinburgh in 1532 and 1534. He was also a Minister of Parliament and Commissioner for the City of Edinburgh in 1531 and 1532. In 1532 James Lawson was a Senator of the College of Justice. James Lawson was one of the 15 members of the first Supreme Judicature of Scotland. In 1526, James grants to his brother Patrick his rights as heir to his brother Richard of lands of Cairnmuir. He married **Janet Liddel** (sometimes spelled Liddale or Leddale), heiress of Lochtulloch, Boghall, Stardails and Denyss in the Barony of Bathgate in Renfrewshire. (Source: *A system of heraldry : speculative and practical : with the true art of blazon, according to the most approved...*, by Alexander Nisbet, 1804) The location of these extinct estates is somewhat obscure and they seem to be scattered over a wide area of Scotland. Some report these lands are in the barony of Bathgate and in Renfrewshire. Bathgate is near Edinburgh and very near the location of Boghall. Renfrewshire is west of Glasgow and 50 miles west of Edinburgh. Most likely the location is Roxburghshire, the historic seat of the Liddel family. Roxburgh is a now destroyed royal burgh in the historic county of Roxburghshire in the Scottish Borders. Roxburgh (now the location of the village of Kelso) was an important trading burgh in High Medieval Scotland. It is also noteworthy that the Liddel river is in Roxburghshire and for many miles forms the border with England.

Janet Liddel died young and **James Lawson** remarried to Margaret Cockburn, daughter of **Christian Lawson** and Alexander Cockburn. James and Margaret had two sons: **John Lawson** of Boghall and **George Lawson** of Traquir (near Linton). **James Lawson** died sometime prior to 1563 and Margaret remarried to Alexander Skeyne (Skene). **Margaret Cockburn Lawson** died in 1590. (Source: *The house of Cockburn of that ilk and the cadets thereof: with historical anecdotes of the times in which many...*, by Thomas H. Cockburn-Hood, 1888)



### Loctulloch

Loctulloch is a difficult place to find. The only place of that name today is well north of Edinburgh in the Cairngorm National Park at the foot of the Scottish Highlands. This Loctulloch is a pond several hundred feet in diameter on a farm about 1 mile southeast of Loch Garten and near the settlement of Aundorach which is 3 miles south



Cairngorm National Park

of Netty Bridge about 80 miles east of Aberdeen. In ancient times the valleys between the individual mountains (cairn gorms) were used for drovers' roads to drive cattle to market or between summer and winter pastures. Many drovers' roads were ancient routes dating back to medieval times. Drovers built many rough protective shelters along these trails. The thick forests of the Cairngorms was also location for hunting and fishing and led to the establishment of deer stalking estates. In any event the estate of Loctulloch came to the Lawson via Janet Liddel's inheritance.

**Richard Lawson the younger of Cairnmuir**, (circa 1480-1523) This 3rd son of **Richard Lawson** of Heiriggs. Richard the younger, was Baronet of Cairnmuir and a bookseller/publisher in Edinburgh in the 1500s. This **Richard Lawson** also served as a Provost of Edinburgh in 1504 and 1505. Richard succeeded his brother James at Heiriggs. *(Details about Richard Lawson begin on page 77 under the Baronet of Cairnmuir.)*

**Robert Lawson of Heiriggs and Cairnmuir** (circa 1489-circa 1515) This 3rd son of **Richard Lawson** and Janet Elphinstone Lawson inherits the title and lands of Heiriggs and Cairnmuir from brother Richard. He married a woman whose name is unknown but they had a son: **James Lawson of Cairnmuir** his successor *(This James should not be confused with the James who follows next.)* Robert married Janet Baillie, daughter and heiress to William Baillie of Cambo. Both Robert and Janet die young circa 1515, perhaps of the plague. (Robert is also listed on page 79 under the Baronet of Cairnmuir.)

**John Lawson of Heiriggs, Lochtulloch and Boghall** (circa 1540-1562) In the mid 1500s, the "*Edinburgh Common Council purchased the elevated ridge of ground lying south of the West Port and Grassmarket, denominated by the High Riggs (manor house), on a part of which Heriot's Hospital was afterwards built.*" The purpose of this purchase by the town was to extend the city walls to enclose High Riggs. Part of this wall still forms the boundary of the hospital grounds with only a tower of the ancient fortifications remaining. (Source: *Old and New Edinburgh*) This maybe the same John Lawson with property in Leith on the Firth of Forth assessed to help support the Church of the Holy Trinity in Edinburgh (1562).

**John Lawson** married Christian Livingston, the daughter of Sir William Livingston of Kilsyth. John and Christian had two sons: **Sir William Lawson** and **John Lawson** who succeeded each other at Boghall; and a daughter, **Katharine (Catherine) Lawson** who married James Primrose, Clerk of the King's Privy Council, and their son is Sir Archibald Primrose, Baronet of Dalmeny and Lord Chief Justice General of Scotland. **John Lawson** surrenders his interests in the estate of Cairnmuir in to another branch of the family in 1556.

**Boghall** stands near the town of Biggar (or Byker) in South Lanarkshire. Biggar is the location of **Richard Laurence** of Byker (1296). Biggar/Boghall was a strong castle, situated in a marsh and approached by a bridge over a moat then through a gatehouse. A tower house occupied the center of the courtyard. The curtain walls were defended by vaulted gun towers. In 1670 the tower house was demolished and replaced by a modern mansion. By the end of the 18th century the castle was in ruin but substantially intact. In the 19th century its stones were robbed until the only remains visible were the stair tower of the mansion



Ruins of Boghall Castle



and the 2 towers of the curtain. In 1870 one of these (that pictured) collapsed prompting a cry to preserve what was left.

An interesting aside on the strength of Boghall castle is provided by an event in 1651 when its Cromwellian garrison felt secure enough to refuse the summons to surrender by Charles II when his army stopped at Biggar on its march to the south. One historian noted that this residence of the old baronial family of **Richard Lawson**, was "*a good estate about Edinburgh, near the Burrow Loch, and the barony of Boighall*".

**Sir William Lawson of Lochtulloch and Boghall**, (1590-1625) is the son of **John Lawson** and Christian Livingstone of Kilsyth. He also had lands of Dundryon in the barony of Inverleith, Edinburghshire granted by Sir George Towers of Inverleith in 1607. William inherits 1/4 part of Cambo from his father. Sir William and Hamilton of Bathgate, are ordered to find caution not to assault each other. This happened in 1607; and he and Hamilton of Innerwick are charged by the Lords of Privy Council to keep the peace in 1608. In 1625, he represented Linlithgowshire as a Minister of Parliament. **William Lawson** married Marion Campbell but the couple later divorced. William and Marion had one child: **Margaret Lawson**. "*This Sir William dilapidate and put away most of his fortune before his death, and went to Holland to the wars.*" This would be the Anglo-Spanish War fought by Spain against the Kingdom of England and the United Provinces of today's Netherlands from 1625 to 1630. William died in 1628, likely killed in the war. (Sources: *Members of Parliament, Scotland, including the minor barons, the commissioners for the shires, and the commissioners for the burghs, 1357-1882....*, by Joseph Foster, 1882; *The Staggering State*, by Lord Scotstarvet, 1628; and, the *Chancellery Records of 1629*)

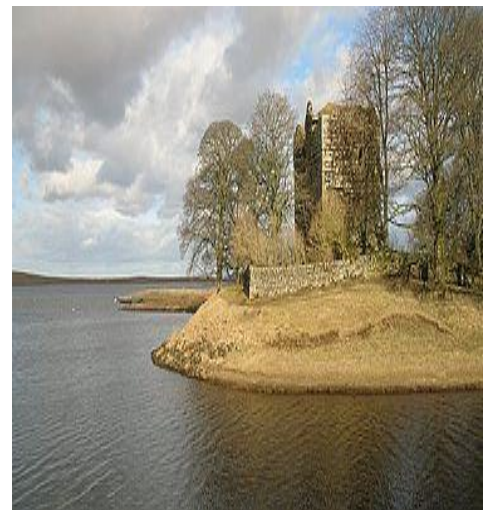
**John Lawson of Boghall** (circa 1600-1650) was heir to Sir William his brother, who died in 1628, as recorded in the *Chancellery Records*. He assumed the title of the baronet and the meager remains of the **Lawson** estates on the death of his brother William. What became of John Lawson of Boghall and his descendants is unknown.

All of the foresaid Lawson families are now extinct or lost in the fog of time with their estates possessed by other families. The only remaining family baronet in Scotland of any long standing is **Lawson of Cairnmuir**. Apparently the family seat moved from *Heiriggs* to *Cairnmuir* as can be seen below.

#### **Lawson Baronet of Cairnmuir**

**Richard Lawson the younger of Cairnmuir**, (circa 1480-1523) was the 3rd son of **Richard Lawson** of Heiriggs. Richard, the younger, was a bookseller/publisher in Edinburgh in the 1500s. Like his father, this **Richard Lawson** also served as a Provost of Edinburgh in 1504 and 1505.

In 1504, Richard, the elder, and his wife Janet Elphinstone granted their son **Richard Lawson** the lands of Cairnmuir and a charter was issued to Richard for the estate in 1507. **Cairnmuir** later became the seat of the Lawson family of Edinburgh for many generations. Cairnmuir was a large estate located about 35 miles south of Edinburgh in Linton, Peebles, Midlothian (today the village of West Linton). (See **John Lawson de Lyntoun** of 1376, above). The lands held the ancient *Cairns Castle* and a manor house known as *Cairnmuir House*. Both structures are located on the northern slope of the Pentland Hills, around 6.5 miles south west of Balerno, a southern suburb of the city of Edinburgh.



Cairns Castle ruins

*Cairns Castle* is a ruined keep, a type of fortified tower built within castles during the Middle Ages. *Cairns Castle* dates from the 15th century. It is located on the southwest end of Harperrig Reservoir, about 10 miles southwest from Edinburgh heading towards Biggar. The monument is designated of national importance as a relatively well-preserved, and unaltered, 15th century tower house. The castle has an adjoining wing. It has a vaulted basement, a kitchen on the ground floor, and a Hall above. All floors were reached by a turnpike stair in the corner between the main block and the wing. There were at least three storeys. The kitchen fireplace was converted into an entrance. The entrance tower to the east no longer exists. (Sources: *The Castles of Scotland*, by Martin Coventry, Goblinshead, 1997; *The castellated and domestic architecture of Scotland from the twelfth to the eighteenth centuries*, 5 volumes, by D. MacGibbon, and T. Ross, Edinburgh, 1887-92)

Cairnmuir House was sold by **John Lawson** in 1839 and has since been destroyed with little remaining. The lands of Cairnmuir are today a working sheep farm known as Baddinsgill Farm.



View of the lands of Cairnmuir - today's Baddinsgill Farm

**Richard Lawson the younger of Cairnmuir** is probably the same **Richard Lausoun** of Edinburgh who gave his bond of *manrent* to King James IV in 1508. In Scottish law a bond of *manrent* was an instrument by which a person, in order to secure the protection of some powerful lord, bound himself to such lord for the performance of certain services. This is very similar to fealty in feudal law: the pledging of allegiance to the feudal lord of the manor; that included feudal obligation by which a tenant or vassal was bound to be faithful and true to his lord, and render him obedience and service.

**Richard Lawson, the younger**, is the subject of a famous legend about the Battle of Flodden Field in 1513. This battle in northern England was the largest battle fought between the England and Scotland. The Scots were crushed and James IV was killed in the battle, becoming the last monarch from the British Isles to die in battle. The story goes that as the castle artillery was being prepared in Edinburgh in the months before the battle, a demon or ghost appeared at the Merket (Market) Cross where town proclamations are announced. This ghostly apparition read out a summons with the names of those who would be killed in the fighting beginning with James IV, and on through nobles and commoners. **Richard Lawson**, a merchant who lived nearby, heard his name read and threw a coin to appeal against this summons. Months later, James IV lead his army into England and was killed at the Battle of Flodden along with over 10,000 men. Some historians say that **Richard Lawson** also died in the fighting but many other historians say that he survived. "*The story from an eye witness, **Richard Lawson** was spared from the battle of Flodden having taken an exception against a summons issued by the Devil at the market cross of Edinburgh*". (Sources: *The Historie and Chronicles of Scotland, 1436–1565*, by Robert Lindsay of Pitscottie, 1728; and *The Chronicles of Scotland by Robert Lindsay of Pitscottie*, vol. 2, by John Graham Dalyell, ed, Edinburgh, 1814)

**Richard Lawson** the younger is frequently referenced in the *Privy Council Records* and in Volume XI, it is stated that he was summoned before the High Commission for opening his booth on Christmas Day, and other misdemeanors. Other records say that his house was searched by the Guard for copies of reformist literature and he was called to account for printing and selling a *Catechism*. Also in the records, there is a letter from James VI, asking by what license **Richard Lawson** and others had to print a *Catechism*? **Lawson** was banished to Aberdeen for a time and while there may have resided on **Lawson** properties there. The will of **Richard Lawson** is in the Edinburgh Commissariat and in it he mentions his wife Agnes Mayne, and his son-in-law, James Primrose. He also mentions a **David Lawson**, Notary. (Source: *Bannatyne Miscellany*, Vol. III.)

**Richard Lawson, the younger**, had only a daughter named Catherine. **Catherine Lawson** was the second wife of James Primrose, Clerk of the King's Privy Council. Their son, Archibald Primrose, was the Baronet of Dalmeny and later the Lord Justice General of Scotland. Archibald was an enthusiastic supporter of King Charles I. In the English Civil War, he was taken prisoner, tried and sentenced to death but his life was saved by the intervention of the Marquis of Argyle relative his mother **Catherine Lawson**. (*Argyle is the site where our early ancestor Loarn settled in the year 503*) After his release, Archibald was knighted by Charles I.

Archibald Primrose, Lord Dalmeny  
son of Catherine Lawson and James Primrose



**Robert Lawson of Cairnmuir** (circa 1489-circa 1500) The 3rd son of **Richard Lawson the elder** of Heiriggs succeeded his brother James in the estates of Heiriggs and Cairnmuir. This Robert and wife Janet Baillie (described earlier on page 76) died young with son **James Lawson** as heir.

**James Lawson of Cairnmuir** (circa 1500-circa 1553), son of **Robert Lawson** inherited the lands of Cairnmuir in 1521. This James married a daughter of Veitch of Dawick and they had two sons: **George Lawson** his successor, and **Patrick Lawson** of Borland (not to be confused with Patrick son of Richard the elder and the prebend of Corstorphine church in Edinburgh).

**George Lawson of Cairnmuir** (1520-1570) The oldest son of James, George also had the estate of Borland. Several transactons take place between George, Patrick and their father James, all occur in 1553. First, title to Cairnmuir is filed on behalf of George as heir to his brother Patrick and then title to another share of Cairnmuir is granted by **John Lawson**, son and heir to **James Lawson of Heiriggs**. Finally, another title in favor of George is recorded for the lands of Cambo. In 1554, 1556, 1558 and 1562, there are records of rents paid to George by tenants on these and other lands. George married (name unknown) an had at least one child: **James Lawson**, his successor.

**James Lawson of Cairnmuir** (circa 1560-1620) There is a charter by George to this James, his son and heir of the lands of Cairnmuir dated 1560, and is followed by titles issued in 1582 and 1584. This **James Lawson** married Elizabeth, daughter to William Scott of Mountbeugar, and they had at least one child: **James Lawson**, his successor.

**James Lawson of Cairnmuir** (circa 1605-1684) Son of James who gifted lands at Carinmuir and Cambo on marriage contract of this James and Elizabeth Brown, daughter of Gilbert Brown of Hartees (1619). Acquired lands in Ingraston, Maidenhead, Ormiston and pasture land in Blytholne in Linton (1631-1655). Appointed to committee for defense of Parliament in Peeblesshire (1659). Was cited by the Privy Council



for not stopping the Presbyterian reform conventicles held on his land (1684. James married 2nd to Isabel, daughter of John Muirhead of Linhouse, by whom he had a son: **John Lawson**.

**John Lawson of Cairnmuir** (circa 1670-1710) Son and successor of James above. Various transactions are recorded by John Lawson in the years 1682, 1685, 1699, 1700 and 1701. This **John Lawson** of Cairnmuir married Barbara, daughter of Sir John Clerk, the 1st Baronet of Penicuik, a Scottish politician, minister of parliament, lawyer, judge and composer. He was also Vice-President of the Philosophical Society of Edinburgh, the pre-eminent learned society of the Scottish Enlightenment. Penicuik is located midway between Edinburgh and Peebles, east of the Pentland Hills (the location of Boghall). John Lawson and Barbara had at least one child: **John Lawson**, his successor.

**John Lawson of Cairnmuir** (circa 1690-1740) Heir to his father **John Lawson** in the lands of Cairnmuir, Ingraston, and Maidenhead according to records of 1705, 1707, and 1719. Recorded as Laird of Eadie (1705 and 1707). Married Elizabeth Semple, daughter of Bryce Semple of Cathcart. This marriage was an elopement as the parents of Elizabeth had chosen another husband for her. But one night while visiting her grandfather, she escaped through a window and galloped off with young John Lawson who was waiting with horses. They had four sons: **Richard Lawson, John Lawson, William Lawson, and James Lawson**. The sons succeeded in turn to the property of Cairnmuir. They also had two daughters: **Ann Lawson** and one daughter whose name is unknown.

**Richard Lawson of Cairnmuir** (1723-1745) Eldest son of John above. Richard entered the army in 1744 and was a Lieutenant in the Scots/English army that fought the Jacobites in 1745. After a fatiguing march, through deep snow from Newcastle to Edinburgh he fell sick of an "epidemic fever" and died in 1745. (Source: *History of Peeblesshire*) Jacobitism was a political movement to restore the House of Stuart to the thrones of England, Scotland, and Ireland. The movement was named after Jacobus, the Latin form of James. The 1745 Jacobite rebellion was during the War of the Austrian Succession, when the bulk of the British Army was fighting in mainland Europe, and was the last in the series of Jacobite revolts.

**John Lawson of Cairnmuir** (circa 1725-1754) Son of John above. Succeeded his brother Richard. This John married Isobel Dalrymple and he died without issue about 1754.

**William Lawson of Cairnmuir** (1730-1806) Son of John above. Succeeded his brothers Richard and John in 1754. William married Margaret Hamilton of Dalziel and Rosehall. They had a daughter **Marion Lawson**. After Margaret's death, William married in 1776 to Macfarlane, daughter of John of Spottiswoode in Berwickshire. **This marriage links the Lawson family to royal descent and to kinship with the great families of Scotland.** Macfarlane Spottiswoode is a descendant not only of James I of Scotland but of Edward III of England. Her maternal grandfather was the second Viscount Arbutnot, who was seventh in descent from William Keith, third Earl Marischal of Scotland, whose maternal grandmother was Annabella, Countess of Huntly, daughter of James I of Scotland, and his wife, Joan Beaufort, grand-daughter of John of Gaunt, son of Edward III.

(Source: *History of Peeblesshire*)

**Marion Lawson of Cairnmuir** (circa 1690-1750) This daughter of William Lawson and Margaret Hamilton married William Aikman (1682-1731), a Scottish portrait-painter. **Aikman** was the son of a Scottish Lord and he initially planned on a career in business after studying law at Edinburgh University. However, the deaths of his eldest brother and father meant that he inherited the family estate at Carnie, Arbroath, as a young man. He was then free to pursue art as his vocation, and emerged as the leading



William Aikman  
Self Portrait

Scottish painter of his generation. He had some initial success in London before traveling to Italy in 1707 to study the Old Masters. He also visited Turkey. Aikman returned to Edinburgh in 1711 and became the leading portrait painter in Scotland.

**Ann Lawson Brown** (1732-1816) Daughter of John above. Married Laurence Brown of Edmonston and they had a son James Brown. The gravestone of Anne is at Biggar Church.

**James Lawson** (1739-??) Son of John (circa 1670-1740) above. Was a merchant in Glasgow, Scotland, merchant, and in Charles County in the Maryland colony. He became mortgagee of extensive property in western Maryland in 1769 but later returned to Glasgow. Married Nancy Semple and they had children: Robert Lawson, Mary Lawson and Agnes Lawson.

**Robert Lawson of Charles County, Maryland** (circa 1751 - 1798) Son of James of Glasgow above.

**John Lawson** (circa 1800-1850) Son of Robert Lawson above. Sold Cairnmuir House and estate in 1839.

The records mentioned above for the Lawson family of Cairnmuir for the years from 1460-1899 are now held in the *National Records of Scotland* (formerly the *National Archives of Scotland*).

### **Lawsons of Perth, Fife and Aberdeen**

These branches of the Lawson family in Scotland may descend directly from **Celtic Abbot Lawrence** and the McLaren clan both seated in Perthshire. Lawson ancestors also appear in Perthshire and Fife in the 14th century when the **Lawson** family of Edinburgh gains possession of the large estate named *Cambo* in county Fife.



Cambo House in Fife

**Cambo** was an estate located in county Fife about 7 miles from St Andrews. Cambo was created by a Norman land grant from the King in the 12th or 13th century. The property changed hands several times before coming into the possession of **Richard Lawson, the elder**, in the late 1400s. Years later, the estate was acquired by the Erskine family in the 1670s. The current Cambo manor house was built in 1881 after a fire devastated the original old house in 1879. From the 1940s through the 1960s, apartments were rented to students and employees of nearby St. Andrew University. Today, Cambo house is still the family home of the Erskine's who operate it as a luxury country house hotel.

Cambo estate is very near two other sites that are prominent in **Lawson** family history. First is Newburgh, about 29 miles to the west of Cambo. Newburgh is the site of **Lindores Abbey** on the mouth of the River Tay. Many **Lawsons** were associated with this Abbey or were nearby landowners. The next site is Perth about 8 miles further west from Newburgh. We will learn more about the **Lawsons** of this area later in this work, but we simply cannot ignore the close proximity of Cambo, Newburgh and Perth to each other and all having **Lawson** family members living in the same time period.

**Lindores Abbey**, founded circa 1191 by the future King David I, is on the outskirts of town of Newburgh on the southern banks of the River Tay in county Fife. The Abbey was quite prominent with King Edward I of England, and Scottish Kings John Balliol, David II, and James III among the monarchs who visited there. William Wallace also visited the Abbey. "*Aqua Vita*" is a form of Scotch whisky produced by the monks of Lindores Abbey. The earliest record of scotch whisky is a 1494 commission from King

James IV to the Friar of Lindores Abbey to make about "eight bols of malt or 580 kg of aquavita" (Scotch whiskey). (Source: *The Exchequer Roll for 1494*)

Today the Abbey is an over grown ruin and is a "*scheduled ancient monument*" (a nationally important archaeological site or historic building). The Abbey is open to visitors and a new whisky distillery *Lindores Abbey Distillery and Visitor Center*, is open directly opposite the Abbey ruins. The new distillery incorporates a high quality event venue and offers catering and tours of the distillery and Abbey ruins.



Ruins of Lindores Abbey in Fife

One prominent group of **Lawsons** in Fife at this time were associated with **Lindores Abbey** or were owners of property in the nearby town of Newburgh. The earliest known **Lawson** in Fife is **Richard Lawson**, who in 1470 was a Monk at Lindores Abbey in Abdie Parish (bordering Newburgh Parish) in Fife. His descendants are: **Henry Lawson** (circa 1481-1522), a landowner and witness in Newburgh, Fife; **John Lawson** (1508-1526), who was the Sergeant at Lindores Abbey; **Sir Laurence Lawson** (circa 1490-1542), the Chaplain at Lindores Abbey; **Robert Lawson** (1515-1546), the Notary at Lindores Abbey; and, **John Lawson** (circa 1500-1550) a bailie and a landowner in Newburgh. (Source: *Lindores Abbey and its burgh of Newburgh : their history and annals*, 1876) A *bailie* was a municipal officer and magistrate in Scotland. Finally, in 1678, **James Lawson**, was the *bailie* for Anstruther Easter in Fife (about 10 miles from St Andrews) this is the same location of the **Lawson** Cambo Estate. This James is possibly the son of **James Lawson** of Cairnmuir. **James Lawson** married Isabel Inglis of Perth, the daughter of John Muirhead of Linhouse. James and Isabel had a son named **John Lawson** and daughter **Catheryn Lawson** born 1579, in Perth

**Newburgh** is a royal burgh and parish in Fife. Newburgh's chief businesses were the making of linen, linoleum floor covering, oilskin fabric and quarrying. There was also for many years a net and coble fishery on the Firth Of Tay, mainly for salmon and sea trout. (A coble is a flat-bottomed boat propelled chiefly by oars.) The harbor was used originally for boatbuilding and the unloading and shipment overland of cargoes to Perth from vessels too large to navigate the river. Raw materials for making linoleum such as cork and linseed oil were imported and aggregates from the stone quarry were also shipped from Newburgh. (Source: *The East Neuk Of Fife Its History And Antiquities*, By The Rev. Walter Wood, Edinburgh)

### Lawson of Aberdeen

The first Lawson ancestor in Aberdeen was the **Celtic Abbot Lawrence**. Others include: **Thomas Lawson (Lawsoune)** listed in Register of Burgesses of Guild & Trade of the Burgh of Aberdeen in 1400; **Ady (Andy or Andrew) Lawson** (circa 1385-1425) was a forestaller in Aberdeen in 1402; **John Louson** held land in Aberdeen in 1436; **Thomas Lawson**, son of **John Lawson** is recorded in Council Register V Burgesses of Guild & Trade of the Burgh of Aberdeen in 1444-1445. **Thomas Lawson** is also recorded in Council Register V Burgesses of Guild & Trade of the Burgh of Aberdeen 1445-1446, (at instance of Abbot of Bon-Accord, for his expenses of "*Ly Halibude at the Wyndmyllhill*"); **Robert, William Lauson and Edmund Lauson** are recorded in Council Register V Burgesses of Guild & Trade of the Burgh of Aberdeen 1447-1448; **Robert Louson** married the daughter of William Rede of Colison the burgess recorded in Council Register V Burgesses of Guild & Trade of the Burgh of Aberdeen 1461; **Andrew Lawson** is recorded as a flesher in Council Register VI Burgesses of Guild & Trade of the Burgh of

Aberdeen in 1476 (a flesher is someone who skins and tans hides or pelts); **Thomas Lowson**, married the daughter of a burgess as recorded in Council Register VI Burgesses of Guild & Trade of the Burgh of Aberdeen in 1486; **David Lowson** recorded in Council Register VI Burgesses of Guild & Trade of the Burgh of Aberdeen in 1486; **Andrew Lowson**, is recorded in Council Register VII Burgesses of Guild & Trade of the Burgh of Aberdeen in 1492; and, **David Lowson** recorded in Council Register VII Burgesses of Guild & Trade of the Burgh of Aberdeen in 1496-1497.

### Lawson in Perth/Perthshire

**Reverend James Lawson** (1538-1584) perhaps our most significant ancestor was born in Perth, Scotland. He is the ancestor of the Lawsons on the Isle of Man as well as a descendant of the Lawsons of Humble, Heiriggs, Cairnmuir and the large estate of Cambo in county Fife where he may have been raised. Cambo is about 40 miles east of Perth and Richard may have been born at the home of his mother's family in Perth. Richard Lawson was educated at the local grammar school and attended the University of St. Andrews located very near Cambo. Two major influences on the life of **Reverend James Lawson** were the Scottish Reformation and the reign of King James VI of Scotland. This **James Lawson** would become a leader in the Scottish Presbyterian Kirk and the Scottish Reformation. James would also have difficulties with the government of King James VI interfering with the Kirk. **James Lawson** was also one of the founders of Edinburgh University. (More will be reported on his life later in this work - see page 89)

### The Scottish Reformation

King James VI (1566–1625) was King of Scotland from 1567 and King of England (as James I) from 1603 until his death in 1625. James was the son of Mary, Queen of Scots, and a great-great-grandson of Henry VII, King of England. James succeeded to the Scottish throne at the age of thirteen months, after his mother was compelled to abdicate in his favor. Four different regents governed during his minority, which ended officially in 1578, though he did not gain full control of his government until 1583. In 1603,



James VI, King of Scotland

he succeeded the last Tudor monarch of England, Elizabeth I, who died childless. He continued to reign in both kingdoms for 22 years, a period known as Jacobean era. James died in 1625 at the age of 58. After the Union of the Crowns, he based himself in England and only returned to Scotland once in 1617,

The reigns of Mary, Queen of Scots, and the Regencies of King James VI were times of political intrigue and religious dissent. In the 1500s, Scotland underwent a religious transformation: a Protestant Reformation that created a national Kirk (Church) that became predominantly Presbyterian and severely reduced the power of bishops.



Mary, Queen of Scots

Several factors affected the Scottish Church leading up to the Protestant Reformation. In the late Middle Ages, papal authority collapsed in the Papal Schism (1378–1418). The Scottish church and crown, along with France and other countries, sided with the Avignon Popes, while nations including England and the Holy Roman Empire sided with the Roman popes. The split allowed the Scottish Crown to gain control of major church appointments within the kingdom. The Crown then placed clients and relatives of the king in key positions in the church.



The practice of Crown appointments strengthened royal influence in the Church but it also made the Church vulnerable to criticisms of venality (taking bribes and selling indulgences) and nepotism (favoring relatives). At the same time, there was a decline in traditional monastic life which with the Black Death (the plague) in the 14th century severely affected the number of clergy who could serve parishes in Scotland. Parish clergy became poorly trained and largely drawn from the lower ranks of the population, leading to frequent complaints about their standards of education and abilities. This was one of the major grievances leading up to the Reformation.

The shortage of clergy led to a rise of the new mendicant orders of friars without ties to particular monasteries who were more focused on preaching and ministering, especially in the towns. Protestant ministers also began to reach Scotland in the early fifteenth century. These Protestants preached ideas based on Renaissance humanism that encouraged critical theological reflection and called for reform of the Church, rejected Catholic doctrine and demanded more open access to The Bible and religious thought. To the Catholic church this was heresy.

As early as 1495 some Scots were in contact with humanist scholars who argued strongly for reform of the Catholic Church by the elimination of corruption and abuses. The teachings of Martin Luther and John Calvin influenced Scottish scholars who often studied and taught the new liberal ideologies at Continental and English universities. Humanist scholars were also recruited to the new Scottish universities. These international contacts helped expose Scotland into a wider European scholarly world and were one of the most important ways in which the new ideas of humanism entered Scottish intellectual life. There was also a circle of humanist scholar-reformers at the royal court in the first decade of the sixteenth century.

**1603 Letter to King James VI following the death of Mary Queen of Scots and on the occasion of his ascending to the throne of England**

*And lastly, it may please your majesty to receive this advertisement, that of late there was made ready, by the commandment of the queen our mistress, a good fleet of eight or ten of her ships well manned and furnished under the charge of **Sir Richard Lawson, knight**, to have been employed upon the coast of Spain; which employment by her decease is ceased for want of commission to exercise the same, and now is kept together in the narrow seas to prevent any sudden attempt from the Low Countries. And that now there is nothing either of land or sea that is not yours, it may please your majesty to signify your pleasure concerning that fleet, and whether you will have it or any part thereof resort to your coast of Scotland, where it may serve you, either for the safe convoy of your person to this realm, if there shall be cause to use it in this manner, or to transport any of yours, whilst you come by land, or any other service. In which point we humbly beseech you to make known under whose charge it shall be your pleasure the whole fleet or any part thereof shall come unto you. And . . . with our humble prayers to Almighty God, that we may be so happy as speedily to enjoy the comfortable presence of your highness's royal person amongst us, the only object of that glory and those felicities which in the earth we have proponed to ourselves. Written in your majesty's city of London, the twenty-fourth of March 1603, at ten hours of the clock at night."*

Signed by 34 of the most powerful and influential nobles in England and Scotland

In Scotland the *Reformation* was the process by which Scots broke with the Papacy and rejected the elaborate accouterments of the medieval catholic church. They developed a unique Kirk (the Scots word for national church), which was strongly Presbyterian in outlook. Presbyterian churches are governed by representative assemblies of presbyters or elders. The reformed Scottish Kirk gave considerable power to local lords, who often had control over the appointment of clergy. In this the **Lawson family** would play an important role.

Church was crucial to everyday Scots social life. It was responsible for education, health, welfare and discipline. It was also very important on an individual level. The Church was the vehicle for expressing inner spirituality and changes to its forms of worship could endanger your chances of salvation. In other words, your future in either Heaven or Hell was at stake. The Reformation split the Church into Catholic and



Protestant factions, creating two roads to salvation - both of which claimed to be the one true path. So it was very important to people that the Scottish state chose to travel down the right road.

From the late fifteenth century the ideas of Renaissance humanism, critical of aspects of the established Catholic Church, began to reach Scotland, particularly through the contacts between Scottish and continental scholars. Nevertheless, in the early 16th century, Scotland was a piously Catholic nation. Devotion flourished, but an increasingly educated populace sought more personal forms of spiritual experience. Rome and its doctrines, it seemed, were not always up-to-date with the needs of a nation moving rapidly towards a modern world. Reform was in the air, but only a tiny minority at this stage favored Protestantism and a complete break with Rome. In the 1520s the teachings of Martin Luther began to influence Scotland, enhanced by the propagation of his theories through the printing press. The eastern coastal burghs were the first areas of Scotland exposed to printed Lutheran literature. When Lutheran books in Latin started to appear in Scotland, the radical message which they carried quickly made a strong impression on many Scots, and, although King James V tried to ban their distribution, print always had the knack of avoiding the censor when necessary. Executions of influential Protestant reformers by the Catholic Cardinal in Scotland fueled a growth of interest in Protestant ideas. In 1528 nobleman Patrick Hamilton, who had been influenced by Lutheran theology became the first Protestant martyr in Scotland; he was burned at the stake for heresy. Hamilton's execution inspired so much interest in the new ideas that the Archbishop of St Andrews was warned against any further such public executions as *"the reek [smoke] of Maister Patrik Hammyltoun has infected as many as it blew upon"*. After the execution of Hamilton, the Crown prosecuted some men but there was no systematic persecution like the Inquisition, as King James was not interested in wide-scale bloodletting.



Patrick Hamilton burned at the stake,  
1st Protestant martyr in Scotland

In England, Henry VIII converted to Protestantism and took most of his country with him. At the same time in Scotland, King James V, needed money to support his royal court's extravagant lifestyle but unlike his uncle Henry in England, James avoided major structural and theological changes to the church. Instead after beginning his personal reign in 1528, he cleverly flirted with Protestant ideas in order to extort the Pope into granting him special powers over the church in Scotland. In exchange for his loyalty to Rome, James secured Papal permission to tax monastic incomes which became a substantial source of crown income. James was also allowed to make appointments to offices in the Church. These

largely went to benefit his illegitimate children and favorites. The results of such appointments and taxation undermined both the status and finances of the Church.

In 1542, James V died and his only heir was the infant Mary, Queen of Scots. Scotland plunged into crisis as both Catholic France and Protestant England pursued opportunities to commandeer the Scottish throne through marriage with the young queen. The nation divided between a pro-French faction led by Cardinal Beaton and the Queen's mother, Mary de Guise, of a prominent French noble family; and a pro-English faction, headed by Mary's Regent, the Earl of Arran, who was backed by the small group at court who favored religious reform. In their bitter power struggle over Scotland the issue of Scotland's faith became not merely a question of religious denomination but one of international power politics.

A Parliamentary Act of 1543 removed the prohibition against reading the Bible in the vernacular (the language of ordinary people) as initially the Regency was tolerant of Protestant ideas. However, the Act did restrict the reading of the Bible to clerics, noblemen, the gentry and richer merchants. Women below gentry rank, servants, apprentices and generally poor people were forbidden to read it.

Then a planned marriage between Mary and the son of Henry VIII of England, led to a Catholic backlash in Scotland and a coup led by Cardinal Beaton, as Catholics seized the Regency. The Cardinal repudiated reformist ideas, and ended all consideration of an English marriage for the Queen, angering the English.

Then in 1546, George Wishart, a Protestant preacher was arrested and burnt at the stake in St. Andrews on the orders of Cardinal Beaton. Wishart's supporters, including a number of local Lords, assassinated Beaton and seized St. Andrews Castle, which they held for a year before they were defeated with the help of French forces. The survivors were all condemned to serve as galley slaves in France, creating martyrs for the Protestant cause. Among those enslaved was John Knox (circa 1513–1572), a Scottish minister, theologian, and writer who would become the most prominent leader in the Scottish reformation and a founder of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

In 1549, after 19 months at the oars of a French galley, John Knox managed to escape and began life in exile: first as a minister in England, and then in Frankfurt and Geneva where he would preach to exiled English congregations. While in exile, Knox was licensed to work in the Church of England, where he rose in the ranks to serve King Edward VI of England as a royal chaplain. When Mary Tudor ascended the throne of England and reestablished Roman Catholicism, Knox was forced to resign and leave the country. He then moved to Geneva where met John Calvin, from whom he gained experience and knowledge of Reformed theology and Presbyterian governance. For most of the 1550s Knox stayed in exile, however, once the Reformation crisis broke in 1559 he returned home to Scotland.

A series of English invasions from 1547-1549, tried to compel a marriage of young Mary to Henry's son. The invading English armies occupied southeastern Scotland and encouraged the reformist cause by distributing Protestant books, literature and Bibles. An increasing number of lairds and nobles began to favor reform and several earls pledged themselves *"to cause the word of God to be taught and preached"*.

To counter the English, Catholic Scots secured French help, the price of which was the betrothal of the infant Queen Mary to the French dauphin (the heir to the French throne), the future King Francis II. Mary departed to France in 1548, where she was raised and educated. In 1549, the English were defeated by the Scots with French help and Mary married the French Dauphin. In Scotland the queen's mother, Mary de Guise, herself the daughter of a prominent French noble family, began serving as Regent.

At this point, the English policies to influence Scotland waned and French influence rose over the next decade under the regency of Mary de Guise (1554–60). As regent, the Queen's mother worked to ensure French predominance in Scottish affairs. She put Frenchmen in charge of the treasury and the French ambassador sometimes attended the Privy Council. At first Mary de Guise cultivated a policy of limited toleration of Protestants, hoping to gain their support for her pro-French policies and against England. The Church responded to some of the criticisms being made against it with a series of provincial councils. These blamed growing Protestant heresies on the Church's own problems: *"the corruption of morals and the profane lewdness of life in churchmen of all ranks, together with crass ignorance of literature and of the liberal arts"*. In 1548, attempts were made to reform the catholic church by addressing many of the problems and particularly prohibit unqualified persons from holding church offices. Further, the clergy were enjoined to scriptural reflection with bishops and parsons instructed to preach at least four times a year. Monks were to be sent to university, and theologians appointed at each monastery, college, and cathedral. But by 1552, it was acknowledged that little had been accomplished. Attendance at Mass was still sparse and *"the inferior clergy of this realm and the prelates have not, for the most part, attained such proficiency in the knowledge of the Holy Scriptures as to be able by their own efforts rightly to instruct the people in the Catholic faith and other things necessary to salvation or to convert the erring."*



Mary de Guise



Preaching at a coventicle

Protestantism continued to expand in this period and became more distinct from those who simply wanted minor reform within the existing church. Originally organized as *conventicles* that consisted of members of a laird's family or kin group who met to discuss and learn Protestant ideas but who also continued to attend the Catholic Church. Protestants began to develop a series of privy kirks (secret churches), whose members increasingly turned away from existing church structures. Their scope and organization was sufficient in 1555 for John Knox to return to Scotland. He administered Protestant communions and carried out a preaching tour of the privy kirks. He urged the members to reject holding Protestant convictions, but attending Catholic services. Fearing for his safety, Knox returned to Geneva in 1556.

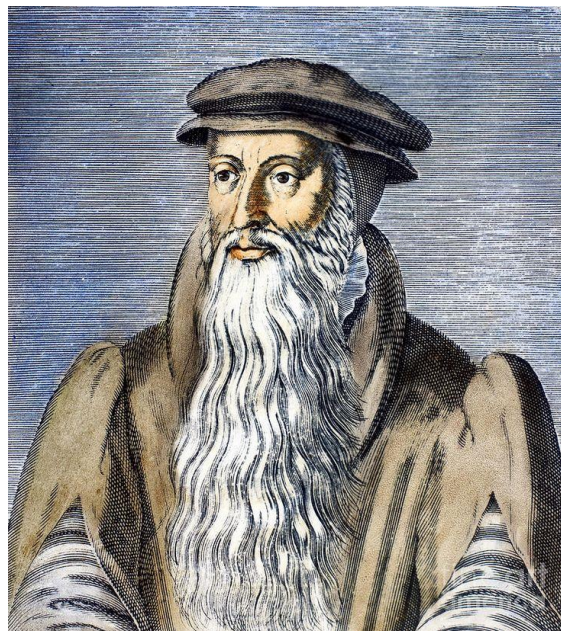
Limited toleration and the influence of exiled Scots Protestants in other countries, led to the expansion of Protestantism. In the absence of a leading clerical figure like John Knox, local leadership of the movement passed to the few nobles who had embraced Protestantism. This group, known as the *"Lords of the Congregation"*, was a direct challenge to the existing Catholic regime.



Continuing hope for reform of the existing church had helped keep Scotland politically unified. But the marriage of Mary Queen of Scots to the dauphin in 1558 raised fears that Scotland would become a French province. The cause of Scottish reformers was also given new hope by the crowning of the English Protestant Queen Elizabeth in 1558.

In 1559, John Knox returned to Scotland to lead the Protestant Reformation in Scotland, in partnership with the Scottish Protestant nobility. He helped write the new confession of faith and promoted the ecclesiastical order for the newly created reformed church, the Kirk. Led by Knox, reformers achieved a settlement that adopted a Presbyterian system and rejected most of the elaborate trappings of the Medieval church.

A series of local reformations followed, with Protestant minorities gaining control of various regions and burghs, often with the support of local lairds. They used intimidation to "cleanse" friaries and churches and then appoint Protestant preachers but avoided creating Catholic martyrs. Mary de Guise responded by dispatching a French army to St. Andrews to restore control, but it was faced with superior numbers and they were forced to retreat. Edinburgh fell to the Lords of the Congregation; however, the arrival of French reinforcements of 1,800 men forced the Lords to abandon the capital. The Lords appealed for help from England and Mary from France but it all ended quickly when Mary de Guise fell ill and died. In 1560, the French and English signed the Treaty of Edinburgh and both nations removed their troops from Scotland, leaving the Protestant Lords in control of the country. The Lords agreed to accept Mary Queen of Scots and her husband, Francis II of France, as monarchs and were given permission to hold a parliament, although it was not to touch the issue of religion.



John Knox

The Scottish Parliament met in Edinburgh. Fourteen earls, six bishops, nineteen lords, twenty-one abbots, twenty-two burgh commissioners, and over a hundred lairds, claimed the right to sit. Ignoring the provisions of the Treaty of Edinburgh, it passed three Acts that abolished the old Catholic faith in Scotland. All previous acts not in conformity with the Reformed Confession were annulled and the sacraments were reduced to two (Baptism and Communion) to be performed by reformed preachers only. The celebration of the Mass was made punishable by a series of penalties (ultimately death) and Papal jurisdiction in Scotland was repudiated.

Also in 1560, Mary's husband Francis II died and Mary, now 19, returned to Scotland to take up the government. All factions agreed that she was the only person who could legally join in Catholic services and Mary pledged not attempt to re-impose Catholicism on her subjects, thus angering the chief Catholic nobles. She did however decline to endorse the acts that Parliament had passed making the new Kirk of questionable legality.

Mary's six-year personal reign was marred by a series of crises, largely caused by the intrigues and rivalries of the leading nobles. Ultimately, opposition to her by a coalition of powerful Scottish nobles

led to her capture and imprisonment. In 1567, Mary was forced to abdicate in favor of her 13-month-old son James VI, whose government was initially run by a series of regents until the King asserted his independence in 1581. After her abdication, Mary was exiled to England.

Supporters of exiled Queen Mary attempted to regain the throne by force in a civil war (1568–1573) against the Regency government. Edinburgh Castle, which was garrisoned by Mary's allies, became the focus of the conflict and surrendered only after English intervention, ending the civil conflict. In England, Mary became a focal point for Catholic conspirators. She was eventually executed for treason in 1587, on the orders of her cousin Queen Elizabeth I.

Throughout the reign of Mary Queen of Scots, John Knox continued to serve as the religious leader of the Protestants. In several interviews with the Queen, Knox admonished her for supporting Catholic practices and when she was imprisoned, Knox openly called for her execution. He continued to preach until his final days. Before his death, John Knox personally selected **Rev. James Lawson** as his successor.

**Reverend James Lawson (1538-1584)** was born in Perth, Scotland and he was educated at Perth grammar school and then attended the University of St. Andrews where he was a classmate and friend of Andrew Melville who some call the father of Scottish Presbyterianism and future reformer of the Universities of Glasgow and St Andrews. Lawson rose quickly to become a leader of the Scottish Reformation and a founder of the Presbyterian Church as well as the University of Edinburgh.



Rev. James Lawson

In 1559, **James Lawson** was employed as a tutor and guardian for John Lindsay and his elder brother David Lindsay, the sons of the Earl of Crawford, who were sent to pursue their studies in France. While in Paris **James Lawson** found time to study Hebrew and other early languages of the Bible at Paris University. **Lawson** and the Lindsay boys also toured the Continent. Unfortunately, 1560 was the time of the *Amboise Conspiracy*, a failed attempt by Huguenot Protestants to gain power in France by abducting the young king Francis II and arresting the Duke of Guise and his brother, the Cardinal of Lorraine. It was one of the events directly leading up to the *Wars of Religion* that divided France from 1562 to 1598 and immediately led to a purge of Protestants in Paris. The religious strife in Paris forced **Lawson** and the Lindsays to flee from Paris with little warning, leaving their books behind them, and with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. They first took refuge at first at Dieppe, but when the conflict reached that town, they fled across the Channel to England. Ultimately they ended up in London where Lawson continued his studies at the University of Cambridge. (Source: *The Scottish nation : or, The surnames, families, literature, honours, and biographical history of the people of Scotland, (Volume 1)*, by William Anderson, 1859)

In 1568, **James Lawson** was appointed Professor of Languages at St Mary's College of the University of St. Andrews. His primary job was to teach Hebrew. Before this time, Hebrew was unknown in Scotland. By the time of his returned to his native country, **Rev. Lawson** had already been indoctrinated in the



principles of Presbyterianism, perhaps even from his youthful association with Andrew Melville, an early leader in the Church. In 1569, he was appointed sub-principal of King's College at the University of Aberdeen and he was also elected canon (parish priest) of *Old Machar* parish in Aberdeen. At that time the university was a famous center for learning, and zealously attached to the reformed principles of the Presbyterian Church. **Rev. James Lawson** soon established himself as a recognized leader of the reformed clergy in the north of Scotland and developed into one of the most trusted confidants of John Knox.

The Reformation ministers in Scotland were men of substantial education, and the standard of collegiate learning in the Scottish Universities was high. The many improvements and extensions introduced by the reform ministers in the collegiate system of Scotland later proved a potent weapon for the overthrow of Popery in Scotland. Along with his duties as professor, **Rev. James Lawson** was minister of Old Machar, the primary parish of Aberdeen. He is said to have been "*an eloquent preacher, learned and chaste in his diction*". When we see that he was called to Edinburgh to succeed John Knox, we may be sure he was no ordinary preacher or scholar. This is confirmed by John Knox himself serving as **James Lawson's** chief promoter.

King James VI of Scotland was 13 month old when he was crowned King of Scotland on the occasion of the abdication of Mary Queen of Scots. The sermon at the coronation was preached by John Knox. In accordance with the religious beliefs of most of the Scottish ruling class, James was brought up as a member of the Protestant Church of Scotland, the Kirk. A succession of different tutors and regents raised James and governed during his minority. The most effective of the regents was James Douglas, 4th Earl of Morton from 1572 to 1581. The minority of King James VI ended officially in 1578, though he did not gain full control of his government until 1583.

By 1572, John Knox was 59 years old, ailing and his health was rapidly deteriorating from years of battle and the effects of life as a galley slave. Knox reported feeling "*nature so decayed*" that he looked "*not for a long continuance*". He summoned **James Lawson** from Aberdeen to Edinburgh for a special conference (Source: Knox letter is in Calderwood, iii.). At their meeting, Knox handpicked **Lawson** to serve as his colleague and share ministry of St. Giles Church in Edinburgh until his death and then succeed him as chief minister of Edinburgh the most prestigious position in the Reformed Church. Knox officiated with great difficulty at **Lawson's** induction and told the congregation of St. Giles his "*last good night.*"

(**James Lawson** is the author of the account of Knox's last illness, "*Eximii Viri Johannis Knoxii, Scoticanæ ecclesiæ Instauratoris Fidelissimi, vera extremæ vitæ et obitus Historia, a Pio quodam, et Docto Viro descripta, qui ad extremum usque spiritum segrotanti assedit.*" An English translation is published in Appendix to Knox's "Works" vi.)



John Knox walks home after his final sermon aided by James Lawson

On Knox's death, **Rev. James Lawson** was appointed Superintendent of Lothian, the chief Minister of Edinburgh, arguably the most prestigious position in the Reformed Church. The office of superintendent was instituted in the Presbyterian Church, owing to the lack of qualified ministers at this time. In no respect was this office to resemble the lordly rule of an Episcopal bishop. The duty of the superintendent was to see that the people were provided with qualified ministers, or to appoint "*readers*". A reader's work was to visit the sick and read the *Word of God* in the houses of the people,

or in the church on Sundays when there was no minister. The superintendents were always ministers, eminent in learning, and of a leading position in the affairs of the Church.

**Rev. James Lawson** was now one of the recognized leaders of the Kirk. He was elected the moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly of 1580 and served on most of its committees. **Lawson** also began to take on a prominent role in the disputes of the Kirk with the civil authorities and actively encouraged a policy of intolerance toward interference with affairs of the Kirk. *"But if he was now raised to the highest honor that his Presbyterian brethren could confer upon him, he was in due time called to suffer for the principles that he loved and refuse to compromise."*

Then in 1580, the Assembly met in Dundee with **Rev. James Lawson** elected Moderator. Through his influence a resolution was passed stating in part that the office of bishop was neither founded, grounded, nor warranted within the Scriptures. It was ordained that all the Bishops of Scotland were enjoined to cease from all preaching, ministering the sacraments, and should seek readmission as simple pastors, under pain of excommunication. Although not formally ratified, the impact of this act of the Assembly became known in the Church as the *Book of Discipline, or the Policy and Discipline of the Church*.

With his new role in the Church of Edinburgh, **Rev. Lawson** moved immediately to promote the extension and improvement of education in the grammar schools in Edinburgh, and through his efforts new buildings were erected, and a large library collected for those schools. In 1578, a High Grammar School was completed in the place of a ruined monastery. The courses were taught in private classes focused on exercising logic and understanding philosophy (Source: *Life of Knox*, by Dr. MacCrie, Edinburgh, 1840; and *A history of Edinburgh : from the earliest period to the completion of the half century, 1850*)

The Humanist idea to widen educational opportunities was a principle shared by Protestant reformers. The plan was for a school in every parish, but this proved financially impossible; so, in the burghs old schools were maintained but divided into reformed grammar schools and ordinary parish schools. Support for education was through a combination of Kirk funds, contributions from local Lords or burgh councils and whatever parents that could pay. Kirk sessions oversaw the quality of teaching and doctrinal purity. Scotland's universities underwent a series of reforms. Emphasis was placed on simplified logic, with languages and sciences raised to the same status as philosophy. Accepted ideas in all areas could be challenged. New teaching specialists replaced the old system of "*regenting*", where one tutor took the students through an entire curriculum. Student enrollment grew in large numbers. The result of these changes was a revitalization of all Scottish universities, which were now producing a quality of education the equal of that offered anywhere in Europe.



St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh

**Lawson** also became the chief advocate to establish a university in Edinburgh. In 1567, Mary, Queen of Scots, signed a charter granting the Town of Edinburgh all the lands, buildings, and revenues formerly belonging to the monastic orders abolished during the Scottish Reformation of 1560. The Charter stipulated that these properties were to be used for the support of the city's clergy, the poor and for educational purposes and it empowered the Town Council to build schools and colleges on the sites and grounds of the former religious houses. **Lawson** and his allies sought to use the site occupied by the church of St Mary in the Fields, or the *Kirk o' Field*, to serve as the new university in Edinburgh.

Funds for this purpose were bequeathed by Bishop Robert Reid, Bishop of Orkney, but little progress was made because of political and religious conflicts. Edinburgh was a battlefield for competing religious and political factions during the five-year civil war that followed the abdication of Mary Queen of Scots in 1568. When peace was restored in 1573, moves were finally made to open a college of higher learning. This relatively peaceful period after five years of Civil War allowed **James Lawson** to aggressively pursue his vision to create what would essentially be a theological college designed to combat the Catholic teaching of continental seminaries. Through **Lawson's** influence, the Town Council of Edinburgh successfully negotiated the purchase of Kirk o' Field as a site for the University (1581), and petitioned the Privy Council to force the executors of Bishop Reid's estate to release funding for the purchase.

The University of Edinburgh developed out of public lectures that were established in the town in the 1540s on law, Greek, Latin and philosophy, under the patronage of Mary de Guise. The University of Edinburgh was established following a Royal Charter in 1582. It was originally called *Tounis College*, established by **James Lawson** with part of a legacy left by Robert Reid, Abbot of Kinloss and later Bishop of Orkney, who left a sufficient endowment in his will for the foundation of what would become Edinburgh University. It is generally accepted that the name of Tounis comes from the name Antoine, in its Occitan form *Touni*, because of the presence of a very old oratory dedicated to Saint Anthony, and a port which was also called Saint-Antoine. The hypothesis that the island was named after the city of Tunis by former soldiers returning from the Crusades is legendary. (Source: *Oure Tounis Colledge: Sketches of the History of the Old College of Edinburgh*, By John Harrison)

**Rev. James Lawson** also played a vital role in securing the service of the university's first Regent (and subsequently first Principal) in 1582. He was an intimate friend of Robert Rollock, the first principal of Edinburgh University. And it was at the pressing solicitation of **James Lawson** that Rollock left St. Andrews, where he was Professor of Philosophy, and came to Edinburgh as principal in the new University.

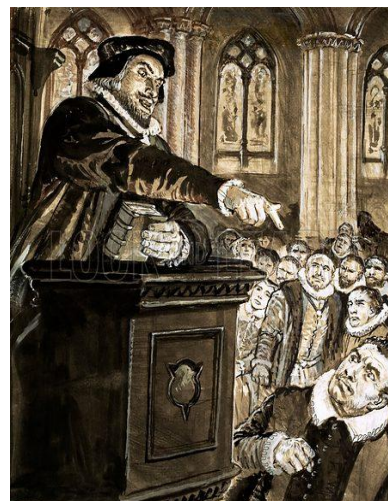
A year after the opening of the University, **Lawson** was forced to quit Edinburgh for exile in England. A staunch defender of the autonomy of the church, he was closely associated with the Ultra-Protestant regime which followed the "*Ruthven Raid*" of 1582. This was a political conspiracy in Scotland composed of several Presbyterian nobles, led by William Ruthven, 1st Earl of Gowrie, who abducted King James VI of Scotland and held him prisoner for almost a year. The nobles intended to reform the government of Scotland and limit the influence of French and pro-Catholic policy, and to prevent, or at least manage, the return of Mary, Queen of Scots from England. Their regime favored an ultra-Protestant policy and was approved by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and by influential ministers of the Kirk who voiced support from the pulpit. The regime fell with the escape of King James in 1583.

Around this time, the government of King James VI began to interfere with the rights and liberties of the Presbyterian Church of Scotland. Although the King was raised a Protestant, events in his life caused him to resist Presbyterianism and strongly supported episcopacy. James was never at heart a true Protestant

and personally had a weak but stubborn disposition. The King soon became a tool of Catholic leaning Scottish nobles to interfere with the Presbyterian Church. This culminated in the virtual overthrow of Kirk liberties by the Scottish Parliament of 1584.

The down turn for the Presbyterian Kirk began in 1581, when catholic conspirators, the Earl of Arran and Duke of Lennox, managed to overthrow the Earl of Morton, the King's regent and Leader of the Lords of Congregation. The Duke of Lennox pretended to be a supporter of the Presbyterians but when he came to power he soon disappointed the Presbyterian hopes. The reformist ministers had begun to suspect that Lennox and Arran were clandestinely working with the Guises and the Papacy and scheming to kidnap young King James VI and convert him to Catholicism. **Lawson** attended to Morton after his arrest and before his execution on a false accusation that he was responsible for the murder of Queen Mary's husband Lord Darnley. **Lawson** then became one of their most persistent critics of Lennox and Arran.

In 1584, the *Black Acts* (also called the Blade Acts) were laws passed by Parliament under Lennox and Arran that interfered with jurisdiction of the Kirk. The Acts condemned Presbyteries, confirmed the power of the Bishops, said that the king had power over all things (even religion) and gave him the right to decide when General Assemblies were held. When the acts were passed, the reformist ministers weren't happy. In 1584, **Rev. James Lawson** denounced the *Black Acts* from the pulpit. **Lawson** was well known for his uncompromising resistance to the schemes of the government of King James to reestablish the power of bishops, contrary to the determination of the Kirk. Prior to a General Assembly called for this purpose, King James VI sent word to the magistrates to seize and imprison any ministers who would speak against the proceedings of Parliament. **Rev. James Lawson** and his colleague Walter Balcanquhall were not daunted. They both not only preached from the pulpit against the acts of Parliament, but they later appeared at the Merket Cross where the heralds were proclaiming the Act, and publicly protested. They also filed charges in the name of the Kirk of Scotland against the Parliament as they "*prejudiced the former liberties of the Kirk.*"



Rev. James Lawson  
denounces the *Black Acts*  
from the pulpit of St. Giles



James Stewart,  
1st Earl of Arran

The Earl of Arran then vowed that "*if Mr. **James Lawson's** head were as great as an haystack he would cause it leap from its hawse (neck)*". (Calderwood, iv. 65). Arrangements were made for his arrest, but **Lawson** was alerted and escaped to Berwick on the English border. He then fled with fellow reformer Walter Balcanquhall to London as both men sought to avoid arrest. When their flight became known an act was passed by the King's privy council declaring that **Lawson** and Balcanquhall had abandon "*their duties and professions*" and appointed other ministers to preach in their place. (Sources: *Reg. Privy Council Scotland*, iii.; and *Memorials of Edinburgh in the olden time*, by Sir Daniel Wilson, 1816-1892)

The turn of events seriously affected the health of **Rev. Lawson**, and he "*waisted his vitall spirits by peece meale*". **Rev. James Lawson** died at the age of 46 in London of dysentery on October 12, 1584. Even though London was not his home, **Rev. James Lawson** was so well known that over 500 people attended his funeral as he was buried in the new churchyard at Belem, beside another famous preacher



in England, a Mr. Deering. His will and testament has been preserved in *The history of the Kirk of Scotland* by David Calderwood (1575-1650).

After his death a forged false testament was presented in his name by Bishop Adamson, in which he is represented as repenting of his opposition to Catholicism. (Sources: Knox's Works; *The history of the Kirk of Scotland* by David Calderwood. ; Richard Bannatyne's Memorials ; Register Privy Council Scotl. vol. iii. ; Hew Scott's Fasti Eccles. Scot. i. 4, Hi. 483; Life in Selections from Wodrow's Biog. Collections, pp. 193-235 New Spalding Club, 1890)

In response the wives of **Revs. Lawson** and Balcanquhall addressed a long joint public letter of rebuke to the Bishop of St. Andrews, in which they likened him to Chaucer's cook, who "*skadded' (i.e. scalded) his 'lips in other men's caile (i.e. women)'*". (letter is printed in Calderwood, iv. 126-41) Not long afterwards the magistrates were charged to dislodge the ladies from their dwellings in Edinburgh. This act most likely prompted **James Lawson's** wife, **Janet Guthrie Lawson**, to return to Perth with her children.

After the death of **Rev. James Lawson**, an anti-Presbyterian purge of the Edinburgh Town Council ensured that his vision of a reformist theological seminary would not be implemented. In fact, for years efforts to grow the college stalled.

Then King James moved to remake the College into a university and take full credit. In 1617, King James visited Scotland for the first time since assuming the throne of England. He invited the professors and regents of the College to engage in a debate with him at Stirling Castle. James was so pleased with this exercise that he stated:

*"I will be godfather to the Colledge [sic] of Edinburgh, and have it called the Colledge of King James; for, after the founding of it had been stopped for sundry years in my minority, so soon as I came to any knowledge I zealously held hand to it, and caused it be established; and although I see many look upon it with an evil eye, yet I will have them to know, that having given it this name, I have espoused its quarrell."*



In conformity with the King's wishes, an Act of the Scottish Parliament in 1621, ordained that the College would be designated "*King James's College*". It also gave the Town Council and "*the rectouris, regents, bursaries, and studentis*" all the liberties, immunities, and privileges of a free college "*and that in als ample forme and lairge manner as anye Colledge he or bruikis within this his Majesties realme*".



While King James doubtless exaggerated his personal responsibility for establishing Edinburgh University (elsewhere he writes that "*we gave the first being and beginning there to*"), he is rightly remembered as a founder, along with Bishop Robert Reid whose Will provided funds to establish a college, and **Rev. James Lawson** whose drive and vision got the project started. Historians deservedly recognize **Lawson** as the University's most tireless promoter. According to Sir Alexander Grant, Edinburgh University's most authoritative historian, **James Lawson** is "*the man to whom, above all others, the foundation of the University of Edinburgh is due*".

Perhaps less well known is **Rev. Lawson's** role as the university's first librarian. Among the many personal friends working with **Lawson** on his scheme to establish a university in Edinburgh was Clement Litill. Litill was the wealthy son of an Edinburgh merchant and burgher who had studied at the same schools as Lawson and became a prominent legal counselor and advocate. The two were natural friends and allies. While working together to find a suitable site for the University and create its curriculum, Litill died. In his will, he bequeathed his library of 276 volumes to the Kirk of Edinburgh for the use of the town's clergy, divinity students, and other scholars. His brother, William Litill, the sole executor, persuaded the Town Council that Clement had wished his bequest to form the nucleus of a public theological library, accessible not only to the clergy of Edinburgh but to divinity students and all legitimate scholars. It was agreed that the collection should be housed in the minister's (**James Lawson's**) lodging adjoining the Church of St Giles and access to the books controlled by the minister himself. The attic of this building was converted to provide shelf space and a reading room, and in October 1580, the books were handed over to **James Lawson**, who became *ex officio* librarian of Litill's collection.

When Edinburgh University finally opened in October 1583, fear of provoking the notoriously fiery **James Lawson** may have prevented the Town Council from suggesting that Litill's library be immediately transferred to the university's premises at Kirk o' Field. But with a change in political regime and **Lawson's** forced flight to England with his ultimately fatal illness, the Town Council felt sufficiently emboldened to transfer all of the books and library fittings to the university 1584. The act making the Minister of St Giles perpetual custodian was annulled, and the Principal of the College was made *ex officio* librarian. Despite a formal protest from **Lawson's** successor, the Rev. James Hamilton, Litill's bequest now constituted the founding collection of Edinburgh University Library.

(Sources: "**Lawson, James** (1538–1584)", by James Kirk, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. Oxford University Press, 2004; *The Story of the University of Edinburgh during its First Three Hundred Years*, by Sir Alexander Grant, London: Longmans, Green, and Co., 1884; "The Foundation of the College of Edinburgh", by Robert Kerr Hannay, in *The History of the University of Edinburgh 1883-1933*, ed. A. Logan Turner, Edinburgh, 1933; *Clement Litill and his Library: The Origins of Edinburgh University Library*, by Charles P. Finlayson, Edinburgh, 1980; "The Creation of a College", by Michael Lynch in *The University of Edinburgh: An Illustrated History*, by Robert D. Anderson, Michael Lynch, and Nicholas Phillipson, Edinburgh University Press, 2003)

James had a sister **Christian Lawson** who is named in his will and to whom he leaves money. **Rev. James Lawson** married Janet Guthrie and they had three children who were of a young age at the time of his death: a son, **James Lawson**, and daughters, **Mary Katherine Lawson** and **Elizabeth Lawson**. (Sources: *Will of Rev. James Lawson*; and, "Collections upon the Life of Mr. James Lawson, sub-Principal of the College of Aberdeen and Minister at Edinburgh", in *Selections from Wodrow's Biographical Collections: Divines of the North-east of Scotland*, by Robert Wodrow, 1890) "*By his wife Janet Guthrie he left three children.*" (Source: "**Lawson, James** (1538-1580)", in the *Dictionary of National Biography 1815-1980*, Vol. 32)

**Janet Guthrie Lawson** had two brothers, Alexander Guthrie and another unnamed brother who was a teacher at the Academy in London who housed and cared for Andrew Melville, the uncle of James

Melville, after his release from 4 years of imprisonment in the Tower of London. **Janet Guthrie Lawson** has a seal described as follows: "*Guthrie, Janet; relict of Mr. James Lawson, minister of Edinburgh. 1st and 4th: Three garbs. 2nd and 3rd: A lion rampant. Legend (Caps.): S' IONETE GVTHRE. Diam. 1 1/4 in. Crawford Ch. A.D. 1586, Laing, ii. 459, B.M. 16306.*" (Source: *Scottish armorial seals* by William Rae Macdonald, 1904)

**James Lawson of Perth** (circa 1570-1634) is our direct line ancestor who emigrated to the Isle of Man circa 1600 and established the Isle of Man line of our Lawson family. In 1602 James Lawson was served as heir to his grandfather Robert Lawson of Humbie to the lands of Wansyde, Haddingtonshire, plus a tenement of land in the burgh of Haddington. Humbie is in Haddingtonshire. (Source: *Retours of Service for Haddingtonshire, no.35.*) This James Lawson has a seal described as follows: "*James, son of master James Lawson, minister of St. Giles Church, Edinburgh. Two crescents in chief, and a star in base. Foliage at top and sides of shield. Legend (Caps.): S • IACOBI • LOVSSOVN. Diam. 1 3/8 in. Crawford Ch. A.D. 1586, Laing, ii. 608, fig., B.M. 16560.*" (Source: *Scottish armorial seals* by William Rae Macdonald, 1904; and, *Ancient Scottish Seals*, by Henry Laing)

**Mary Katherine Lawson** (1579-??) daughter of **Rev. James Lawson**, was the second wife of Rev. Patrick Galloway (circa 1551–1626) a minister at Perth and Edinburgh and a Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Rev. Galloway was suspected of being privy to the plot of the *Ruthven Raid* of 1582, where a group of powerful Protestant Scottish nobles kidnapped King James VI and held him prisoner for about a year. In 1584, the Earl of Arran ordered his arrest but he hid and ultimately fled to London. In 1585, he was allowed to return to his church in Perth. In 1589-90 he left Perth to assume charge as Minister of the King's House. In the year 1601, although he was staunch supporter of the King, he was nevertheless removed from court at the Queen's instance. He was a Minister of Parliament in 1590, and served on commissions connected with Church affairs in 1592, 1596, and 1606; he was elected Moderator of the General Assembly in 1590 and 1602.

The son of **Mary Katherine Lawson** and Rev. Patrick Galloway was Sir James Galloway of Carnbee, Fife, who was created the 1st Lord Dunkeld in 1645 and who was the Master of Requests to King James VI and King Charles I and was also a member of their Privy Councils. In 1645 Sir James Galloway was created Lord Dunkeld. In 1670 he purchased the estate of Nether Carnbee from William Ord, Sheriff-Clerk of Perth, who acquired it from the Moncreiff family. Nether Carnbee is a village and rural parish in the inland part of the East Neuk of Fife, Scotland. (Sources: *The Scottish nation, or, The surnames, families, literature, honours, and biographical history of the people of Scotland*, Volume 2, by William Anderson, 1877; "Galloway, Patrick", *Dictionary of National Biography, 1885-1900, Volume 20*, by Alexander Gordon; *History of the Kirk of Scotland*, by Calderwood, 1842-9; *Ecclesiastical History of Scotland*, by George Grub, 1861; and, *Scottish Nation*, by Anderson, 1870)

**Elizabeth Lawson** (circa 1570-1615) Daughter of **Rev. James Lawson**. Elizabeth married Rev. George Greir, second minister of Haddington. (Sources: Record of Presbytery of Haddington, January 26, 1603; and, "*Testament of Elizabeth Lawsons*", in *Commissary Record of Edinburgh*, April 5, 1615)

**Rev. James Lawson** was thought by many in the Kirk of this time to be the man who was a pattern for ministers in every age of the Church. Learned, humble, and devout, he sustained with all constancy and consistency Presbyterian principles when many of his fellow ministers gave up those principles when intimidated by the king. Although as an ecclesiastic, Lawson was more conscientious rather than enlightened, he had a sincere love of learning and literature. One historian says of **James Lawson**:

*"He was an opposer of the bishops all his days, and who for his opposition to them, and to evil courses then in hand, was banished, and died suffering for the good cause."*

James Melville described him as:

*"A man of singular learning, zeal, and eloquence, whom I never heard preach, but he melted my heart with tears."*

**Rev. James Lawson** is one of the few men that were martyred for the principles of Presbyterianism. Yet the end result the struggle of **Rev. James Lawson** and his compatriot reformers was that from 1584 until 1592, the Scottish church was run as a mixture of Presbyterianism and Episcopalianism. King James VI rejected the independence of the Kirk, or its right to interfere in government. He used his powers to call the General Assemblies of the Kirk whenever and wherever he wanted, limiting the ability of more radical clergy to attend. He paid for moderate clergy to attend and manipulated Assembly business in order to limit the independence of the Kirk. By the end of his reign there were 11 bishops and diocesan episcopacy had been restored, although there was still strong support for Presbyterianism within the Kirk.

### **The Legacy of Reverend James Lawson**

In the 1560s the majority of the population in Scotland was probably still Catholic in persuasion but the Kirk began a gradual process of conversion. This was conducted with little persecution compared with reformations elsewhere. The Kirk avoided negative condemnations of Catholicism, focusing instead on setting out the new faith in simple language. The focus was placed on the parish church as the centre of worship. The Calvinist Kirk rejected ornamentation in places of worship with no need for elaborate buildings. This resulted in widespread destruction of Medieval church ornaments and icons. Many monasteries and cathedrals were abandoned. New churches were built and existing churches adapted for reformed services by placing the pulpit centrally in the church, as preaching was now the center of worship.

Although officially illegal, Roman Catholicism survived in parts of Scotland but Church hierarchy played only a small role and the initiative was left to lay leaders. Where nobles or local lairds offered protection, Roman Catholicism continued to thrive. However, as the Reformation took over church structures and assets, any recovery by the Catholic hierarchy was extremely difficult. After the collapse of Queen Mary's cause and the elimination of French influence, hope for a national restoration of the old Roman Catholic faith in Scotland ended. The Catholic Church itself soon came to view Scotland only as a mission area.

The Reformation resulted in major changes in Scottish society. These included schools in every parish and major reforms of the university system. And, the Kirk became the subject of national pride and many Scots saw their country as a new Israel: *"the elect of all nations, realms, nations, tongues, Jews and Gentiles"*.

The Reformation transformed religious observance. Scottish Protestantism focused on the Bible, which was seen as an infallible source of moral authority. Salvation was by God's grace alone and required living a good life. The Church could not grant forgiveness or salvation, but Kirk sessions could apply religious sanctions, such as excommunication and denial of baptism, to enforce godly behavior and obedience. The many holy days and festivals of the Catholic Church with the occasional observance of the Mass were replaced by a single holy day, Sunday and regular attendance was required. Latin was abandoned in favor of the common language of the people. Congregational psalm singing replaced the elaborate trained choirs of the Roman church. Pulpits were placed centrally in the church, as preaching was at the centre of worship. Emphasis was on the Bible and the sermon (often an hour or longer), however, for the many parishes without a minister the service was lay people reading psalms, prayers and passages from the Bible.

The *Geneva Bible* was widely adopted. This version of the Bible is significant because, for the very first time, a mechanically printed, mass-produced Bible was made available directly to the general public which came with a variety of scriptural study guides and aids which included verse citations that allow the reader to cross-reference one verse with numerous relevant verses in the rest of the Bible. Each book of the Bible had an introduction that summarized the material that it covered with maps, tables, woodcut illustrations and indices.

In 1567, the General Assembly of the Kirk met in Edinburgh and again endorsed the legislation of 1560 Parliament. They then laid out a program of reform that included better support for the ministry, new resources and manpower for the parishes, a purge of teachers in the universities and schools, and a closer relationship with parliament. At the end of the year, Parliament met and ratified all of these acts. The subsequent religious settlement would be worked out during the 1570s against a background of civil war and unstable regencies.

The loss of national standing that Scots suffered by the union of the crowns of Scotland and England in the United Kingdom of Britain during the reign of King James VI in 1603, may have led them to stress their religious achievements. The Kirk that claimed to represent all of Scotland was a source of national pride that was often compared with the less clearly reformed church in England. A theology developed that saw the kingdom in a covenant with God. Many Scots saw their country as a new Israel and themselves as a holy people engaged in a struggle between the forces of Christ and the Antichrist, the latter being identified with the resurgent papacy and the Roman Catholic Church. This view was reinforced by events elsewhere such as the French massacres of Protestants, the Inquisition and the religious wars on the continent. The rise of popular printing also made dissemination of Protestant ideas easier.

King James VI and his son Charles I, tried to get the Scottish Kirk to accept English Anglicanism. Charles introduced an English style Prayer Book into the Scottish Kirk in 1637 which resulted in widespread rioting. The next year a General Assembly of the national Kirk formally expelled Scottish bishops and established a fully Presbyterian church.

Tensions between England and Scotland and Protestants and Catholics remained high for years. Charles tried to raise an army of Irish Catholics but a storm of protest in England and Scotland forced him to back down. Eventually, a series of civil wars engulfed England, Ireland and Scotland. Scottish allegiances switched back and forth. Oliver Cromwell executed Charles I and occupied Scotland for a time, but by 1660 Cromwell had died, his regime collapsed and Charles II was crowned King and Scotland again became an independent kingdom.

Under Charles II, Scotland regained its independent system of law, parliament and Kirk, but also the return of bishops and a parliament managed by the crown. In fact the King did not visit the country and ruled largely without reference to Parliament, through commissioners. The restoration of episcopacy was a source of trouble in areas with strong Presbyterian sympathies. Abandoning the official church, many of the inhabitants again began to attend illegal field assemblies, known as *conventicles*. Official attempts to suppress these led to an intense phase of persecution in the early 1680s.

When Charles II died in 1685 and his brother, a Roman Catholic, succeeded him as James VII of Scotland (and James II of England), matters came to a head. James put Catholics in key positions of government and attendance at *conventicles* was made punishable by death. He disregarded parliament, purged the Council and forced through religious toleration of Roman Catholics, alienating his Protestant subjects.

Many Scots believed that the king would sometime soon be succeeded by his daughter Mary, a Protestant and the wife of William of Orange, the Protestant leader of the Netherlands, but in 1688, James produced a male heir and it became clear that his policies would outlive him. By invitation from Scottish leaders, William and Mary invaded England with 40,000 men, and James fled into exile leading to the almost bloodless takeover.

In Scotland, it was decided that James had forfeited the throne by his actions. In England, Parliament established a legal fiction that James had abdicated the throne of England. Both countries offered their crowns to Protestants William and Mary II. These joint monarchs also accepted limitations on royal power. The final settlement restored Presbyterianism and abolished the bishops who had generally supported James.

Although William's supporters dominated the government, there remained a significant following for James, particularly in the Scottish Highlands. James' allies were known as *Jacobites* (Latin *Jacobus* for James) and led a number of revolts in Scotland and England between 1689 and 1746, plus many unsuccessful plots. The Jacobite movement collapsed in 1745 and an important principle was established: that monarchs now derived their legitimacy from Parliament, not God, ending the principle of divine right of kings. And, in Scotland, the Kirk was ruled by its people - not the papacy.

In any event, by this time our line of Lawson ancestors had moved on from England and Scotland to residence on the Isle of Man.

### **LINKING LAWSONS OF ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND**

We cannot determine with certainty when or even if the **Lawson** branches in Scotland split from the English **Lawsons**. For sure if we go back far enough all **Lawsons** are related but connecting the English and Scottish lines at a later date is difficult. Without benefit of a specific connection between the lines we are left to speculate.

It is noteworthy that there are contemporaries in both family lines as shown below:

#### **English line:**

John Lawson, circa 1135  
Lawrence Lawesson, circa 1190-1260  
**Thomas Lawson, circa 1250-??**  
Ralph Lawson, 1275-??  
Robert Lawson, 1300-??  
Thomas Lawson, 1325-??  
John Lawson, 1345-1386  
William 1400-1480

#### **Scottish line:**

Richard Lawson, circa 990-1040  
Lawrence the Abbot, circa 1200s  
**Richard Laurance of Byker, circa 1275-1320**  
George Lawson, circa 1306-1329  
Richard Lawson, circa 1325-1370  
John Lawson de Lynton, circa 1350-1395  
Ady (Andrew?) Lawson, circa 1385-1425  
William Lawson of Humbie, circa 1390-1450

It is also noteworthy that the members of both **Lawson** family lines are well educated, gentlemen landowners, some are knights and most are men of substance if not wealthy. The Lawsons on both sides of the border have significant relationships with prominent nobles, royal families and kings. For the early middle ages, these are uncommon characteristics vested in a very few families.

Another factor is the nebulous and porous border between England and Scotland. Despite wars and rebellions, people, goods, armies, nobles and kings moved back and forth with ease. Family lands and business interests as well as political interests straddled the border. We do know for certain that the



wealthy **Lawson** knights of Bywell and Cramlington had lands and interests extending up to Berwick on the Scottish border and beyond. Representatives of these families may have settled on properties in the Scottish borders giving rise to the **Lawsons** of Humbie, Linton or Edinburgh.

The fact that no certain connection has yet been found does not deny the large amount of circumstantial evidence. The reality is - *we are one big, happy family of **Lawsons**!*

# TIMELINE OF LAWSON IN SCOTLAND

## Dates

|           |                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 122       | Romans construct the Hadrian's Wall.                                                                                                                             |
| 143       | Romans construct the Antonine Wall.                                                                                                                              |
| 163       | Romans withdraw south to Trimontium and Hadrian's Wall.                                                                                                          |
| 300       | The term Pict is first recorded in describing the federated tribes invaded by Constantius Chlorus.                                                               |
| 397       | Traditional date at which Saint Ninian establishes a Christian mission at Whithorn.                                                                              |
| 400-450   | <b>Eochaid Muinremuir</b> son of the High Kings of Ireland:                                                                                                      |
| 430-503   | <b>Erc</b> was a legendary king of the Irish Dál Riata (Dalriada) who came from Ireland to Scotland in 503 and settled the land and islands of western Scotland. |
| 450-510   | <b>Loarn or Laurin</b> came to Scotland in 503 with his father and brothers. Inherited lands of his father in western Scotland that will become Argyll.          |
| 563       | Saint Columba founds a monastery at Iona and begins his mission to the northern Picts.                                                                           |
| 604       | Æthelfrith unites Bernicia and Deira to form the kingdom of Northumbria.                                                                                         |
| 638       | Northumbrians capture Edinburgh from Gododdin.                                                                                                                   |
| 747       | St Andrews founded by this time, death of Abbot Túathalán.                                                                                                       |
| 794       | Annals of Ulster report the "wasting" of "all the islands of Britain by gentiles [Vikings]".                                                                     |
| 802       | Iona burned by Vikings.                                                                                                                                          |
| 843-858   | Three <b>Grandsons of Loarn</b> support King of Picts and obtain lands of Blaquhidder.                                                                           |
| 858       | Death of Kenneth mac Alpin, King of the Picts; "union of Picts and Scots" traditionally dated from his reign.                                                    |
| 990-1040  | <b>Richard Lawson/Laurence</b> (circa 990-1040) at the Battle of Carham (also known as the Battle of Coldstream) Scots defeat Northumbrians (1018)               |
| 1058      | After defeating Mac Bethad and Lulach, Máel Coluim III is proclaimed king.                                                                                       |
| 1124      | David I becomes king and introduces the feudal system of landholding to much of Scotland.                                                                        |
| 1128      | David I founds Holyrood Abbey at Edinburgh.                                                                                                                      |
| 1174      | William I signs the Treaty of Falaise in which he swears allegiance to Henry II of England.                                                                      |
| 1237      | Southern border of Scotland established in the Treaty of York.                                                                                                   |
| 1250      | <b>Abbot Lawrence</b> (lived in 1200s) founds Abbey in Aberdeen. Some say this is beginning of McLaren clan and Lawson family                                    |
| 1263      | Scots defeat Norwegians in the Battle of Largs.                                                                                                                  |
| 1266      | Norway cedes the Hebrides and Isle of Man to Scotland in the Treaty of Perth.                                                                                    |
| 1292      | Edward I of England intervenes in Scottish affairs and grants the Scottish throne to John Balliol.                                                               |
| 1297      | Andrew de Moravia and William Wallace lead the Scots to victory over England at Stirling Bridge.                                                                 |
| 1275-1320 | <b>Richard Laurence of Byker</b> (circa 1275-1320) (also spelled Biggar) in Lanarkshire is listed in the Ragman Rolls of 1296.                                   |
| 1305      | William Wallace is executed in London.                                                                                                                           |
| 1306-1329 | <b>George Lawson</b> (circa 1306-1329) is under clerk of the Exchequer for King Robert the Bruce.                                                                |
| 1314      | Robert the Bruce defeats the English at Bannockburn.                                                                                                             |
| 1320      | Nobles assert Scottish independence in the Declaration of Arbroath.                                                                                              |
| 1325-1370 | <b>Richard Lawson</b> (circa 1325-1370) is canon of St Giles Church and Laird of Grothill in 1370.                                                               |
| 1328      | Treaty of Northampton. England recognises Scottish independence.                                                                                                 |
| 1329      | Death of Robert the Bruce. His 5-year-old son, David II succeeds him.                                                                                            |

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| 1350-1395 | <b>John Lawson</b> of Lynton (circa 1350-1395) tenant of Earl of Douglas near Biggar (Byker) in 1376.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 1371      | Robert II becomes first Stewart king.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 1390-1450 | <b>William I Lawson of Humbie</b> (circa 1390-1450) a vassal knight to 1st Lord of Somerville (1406) and a Warden in the Scottish Borders (1424)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1400      | <b>Thomas Lawson (Lawsoune)</b> in Register of Burgesses of Guild & Trade of the Burgh of Aberdeen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1400-1465 | <b>John Lawson/Louson/Lawsone</b> (circa 1400-1465) held land in Aberdeen (1436), was a witness at Easter Moncreiff, Perth (1420) and recorded in Leyth (Leith) in Edinburgh (1462).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 1402      | <b>Ady (Andy or Andrew) Lawson</b> (circa 1385-1425) is forestaller in Aberdeen.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1413      | Foundation of the University of St Andrews.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1451      | Establishment of the University of Glasgow.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1495      | Creation of the University of Aberdeen (King's College).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1496      | Education Act of 1496 makes education compulsory for barons and wealthy landowners.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 1441      | <b>William Lowson (Lowsoun)</b> , son of John Lowson recorded in Council Register IV Burgesses of Guild & Trade of the Burgh of Aberdeen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1542      | Death of James V.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1444-1445 | <b>Thomas Lowson</b> , son of John Lowson recorded in Council Register V Burgesses of Guild & Trade of the Burgh of Aberdeen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1445-1446 | <b>Thomas Lawson</b> (at instance of Abbot of Bon-Accord, for his expenses of "Ly Halibude" at the Wyndmyllhill) recorded in Council Register V Burgesses of Guild & Trade of the Burgh of Aberdeen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 1447-1448 | <b>Robert and William Lauson</b> in Council Register V Burgesses of Guild & Trade of Burgh of Aberdeen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 1447-1448 | <b>Edmund Lousone Lauson</b> in Council Register V Burgesses of Guild & Trade of the Burgh of Aberdeen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 1450-1500 | <b>William II Lawson of Humbie (circa 1450-1500)</b> , as knight appointed as King's agent negotiate truce with England and marriage of James IV with English King Henry VII's eldest daughter, Princess Margaret (1495). Conservator of 7 year truce between Scotland and England (1497)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 1450-1513 | <b>Richard Lawson</b> of Humbie, Heiriggs and Cairnmuir, (1450-1513), son of William I of Humbie and brother of William II of Humie. MP for Edinburgh beginning in 1479; Town Clerk of Edinburgh (1482); Lord justice clerk (circa 1488-1491); Provost of Edinburgh (1491-1505); was counselor appointed to manage affairs of James IV and form James's Council of State; commissioner to negotiate treaties with English (1490 and 1497); appointed King's advocate (1503); married Janet Elphinston (Lady Lawson Wynd/Street named for her); Richard Lawson died in 1507; Family home was <i>High Riggs</i> , Edinburgh - was demolished in 1877; also owned estates " <i>Cairnmuir</i> " in Peebles; " <i>Cambo</i> " and " <i>Boghall</i> ". Received property of Gilchranston at Humbie (1505) |
| 1450-1522 | <b>Henry Lawson</b> (circa 1450-1522) a landowner and witness in Newburgh, Fife in 1474 and 1476.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1461      | <b>Robert Louson</b> married daughter of William Rede of Colison burgess recorded in Council Register V Burgesses of Guild & Trade of the Burgh of Aberdeen.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1410-1470 | <b>John Lawsone</b> recorded in Leyth (Leith is an area within city of Edinburgh) shipping, ship building and fishing on coast of Firth of Forth. This <b>John Lawson of Heiriggs and Lochtulloch</b> maybe the same as John Lawson of Humbie son of James of Heiriggs. This maybe the same John Lawson who has property in Leith assessed to help support the Church of the Holy Trinity in Edinburgh (1462). Marries <b>Christian Livingston</b> , daughter of <b>Sir William Livingston of Kilsyth</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1470      | <b>Richard Lawson</b> was a monk at Lindores Abbey, Abdie Parish, Fife                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 1476      | <b>Andrew Lowson</b> (flesher) recorded in Council Register VI Burgesses of Guild & Trade of the Burgh of Aberdeen (could be Ady Lawson above)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1480-1550 | <b>Majorie Lawson of Humbie, wife of William II Lawson of Humbie</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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| 1480-1563 | <b>James Lawson of Heiriggs</b> (circa 1480-circa 1563) This first son of Richard the elder becomes baronet after the death of his brother Robert. Was Provost of Edinburgh (1532 and 1534); Minister of Parliament and Commissioner for the City of Edinburgh (1531 and 1532); and Senator of the College of Justice (1532). James Lawson was one of the 15 members of the first Supreme Judicature of Scotland. In 1526, James grants to his brother Patrick his rights as heir to his brother Richard of lands of Cairnmuir. Married <b>Janet Liddel</b> , heiress of Lochtulloch, Boghall, Stardails and Denyss in the Barony of Bathgate in Renfrewshire or Roxburghshire. Also married Margaret Cockburn (circa 1506-1590) with sons: John Lawson of Boghall (circa 1540-1562) George Lawson (circa 1520-1570).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1481-1522 | <b>Henry Lawson</b> was a landowner and witness in Newburgh Parish, Fife                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1486      | <b>Thomas Lowson</b> , marries daughter of a burges recorded in Council Register VI Burgesses of Guild & Trade of the Burgh of Aberdeen<br><b>David Lowson</b> recorded in Council Register VI Burgesses of Guild & Trade of the Burgh of Aberdeen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1489-1515 | <b>Robert Lawson of Heiriggs and Cairnmuir</b> (circa 1489-circa 1515) He was the 3rd son of Richard and Janet Elphenstone Lawson. Inherits the title and lands of Heiriggs and Cairnmuir from brother Richard. Robert married Janet Baillie, daughter and heiress to William Baillie of Cambo. Both Robert and Janet die young circa 1515, perhaps of the plague.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1490-1542 | <b>Sir Laurence Lawson</b> was Chaplain at Lindores Abbey, Abdie, Fife                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1492      | <b>Andrew Lowson, in Dyvernesyd</b> in Council Register VII Burgesses of Guild & Trade of Aberdeen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1496-1497 | <b>David Lowson</b> recorded in Council Register VII Burgesses of Guild & Trade of the Burgh of Aberdeen                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 1500-1550 | <b>John Lawson</b> (circa 1500-1550) was a landowner in Newburgh Parish, Fife (1547). Several Lawson families intermarried with the Murray families (Lairds of Carpow) in Abernathy Parish bordering Newburgh Parish,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1500-1553 | <b>James Lawson of Cairnmuir</b> (1500-1553) The son of <b>Robert Lawson</b> , 3rd son of Richard the elder. He inherited lands of Cairnmuir in 1521 and married the daughter of Veitch of Dawick                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1509-1581 | <b>Robert Lawson of Humbie</b> (1509-1581), son of Richard of Humbie held tenement lands in the burgh of Haddington. Signed bond to stand by Queen Mary (1569)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 1513      | James IV and thousands of Scots are killed at Flodden.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1515-1546 | <b>Robert Lawson</b> was a Notary at Lindores Abbey, Abdie, Fife                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 1520-1553 | <b>Patrick Lawson the Prebend (Prebendary) of Corstorphine</b> (circa 1520-1553) the 4th son of Richard the elder and Janet Elphinstone Lawson. Patrick most likely died early and his interest in Cairnmuir were inherited by his brother James.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1520-1570 | <b>George Lawson of Cairnmuir</b> (circa 1520-1570) Eldest son of James of Cairnmuir and Veitch of Dawick. Inherits Cairnmuir and Cambo in 1553. Held lands in Cairnmuir, Borland and Cambo.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1530-1590 | <b>John Lawson</b> of Humbie (circa 1530-1590) son of <b>Robert Lawson</b> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1532      | Creation of the College of Justice and the Court of Session.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1532-1595 | <b>George Lawson of Traquir/Traquair</b> (circa 1532-1595) Son of James Lawson of Heiriggs and Margaret Cockburn. Traquir (also spelled Traquair) in Peebles is the oldest inhabited house in Scotland and is located about 10 miles from Biggar.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1538-1584 | <b>Reverend James Lawson</b> (1538-1584) Born in Perth, Scotland. Educated at Perth grammar school ; Attended University of St. Andrews; in 1559 employed as a Tutor for sons of Countess of Crawford in Paris University where he learned Hebrew; religious strife in Paris forced him to continue his studies in London and Cambridge; Feb 1569, appointed to teach Hebrew at St Mary's College, University of St Andrews; appointed sub-principal, King's College, University of Aberdeen & elected canon parish Old Machar; In 1572, called to share ministry of St Giles with infirm John Knox; after Knox death, succeeded him as chief minister of St Giles in Edinburgh and was a leader of reformed clergy in Scotland. Appointed moderator of the Presbyterian assembly in 1580; Chief promoter for a university in Edinburgh; Denounced from the pulpit acts of parliament of 1584 which interfered with jurisdiction of the kirk; fled Scotland to avoid arrest; Died in London of dysentery in 1584. Married Janet Guthrie and they had 3 children: <b>James Lawson</b> who emigrates to Isle of Man, <b>Elizabeth Lawson</b> and <b>Mary Katherine Lawson</b> . |

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| 1540-1562         | <b>John Lawson of Boghall</b> (circa 1540-1562) Son of James Lawson of Heiriggs and Margaret Cockburn.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1546-1620         | <b>James Lawson</b> (circa 1546-1620) Born, lived and died in Perth; Married to Issobell Ingles with daughter Jaine Lawsoune.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1559              | John Knox returns to Scotland from Geneva to promote Calvinism.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1560              | Parliament legislates Protestant Reformation of the Church of Scotland.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 1560-1620         | <b>James Lawson of Cairnmuir</b> (circa 1560-1620) Born Traquair, Peeblesshire; son of George of Traquair. Inherited the lands of Cairnmuir and Lochtulloch (1560) and other lands (1582 and 1584). Married to Elizabeth Scott of Mountbeugar.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1561              | Mary, Queen of Scots returns from France.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1564-1612         | <b>Sir James (or John) Lawson</b> , born circa 1564, in Humble; was known as James Lawson of Humble, Haddington, Scotland, the son of Robert Lawson. James Lawson married Elizabeth Bellenden Lawson circa 1563 and they had at least one son, also named James Lawson, and a daughter, Barbara Lawson Borthwick. In 1586, the Lawson lands in Humble and Hartside were sold by James Lawson to Sir Adam Hepburn of Humble, a Senator of the College of Justice and a Colonel in the Covenanting army of David Leslie. James Lawson (born 1564 and died 1612) was also known as James Lawson of Humble. In 1602, James Lawson of Humble named heir to his grandfather Robert Lawson of Humble. James inherited his father's lands and titles in 1607 (Source: <i>Chancellery Records</i> , and, <i>Scottish Worthies</i> by Alexander Garden). Sir James Lawson of Humble was a Gentleman of the Bedchamber to James VI. He died in 1612, while out riding over lands he was unfamiliar with and strayed into quicksand. The location was on lands held by the Lawsons at Belhelvie beach near Aberdeen "in a standing lake called the Old Water gang." James drowned, his body was recovered, although his horse was never found. It appears that James only had one daughter, Janet Lawson who married John Edmonstone in 1605. |
| 1568              | Mary, Queen of Scots flees to England following the defeat of her army at the Battle of Langside.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 1570-1615         | <b>Elizabeth Lawson</b> (circa 1570-1615) Daughter of <b>Rev. James Lawson</b> . Elizabeth married Rev. George Greir, second minister of Haddington.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 1579-???          | <b>Mary Katherine Lawson</b> (1579-??) daughter of <b>Rev. James Lawson</b> , was the second wife of Rev. Patrick Galloway (circa 1551–1626) a minister at Perth and Edinburgh and a Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. The son of <b>Mary Katherine Lawson</b> and Rev. Patrick Galloway was Sir James Galloway of Carnbee, Fife, who was created the 1st Lord Dunkeld in 1645 and who was the Master of Requests to King James VI and King Charles I and was also a member of their Privy Councils.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 1579              | James VI takes over government from his regent, James Douglas.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1582              | Establishment of the University of Edinburgh by Royal Charter.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1587              | Mary is beheaded by the order of Queen Elizabeth I of England.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1592              | James VI enacts the "Golden Act" recognising the power of Presbyterianism within the Scottish church.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>1570-1634</b>  | <b>James Lawson, son of Rev. James Lawson, born 1579, Perth, Scotland</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Circa 1600</b> | <b>James Lawson emigrates to Isle of Man; dies on Isle of Man in 1634</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>1590-1625</b>  | <b>Sir William Lawson of Heiriggs, Lochtulloch and Boghall</b> son of John of Heiriggs and Christian Livingstoun of Kilsyth. Also had lands of <b>Dundryon in the barony of Inverleith</b> (1607). Ordered to find caution not to assault Hamilton of Bathgate (1607); Privy Council charges William and Hamilton of Innerwick to keep the peace (1608). "This Sir William dilapidate and put away" most of his fortune before his death, and went to Holland to the wars." Died 1625.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1603              | The Union of the Crowns: James VI of Scotland becomes James I of England.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |



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| <b>1605-1684</b> | <b>James Lawson of Cairnmuir</b> (circa 1605-1684) Son of James (circa 1560-1620) above. Gifted lands at Carinmuir and Cambo by his father at the time of his marriage contract with Elizabeth Brown of Hartees in 1619. Acquired other lands in Ingraston, Maidenhead and Blytholne in Linton from 1631-1655. On committee of defense of Parliament of Peeblesshire in 1659 and cited by the Privy Council for not stopping conventicles on his land in 1684. Married 2nd to Isabel Muirhead. |
| 1618             | James VI forces episcopacy on the Church of Scotland through the Five Articles of Perth.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>1629</b>      | <b>John Lawson of Boghall</b> (circa 1600-1650) served heir in 1629 to Sir William his brother of Boghall.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1633             | Education Act of 1633 ordains a school in every parish (partially successful).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 1638             | Scottish Covenanters rebel against Charles I.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1639             | The First Bishops' War.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 1640             | The Second Bishops' War.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1642             | The First English Civil War started.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 1643             | The Solemn League and Covenant promises Scots army to aid English parliamentarians against the king.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 1646             | The First English Civil War ended.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1648             | The Second English Civil War started.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 1649             | The Second English Civil War ended.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1649             | The Third English Civil War started.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 1650             | Southern Scotland occupied by the Commonwealth's New Model Army following Scottish defeats in 1650 during the Third English Civil War                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 1651             | Battle of Worcester victory over Royalist army. Most Royalist officers and men were Scottish. no further military resistance to rule from London.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 1651             | The Third English Civil War ended.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1654             | Oliver Cromwell issued several a proclamation at the Mercat Cross in Edinburgh. Oliver Cromwell was the Protector of England Ireland and Scotland, that Scotland was united with the Commonwealth of England (Tender of Union) and there was a general pardon with some exceptions for the people of Scotland for any actions taken during the Wars of the Three Kingdoms (Cromwell's Act of Grace).                                                                                           |
| 1660             | The monarchy is restored in Scotland and Scotland resumes its status as a separate kingdom.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1661             | The restoration of the Episcopacy was proclaimed by the Privy Council of Scotland.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1662             | Parliament restores Church of Scotland as national Church -all office-holders required to renounced the Covenant.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 1662             | The Scottish parliament passed the <i>Act of indemnity and oblivion</i> . It was a general pardon for most types of crime that may have been committed by Scots, between 1 January 1637 and before 1 September 1660, during what the Act called "the late troubles" (the Wars of the Three Kingdoms and the Interregnum).                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>1670-1710</b> | <b>John Lawson of Cairnmuir</b> (circa 1670-1710) Son of James above. Recorded various transaction from 1682 to 1701. Married Barbara, daughter of Sir John Clerk, the 1st Baronet of Penicuik and a prominent Scottish politician.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 1679             | James, Duke of Monmouth defeats Covenanters at the Battle of Bothwell Brig.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1689             | Jacobite rising of 1689 Highlanders defeat army of William III at Killiecrankie, but are halted at Battle of Dunkeld.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                  | The Claim of Right and the re-establishment of Presbyterianism.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>1690-1740</b> | <b>John Lawson of Cairnmuir</b> (circa 1690-1740) Son of John above. He inherited the lands of Cairnmuir, Ingraston and Maidenhead in 1791. Recorded as Laird Eadie (1705 and 1707). Married Elizabeth Semple of Cathcart. This marriage was an elopement.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1692             | The Massacre of Glencoe.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1695             | The Bank of Scotland is created by an Act of the Parliament.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1696             | Education Act of 1696 ordains a school in every parish (successful; act governs education until the 1872 act).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 1707             | The Union of the Parliaments: the Acts of Union are passed by both the Scottish and English parliaments.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1715             | Jacobite rising of 1715.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>1723-1745</b> | <b>Richard Lawson of Cairnmuir</b> (1723-1745) Eldest son of John above. Richard entered the army that fought the Jacobites (1744-1745). After a fatiguing march, through deep snow from Newcastle to Edinburgh he fell sick of an "epidemical fever" and died in 1745.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>1725-1754</b> | <b>John Lawson of Cairnmuir</b> (circa 1725-1754) Son of John (circa 1690-1740) above. Succeeded his brother Richard. John married Isobel Dalrymple.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>1730-1806</b> | <b>William Lawson of Cairnmuir</b> (1730-1806) Son of John (circa 1690-1740). Succeeded his brothers Richard and John in 1754. Married Margaret Hamilton with a daughter <b>Marion Lawson</b> . After Margaret's death, married Macfarlane (1776) daughter of John of Spottiswoode of Berwickshire. <b>Marriage links Lawson family to royal descent and with the great families of Scotland.</b> Macfarlane Spottiswoode is a descendant of James I of Scotland and Edward III of England. |
| <b>1732-1816</b> | <b>Ann Lawson Brown</b> (1732-1816) Daughter of John (circa 1690-1740) above. Married Laurence Brown of Edmonston and they had a son James Brown. Anne is buried at Biggar Church.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>1739-??</b>   | <b>James Lawson</b> (1739-??) Son of John (circa 1690-1740) above. Merchant in Glasgow, Scotland, and in Charles County, Maryland colony. Married Nancy Semple.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1745             | Jacobite rising of 1745.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 1746             | The Battle of Culloden ends the last Jacobite rising.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>1751-1798</b> | <b>Robert Lawson</b> (1751-1798) Son of James of Glasgow. Spent his life in Charles County, Maryland.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>1800-1850</b> | <b>John Lawson</b> (circa 1800-1850) Perhaps the son of Robert above. Sold Cairnmuir House and estate in 1839.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 1843             | The Disruption in the Church of Scotland (over the issue of patronage).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 1846             | Beginning of the ten-year Highland Potato Famine.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 1847             | The United Presbyterian Church of Scotland is established.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

# LAWSON ON THE ISLE OF MAN

The **Isle of Man** (Manx: *Ellan Vannin*, or simply *Mannin*) is an island in the Irish Sea, between Great Britain and Ireland in Western Europe, with a population of almost 85,000. It has a small islet, the Calf of Man, to its south. The island is about 30 miles in length, and ranges from 8 to 15 miles in width. The land area of the island is 220 square miles with about one half mile of inland water for a total area of 221 square miles. This makes the Isle of Man slightly more than 3 times the size of Washington, DC and slightly smaller than the Caribbean island of Saint Lucia.



The coastline around the island is about 99 miles long. A territorial sea extends to a maximum of 12 nautical miles from the coast, or the midpoint between England, Scotland and Ireland. The total territorial sea area is about 1,500 sq miles, which is about 87% of the total area of the jurisdiction of the Isle of Man. There is a long distance footpath that runs for 102 miles around the Manx coast. Known as *Raad ny Foillan* (English: *The Way of the Gull*) it forms a complete loop around the Manx coast that can be walked in either a clockwise or counter-clockwise direction. The path is well marked with signs showing a gull on a blue background.



The Isle of Man enjoys a temperate climate, with cool summers and mild winters. Average rainfall is high compared to the majority of the British Isles, due to its location to the western side of Great Britain and sufficient distance from Ireland for moisture to be accumulated by the prevailing south-westerly winds. Temperatures remain fairly cool, with the recorded maximum being 84.0 °F. The Manx air is sharp and cold in winter but healthy, and inhabitants live well into old age. The island had a census-estimated population of 84,497, in 2011 census. The native language "Manx" is a dialect of Erse, a 16th–19th-century Scots language name for Scottish Gaelic. Today, only a few elderly Manx speakers remain.

The Isle of Man is mostly hilly, but has only one summit classified as an actual mountain (over 2,000 feet). The south of the island has a small coastal plain around Castletown and Ballasalla but is otherwise hilly. In the southwest these hills rise to more prominent peaks which drop almost vertically into the sea. A central valley separates the southern hills from the central range which contains 11 out of 12 of the Island's highest peaks. It has open moorland and rough terrain. The area is very sparsely populated and has just one major road crossing it except along the coast. To the north, the land drops quite suddenly to a large flat glacial plain with only small rolling hills known as the Bride hills.

In the 1800s, there were active mines of lead, iron and copper, and quarries of building stone and slate. The soil varies in different tracts, yet at that time produced more corn than needed by residents and was exported. Other commodities of the island were small black cattle and horses, wool, fine and coarse linen, hides, skins, honey, tallow, and herrings. An large number of diverse sea birds breed in the rocks of the island, especially on the Calf of Man, a small island not far from its most southern point.

## **History Of Isle Of Man**

The **Isle of Man** separated from Britain and Ireland around 6,500 BC, at a time when rising sea levels caused by the melting glaciers cut Britain off from continental Europe for the last time. A land bridge had earlier existed between the Isle of Man and Cumbria in western England, but its location and details are understood.

Circa 5,000 BC, the first inhabitants started to arrive from Scotland and/or Ireland in the Mesolithic Period, also known as the Middle Stone Age. The first residents lived in small natural shelters, hunting, gathering and fishing for their food. They used small tools made of flint or bone, examples of which have been found near the coast.

The island has had a turbulent history. It came under Celtic control circa 1,000 BC, during the Iron Age, and was under Celtic influence for 2,000 years. Remnants of the Celts is found today in the island's name (derived from *Manannán*, the Celtic god of the sea) and in the Manx parliament (Tynwald Court) established in 979. Today, the Manx Tynwald, known as one of the oldest continuous parliaments in the world, is a vestige of Celtic influence.

It is not known if the Romans ever made a landing on the island; if they did, little evidence has been discovered; however there is evidence for contact with Roman Britain as an amphora was found which this may have been trade goods or plunder.

The island's conversion to Christianity in the fifth century is generally attributed to St Maughold, an Irish missionary with a very colorful past. There are the remains of around 200 tiny early chapels called Keeils scattered across the island. Evidence such as radiocarbon dating and magnetic drift points to

many of these being built around AD 550-600. Maughold, who died circa 488 AD, is venerated as the patron saint of the Isle of Man. Tradition states that he was an Irish prince and captain of a band of freebooters who was converted to Christianity by Saint Patrick. One local legend relates that Maughold tried to make a fool out of Patrick by putting a living man in a shroud. He then called for Patrick to try to revive the allegedly dead man. Patrick came, placed a hand on the shroud, and left. When Maughold and friends opened the shroud, they found the man had died. One of Maughold's men went to Patrick's camp and apologized after which Patrick returned and baptized all of the men assembled. He then blessed the dead man who, who immediately returned to life, and was also baptized. Patrick then told Maughold that he should helping his men to lead good lives to make up for his behavior. As penance, Patrick ordered him to abandon himself to God in a wicker boat without oars in which he drifted to the Isle of Man. Tradition says he landed on Isle near Ramsey, at a headland since called Maughold Head. Here he made a home in a cave on the mountain side. Today, Maughold is best remembered for his kind disposition toward the Manx natives. Several places on the island, including, Maughold parish, St. Maughold's Well, and St. Maughold's Chair are named after him.

Around 800 AD, Vikings (Norsemen) began sporadically invading and plundering the island until in 1079, the Isle of Man came under Norse rule when a Norse King Gorse or Orry created the Kingdom of Mann and the Isles which consisted of the Hebrides, and of all the smaller western islands of Scotland, and Mann . During the whole of the Scandinavian period, the Isles remained nominally under the suzerainty of the Kings of Norway, but the Norwegians only occasionally asserted it with any vigour. In 1261, Scotland's king Alexander III, tried to negotiate possession of the island, but Norway refused resulting in war. Finally, in 1266, in the middle of the war, Norway's King died. His successor, Magnus VI, then ceded the Isle of Man to Scotland.

England's first claim to the Isle of Man appears to date from 1290, when King Edward I took possession of the island. Over the next few decades, the Island was transferred between Scotland and England multiple times before coming under complete English control in the 1300s.

In 1130, Catholic Church established first bishopric on the Isle of Man. With English control in 1538, the Church of England was established as the official church on the island and mandated that every parish begin recording baptisms, marriages, and burials, but this did not start in the Isle of Man until 1598. These records became known as parish registers. Some religious antagonism toward Roman Catholics occurred after the English Reformation in the 1500s, but not nearly as severe as in England or in France.

After a century of disputed ownership between the English and the Scots the Island was 'given', by the English King Henry IV, to Sir John Stanley, in 1405 on the condition of homage and a feudal fee "*of rendering to our heirs the future Kings of England, two falcons on the days of their coronation*".

The Stanleys, the Earls of Derby, were one of the great families of England whose estates were large landholdings on the Lancashire/Cheshire border. Being Subjects of England, they were content to stay there and as long as their Lieutenants sent revenues from the Isle of Man, they acquiesced in their administration. For more than three centuries this family enjoyed the regal government of Man; yet in this long period few of them visited the island and then only when their interests were threatened, or their personal safety in England was at risk.

With the land grant to the Stanleys, Manx history gained some stability. The English language came with Stanley possession of the island which in turn influenced the Manx language. Generations of rule by the



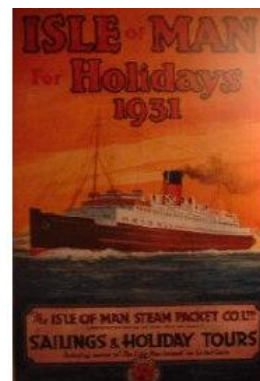
Stanley family led to more settled times. Though they rarely visited the island, they did select the governors who fairly ruled and applied the justice of the time. They curbed the power of barons, introduced trial by jury, which now superseded trial by battle, and ordered all laws to be written.

The title "Lord of Mann and the Isles" was first used in 1651, referring to the island's Lord Proprietor who was titular ruler of the island until 1765. At that time, the feudal rights were purchased by the crown and the title was transferred to King George I, who was represented on the island by a Lieutenant Governor.. Today, the Queen Elizabeth still has the title of Lord of Mann (even though she is a woman, she is still known as Lord, not Lady). In the Loyal Toast on the Isle of Man, they toast the Lord of Mann, not the Queen or King.

Due to its convenient off-shore location, the Isle of Man became an important centre for the illegal contraband trade throughout much of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The government at Westminster attempted to legislate against such trade with the passage of the Smuggling Act in 1765. The Manx-folk however had their own term of endearment for this piece of legislation; they referred to it as the Mischief Act.

The Act of Settlement passed in 1704, is known as the Manx Magna Carta. It preserved the rights of peasants, restoring their claims to ancestral estates, establishing a fixed rent, and limiting fines on succession.

The Industrial Revolution arrived on the island in the mid 1800s with the growth of mining, manufacturing and the building of the largest waterwheel in the world. The Laxey Wheel was constructed to pump water from the lead mines some 200 fathoms below ground. Also around this time the economy of the Isle of Man also began a boom of tourism thanks to the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company and the building of the Isle of Man Steam Railway, Manx Electric Railway and Snaefell Mountain Railway systems.



The symbol on the Isle of Man flag is the triskelion. While it looks like something someone with a bunch of spare doll parts might have put together, the triskelion is actually an ancient symbol. On Man, it is known as the Three Legs of Man (in Manx *Tree Cassyn Vannin*) which symbolize the Island's independence and mean *Quocunque Jeceris Stabit* – "*Whichever way you throw me I stand*".



*Flag of Isle of Man - the triskelion*

The Isle of Man never became part of the Kingdom of Great Britain or its successor the United Kingdom. Isle of Man is one of three British Crown dependencies. Crown dependencies are possession of the crown (aka the Queen) directly, not of the United Kingdom. The British Crown dependencies are all island territories off the coast of Great Britain that are self-governing possessions of the Crown: the Isle of Man; the Bailiwick of Guernsey; and, the Bailiwick of Jersey. They do not form part of either the United Kingdom or the British Overseas Territories. Internationally, the dependencies are considered "territories for which the United Kingdom is responsible", rather than sovereign states. As a result, they are not member states of the Commonwealth of Nations. However, they do have relationships with the Commonwealth, the European Union, and other international organizations, and are members of the British–Irish Council. They have their own teams in the Commonwealth Games. They are not part of the European Union (EU), although they are within the EU's customs area.

As the Crown dependencies are not sovereign states, the power to pass legislation affecting the islands ultimately rests with the government of the United Kingdom (though this is rarely done without the consent of the dependencies, and the right to do so is disputed). However they each have their own legislative assembly, with the power to legislate on many local matters with the assent of the Crown (Privy Council, or in the case of the Isle of Man in certain circumstances the Lieutenant-Governor). In each case, the head of government is referred to as the Chief Minister. They also use the British Pound and the UK does have the responsibility of the defense of the island. They are not members of the European Union.

Because the island is not part of the UK, it has often been used as a tax haven for the British. In recent years the Manx government has made a concerted effort to cast off the island's reputation as a tax haven, signing tax information exchange deals with over a dozen countries. This strategy was rewarded with the Isle's inclusion in an OECD "white list" of jurisdictions meeting international standards on taxation. The Isle of Man does however have relatively low taxes and this has encouraged a major offshore financial sector that accounts for most of its GDP.



Also unique to the Isle of Man is the Manx cat, which have no tail. The breed also exhibits very large hind legs and a rounded head. There is also a unique breed of sheep on the island called the Manx Loaghtan, which is known for sometimes having 4 or 6 horns.



The island's largest town and administrative centre is Douglas, with a population of 23,000 — over a quarter of the population of the island. Neighboring towns of Onchan and Ramsey in the north, Peel in the west and the three southern ports of Castletown, Port Erin and Port St. Mary are the island's other main settlements. Almost all of the population lives on or very near the coast.

### The North

The first Lawsons to settle on the Isle of Man did so on the North of the island, most likely emigrating from Scotland or England. As we will see, our direct ancestor, **James Lawson**, was the first Lawson on the Isle of Man in the 1500s. In the North, the parishes of Andreas, Bride and Jurby are mainly flat farming land with the hills of North Barrel running along the eastern side of the parishes. The parish of Maughold is more hilly, with steep cliffs along the sea boundary.



*Andreas*



*Bride*



*Jurby*



*Maugold*

The town of Ramsey is situated at the mouth of the Sulby river in a wide, sandy bay at the boundary the parishes of Maughold and Lezayre. Ramsey has been a center for fishing and boat building from early times. The hills of Cumberland in England are visible on clear days. The parish of Bride contains the *Ayre*, a wide, flat expanse of sand and gravel. The gravel seashore is prone to erosion and the high-water mark has changed considerably over the years. Andreas and Jurby are more fertile, farming areas.



*Lezayre*

### The South

The south of the Island consists of the parishes of Rushen, Arbory and Malew. Mainly a farming and fishing area, in early times there was some mining, for example at Bradda Head, Port Erin. The main centre of habitation is Castletown with its well preserved medieval castle, *Castle Rushen*. Castletown



*Rushen*



*Arbory*



*Malew*

was the capital of the South Side division and, after the Island became a single kingdom, Castletown was the capital of the Island until 1869 when the capital was moved to Douglas. The fishing fleets of the Isle of Man were centered on Castletown, Port St. Mary and Port Erin. *Castle Rushen* served as the military headquarters of the Island and was garrisoned by an English line regiment. By around 1816 the garrison had been reduced to about half a company and it was removed completely in 1896. The castle also served as the civil gaol (jail) of the Island. In 1886, it was condemned and finally replaced in 1891 by a purpose built facility outside Douglas.



*Castletown*

The Abbot of Rushen Abbey was a major land owner in the Island holding some 99 quarterlands or farms and 77 cottages. In connection with these holdings the Abbot had his own courts, the Barony Courts, and a prison, located on Peel Island. The first diversion of church lands to secular purposes occurred in 1537, when Furness Abbey was dissolved and its tithes in Maughold and Michael were leased for the king's benefit. An arbitrary act by Henry VIII in 1540, seized the monastery of Rushen, the priory of Douglas and the friary of Bymaken for the Crown. On St. John the



*Castle Rushen*

Baptist's Day, 1540, the abbot and his six brethren "were removed" from the monastery and the prioress and her three sisters "departed from the priory of Douglas."

**William Lawson** (1268) seems to have been the first member of the family to move to the south of the Island. He was born on the 5th of March 1704-5 at Andreas. It is not known when he moved to the south of the Island but he was twenty-nine when he married Mary Kneen (1583) on the 1st of August, 1734, at Arbory. The wills of William and Mary would indicate that there were no issue of the marriage, though William's will does mention John, a son of his wife. Mary died in September, 1740, and William in December of the same year.

**Edward Lawson** (1584) was the second member of the family to move south. He was born in 1726 at Andreas (baptized on the 8th of September). We don't know when he moved to the south but he married Elinor Skelly on the 28th of July, 1750, at Rushen.



## Douglas

Douglas (in Manx: *Doolish*) is the capital and largest town of the Isle of Man, with a population of 27,938 in 2011. It is located at the mouth of the River Douglas, and on a sweeping 2 mile long bay. The River Douglas forms part of the town's harbor and main commercial port.



*Douglas*

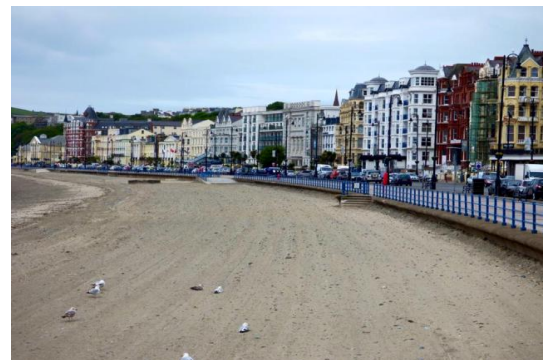
The discovery of a bronze weapon in central Douglas, and a large Viking treasure hoard on the outskirts of town, both in the 1890s, hint at the early importance of the site now occupied by Douglas. Scholars agree that the name of the town derives from the early Celtic *Duboglassio* meaning *black river*. Douglas is twice referred to in the monastic *Chronicle of the Kings of Man and the Isles*. The first is in 1192, when the monks of St Mary's Abbey at Rushen were transferred to Douglas for a four-year stay. Then in 1313, when Robert the Bruce, King of Scotland, spent the night at the "monastery of Duglas" on his way to seize Castle Rushen.

The first detailed documentation shows that in 1511 there were only thirteen resident households in the settlement of Douglas, clustered north of the harbour; most of the property there was classified as "chambers" (unoccupied, unheated, single-celled structures) for which rent was paid by non-residents including clergy, officials and landowners from elsewhere on the island. This suggests that the town's nucleus originated as a non-urban port. Current speculation links the town with the Irish Sea herring fishery, and the import/export trade.

Douglas was a small settlement until it grew rapidly as a result of links with the English port of Liverpool in the 18th century. Further population growth came in the 1800s resulting in a gradual transfer of government offices to Douglas from the ancient capital of Castletown. Since 1869, Douglas has been the capital city of the Isles of Man.

Today, Douglas is the island's main commercial center for business, finance, legal services, shopping, and entertainment. Douglas is also the island hub of shipping, transport, and is the main seaport of the Isle of Man. It is the home of the ferry terminal, with regular services to Heysham, a large coastal village in Lancashire, England, and to Liverpool. There are also occasional ferry services to Dublin and to Belfast.

The earliest organized ferry services were between Douglas and Whitehaven in the 1750s. A Packet Service began in 1765 or 1766, and the Post Office mail contract was secured by 1782. Sailings were irregular and heavily dependent on weather conditions. Steamer services brought a considerable improvement with the first regular link between Greenock and Liverpool in 1819. The formation of the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company in 1830 led to greatly improved services, and also laid the foundations for growth in both cargo and tourist traffic.



*Douglas Promenade and Beach*



Douglas is also the hub of the island's bus network, with regular services to Port Erin, Peel and Ramsey, as well as various local bus services. The town also has terminals for the two main rail lines: a steam railway to Port Erin and an electric tramway to Ramsey.

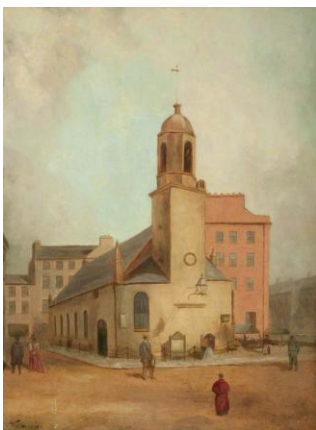


The world famous Isle of Man TT motorcycle races start and finish in Douglas. This annual event is run on the Isle of Man in May/June of most years since its inaugural race in 1907, and is often called one of the most dangerous racing events in the world. The Isle of Man TT is run in a time-trial format on public roads closed to the public by an Act of Tynwald (the parliament of the Isle of Man). The event consists of one week of practice sessions followed by one week of racing. It has been a tradition, perhaps

started by racing competitors in the early 1920s, for spectators to tour the Mountain Course on motorcycles during the Isle of Man TT on "*Mad Sunday*", an informal and unofficial sanctioned event held on the Sunday between 'Practice Week' and 'Race Week'. As public roads were not permitted to be closed for racing events on mainland Britain, fans returned year after year to enjoy those early pioneering motorcycle races. These races would ultimately help to establish the world dominance of the British motorcycle manufacturing industry.



Douglas is situated for the most part in the parish of Onchan with that part of the town south of the rivers Dhoo and Glass in the parish of Braddan. Within the town boundaries are the churches of St. Barnabas, St. George, St. Matthew and St. Thomas.



St. Matthew Church

The church of St. Matthew was built by Bishop Wilson in 1708 as a chapel of ease of Braddan. It was situated in the marketplace on the North Quay. The church was a plain building of rubble, plastered inside and out and white washed or painted. The building held between 300 and 400 persons. Butchers' stalls leaned along the southern side of the church, and in the space between them and the harbor traders from the country, and farmers and their wives, had the right to sell their wares and produce without payment of rent or rates. Originally the main church of the town (it contained a large, square pew covered by a canopy and surrounded by curtains for the use of the Duke of Athol) by 1800 it has become "a very low church—the church of the poor". It had no church yard, burials taking place at the mother church at Braddan. Old St. Matthew was demolished in 1895 and relocated to a site on the North Quay during 1895-1902.

In 1761, Bishop Hildesley was urged to provide an additional place of worship in the town as St. Matthew's had become inadequate for the population, at that time around 2,000. The building of the church of St. George took many years. The church was not completed until November, 1780, and it was consecrated on the 29th of September, 1781. St. George sits in the middle of a large graveyard, the earliest burials recorded being in 1790. It soon became the church of the upper classes. A large, stone building, it is still in use today.

The church of St. Barnabas was founded in 1832. It was erected about 250 yards from St. Matthew and eventually replaced that church as the common church of the town. It was demolished in 1969.

Before civil registration of births became mandatory in 1878 baptisms of persons born in Douglas may appear in any of the five church registers mentioned above. In the same way marriages before 1884 appear in the church registers. Death records, in the form of burials, appear at Braddan, St. George and Onchan.

### Lonan

The parish of Lanan is situated on the eastern side of the Island, approximately mid-way between Douglas and Ramsey. The main centre of Lanan is the village of Laxey. Originally a fishing village, Old Laxey is situated at the mouth of the Laxey River. Its name derives from the Old Norse *Laxa* meaning *Salmon River*. The village lies on the main road from Douglas to Ramsey road, and also on the vintage Manx Electric Railway, and Snaefell Mountain Railway.

The **Lawsons** first appeared in Lanan in the 1600s. They were fishermen/farmers, and were later associated with the local mining industry. During the 1700s and 1800s, the Lawsons were one of the largest families in the Laxey area. In the 1800s, **Robert Lawson** was the scion of this notable Manx fishing family living. His family lived in "Sea Villa" on the Laxey promenade. Lawson converted this property from a cottage into a large house, then built "Bay View Terrace" a development of five houses about 50 yards behind the promenade. One of his sons, **Robert Edwin ("Ted") Lawson** was harbour master in the 1880s.

Mining for lead, silver and copper was carried out at Laxey from early times. Records are scarce for the early years but there is documentary evidence that lead was supplied from the Island for the roofing of castles built by Edward I in Wales during the thirteenth century. In the 19th century lead and zinc mining began; it became the largest industry in the village. The heyday of mining at Laxey was during the period 1860-90. It has been estimated that around 300 persons were employed at the Laxey mines in 1850, rising to approximately 400 by 1890. There was then a steady decline until the mines closed in 1929.

Today, the key distinguishing features of Laxey are its three working vintage railways and the largest working waterwheel in the world. It is also the location of the 5000 year old King Orry's Grave and the Laxey and Dhoon Glens, two of the Manx National Glens.

The *Laxey Wheel* (also known as the Lady Isabella waterwheel) is built into the hillside above the village of Laxey. It is the largest working waterwheel in the world. The wheel has a 72-foot-6-inch diameter, is 6 feet wide and revolves at approximately three revolutions per minute. It was built in 1854 to pump water from the Glen Mooar part of the Great Laxey Mines industrial complex. The wheel was named "Lady Isabella" after the wife of the island's Lieutenant Governor at that time.

(Source: "Laxey", in the *Isle of Man Guide*, 2008)



*The Lady Isabella water wheel  
at the village of Laxey in Lanan Parish*

# TIMELINE OF LAWSON IN ISLE OF MAN

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Event</u>                                                                                                                             |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 54 BC       | Caesar names the Isle of Man 'Mona'                                                                                                      |
| 400-500     | Missionaries arrive from Ireland                                                                                                         |
| 490         | Following the death of Dumnagual Hen, Isle of Man (Ynys Manaw) becomes independent from the Kingdom of Strathclyde                       |
| 550         | King Senyllt of Galwyddel flees to Island                                                                                                |
| 626         | King Edwin of Deira invades the Island                                                                                                   |
| 720         | After the death of Welsh King Rhain of Rhainw, Prince Sandde moves to Island and marries the island kingdom's heiress, Princess Celemion |
| 740         | Death of King Iudgual of Ynys Manaw (Isle of Man). He is succeeded by his nephew, Prince Elidyr                                          |
| 700-800     | Gwriad rules the Island                                                                                                                  |
| 850-950     | The first Norse settlements in Mann                                                                                                      |
| 825         | Merfyn, son of Gwwriad, leaves the Island                                                                                                |
| 836         | King Merfyn Frych is absent in his newly acquired Kingdom of Gwynedd, Irish Viking invaders manage to take over the island.              |
| 858         | Nennius (Welsh man) names Island Eubonia                                                                                                 |
| 870         | Battle of Santwat                                                                                                                        |
| 900         | The Round Tower was built at Peel Castle                                                                                                 |
| 900         | Vikings built a fort on St Patricks Isle                                                                                                 |
| 950-1079    | Mann and Hebrides was ruled by a King of the Isles                                                                                       |
| 1050        | Manx bishopric was established                                                                                                           |
| 1066        | King Godred Sygtrygsson sheltered Godred "Crovan"                                                                                        |
| 1079        | Battle of Scacafell (Skyhill) was won by Godred Crovan, who became King of Mann and the Isles                                            |
| 1095        | Death of Godred, King of Man and the Isles.                                                                                              |
| 1098        | Civil war in Man                                                                                                                         |
| 1100        | St Michael's Chapel built                                                                                                                |
| 1100        | Myreseough monastery founded in Lezayre                                                                                                  |
| 1103        | Death of King Magnus Barefoot                                                                                                            |
| 1134        | King Olaf founded Rushen Abbey and granted the land to the Sauvignac monks of Furness Abbey                                              |
| 1147        | Rushen Abbey came under Cistercian rule                                                                                                  |
| 1156        | Battle of Colonsay and loss of Mull and Islay                                                                                            |
| 1190        | Foundation of Castle Rushen                                                                                                              |
| 1200        | Expedition of King Haakin, Norwegian overlord, and his defeat at the Battle of Largs                                                     |
| 1228        | King Olaf's fleet burnt at Peel by Reginald                                                                                              |
| 1228        | Battle of Tynwald and death and defeat of Reginald                                                                                       |
| 1229-1247   | Building of St. Germain's Cathedral                                                                                                      |
| 1229        | Bishop Simon's Diocesan Synod at Braddan                                                                                                 |
| 1237        | King Olaf dies                                                                                                                           |
| 1257        | Chronicles of Mann written at Rushen Abbey                                                                                               |
| 1257        | Building works on Rushen Abbey completed                                                                                                 |
| 1266        | Treaty of Perth transferred Isle of Man to Scotland                                                                                      |
| 1275        | King Alexander of Scotland defeated the Manx at the Battle of Ronaldsway                                                                 |
| 1291        | Bishop Mark's Synod                                                                                                                      |
| 1299        | Bishop Mark expelled and Island under Papal interdict                                                                                    |
| 1313        | Capture of Castle Rushen by Robert the Bruce                                                                                             |
| 1316        | Richard de Mandeville raided and defeated the Manx at the Battle of South Barrule                                                        |

|                 |                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1350            | Commencement of sandstone castle at Peel                                                                                                            |
| 1350            | Monks' Bridge built                                                                                                                                 |
| 1373            | Franciscan Friary established at Bemaken, Ballabeg                                                                                                  |
| 1395            | Le Scrope, King of Mann, used Three Legs emblem as signatory to Anglo-French Treaty                                                                 |
| 1405            | Grant of Isle of Man by King Henry IV to Sir John Stanley                                                                                           |
| 1417            | First document in Statute Book refers to Claves Manniae et Claves Legis - the Keys of Mann and the Isles                                            |
| 1417- 1430      | Series of important Tynwald Courts and firm establishment of Stanley regime                                                                         |
| 1456            | Last Scottish attack on Mann                                                                                                                        |
| 1485            | Thomas Stanley II ennobled as 1st Earl of Derby                                                                                                     |
| 1504            | Title King of Man waived for title Lord of Mann                                                                                                     |
| 1511- 1515      | Manorial Roll compiled                                                                                                                              |
| 1540            | Rushen Abbey and the Nunnery officially dissolved by Edward Stanley                                                                                 |
| 1577            | Bishop paid homage to 4th Earl for his Barony, at Tynwald                                                                                           |
| 1594            | Queen Elizabeth I took control of Mann pending settlement of a disputed succession                                                                  |
| 1579-1634       | <b>James Lawson, Isle of Man born 1579, Perth, Scotland; Moved to Isle of Man circa 1600; Died 1634 on Isle of Man. BEGINS LINE OF MANX LAWSONS</b> |
| 1602            | <b>James Lawson marries Isabel Cowle</b>                                                                                                            |
| circa 1605-1668 | <b>Edward Lawson, son of James Lawson, was a miller at Lhen Mooar.</b>                                                                              |
| 1608            | William Christian (Illiam Dhone) born                                                                                                               |
| 1610            | Prayer Book printed in Manx by Bishop Phillips                                                                                                      |
| 1612            | Stanley rule resumed by William I, fifth Earl, and Countess Elizabeth                                                                               |
| 1627            | James Stanley, 7th Earl of Derby, becomes Lord of Mann                                                                                              |
| 1628            | <b>Edward Lawson marries Jony Christian.</b>                                                                                                        |
| 1628            | Horse races on Langness - transferred to Epsom as The Derby in 1780                                                                                 |
| circa 1630-1705 | <b>Richard Lawson (Losson), son of Edward Lawson, was a miller at Lhen Mooar.</b>                                                                   |
| 1645            | Buidling starts on Derby Fort                                                                                                                       |
| 1648            | Stevenson family of Balladoole gave up the Calf to the Lord of Mann                                                                                 |
| 1651            | 7th Earl with Manx force in Royalist defeat at the Battles of Wigan and Worcester. Capture and execution of the Earl at Bolton                      |
| 1651            | Rebellion in Mann, led by William Christian (Illiam Dhone). Island was taken over for the Commonwealth                                              |
| 1656            | <b>Richard Lawson (Losson) marries Bahee Kewn at Jurby parish.</b>                                                                                  |
| 1656            | William Christian (Illiam Dhone) becomes Governor of the Isle of Man                                                                                |
| 1660            | Restoration of Derby rule                                                                                                                           |
| 1663            | William Christian (Illiam Dhone) Executed                                                                                                           |
| 1666            | The Moddey Dhoo appears at Peel Castle                                                                                                              |
| 1668            | Manx copper coins minted by John Murray of Ronaldsway                                                                                               |
| circa 1668-1736 | <b>Edward Lawson, son of Richard Lawson, was a miller.</b>                                                                                          |
| 1672            | Compulsory elementary education introduced by Charles, 8th Earl of Derby                                                                            |
| 1698-1775       | Episcopate of Bishop Wilson                                                                                                                         |
| 1701            | <b>Edward Lawson marries Jony Kaneen at Kirk Anrdeas.</b>                                                                                           |
| 1704            | 1704 Act of Settlement confirmed customary land tenancy                                                                                             |
| 1709            | Derby coinage introduced, bearing family crest of eagle and child                                                                                   |
| 1714-1790       | <b>James Lawson, son of Edward Lawson, was a wheelwright and joiner who lived in Onchan and Douglas.</b>                                            |
| 1740            | <b>James Lawson marries Catherine Killey at Onchan parish.</b>                                                                                      |
| 1744-1817       | <b>Edward Lawson, son of James Lawson, was a successful wheelwright and joiner in Peel and Douglas.</b>                                             |
| 1760            | Two wooden pillars erected in memory of a victory over the French Admiral Thurot, off the coast of Ballaugh                                         |
| 1764            | Smallpox epidemic                                                                                                                                   |

|           |                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1765      | U.K. Act of Revestment and Mischief Act passed for suppression of running trade. Financial control of the Island was vested in the British Crown      |
| 1770      | First Tynwald after Revestment                                                                                                                        |
| 1772-73   | Epidemic of Smallpox                                                                                                                                  |
| 1773      | Discovery of the Calf of Man Crucifixion Stone by John Quayle                                                                                         |
| 1775      | Publication of the Manx Bible, edited by Philip Moore                                                                                                 |
| 1777      | John Wesley visited Mann                                                                                                                              |
| 1780      | <b>Edward Lawson marries Anne Crellin at Kirk Braddan.</b>                                                                                            |
| 1780      | Epidemic of Smallpox                                                                                                                                  |
| 1780      | Publication of Dr. John Kelly's Manx Grammar                                                                                                          |
| 1788      | Dennison's Theatre opened in Fort Street, Douglas                                                                                                     |
| 1789      | Mutiny on The Bounty                                                                                                                                  |
| 1790-1850 | <b>Edward Lawson, son of Edward Lawson, was a successful baker and property owner in Douglas</b>                                                      |
| 1792      | Establishment of the 1st Manx newspaper, the Manks Mercury and Briscoe's Advertiser                                                                   |
| 1792      | Thomas Stowell published 'The Statutes and Ordinances of the Isle of Man'                                                                             |
| 1799      | Birth of William Kennish, inventor and scientist                                                                                                      |
| 1803      | "Mona's Herald" began publication                                                                                                                     |
| 1805      | Introduction of vaccination against smallpox                                                                                                          |
| 1806      | Corrin's Tower (Corrin's Folly) built                                                                                                                 |
| 1810      | Construction began in Douglas on Duke Street and Sand Street (now Strand Street). They were then the western and northern limits of the town          |
| 1813      | <b>Edward Lawson marries Margaret Cottier at Kirk Braddan.</b>                                                                                        |
| 1819      | First scheduled service by steamer from Great Britain                                                                                                 |
| 1820      | Waterloo Theatre opened on the corner of Strand St and Wellington St, Douglas                                                                         |
| 1821      | Riots broke out in Peel as Manx (and English) ports had been closed against importation of foreign corn, meal, or flour                               |
| 1824      | Foundation of National Lifeboat Institution by Sir William Hillary                                                                                    |
| 1825      | Economic difficulties for Manx farmers resulted in potato riots in Arbory and Rushen; march on Bishopscourt                                           |
| 1827      | A major failure in the herring season                                                                                                                 |
| 1828-1898 | <b>Thomas Lawson, son of Edward Lawson, worked as a baker in his early years then owned and operated a quarry.</b>                                    |
| 1829      | Birth of Arthur Caley the Manx Giant (7ft 6in)                                                                                                        |
| 1830      | The St. George is shipwrecked on Conister Rock                                                                                                        |
| 1830      | Isle of Man Steam Packet Company founded and William Gill appointed Captain of Mona's Isle                                                            |
| 1832      | Tower of Refuge Erected                                                                                                                               |
| 1832      | First epidemic of Cholera ever known                                                                                                                  |
| 1837      | Epidemic of Typhus, many died                                                                                                                         |
| 1838      | Publication of Archibald Cregeen's Manx-English Dictionary                                                                                            |
| 1839      | Epidemic of Smallpox                                                                                                                                  |
| 1840      | Assimilation Act - the Manx 14 pennies to the shilling became English 12 to the shilling. Riots, and a company of soldiers was brought from Liverpool |
| 1847      | Visit of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert                                                                                                             |
| 1848      | Consecration of new Royal Chapel of St. John's                                                                                                        |
| 1849      | Cholera Epidemic                                                                                                                                      |
| 1851      | Smallpox Epidemic                                                                                                                                     |
| 1852      | <b>Thomas Lawson marries Catherine Moore at Bradden.</b>                                                                                              |
| 1852-1895 | <b>Thomas Moore Lawson, son of Thomas and Catherine Moore Lawson, born 1852, Douglas, Isle of Man. The founder of our Lawson line in America.</b>     |
| 1852      | Youngest recorded member of the House of Keys, Edward Curphey Farrant at 21                                                                           |
| 1852      | Act of Tynwald preventing Smallpox vaccination                                                                                                        |
| 1852      | Brig Lily disaster on Kitterland rock and loss of lifeboat crew                                                                                       |



|           |                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1853      | Voyage of the Vixen from Peel to Australia                                                                                                       |
| 1854      | World's largest waterwheel opened at Laxey, the Lady Isabella                                                                                    |
| 1858      | Foundation of the Manx Society, for the publication of important documents                                                                       |
| 1862      | Victoria Hall, Prospect Hill Douglas opens                                                                                                       |
| 1862      | Douglas breakwater was constructed of wood                                                                                                       |
| 1864      | Epidemics of Smallpox and Typhoid fever                                                                                                          |
| 1865      | <b>Thomas Moore Lawson</b> emigrates to America and settles in Rochester, NY and Batavia, NY, where he worked as a blacksmith/mechanic/engineer. |
| 1865      | <b>Thomas Moore Lawson</b> marries Catherine E. Stalker also of Manx descent.                                                                    |
| 1865      | Epidemics of Smallpox and Typhoid fever                                                                                                          |
| 1865      | Douglas breakwater was destroyed in a storm                                                                                                      |
| 1866      | Boards of Health were formed throughout the island                                                                                               |
| 1866      | The House of Keys Election Act provided for universal suffrage                                                                                   |
| 1866      | The Isle of Man Customs and Harbours Act passed at Westminster, restoring to the Manx Government control of finances and internal administration |
| 1867      | First Elections to the House of Keys                                                                                                             |
| 1869-1870 | Ordnance Survey of the Island completed and published                                                                                            |
| 1869      | Iron Pier built in Douglas                                                                                                                       |
| 1871      | Milner's Tower built                                                                                                                             |
| 1871      | Victoria Pier was opened and there was a big influx of visitors. the steam railway was completed between Douglas and Peel                        |
| 1872      | Education Act passed                                                                                                                             |
| 1872      | John Kewish hung at Castletown - last person to be hung                                                                                          |
| 1873      | Plantation begins at Archallagan over 371 acres with 2,250 assorted trees                                                                        |
| 1873      | Opening of Douglas-Peel railway line                                                                                                             |
| 1876      | Foundation of horse tram network in Douglas                                                                                                      |
| 1877      | Derby Castle entertainment complex opened                                                                                                        |
| 1877      | The steam railway was completed between Ramsey and St. Johns. An Epidemic of Smallpox                                                            |
| 1877      | Public Baths opened on Douglas Promenade                                                                                                         |
| 1879      | Foundation of Isle of Man Natural History and Antiquarian Society                                                                                |
| 1881      | Introduction of Women's Suffrage                                                                                                                 |
| 1882      | The Phynodderre and Other Legends of the Isle of Man by Edward Callow published                                                                  |
| 1882      | Grand Theatre and Insular Opera House opened                                                                                                     |
| 1883      | Horse trams began service in Douglas                                                                                                             |
| 1884      | Constitution of Her Majesty's High Court of Justice of the Isle of Man                                                                           |
| 1885      | Ballure Glen opened                                                                                                                              |
| 1886      | The steam railway was completed between Foxdale and St. Johns                                                                                    |
| 1887      | Publication of Hall Caine's first Manx novel, The Deemster                                                                                       |
| 1888      | The White Hoe fever isolation hospital was built near the Nunnery                                                                                |
| 1889      | Palace Ballroom opened                                                                                                                           |
| 1890      | The Surnames and Place-Names of the Isle of Man by A.W.Moore published                                                                           |
| 1890      | Barque Thorne Shipwreck at Onchan Head                                                                                                           |
| 1891      | The Folk Lore of the Isle of Man by A.W. Moore published                                                                                         |
| 1891      | The Douglas Prison was finished on Victoria Road, replacing Castle Rushen                                                                        |
| 1892      | Ramsey Swing Bridge built and installed by Cleveland Bridge& Engineering                                                                         |
| 1893      | Bijou Theatre opened in Regent St, Douglas                                                                                                       |
| 1894      | Douglas Iron Pier sold, dismantled and re-erected at Rhos-on-Sea                                                                                 |
| 1894      | Manx Electric Railway inaugurated between Douglas and Groudle                                                                                    |
| 1895      | <b>Thomas Moore Lawson</b> falls from the steamboat Walter Vail and drowns near Buffalo, NY.                                                     |
| 1895      | Excavation of Giant Irish deer near St. John's                                                                                                   |
| 1895      | Penny Bridge built accross Douglas Harbour                                                                                                       |
| 1895      | The Great Snow (16ft deep in parts)                                                                                                              |

# ISLE OF MAN - DIRECT LINE MANX ANCESTORS

Only the direct line of our Manx Lawson family ancestors is outlined here. Direct line ancestors are indicated in **BOLD UNDERLINE**.

Family legends passed down over the years say that the Lawson family on the Isle of Man originated in Scotland. If these stories are true, the most likely candidate for the first Lawson on the Isle of Man is James Lawson (sometimes spelled Lowsone) who was baptized on the 27th of February, 1568, at Perth, Scotland. He is listed in the International Genealogical Index (IGI) as the son of Robert Lowsone.

The earliest documents that have been found on the Isle of Man for the Lawson family are the wills of James Lawson (322), his wife Isabel Cowle (323) and Richard Lawson (618).

## GENERATION 1.

**James Lawson** (322) was born sometime between 1570 and 1580 in northern England or southern Scotland. He was the first Lawson to come to the Isle of Man and all of the various Manx Lawson lines descend from James Lawson. James moved to the Isle of Man as a young man sometime around 1600 and he appears to have first settled in the town of Ramsey in the north of the island. From the Will of James Lawson, we know that he married twice.

His first wife was Isabel Cowle and they were married circa 1602. Isabel Cowle was born circa 1580. Nothing is known about her parents. However, the Isle of Man Manorial Roll of 1511-15, lists the wife of Marghad McCowle as the tenant of the mill at Alia Altadale (now the village of Lezayre, about 1 mile west of Ramsey). This is interesting because Richard Lawson, the grandson of James and Isabel Lawson, was the miller at Lhen Mooar (now Glen Mooar, about 4 miles west of Lezayre).

Documents show that Isabel, the wife of James Lawson, died on the 8th of January, 1627-8 and that her maiden name was Cowle. At the time of her death she had two unmarried children, Robert (619) and Edward (620). There may have been other, unnamed, married children, most likely their oldest son Richard (618).

James Lawson died on the 5th of June, 1634, some six years after Isabel, and was buried at the village of Bride on June 6, 1634. It is likely that the family lived in Andreas, probably at The Lhen, which is about 3 miles west of Bride and about half a mile from the western shore. Today, there still exists Lawson's Croft at The Lhen which was operated as a bed and breakfast inn but now is privately owned. This large 3 bedroom home sits on 3 acres with views of the Irish Sea and the Beach is only a short walk from the house.

The name of James Lawson's second wife is unknown but her existence is established by his Will which mentions "unmarried children by the later wife" and that "ye mother refuse to take administration in the behalf of the children." This would indicate that a second wife was still alive and that there were minor children. Research has been limited to records on the Isle of Man and it is possible that the second marriage took place off the Island - possibly in England, Scotland or Ireland. Some genealogists report that she was born around 1600 in Douglas and that her name was also

Isabel. We do know for certain that James Lawson married his second wife circa 1628, shortly after the death of his first wife. A look at the birthdates for the children of Isabel Cowle and James Lawson shows that none of their three children were minors at the date of James' death. The most likely explanation for this is that James Lawson remarried after the death of Isabel, probably in 1628 or 1629, and that there were children of this second marriage. So far no record of this second marriage

been found and only one minor child has been identified. This child is Catherine Lawson who was recorded as an orphan buried at Andreas on November 8, 1663. Birth or christening records for the children have not yet been found. Considering that they were all married in Andreas, it is likely that the family lived in Andreas, probably at The Lhen.

## GENERATION 2.

### The Children of James Lawson & Isabel Cowle

| Number & Name     | Type & Birth date Place/ | Notes     |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 618 Richard       | C 1603 Maughold Parish   | Died 1654 |
| 619 Robert        | C 1605 Maughold Parish   |           |
| 620 <u>Edward</u> | C 1607 Maughold Parish   | Died 1668 |

Richard Lawson (618) was born in approximately 1603. As no records of any other Lawson families have been found it is likely that Richard was a son of James. The name of Richard's wife is unknown but they were probably married sometime prior to January, 1627. He had at least three children and died in 1654. Richard Lawson in his Will of 1654 names his children Anthony, James and Ellin. The three children are named executors. As no Supervisors were appointed for the children it would appear that they were all of age (that youngest was probably at least fourteen). Ewan Curghey, a witness to Richard's Will and a pledge for his inventory, was the husband of Katherine Lawson, the daughter of Edward Lawson, Richard's brother. Curiously, daughter Ellin's Will of 1669, mentions her brother Anthony and a sister named Ann Lawson. Richard was the direct ancestor of the Southern branch of the family - his grandson William Lawson was the first Lawson to move to the South of the Isle of Man.

Robert Lawson (619) was born in approximately 1605, most likely in Ramsey (Maughold parish). He is named as an unmarried child in his mother's Will of January, 1627-8. Robert is thought to have married circa 1630. He was the probable ancestor of the Lonan branch of the family. The first Lawson at Lonan of whom we have definite knowledge is John Lawson (1184), a miller. While it is possible that John was the son of Robert, it seems more likely that he was a grandson.

**Edward Lawson** (620) was born in approximately 1605. He is named as an unmarried child in his mother's Will of January, 1627-28. He married Jony Christian in approximately 1628 at Andreas. Jony Christian (621) would have been born in approximately 1610. Nothing is known of Jony's parents. Considering that her grandson Edward became the miller at Lhen Mooar, it is interesting to note that a John McCristen was the miller at Breryk and Altadale in 1515. She died on the 26th of April, 1670. Edward's occupation was in the milling trade through his wife's family connections. Edward Lawson died at Lezayre in 1668.

The Bishop's Court of the 11th of January, 1637, held at Jurby, records the divorce of William Gawen and Ann Kellie. Ann was accused of adultery with Edward Lawson of Andreas, by whom she had two

children. She also had a third child by Thomas Kellie of Jurby. One of these children appears to have been John Lawson who was baptized on the 9th of January, 1631–2, at Jurby “the bastard son of Edward”. No names are known for any of their other children.

### GENERATION 3.

#### The Children of Edward Lawson & Jony Christian

| Number & Name      | Type & Birth date Place/    | Notes                     |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 624 John           | B 9th Jan 1631              | illegitimate by Ann Kelly |
| Unidentified       | C 1633                      | illegitimate by Ann Kelly |
| 311 <u>Richard</u> | C 1630                      |                           |
| 624 John           | B 9th Jan 1631, Jurby (IGI) |                           |
| 625 Margaret       | C 1639                      |                           |
| 626 Katherine      | C 1642                      |                           |
| 627 Ann            | C 1645                      |                           |

As noted above, Edward Lawson had two illegitimate children by Ann Kelley. The only record is for John (Kelly or Lawson??) born on January 9, 1691. No information is known about the second child.

**Richard Lawson**, the first child of Edward Lawson and Jony Christian, was born circa 1630, is our 3rd generation direct ancestor - more about him after we discuss his brother and sisters.

John Lawson (624) was baptized at Jurby on the 9th of January, 1631.

Margaret Lawson (625) was baptized circa 1639, presumably at Jurby. She was alive and apparently unmarried in 1674 when she was appointed, with her brother Richard, supervisor to Ann's underage children.

Katherine Lawson (626) was born circa 1642, presumably at Jurby. She married Ewan Curghey sometime prior to the death of her uncle Richard Lawson in 1654. Ewan, noted as Katherine's husband, was a witness to Richard's Will and a pledge for his inventory. From her mother's Will, she appears to have been in Ireland in 1670. Katherine's husband Ewan died sometime prior to her death as records indicate that Katherine Lawson died on December 21, 1701, intestate, unmarried and without issue.

Ann Lawson (627) was born circa 1645, presumably at Jurby. She married William Killip circa 1670. Ann died sometime in 1674 and was buried at Braddan on June 11, 1674. Her Will proved at £10–7s–5d and her minor sons John and Thomas were appointed administrators. with her sister Margaret and brother Richard as supervisors of the children.

**Richard Lawson** (311) was born circa 1630. He married Bahee Kewn on the 1st of July, 1656, at Jurby. The witness's names are not given, but both parties are of Jurby parish. Richard's name was given as Ric. Losson. Bahee Kewn (382) was born circa 1630 in Jurby, the daughter of Patt (320) and Joney (383) Kewin. She died in June 1703, as her Will, by affirmation, states that she was buried on the 8th of June at Andreas. Richard was the miller at Lhen Mooar, Andreas, at the time of his marriage. Lhen Mooar is right on the border of Jurby and Andreas parishes. It is likely that the couple moved following their marriage as the known baptisms for their children took place at Andreas. Richard died at Andreas on

the 17th of December, 1705 and was buried the next day at Jurby. His burial was also entered in the Andreas register.

The Chapter Court held on the 28th of June, 1654, at Jurby heard the presentment of Richard Lawson of Kirk Andreas "for being farming on the Lords Day in tyme of publick worship in ye evening".

In 1662, Richard Lawson was one of three men presented to the Andreas Chapter Quest for fishing on a Sunday in May. The presentation indicates that Richard was the owner of a fishing boat, probably in partnership with others for in his Will of 1705 he leaves his quarter share of the "old boat" together with his share of "five pair of nets" to his son Edward (544). At the time of his death the boat was possibly in poor state at the time as it is stipulated that his son James was to receive two boards when the wood was broken.

At the Michael Chapter Court held in October of 1662, Richard Lawson and John Camaish swore out a complaint against Michael Christian junior and his wife for cutting firewood on the Lord's Day.

In 1680, the Comaish family of Ballacomaish (about 1 mile southeast of Lawson's Croft) were in financial straits as they were unable to pay the Lords Rent for three years. Richard evidently lent them fifty shillings and in return was granted the use (a mortgage on) of a parcel of Quarterland for a period of fifteen years and a further five years (until October 1700). A Quarterland or *Ceathramh* (in Scottish Gaelic) was an obsolete unit of Scottish land measurement for the amount of land on which rent of two ounces of silver could be charged. Richard had the right to build a house or houses on the land and at the end of the twenty year period, when the land was to revert to the Comaish family on the payment of £5.10, the roofs would be Richard's property. At this time, the houses would have been of sod construction. The roof and ridge pole together with any doors would be made of timber and would be the most valuable part of the house and, most importantly, could easily removed to another location. The annual rent was quoted as 71d. Richard was to pay a single rent each year to John Elison and in addition is to pay £3 to the widow of John Ratcliffe, apparently another debt of the Comaish family. It seems that Richard assumed a total of £510s of Comaish debts and that the Comaish family had an opportunity to reclaim the property during the final five years of the mortgage by repaying this amount. In 1692 Richard is mentioned in the Composition book with the Comaish family. At this time he is still in possession of the land and his age is given as sixty-two years, which would confirm his year of birth as 1629-30. At his death in 1705 Richard's Will indicates that he was still in possession of the land and had built a house on it.

A bequest in Richard's Will left a quarter of an heifer to John Lawson and a further quarter to each of his first son and daughter. This would imply that John was childless, if not unmarried, at the time of Richard's death. Although it is not stated in the Will, John Lawson was either Richard's older illegitimate brother or his grandson (the son of James) who would have been about twenty years old at the time. The final quarter of the heifer was left to Thomas Curghey his nephew, the son of his sister Katherine and Ewan Curghey.

Patrick Christian, a step brother, is mentioned twice in the Will. Patrick was the son, by a previous marriage, of Richard's mother, Joney Christian. Richard acknowledges that he and his son Edward owed between them nine stocks of corn to Patrick. Further, Edward is left sufficient corn to sow Patrick's croft.



#### GENERATION 4.

##### The Children of Richard Lawson & Bahee Kewn

| Number & Name     | Type & Birth date Place/ | Notes |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| 446 Bahee         | C 1657 Andreas           |       |
| 605 James         | C 1660 Andreas           |       |
| 606 Mary          | C 1662 Andreas           |       |
| 607 Jony          | C 1664 Andreas           |       |
| 544 <u>Edward</u> | C 1668 Andreas           |       |
| 608 Margaret      | B 21st Sep 1670 Andreas  |       |
| 609 Ellin         | B 3rd Ooct 1673 Andreas  |       |
| 610 Jane          | C 1675 Andreas           |       |

Bahee Lawson (446) was born in approximately 1657. She married Thomas Clark on the 19th of May, 1677, at Andreas. Thomas Clark (611) was baptized on the 2nd of September, 1646. He married first Catherine Kee and second Bahee Lawson (446). Thomas Clark died on the 8th of December, 1689. Bahee inherited 12s3d from her mother in 1703. She died in April, 1704.

James Lawson (605) was born circa 1660. He married Catherine Kannen in 1682. Katherine Kannen was born circa 1660. James Lawson and Katherine Kannen had seven children. Katherine died on the 20th of September, 1729. James Lawson followed his father and became a miller at Lhen Mooar and was, in turn, succeeded at the mill by his son John. He probably had a second trade of weaving as he left his looms to his second son, Richard, together with instructions that his youngest son, David, was to be taught the trade. In 1695, together with William Curlett, he gave John & Mary Comaish a mortgage of £5-18s-8d on a piece of land known as Bally Marten. It is possible that this adjoined the land that his father, in 1680, had given a mortgage to John & Dorethy Comaish. The following year, with his brother Edward, he purchased a parcel of Quarterland known as Corckan Minan for £2-8s-0d. In 1703 he purchased a piece of Intackland known as Brew Croft from John Keey for £1-4s-0d. James Lawson died on the 13th of April, 1712.

Mary Lawson (606) was born in approximately 1662. She was left 10s in her mother's Will. Her father's Will acknowledged that the debt was still outstanding and she was left an additional two shillings. She married Stephen Cleator circa 1680. There were possibly two children of the marriage. William Cleator, son of Stephen, was baptized in October, 1682, at Andreas. An unnamed female, daughter of Stephen, was baptized on the 27th of December, 1684, at Andreas.

Jony Lawson (607) was born in approximately 1664. She was left a yard of linen by her mother and a candle by her father. She married John Cowle circa 1685. John Cowle (1847) was born circa 1660. Jony Lawson died on the 1st of July, 1707, and was buried at Andreas. John Cowle survived his wife Jony Lawson.

Edward Lawson, born circa 1668, is our 4th generation direct ancestor - more about him after we discuss his brother and sisters.

Margaret Lawson (608) was baptized on the 21st of September, 1670, at Andreas. She is not mentioned in her mother's Will of 1703 nor in her father's Will of 1705. However, in December of 1706 a Robert Quirk (321) issued a claim on her behalf for 9s6d against the executors of her father's Will. This would indicate that she was still alive at that time and probably married to Robert Quirk.

Ellinor Lawson (609) was baptized on the 3rd of October, 1673 at Andreas. She was known as Nelly. She married Daniel Corlett (1231) on the 15th of December, 1722. Daniel Corlett (1231) was born circa 1673. Daniel was buried at Jurby on the 14th of October, 1758. In 1703, Ellinor Lawson inherited from her mother five pounds and a chest with all her mother's shaped linen and woollen cloth. The money was, evidently, not immediately paid for in her father's Will of 1705 it is acknowledged that she is still owed the five pounds and in settlement of this debt she is left 4 blankets, a cow, an axe and an interest in the mortgaged property. She was to enjoy the use of half the property until such time as her brother Edward paid her forty shillings for her interest and a five shillings for her share of the roof. This debt was discharged by Edward in October 1706. Ellin was also left the poll, presumably the ridge pole of the roof. She inherited two thirds of her father's sheep. She was bequeathed a petticoat by her sister Jane in 1723. Ellinor Lawson died on the 10th of May, 1733, and was buried at Jurby.

Jane Lawson (610) was born in approximately 1675. She married first to John Wade (1232) and second to Daniel Kneale (1234) on the 20th of August, 1709. She was left a yard of linen in her mother's Will of 1703 and a blanket in her father's Will of 1705. She died and was buried on the 20th of December, 1723, at Andreas.

**Edward Lawson** (544) was born in approximately 1668. He married Joney Kaneen (576) at Kirk Andreas in June 1701. Joney Kaneen (576) was baptized on the 10th of November, 1668, at Andreas, the daughter of Thomas Kaneen. She married first to Patrick Christian sometime around 1690, and secondly to Edward Lawson in June of 1701 at Andreas. Her first husband died sometime around 1700. There was one son of the first marriage, Patrick, born at Andreas circa 1700. He was confirmed at Andreas on the 2nd of November, 1718, when he is listed as "Patrick Christian, step son of Ned Lawson at ye Lane" (Lhen). Unfortunately there is a gap in the Andreas Parish register for the years 1685 to 1704 so there is no record of her first marriage, the birth of Patrick or the death of her first husband. The Will of Joney Kaneen Lawson states that she died on the 7th of October, 1733, and she was buried on the 9th of October at Andreas.

In December 1696, Edward Lawson, together with his brother James, purchased a parcel of Quarterland known as Crockan Mian from Henry and Ann Christian for £28s0d, of which 12s was paid at the time. In 1703, Edward's mother left him her share of a farm in her Will. Then, in 1705, he was the major beneficiary of his father's Will, along with his sister Ellinor. Edward inherited the mortgaged land of the Comaish family with a proviso that his sister Ellin was to enjoy a share of it. This land was valued at 70s. Edward appears to have been promised part of the land (to a value of 55s) in his marriage contract. This obligation is acknowledged in his father's Will and the remaining 15s value of the land is left equally between Edward and Ellin. In October 1706 he paid his sister her share of the property (7s6d). He received a third of his father's sheep (the remaining two thirds going to Ellinor). Edward also inherited his father's share (a quarter) of "yeoldboate", probably a fishing boat as he was al solef this father's share of the five pair of nets. It is likely that the boat was in poor condition at the time for there is a proviso that his brother James is to have two boards when the boat is broken up. It is not known who the other owners were.

From the Ecclesiastical Court records we know that Edward Lawson died intestate on the 14th August, 1736. The court provides us with the names of four of his children and tells us that he was a miller. It would seem that his death was unexpected as he was a relatively wealthy man to have died intestate.

## GENERATION 5.

### The Children of Edward Lawson & Joney Kaneen

| Number & Name    | Type & Birth date Place/ | Notes              |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 577 Richard      | B August 1703 Andreas,   | died 1758, Douglas |
| 578 Ann          | B 27th Jun 1705 Andreas  |                    |
| 579 Bahee        | B 9th Jan 1707 Andreas   |                    |
| 580 Edward       | B 22nd Apr 1711 Andreas, | died before 1733   |
| 541 <u>James</u> | B 2nd Jan 1714 Andreas   |                    |

Richard Lawson (577) was baptized at Kirk Andreas in August of 1703. He married twice, first to Ann Caine (282) on the 30th of November, 1729, at Jurby. Ann Caine who died in 1747. Richard next married his second wife, Lenora Christian, on the 19th of November, 1752, at Braddan. There were no issue from the second marriage. Sometime between January 1732 (when their second child was baptized) and December 1734 (when their third child was baptized) the family moved from Andreas to Douglas where he continued the family tradition of milling. Richard Lawson died and was buried at Braddan on the 2nd of April, 1758. His Will mentions five of his children, so it seems likely that three of the children (Edward, Hester and Anne) had died by this time. Although his occupation is not given in the Will, the baptismal record of his third son, John, states that he was a miller. Judging by the contents of the Will, he must have been successful in his business as he had provided apprenticeships for his three youngest sons (the eldest son, Richard was evidently living away from home at this time). After leaving an auger and adze to his brother James, Richard charged his brother-in-law David Caine and his brother James to care for the three youngest children.

Ann Lawson (578) was baptized at Kirk Andreas on the 27th of June, 1705. She is mentioned in her mother's Will of 1733 when she inherited equally with her sister Bahee all her mother's "shapd linen and wollen cloathes". Presumably this referred to cloth that had been made up into clothing, or shaped, as distinct from "whole" cloth which was direct from the weaver. She married Thomas Corlett on the 13th of April, 1725. Thomas Corlett (1841) was born circa 1700. Ann Lawson said to have died on the 2nd of April, 1758, however, there is a burial for Ann Corlett, alias Lawson, on the 23rd of February, 1782

Bahee Lawson (579) was baptized at Kirk Andreas on the 9th of January, 1707 and confirmed at Jurby on the 17th of October, 1725. In addition to her share of the "shapd cloathes" mentioned in her mother's Will, she also received a legacy of forty shillings, apparently the outstanding balance of a marriage contract. Bahee married Andrew Quirk on the 27th of July, 1729. Andrew Quirk (1155) was baptized on the 29th of November, 1711. He died on the 21st of December, 1784. Bahee Lawson Quirk died and was buried on the 25th of February, 1773, at Andreas.

Edward Lawson (580) was baptized at Kirk Andreas on the 22nd of April, 1711. He died of smallpox shortly before his third birthday and was buried at Andreas on the 2nd of February, 1713–14.

**James Lawson** (541) was baptized at Kirk Andreas on the 2nd of January, 1714, the fifth child and third son of Edward Lawson and Joney Kaneen. In 1733, James was appointed sole executor of the estate of Joney Kaneen, his mother. As he was unmarried at this time, it is probable that he was still living with his parents. James probably moved to Onchan sometime before 1740, as he married Catherine Killey (542) at Onchan Parish Church on 29th of April, 1740. Catherine Killey (542) was baptized on the 13th of February, 1726, at Malew. It would seem that Catherine was only 15 years old when she married James

Lawson in 1740. The marriage record makes no mention that Catherine was under age. Catherine Killey Lawson died in Douglas and was buried at Onchan on the 30th of May, 1795.

**It is through Catherine Killey that a possible “Royal” connection may be established.** Killey comes from the gaelic MacGiolla Ceallaigh which became Mackilleykelly. Over the course of time the Mac and the Kelly were dropped, to leave Killey. The original meaning would of the name would be “son of the servant of Ceallagh” where Ceallagh has the meaning of war or strife. Killie is known in 1610, Killey in 1651 and Killiah in 1693. This last variation gives a good indication of the pronunciation (kil-yah). In many place names killey has the meaning “of the church” as in Ballakilley, “the farm of the church”.

The first two children of James and Catherine Killey Lawson were born in Onchan, but by May 1744, James and his young family have moved to Douglas, where the remaining six children were born. James was a wheelwright and joiner, and, apparently, a very successful one. He lived and worked in Drumgold Street, Douglas, at a property known as “Parr’s Rent, No. 3” which consisted of a house and a garden. In 1784 he bought a second house, known as “Finch’s Rent, No. 65”, for £42 from Paul and Mary Kelly. James Lawson died on the 24th of August, 1790.

## GENERATION 6.

### The Children of James Lawson & Catherine Killey

| Number & Name     | Type & Birth date Place/             | Notes |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 566 Elizabeth     | B 11th Feb 1740 Onchan               |       |
| 543 Catherine     | B 10th Oct 1742 Onchan               |       |
| 499 <u>Edward</u> | B 2nd May 1744 St. Matthew, Douglas  |       |
| 545 Anne          | B 21st Sep 1746 St. Matthew, Douglas |       |
| 546 Joney         | B 16th Nov 1748 St. Matthew, Douglas |       |
| 549 James         | B 7th Feb 1749 St. Matthew, Douglas  |       |
| 547 John          | B 19th Jan 1752 St. Matthew, Douglas |       |
| 548 Jane          | B 19th Oct 1756 St. Matthew, Douglas |       |

Elizabeth Lawson (566) was baptized on the 11th of February, 1740 at Onchan Parish Church. She probably died circa 1790, before her parents and apparently without issue as neither she nor her descendants is mentioned in her parent’s joint Will. She may have died in infancy.

Catherine Lawson (543) was baptized on the 10th October, 1742 at Onchan. She married William Sayle on the 22nd of December, 1760. She was left £10 in her parent’s Will.

Edward Lawson, born circa 1744, is our 6th generation direct ancestor - more about him after we discuss his brother and sisters.

Anne Lawson (545) was baptized on the 21 September, 1746 at St. Matthew’s, Douglas. She married Daniel Callow (561) on the 17th of April, 1787, at Braddan. At the death of her father in 1790 she was apparently without issue as she was left a half interest in the house purchased from Paul Kelly in 1784 with a provision that it was to revert of Catherine Cool (565) in the event that Ann died without issue. It is believed that there were no issue of the marriage of Anne Lawson and Daniel Callow.

Joney Lawson (546) was baptized on 16th November, 1748 at St. Matthew's, Douglas. Joney is the Manx equivalent of Judith and she appears to have been known by the name Judy. She married Edward Roscoe (562) in on the 19th of January, 1778, at Liverpool. She appears to have moved to Liverpool at this time as the receipts for the £10 received from her parent's Will were signed in Liverpool. She appears to have been without issue at the death of her father in 1790.

James Lawson (549) was baptized on the 7th of February, 1749 at St. Matthew's, Douglas. He was left £10 in his parents Will. He married Ann Camaish on the 28th of November, 1775, at Kirk Braddan. Ann Camaish (709) was baptized on the 5th of December, 1750. Ann Camaish died on the 20th of April, 1826. James Lawson died on the 11th of September, 1835.

John Lawson (547) was born in 1752. Although not mentioned in his parent's Will he married Ellinor Mc Nameer on the 6th of December, 1777, at Andreas. Ellinor McNameer was born circa 1755 at Andreas. John Lawson died in 1818 and was buried on the 25th of March, 1818, at Andreas. His wife Ellinor died at the age of 80, and was buried at Andreas on the 7th of February, 1835. She signed her Will with her mark on the 3rd of March, 1829. The witnesses were William Cleator senior and junior. Joney Teare, her sister, was left ten shillings.

Jane Lawson (548) was baptized on the 19th of October, 1756 at St. Matthew's, Douglas. She married Henry Cooil (or Cool) on the 3rd of August, 1777, at Kirk Braddan. Henry Cooil (564) was baptized on the 23rd of November, 1742. They had at least one daughter, Catherine Cooil. Jane was left a half interest in the house purchased from Paul Kelly in 1784. Jane Lawson died on the 8th of May, 1823 and was buried at Braddan. Jane's age is recorded as 66 years old.

**Edward Lawson** (499) was baptized on the 2nd May, 1744 at St. Matthew's, Douglas. He probably apprenticed to his father as a joiner and wheelwright. He spent his early life in Douglas where he married Anne Crellin (500) at Kirk Braddan on the 15th of October, 1780. The witnesses were James Lawson and Robert Douglas. His first two children were born in Douglas, but sometime between May 1783 and 1787 the family moved to Peel, where the first son named Edward died and was buried, and their son William was born. The family had returned to Douglas by 1790 when the second son named Edward was born (our 7th generation direct ancestor). In his parent's Will of 1789, Edward was the major beneficiary, inheriting the main house and workshop, together with all of his father's tools in the shop on Drumgold Street in Douglas. He died on the 7th of January, 1825.

In 1807, Edward and Anne made a settlement of all their worldly goods in favor of their oldest son James Lawson (467) and his wife Ann Moore (468). Apparently they came to regret this settlement, for in February, 1815, we find Edward and Anne petitioning the Ecclesiastical Court for an order for support and maintenance against James. This petition mentions the support that they have received from The House of Industry, a local charity. James agrees to pay his parents four shillings a week and this is accepted by the Court as being fair and reasonable. On the death of James in 1817, the court re-issues an order against James' wife Ann Moore, stating that she is obliged to continue the weekly payment. In October 1818, after the death of Anne Crellin, we find Ann Moore petitioning to be paid the funeral expenses of Anne Crellin and to be reimbursed for the provision of clothing (including a handkerchief valued at 3/6d and some second hand clothing). The petition was denied.



## GENERATION 7.

### The Children of Edward Lawson & Anne Crellin

| Number & Name     | Type & Birth date Place/              | Notes              |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 467 James         | B 21st Oct 1781 St. George's, Douglas |                    |
| 567 Edward        | P 1783                                | died in 1787, Peel |
| 568 William       | P 1788 German                         |                    |
| 501 <u>Edward</u> | A 15th Nov 1790 Douglas               |                    |
| 570 William       | P 1794 Douglas                        |                    |

James Lawson (467) was baptized at St. George's, Douglas on the 21 of October, 1781. He married Ann Moore at Lonan Parish Church on the 4th of January, 1806, when the witnesses were Richard Mealey and Thomas Quark. He was a baker and resided in Douglas. It is known that he has a second brother named Edward (501) who was also working as a baker at the time of James' marriage. James died on the 8th July 1817, leaving six minor children. He made a Will leaving £70 to each of his six children and naming his wife, Ann, as executrix. However as the Will was undated and James' estate was insufficient to meet the bequests, Ann petitioned the Vicar General to be relieved of the obligation of being executrix.

Edward Lawson (567) was born in 1783. He is the first of their children to be named Edward and died in 1787, at the age of 4, and was buried at Peel on the 30th of December.

William Lawson (568) was born in 1788 and baptized at German. He is presumed to have died in infancy.

Edward Lawson, born in 1790, is our 7th generation direct ancestor - more about him after we discuss his brother and sisters.

William Lawson (570) was born in 1794. He appears to have been mentally retarded for in his parent's petition of 1815 he is described as "a perfect idiot" and in his brother Edward's petition of November 1828 he is described as "being of weak intellect and totally incapable of earning a livelihood". After the death of his parents, William appears to have been supported by his brother Edward and his nephew James Lawson (472). This support was the subject of several petitions. For a short time his niece, Ann Lawson (473), and her husband Mathias Cain (502) were also ordered to contribute to his up keep, but this order was set aside. He was buried on the 5th of March, 1839, at Onchan, when his age was recorded as 44 years.

Edward Lawson (501), the second son of that name, was born on the 15th of November, 1790, at Douglas. He was a baker on King Street and married Margaret Cottier on the 6th of December, 1813 at Kirk Braddan. Margaret Cottier (672) was born on the 14th of November, 1791, at Marown (baptized on the 20th of November), the daughter of Thomas Cottier and Katherine Kermode. There were eleven children of the marriage. As they grew up all his sons (and daughters?) worked in the bakery which appears to have been a very successful business. Edward died from drowning, probably on the night of Monday the 28th of October, 1850. The *Mona's Herald* for the 13th of November reported that he had not been seen since the evening of the 28th of October. The following issue of the 20th of November reported that his body had been found the previous day in Groudle Harbor. He was buried at Kirk Braddan on the 20th of November, 1850. At the time of his death, Edward owned seventeen properties that he left to his wife Margaret. Margaret immediately

sold the bakery. Margaret Cottier Lawson died on the 21st of March, 1861, at Douglas. Margaret appears to have been an early exponent of women's equality for at her death she left a shilling to each of her sons with the remainder of her large estate going to her daughter Jane. This did cause some hardship. By all accounts Margaret was a very domineering woman running the life of her family and this may have been her final act of control.

## GENERATION 8.

### The Children of Edward Lawson & Margaret Cottier

| Number & Name | Type & Birthdate Place/               | Notes |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|-------|
| 775 John      | A 21st Nov 1814, St. Matthew, Douglas |       |
| 679 Edward    | A 22nd Dec 1816 St. Matthew, Douglas  |       |
| 776 Thomas    | A 1st Nov 1818 St. Matthew, Douglas   |       |
| 777 James     | A 5th Oct 1820 St. Matthew, Douglas   |       |
| 778 Mary Ann  | A 15th Dec 1822 St. Matthew, Douglas  |       |
| 673 Joseph    | A 9th Dec 1824 St. Matthew, Douglas   |       |
| 779 Jane      | A 22nd Sep 1826 St. Matthew, Douglas  |       |
| 780 Thomas    | A 15th Nov 1828 St. Matthew, Douglas  |       |
| 781 Margaret  | A 20th Mar 1831 St. Matthew, Douglas  |       |
| 782 Margaret  | A 7th Apr 1832 St. Matthew, Douglas   |       |
| 783 John      | A 12th Jun 1834 St. Matthew, Douglas  |       |

John Lawson (775) was born on the 21st of November, 1814, at Douglas. He died on the 11th of July, 1829, aged fourteen years and eight months though the inscription on his grave at Braddan gives his age as fifteen years.

Edward Lawson (679) was born on the 22nd of December, 1816, at Douglas. He married Hannah Scott (798) in Liverpool and emigrated to Australia. He died on the 15th of June, 1890, at Templers, South Australia.

Thomas Lawson (776), their first child of this name, was born on the 1st of November, 1818, at Douglas. He died on the 25th of December, 1825, aged seven years.

James Lawson (777) was born on the 5th of November, 1820, at Douglas. He died on the 10th of July, 1837, aged sixteen years.

Mary Ann Lawson (778) was born on the 15th of December, 1822, at Douglas and was baptized at St. Matthew on the 2nd of February, 1823. In 1841 she was living with her parents in King Street. She died on the 17th of November, 1842. The inscription on her grave gives her age as twenty years.

Joseph Lawson (673) was born on the 9th of December, 1824, at Douglas, the fifth son (sixth child) of Edward Lawson & Margaret Cottier. As he grew up he worked in his father's business, keeping the books and generally running the business. In 1841 he was living with his parents in King Street. In 1844 he joined the Church of the Latter Day Saints (The Mormons) and was, allegedly, promptly disowned by his parents. In the following year he married Eleanor Garrett on the 9th of December. In 1850 Joseph emigrated to New Orleans, Louisiana, where he worked in the docks, probably as a stevedore or longshoreman. As related by his grandson Mick Lawson (678), Eleanor joined him there in 1853 but

almost immediately contracted yellow fever and died. However, Joseph's obituary indicates that Eleanor accompanied Joseph when he first emigrated. After the death of Eleanor, Joseph returned to the Isle of Man but evidently could not settle down because in 1855 he decided, once again, to move to the United States of America. On March 31st, 1855, he sailed on the sailing ship Juventa for Philadelphia with 500 Mormons. During the voyage to Philadelphia he met Ruth Margaret Greenway, a twenty-nine year old welsh girl who was travelling to Salt Lake City to be married. On their arrival at Philadelphia they learned that Ruth's intended husband had been killed in a mine accident. They travelled by railroad and steamboat to Atchison, Kansas, where they joined the Mormon wagon train. Fifty-three wagons left for Utah on the 7th of June arriving at Salt Lake City on the 4th of September, 1855. Joseph and Ruth were married on the 9th of September, 1855. Joseph farmed and was prominent in the early development of Utah, involved in the building of roads and canals in the area around Ogden. Joseph paid several short visits to the Isle of Man during two church missions to Great Britain in 1866–1869 and again in 1889. Joseph died on the 1st of January, 1896, at Ogden, Utah

Jane Lawson (779) was born on the 22nd of September, 1826, at Douglas. In 1841 she was living with her parents on King Street. She married William McNeil on the 27th of May, 1851, at Braddan. William McNeil (904) was born in 1820 at Santan. A shoemaker, at the 1851 census, just before his marriage to Jane Lawson, he was living at 23 King Street, Douglas with his younger sister Catherine (aged twenty-six) and Robert Christian, an employee. Jane Lawson died on the 24th of February, 1882.

Thomas Lawson, the second child of this name was born in 1828, is our 8th generation direct ancestor - more about him after we discuss his brother and sisters.

Margaret Lawson (781) was baptized on the 20th of March, 1831, at the church of St. Matthew, Douglas. She died on the 20th of July, 1831, aged four months.

Margaret Lawson (782) was baptized on the 7th of April, 1832, at the church of St. Matthew, Douglas. She died on the 27th of June, 1833, aged fifteen months.

John Lawson (783) was baptized on the 12th of June, 1834, at the church of St. Matthew, Douglas. He died on the 8th of March 1852, aged seventeen years and nine months. The inscription on his grave gives his age as eighteen years.

**Thomas Lawson** (780), the second child of this name, was baptized on the 15th of November, 1828, at St. Matthew's, Douglas. In 1841 he was living with his parents at the family bakery on King Street. Thomas spent his earlier years working in the bakery. In 1851 he was living with his widowed mother at 22 King Street and employed as a baker. In 1861 he was living with his married sister, Jane, at 6 Dalton Terrace and was still employed as a baker. On the 14th of November, 1862, he married Catherine Moore at Braddan. The couple then moved to 1 Summer Hill, where they lived and brought up their family. It seems likely that his brothers and sister arranged for Thomas to buy the quarry on Glencutcherry Road which Thomas, and eventually his sons, worked for many years. Thomas lost his right eye as a result of a detonation accident at the quarry. Thomas Lawson died at age 70 years old on the 13th of August, 1898, in Douglas and was buried the next day at Onchan.

## GENERATION 9.

### The Children of Thomas Lawson and Catherine Moore

| <u>Number &amp; Name</u> | <u>Type &amp; Birthdate Place/</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| 862 <u>Thomas Moore</u>  | B October, 1852                    | Died 1895    |
| 863 Edward               | B January, 1863, Douglas           |              |
| 864 William Henry        | B May, 1864, Douglas               | Died 1948    |
| 868 Margaret Elizabeth   | B December, 1865                   | Died 1897    |
| 871 Edith                | B April, 1873                      |              |
| 870 Catherine            | B October, 1867                    |              |

Edward Lawson was born in January, 1863 at Douglas, and was later lost in the Australian gold rush.

William Henry Lawson (864) was born in Douglas in May 1864 and died in 1948. No other information is known.

Margaret Elizabeth Lawson (868) was born in Douglas in December, 1865 and died in 1897. No other information is known.

**Thomas Moore Lawson**, born in 1852, is our 9th generation direct ancestor and our first direct ancestor to emigrate to America - more about him when we discuss our direct line in America.

Edith Lawson was born in Douglas in April, 1873. No other information is known.

Catherine Lawson was born in Douglas in October, 1867. No other information is known.

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# LAWSONS IN THE AMERICAS

Several members of our Lawson family were among the early pioneer settlers in both Canada and the United States of America. The first Lawsons arrived in America in the early 1600s at the Jamestown colony of what would become the United States of America. Another branch of our family settled in Canada in the 1700s.

## Lawsons in Canada

Several branches of our Lawson family settled in Canada. First was Gilles Lauzon (1631-1687) who came from Normandy to New France (Quebec) in The Great Recruitment, better known as *La Grande Recrue* of 1653. In 1651, the need to defend the new town of Montreal (Ville-Marie) from attacking Iroquois became apparent. Paul Chomedey de Maisonneuve went to France to enlist one hundred men to protect the town. Two years later, he returned with these brave men, including our relative Gilles Lauzon. Of the 95 who leave France, 24 are massacred by Iroquois, four drown, and one is burned to death when his house caught fire. (Source: *La Grande Recrue de 1653*, by Roland Auger, Publications de la Société généalogique canadienne-française, Montreal, 1955) Giles was one of the fortunate survivors. After arriving in Quebec he married Marie Archambault, daughter of Jacques and Françoise (née Toureau) Archambault, in Montreal in 1656. They lived there together until Gilles passed away on 21st September 1687.

(Source: *Ancient Canadian Family Ties*, by Reginald L. Olivier, Everton Publishers, 1972)

Years later, William Lawson emigrated from England and landed in Nova Scotia in 1749-1752; John Lawson, arrived in Quebec in 1784 and then he and his wife Elizabeth settled in Carleton [Saint John West], New Brunswick, Canada circa 1784. Elizabeth lived there until her death in 1803. (Source: *The Old United Empire Loyalists List*, by Milton Rubincam, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc, 1976) Matthew Lawson, landed in Canada in 1830; James Lawson, arrived in Saint John, New Brunswick aboard the ship "Ranger" in 1834; Jennett Lawson, arrived in Nova Scotia in 1835; Peter Lawson, landed in Canada in 1840; Mrs. Catherine Lawson, aged 60, emigrated to Canada, arriving at the Grosse Isle Quarantine Station in Quebec aboard the ship "Agnes" departing from the port of Cork, Ireland but she died on Grosse Isle in June 1847. In the succeeding years, many other Lawsons followed these early settlers to Canada.

## Lawsons in the US

On March 22, 1622, the Jamestown Massacre occurred in the Virginia colony. Approximately one-third of the settlers of Jamestown were killed in a series of surprise attacks by Powhatan Indians. The earliest Lawson settlers in the Americas and what would become the United States were Christopher Lawson, Thomas Lawson and Chri (Christopher) Lawson, all of whom arrived in Jamestown in the year 1623. All were recorded again in February, 1624, as "living at James Cittie (Jamestown)" in the colony of Virginia.

Epaphroditus Lawson was the son of John and Sarah Rowland Lawson. His exact date of birth was sometime between 1600 and 1610 according to most sources. He was born at Brough Hall, Catterick, Yorkshire, England. It appears that Epaphroditus and his three brothers, Rowland, Richard and Christopher (this could be the same Christopher mentioned above) all migrated to America around the same time.

His activities suggest he was engaged in the shipping business. He was a member of the first county court in Lancaster County, Virginia. His will is the oldest on record in the United States (1651) and is on file in Lancaster County. His land patent, in what later (1792) became Essex County, was originally in Lancaster. It is known as Lawson's Neck in Upper Essex, Virginia.

Epaphroditus was mentioned as a witness to a land transaction on July 20, 1633. Thereafter, there are several records indicating that Epaphroditus had extensive land holdings and business dealings. According records, Epaphroditus had business dealings with John Carter, an ancestor of President Jimmy Carter. According to Carter's Will, Epaphroditus owed him money to at the time of his death.

Epaphroditus married Elizabeth Medestard and they had one child, Elizabeth. Although Epaphroditus and Elizabeth had no male children, his name continued when his brother Rowland Lawson named his son after his uncle. Epaphroditus Lawson Fort was named after him.

John Lawson was an explorer, surveyor, and author about America. He was born in England on December 27, 1674 to parents Dr. John and Isabella Love Lawson. The family owned estates in the vicinity of Kingston-on-Hull, Yorkshire. John Lawson was highly educated, likely schooled by the

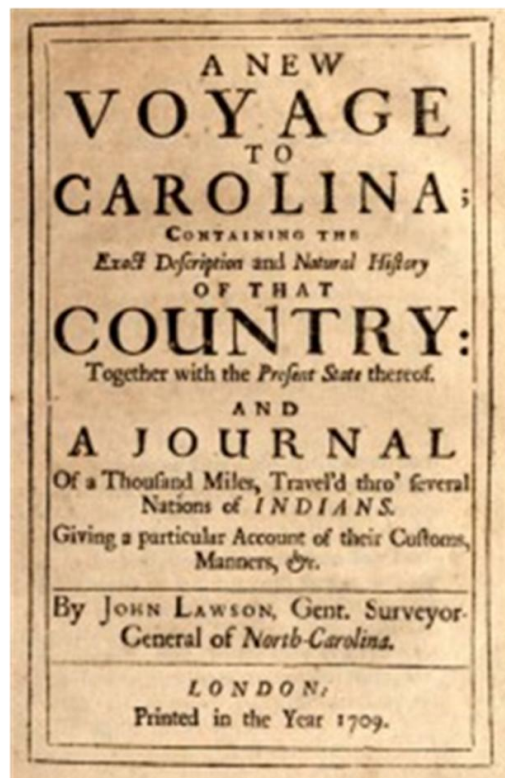
Anglicans and later at Gresham College near the family home in London. A friend later encouraged John to travel to America, suggesting that Carolina was the best country to visit. James Moore, a resident of Charles Town, who was in London at the time seeking the governorship, granted John free passage on the ship he owned. They arrived on August 15, 1700.

A London botanist and apothecary, published a notice seeking someone to collect American specimens for him, and Lawson volunteered to do this without charge. John Lawson on December 28, 1700, set out on a 57-day expedition of the Carolina back country, accompanied by five other Englishmen and four Indians (three men and one woman). He possessed a keen eye for details and recorded a vast amount of information during his journey. Thirty of the specimens that he sent still survive in the Sloane collection at the British Museum. Lawson proved to be an unusually keen naturalist thanks to his friendship with James Moore. Moore had worked to improve relations with the Indians and had won the friendship and support of many of the tribes in the southern regions of Carolina. This provided Lawson with much useful information.

After traveling about 550 miles he came to the Pamlico region, and there he built a house and continued to explore. Later he helped found the town of Bath, established on March 8, 1705 by an act of the General Assembly, and becoming North Carolina's first incorporated town. He was one of the town's first commissioners and helped layout the town.

From here Lawson continued to travel, among other places, to Roanoke Island, where he observed the remains of the fort built by Sir Walter Raleigh's colonists in the 1580s. He also explored the uninhabited land up to "the Ledges of Mountains" and even visited Virginia, where he called on people with interests similar to his own. He probably also went as far as Philadelphia.

In 1709, John Lawson sailed back to England to oversee the publication of his extensive journal, *A New Voyage to Carolina*. In the book he included his journal notes,



observations of the Native American population and drawings of animals and native plants.

John Lawson had also co-founded the town of New Bern with Christopher deGraffenreid. Arriving back from England on April 27, 1710, he brought with him three hundred Palatines who would settle the town of New Bern.

In the summer of 1711, despite deteriorating relations with the Indians, John Lawson proposed a trip up the Neuse River to see how far the river was navigable and whether it might lead to a shorter route to Virginia. John assured deGraffenreid that they would be safe but when they came upon the Indian village of Catechna, they were captured. The Indians refused to release them, thinking that deGraffenreid was the Governor – an important capture. A late-night dispute arose as to whether the prisoners should be bound, but since a trial had not yet been held, the Indian King decided that Lawson and deGraffenreid were free to move about the village. The next day, the king brought food, described by deGraffenreid:

*Toward noon the king himself brought us some food in a lousy fur cap. This was a kind of bread made of Indian corn, called dumplings, and cold boiled venison. I ate of this, with repugnance indeed, because I was very hungry.*

When the trial was held, Lawson and deGraffenreid were questioned as to the purpose of their journey and why they had not informed the king of their intentions. Apparently the king was upset that his people had been mistreated, specifically by Surveyor-General Lawson, but Lawson defended himself, and it was decided that the two prisoners would be set free the next day. The next day, however, Lawson quarreled with the king and according to deGraffenreid, *“this spoiled everything for us.”*

When they attempted to leave, they were seized, a council of war was held and both were condemned to death. deGraffenreid *“turned toward Mr. Lawson bitterly upbraiding him, saying that his lack of foresight was the cause of our ruin; that it was all over for us; that there was nothing better to do than to make peace with God and prepare ourselves betimes for death; which I did with the greatest devotion.”* When they arrived at the war council, deGraffenreid approached an Indian who he described as dressing like a Christian and speaking English. He took the Indian aside and persuaded him to plead his case before the chiefs. Lawson and deGraffenreid were “bound side by side” to wait the judgment of the council. Christopher deGraffenreid’s pleas for mercy were heard and his life would be spared, *“but the poor Surveyor-General would be executed.”* How he was executed, deGraffenreid was not certain. Some at the time said that Lawson was killed by having his throat cut with a razor from his bag, others said he was hanged or burned.

Other Lawsons who were also early settlers in America are: Alice Lawson in 1635; Lettice Lawson in 1638; Margaret Lawson in 1702; Rota Lawson in 1703; Abraham Lawson in 1705; Claude Lawson in 1705; and Alexander Lawson, who landed in America in 1794. All of these Lawson settled in Virginia. (Source: *Passenger and immigration lists index : a guide to published arrival records of about 500,000 passengers who came to the United States and Canada in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. 1982-1985 Cumulated Supplements in Four Volumes*, by P. William Filby and Mary K. Meyer, Gale Research Co., Detroit, Michigan: 1985)

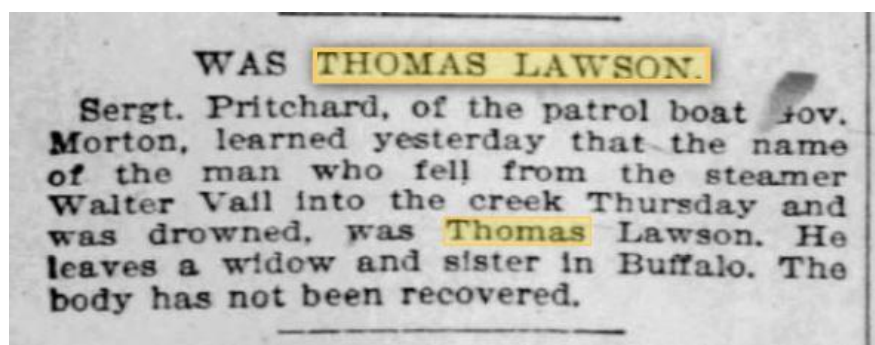
Some Lawson settlers in the US in the 19th century include: George Lawson, who arrived in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania in 1807 ; Isabella Lawson, who landed in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1812; James Lawson, who landed in North Carolina at the age of 33 in 1812; and, Andrew and Anthony Lawson Jr, ages 26 and 29 respectively, who both settled in Tennessee in 1812.

Later, we find the most Lawson families living in the US in 1880. In 1840 there were 114 Lawson families living in New York. This was about 14% of all the recorded Lawson's in the USA. In 1920 there were 869 Lawson families living in New York. This was about 7% of all the recorded Lawson's in the USA. New York had the highest population of Lawson families in 1840 and later in 1920. The New York population numbers are important because our direct line of Lawson ancestors settled in New York.

## DIRECT LINE - US LAWSONS

**Thomas Moore Lawson** (862) was born in October approximately 1852, his age is given as 9 years in the 1861 census when he was living with his father at the home of his aunt Jane. According to a family story (related by Mick Lawson) Thomas appears to have gone to sea at an early age, for in 1865, when he would have been fourteen years of age, his father, Thomas (780), asked his brother Joseph (673), then visiting the Island on a church mission, to try to find a berth for his son on a ship sailing from Liverpool (Joseph's Journal). Thomas sailed to America and settled in Rochester, NY and later in Batavia, NY, where he worked as a blacksmith/mechanic/engineer.

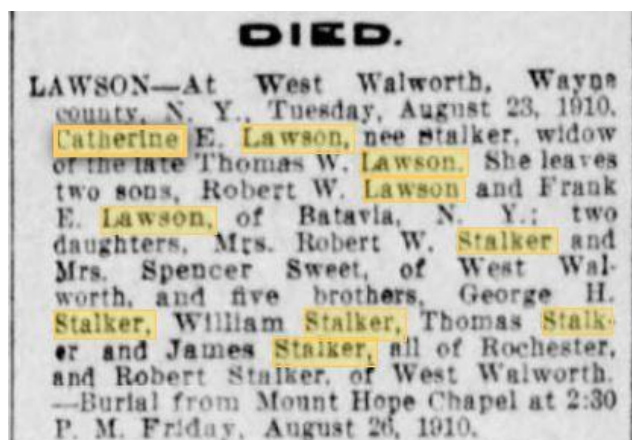
Thomas M. Lawson married Catherine E. Stalker Lawson in 1865. She was born on November 5, 1840, in Rochester, NY. Catherine was the daughter of Isaac Stalker and Ester Stalker: both of Catherine's parents were born on the Isle of Man (Isaac in 1816 and Ester in 1810). Thomas and Catherine would have 6 children, listed below. In 1879, their son Thomas M. Lawson Jr, died at age 14, of unknown causes and was buried at Mt. Hope cemetery in Rochester, NY. The 1880 US Census, records Thomas M. and Catherine Lawson and four children living at the home of Isaac and Ester Stalker at 38 James Street, in Rochester, NY. At the time, the family is recorded as: Thomas M. Lawson, 52, blacksmith; Catherine Lawson, 40, housekeeping; Robert W. Lawson, 12, school; Frank Lawson, 7, school; and, Etta P. Lawson, 2 years old.



On November 10, 1895, Thomas M. Lawson fell from the steamboat *Walter Vail* and was drowned. His body was not recovered. At the time of his death, Thomas and Catherine were living in Buffalo, NY.

By 1900, Catherine Lawson had relocated to Batavia, NY, where she and daughter Louise C. Lawson are living at the home of son Frank Edward Lawson as recorded in the 1900 US Census of the village of Batavia NY. The 1910 US Census records show that Catherine E. Lawson had relocated and was living with the family of her daughter, Etta P. Stalker, in Walworth NY.

Catherine Stalker Lawson died on August 23, 1910 while living with the family of her daughter, Etta P. Stalker, in West Walworth, NY. Catherine Lawson was buried with son Thomas M. Lawson Jr in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Rochester, NY.



## GENERATION 10.

### The Children of Thomas Moore Lawson and Catherine E. Stalker

| Number & Name       | Type & Birthdate Place/       | Notes                            |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Thomas M. Jr.       | B 1865, Rochester NY          | Died: 1879, age 14               |
| Robert W.           | B 1868, Rochester NY          | Died: Nov 14, 1930               |
| Frederick T.        | B 1871, Rochester NY          | Died: prior to 1910, Buffalo, NY |
| <u>Frank Edward</u> | B Feb, 1873, Rochester NY     | Died: 1941, Batavia, NY          |
| Etta P.             | B 1878, Pennsylvania          | Died: West Walworth, NY          |
| Louise C.           | B 1888, Buffalo or Batavia NY | Died: Rochester, NY              |

Thomas Moore Lawson Jr, the first child, was born in 1865, in Rochester NY. He died in 1879 at age 14 at was buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Rochester, NY. The cause of his death is unknown.

Robert W. Lawson, was born in 1868 in either Rochester or Batavia, NY. He worked with his father as a blacksmith and after his father's death took over the blacksmith business in Batavia, NY. He married Caroline (last name unknown) who was born in Germany in 1864. The date of their marriage is unknown. They lived at 457 Ellicott Street in Batavia and had three children: Laura E. Lawson Coomber, a teacher, born 1892, who later lived in East Penfield, NY; Margaret Lawson Foster, a teacher, born in 1896, who later lived in Rochester, NY; and, Pauline M. Lawson, a teacher, born in 1899, who later lived in White Plains, NY. Robert W. Lawson died at age 62, on November 14, 1930, in Batavia, NY.

Democrat and Chronicle (Rochester, New York)  
15 Nov 1930, Sat

**ROBERT W. LAWSON**  
Batavia, Nov. 14—Robert W. Lawson, 62, died today. He leaves his wife, Mrs. Caroline Lawson of 457 Ellicott Street; three daughters, Mrs. Laura E. Coomber of East Penfield, Mrs. Margaret L. Foster of Rochester and Miss Pauline M. Lawson of White Plains; two brothers, Frank E. Lawson of Batavia and Frederick T. Lawson of Buffalo; two sisters, Mrs. Etta P. Stalker and Frederick Sweet of West Walworth; five nephews; five nieces and four grandchildren. Funeral services will take place Monday at 2:30 o'clock.

Frederick T. Lawson, little is known about him other than he lived in Buffalo, NY. For years the only mention of him that was know was in the 1930, obituary of his brother Robert W. Lawson. At that time he is said to live in Buffalo, NY. In the 1915 US Census for Buffalo, NY, he is recorded as 44 years old and the head of household. This would make his birth year 1871.

Further research has found that Frederick worked as a lighthouse keeper on the Niagara River. For many years he was the head keeper at the Horseshoe Reef Lighthouse until the spring of 1902, when he was transferred to the Niagara River Range Lights.

By the mid 1800s, commerce and industries were growing in Buffalo and more and more ships carrying lumber, grain and other goods were coming into the Buffalo harbor via a treacherous entrance to the Niagara River. The river led to the docks and industrial centers, but navigating to them proved troublesome as the waterway was littered with dangerous shoals and reefs along with strong currents



that could wreck floundering ships. Although the falls were located many miles downriver, the current quickens as the Niagara River approaches the narrows, now spanned by the Peace Bridge. These currents had the potential to pull a disabled ship into treacherous waters and toward the rapids and the falls. The US determined that all this necessitated that the river entrance be marked with its own light. It was also determined that the best site for the new lighthouse was on the Canadian side of the international border,

At the time, there was no guarantee that the British would welcome or permit an American lighthouse on their land. Years earlier, the British rejected a similar request for a beacon in the Bahamas, but the US decided to ask for permission anyway. This time around, the English were far more receptive. Growing commerce on the Great Lakes transcended nationalism, as the British realized that they could derive benefit from a Niagara lighthouse while allowing the Americans to incur the expense of building it. Diplomatic negotiations lasted years until in 1851, U.S. President Millard Fillmore, a Buffalo native, agreed to the terms of a diplomatic protocol whereby the British transferred an acre of submarine land located 1,150 feet on the Canadian side of the border. Though the lighthouse would be called Horseshoe Reef Lighthouse, it was actually built on Middle Reef. As part of the agreement, the U.S. pledged to build a lighthouse on the reef and to never build any type of fortification there.

The light was built on a wooden crib filled with stone on the underwater reef. Four iron columns were anchored in the crib to support a single-story, wooden structure. Standing at a height of fifty feet above the river, the lantern room sported a fourth-order Fresnel lens which cast a light could be seen from up to ten miles out in the lake. The Horseshoe Reef Light was first turned on September 1, 1856.

The Horseshoe Reef Lighthouse was regarded as a particularly unpleasant assignment among lighthouse keepers. Two keepers alternated duty at Horseshoe Reef, living on the mainland and commuting to work via rowboat, except when bad weather and rough seas compelled them to make do in the Spartan quarters on site. A turn of the century keeper received \$560 a year in pay and his assistant \$490, which wasn't much considering no dwelling was provided for them onshore and that the Lighthouse Board admitted that Horseshoe Reef was "one of the most comfortless and unattractive stations in the district."



*Horseshoe Reef Lighthouse*

Lake Erie had a reputation for danger. Violent storms can appear in a matter of minutes, producing gale force winds and rough seas. Hurricane winds can toss ships around like toys. Some ships set sail in the calmest of waters, only to be sunk within minutes of encountering a Lake Erie storm. In some cases, ships simply disappeared and the only indication of trouble was when the vessel failed to reach its destination.

Another major problem on Lake Erie is ice. Because the lake was relatively shallow, it can freeze early in winter. Spring produces strong ice flows that jam the shores and block river entrances. These ice piles float slowly in the lake's currents making navigation tricky. Ships often took chances trying to sail with heavy cargoes hoping to make a last run before being ice locked. Some ships would get locked in a sea of ice. Frozen in time with nowhere to go, the ship remained until the spring thaws set it free. Ship crews and lighthouse keepers both faced icy winds and frozen water sprays with frostbite and hypothermia were an ever-present danger.

The responsibilities of the lighthouse keeper was often thought to be a simple task that anyone could do. The fact is that lighthouses require constant cleaning and maintenance. Lighthouse lens rooms were kept as clean as a modern day operating room. This was necessary for the maintenance of the lens which produced the light. Fuel was never clean burning and create a good deal of soot. Lenses were extremely expensive and not easy to install. Some were massive in size. The care that lighthouse keepers gave to lenses in the 1800's and early 1900's was meticulous. Often plagued by insects, mold, dust and soot, the keepers knew that cleanliness saved lives.

With the passage of time, the public also associated heroic rescues of drowning sailors and civilians exclusively with the lighthouse keeper. Often staring out a lighthouse window, keepers would be the first to see the need for daring rescues. Lighthouse keepers had the ability to single handedly row a boat filled with passengers back to shore through churning waters while simultaneously throwing life preservers to others. Prior to 1871, when the US established the Life Saving Service, most rescues were done by lighthouse keepers and their assistants.



In an irony of history, the Horseshoe Reef Lighthouse was abandoned by the government in the early 1900s and left to die a slow death at the foot of the harbor to Buffalo, NY. No one had ever really liked it, even during its lifetime. Left to the wind and water, the old wooden structure where the keepers once kept the light long ago rotted away. The fact that the remains of New York State's Horseshoe Reef Lighthouse are still standing is a miracle. For some strange reason, the framework is still standing, although barely, and still holds up the old lantern room.

In 1917, Frederick Lawson was transferred to the state of the art Buffalo Breakwater Lighthouse as first assistant lighthouse keeper. This lighthouse, newly built in 1914, was luxurious by lighthouse standards. Rectangular in shape, the new lighthouse was constructed of "vitrified cream colored brick, with trim of Westerly granite," and outfitted with a tile roof, and gutters and flashings made of tin-coated copper. Three bedrooms were located on the second floor along with the living room, pantry, and a lavatory. The first story contained the storeroom, engine room, office, and an additional lavatory. The interior walls of the lighthouse were finished with enameled brick. The floors in the bathroom and halls were ceramic tile, while the flooring for the living room, office, and bedrooms was maple.



*Buffalo Breakwater Lighthouse in 1914*

The station's four-panel Fresnel lens turned "on a combination mercury pot and ball bearing support," producing a white flash every five seconds. The light, whose source was an oil vapor lamp, had a strength of 180,000 candlepower and a range of 15¾ miles. Twin, twenty-two horsepower engines ran the air compressor for the fog signal.

The Buffalo Breakwater Lighthouse became famous due to a shipwreck in July, 1958, when the giant Great Lakes freighter *Frontenac* set too wide a course out of the Buffalo River. Even dropping its anchors did not prevent the *Frontenac* from striking the station and the lighthouse was driven backwards almost twenty feet



*Buffalo's Leaning Lighthouse in 1958*

and was left with a list of fifteen degrees. Newspapers throughout the country ran a picture of the leaning lighthouse with the caption: "Lighthouse Looks 'lit'." For years, it was famous as Buffalo's leaning lighthouse.

In the New York State Civil Service Commission reports of 1916 and 1917, Frederick T. Lawson is recorded as a stenographer at the Gowanda State Homeopathic Hospital. His address is given as 1039 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY. He is recorded again in the 1920 US Census as a 25 year old widower, living in Collins NY (about 50 miles from Batavia, NY) and employed as an accountant. This is most likely a son or grandson with the same name.

Frederick T. Lawson died sometime after 1930 as he is listed as a living relative in the obituary of his brother Robert W. Lawson.

Frank Edward Lawson, the 4th child of Thomas Moore and Catherine Stalker Lawson, is our 10th generation direct ancestor - more about him after we discuss his brother and sisters.

Etta P. Lawson was born in 1878, somewhere in Pennsylvania. She married Robert W. Stalker at a date unknown. Robert was born in 1872, somewhere in New York state. They lived in West Walworth, NY and had 5 children: Walter M. Stalker, born 1898 in NY; Agnes I. Stalker, born, 1901 in NY; Kenneth I. Stalker, born, 1903 in NY; Esther I. Stalker, born, 1906 in NY; and, an unnamed child, born in 1909 in NY. The dates of death for all in this family are unknown.

Louise C. Lawson was born in 1888, in either Rochester or Batavia, NY. She married Spencer Sweet at an unknown date and they lived in Rochester, NY. It is unknown if they had children.

**Frank Edward Lawson** was born in February, 1873, in either Rochester or Batavia, NY. He graduated from Batavia NY High School in 1891. He attended Hobart College in Geneva, NY where he earned his BA, Magna Cum Laude and was elected to the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. Frank was also the class valedictorian and won the College's Thompson Prize in English Philology, and honors in Classics and Modern Philology. He was a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. In 1899, Frank received an MA degree from Hobart. From 1895 to 1897, he was an instructor in Greek and Latin at the Cathedral Choir School in Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin. In 1897, Frank began practice as an Attorney, with his office at #2, Rowan Block, 62 Main Street, Batavia, NY. In 1899, he became the Justice of the Peace for the Village of Batavia NY and for the rest of his life would represent the town as legal counsel. On March 21, 1909, Frank Edward Lawson married Minnie Burlingham, a nurse from Buffalo, NY. (Source: *The Batavia Times*, March 29, 1909) Frank and Minnie lived at 10 Dellinger Avenue, Batavia NY and raised 3 children. On March 9, 1941, Frank Lawson slipped on an icy sidewalk outside his home and broke his arm. He was in Batavia Hospital convalescing from this injury when he suffered a massive heart attack and died in March, 1941. Minnie Burlingham Lawson died on October 3, 1966, at the home of her son John in Los Angeles, CA.



Frank Edward Lawson



# Frank E. Lawson, 68, Dies; Prominent Batavia Attorney

Batavia—Funeral services for Frank E. Lawson, 68, well-known Batavia attorney and former village peace justice, will be in a local funeral home at 2:30 p. m. tomorrow. He died unexpectedly Wednesday night in Batavia Hospital of a heart attack after being a patient there a month.

A practicing attorney here since 1897, he was a recognized authority on real estate law. He was a graduate of Hobart College, Class of 1895, and was valedictorian of his class. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, national honorary fraternity, Sigma Chi and the Genesee County Bar Association.

Previous to taking up law, he was an instructor in Greek and Latin at the Cathedral Choir School, Fond Du Lac, Wis. He became village police justice in 1899.

Lawson entered the hospital Mar. 9 after fracturing his right arm in a fall on the icy sidewalk in front of his home, 10 Dellinger Ave. He was considered to be convalescing when stricken.

Surviving are his widow, two daughters, Miss Ruth C. Lawson, a member of the faculty of Sophie Newcomb College, New Orleans, La., who is now on leave of absence completing work for her doctor's degree at Bryn Mawr University, and Miss Margery E. Lawson, a research assistant at Georgetown University Medical School in Washington; a son, John Paul, Tucson, Ariz., and two sisters, Mrs. Louise Sweet, Rochester, and Mrs. Etta Stalker, West Walworth.

**F.E. LAWSON**  
**LAW OFFICE**  
**ROOMS 6-7**







Frank and Jack



Frank and Ruth







**MRS. MINNIE LAWSON**

**BATAVIA** — Mrs. **Minnie Lawson**, formerly of 10 Dellinger Ave., died in Los Angeles, Calif., Monday (Oct. 3, 1966). She was the widow of Frank E. Lafwson, a lawyer here.

Mrs. **Lawson** had made her home in California for several years with her son, John P., who survives with two daughters, Ruth C. Lafwson, Ph. D., head of the Political Science Department of Mr. Holyoke College, South Hadley, Mass., and Mrs. Marjorie Mc Cready of Pittsburgh, Pa.

Very Rev. John T. Sanborn, rector, will conduct a service at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in St. James Episcopal Church. Memorials may be made to the church.



Minnie, Frank and Jack



## GENERATION 11.

### The Children of Frank Edward Lawson and Minnie Burlingham

| Number & Name                     | Type & Birthdate Place/     | Notes                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ruth Catherine                    | B 1911, Batavia NY          | Died: December 14, 1990 |
| John Paul                         | B July 22, 1914, Batavia NY | Died: December 10, 1997 |
| <u>Marjorie (Margery) Eleanor</u> | B July 4, 1918, Batavia NY  | Died: December 22, 1994 |



Dr. Ruth Catherine Lawson

**Ruth C. Lawson** was born in 1911 in Batavia, New York and graduated first in her class at Batavia High School. She graduated from Mt. Holyoke College *magna cum laude* in 1933 with a degree in History and Political Science. After graduation, Miss Lawson went on to study International Law at Bryn Mawr College earning her M.A. in 1934. In 1947, she received her Ph.D. from Bryn Mawr. She then spent six years as an instructor at Newcomb College, the women's college at Tulane University, before returning to Mount Holyoke College to teach in 1942. Dr. Lawson taught at Mt. Holyoke until 1976, when she became professor emerita.

In the summers from 1948 to 1950, Miss Lawson organized the *United Nations Institute*, an adult education seminar that attracted major political scholars and figures of the day. One former student remembers sitting at Eleanor Roosevelt's feet and discussing world peace. Miss Lawson often brought in guest speakers, such as Roosevelt and Indira Gandhi, to her regular classes.



Ruth Lawson founded the *International Internship Program* in 1950 and served as the program's director for twenty-six years, until her retirement. During her tenure, she helped place more than 1,000 students with international organizations as varied as the High Commissioner for Refugees and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Energy Agency in Paris, and the International Press Institute in Zurich.



Professor Ruth Lawson (center)  
in class with guest Indira Gandhi  
Prime Minister of India (left of Ruth)



Ruth worked extensively outside of Mount Holyoke. In the summer of 1939, she attended the Academy of International Law at the Hague as a Carnegie scholar, and, later, conducted research in all of the NATO capitals. She also taught abroad: in Geneva, as part of Smith College's Junior Year Abroad program; in Bologna, Italy, for the University of Massachusetts's summer program; and, as a visiting fellow at the University of Sussex, England. After retirement she taught at Hampshire College, Wheaton College and Amherst College.

Ruth belonged to the American Society of International Law, the American Political Science Association, served as president of the New England section of the International Studies Association, and was on the Board of Directors of the Naval War College and the



Atlantic Council of the United States, serving as the only female member of its Committee on Atlantic Studies. She was a member of the Connecticut Valley World Affairs Council, the International Studies Association, the International Institute for Strategic Studies and the American Society of International Law, among many other organizations.

At Mt. Holyoke, she was a part of practically every faculty committee, and served as the advisor of the International Relations Club for many years, an organization that she had been president of back when she was a student. She always insisted on teaching an introductory course, and, although all of her students recall her toughness, many also recall her kindness, humor, and devotion.



*Ruth Lawson receives an honorary doctorate of law from Mt. Holyoke College*

Ruth remained at Mt. Holyoke College until her retirement in 1976. In 1989, she was awarded an honorary degree by the College and the endowed *Ruth C. Lawson Chair in International Politics* was created in her honor. Ruth died on Friday, December 14, 1990.



*Ruth, Margery and Minnie Lawson preparing dinner in Granny's Kitchen*



*Professor Ruth Lawson give Founders Day Speech at Mt Holyoke College*







John P. Lawson

**John Paul "Jack" Lawson** was born on July 22, 1914, in Batavia NY. In adolescence he experienced a period of very accelerated growth which led to the most common types of scoliosis of the spine known as idiopathic scoliosis. To date, medical science still has not established a single identifiable cause for production of curvature of the spine in idiopathic scoliosis. In Jack's case, the curvature of his spine was significant and required several surgeries to insert pins and bars to straighten his spine.



Pre-surgery



Post-surgery

Jack attended and graduated from Batavia high school and then attended and graduated from Cornell University sometime prior to 1938. He spent several years in quiet contemplation at a Franciscan Friars Monastery on a mountain in Hudson River Valley in NY. The monastery was founded in 1898, but is now known as The Graymoor Spiritual Life Center. It is a ministry of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, dedicated to the reconciliation of people with themselves, each other, and God.

Later he worked as a manager for the Union Pacific Railroad in Tucson, Arizona until his retirement. Union Pacific is the largest railroad in North America.



He married his wife Ruth A. on (date unknown). The couple had no children.

After Jack's retirement the two relocated to Los Angeles, CA, where they lived most of their remaining days at their home at 1424 Linda Rosa Avenue, Los Angeles, CA. In their final years, Jack and Ruth moved to the home of Ruth's sister at 7813 Henefer Avenue, Los Angeles, CA.

John Paul "Jack" Lawson died on December 10, 1997, he was 83 years old. Ruth A. Lawson died on



**Marjorie "Margery" Eleanor Lawson** was born on Independence Day, July 4, 1918, in Batavia NY. She attended Batavia High School where she was active in the drama club, yearbook and many other activities. Margery graduated at the top of her class and then attended Mt. Holyoke College. She graduated cum laude from Mt. Holyoke College in 1939, majoring in biology and pre-medical school studies. Following graduation, Margery worked as a research assistant at Georgetown University Medical School. Although World War II, marriage and children interrupted her studies, Margery had a lifetime of community service volunteering at Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh's Childrens Hospital and many other charities.



*Margery Lawson McCready*



While she was at Georgetown University, Margery's fiancé, William Brown "Bill" McCready, enlisted in the army at the start of World War II. Following his return from basic training, Margery and Bill wed in 1943 at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC.

They later relocated to Lordsburg, New Mexico where Bill was a Master Sergeant at the Japanese internment camp until he received a medical discharge.



On returning to Pittsburgh, he was the president of *Av-O-Clean Company*, a partnership he created with brother, James H. McCready, Jr. and his cousin William S. Brown specializing in cleaning oriental rugs using a unique cleaning compound developed by their aunt, Cynthia Ava McCready. They later sold the business and Bill McCready began his career at the United States Steel Corporation as a Purchasing Agent.

Bill McCready would work at US Steel for 30 years. He is best known for his work as manager of construction purchases where he secured all the design, engineering and construction contracts for the corporation, including steel mills and other innovative projects such as the US Steel Building on Grant Street in Pittsburgh, its new skyscraper headquarters, at the time the world's second largest high-rise office building. This is one of many major USS and USS Engineers and Consultants projects where Bill McCready served a leading role from the 1950s to 1980s. Others include: building complete steel mills such as Fairless Works outside of Philadelphia, PA, renovating or improving virtually every existing USS mill and collateral plants, building major condominium buildings for USS Realty on the gulf shore of Clearwater, FL, and construction Disney's Contemporary Resort and Monorail, (1961) and Polynesian Resort (1971) at Walt Disney World.



*Fairless Works - US Steel Corporation*

Bill McCready also traveled the world for the corporation acquiring innovative components and processes for steel making. His business contracts were influential in bringing many international



companies to the US for the first time including Seimens and Linde Gas . McCready would finally retire as Special Assistant to Chairman and CEO David Roderick in 1986. He had been working on secret negotiations for USX Corporation through its US Steel division to merge with the National Steel Corporation, but the deal fell apart and National Steel filed for bankruptcy. He also worked on development of a unique form of cast ingot mold to reduce the cost of steel production.

In 1978, *Palacio del Sol, Inc.*, a Florida real estate development company formed by W. B. McCready, completed construction and renovation of the 36 unit condominium building *Palacio del Sol* and forms the Palacio del Sol Condominium Association in Punta Gorda, FL. Following his retirement from the steel company, Bill McCready would continue as president of his Florida real estate development company until his death.

*Palacio del Sol Condominium  
Punta Gorda, FL*



Bill McCready was very active in local charities particularly the Boy Scouts of America where he served on the board of the Pittsburgh Council and was a District Chairman of the Council. He received a special trophy for his work with the *Friends of Scouting*. For many years, Bill also ran a family owned seasonal golf course, *Pen Lake Farms Golf Club*, near Huntsville, Ontario, Canada.

On July 6, 1993, William Brown "Bill" McCready died at St. Clair Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA. He is 76 years old. Five months later, Margery Eleanor Lawson McCready dies on December 22, 1993 dies, at age 76. Bill and Marge were married for 50 years. Both are buried together at Homewood Cemetery in Squirrel Hill, Pittsburgh, PA.



*Bill and Marge McCready in retirement*



## GENERATION 12.

### The Children of William Brown McCready and Marjorie "Margery" Eleanor Lawson

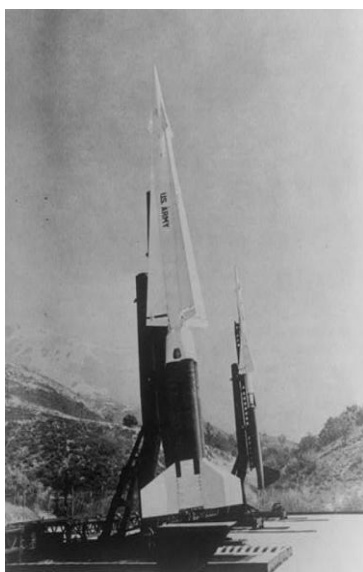
| Number & Name                     | Type & Birthdate Place/             | Notes                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>William Brown McCready Jr.</u> | B December 30, 1947, Pittsburgh, PA |                         |
| <u>Edward Lawson McCready</u>     | B July 2, 1950, Pittsburgh, PA      | Died: February 21, 2003 |
| <u>James Lawson McCready</u>      | B July 4, 1918, Batavia NY          |                         |



**William Brown McCready, Jr.**, the author of this book, was born on December 30, 1947, the oldest son of William Brown and Margery Lawson McCready. After attending Wilmington College (OH) and Allegheny College (PA), in 1968, he enlisted in the PA Army National Guard, Battery B, 2nd Missile Battalion, 176th Air Defense Artillery ("*The Duquesne Greys*" - missile site PI-71). He served as a missile fire control crewman from 1969 to 1975 including two years at a similar unit outside of San Francisco, CA. These US Army units were part of a ring of air defense missile sites surrounding Pittsburgh and other major cities across America. They were equipped with state of the art Nike Hercules missile systems. The troops at these facilities were dubbed "*Buck Rogers boys*" because they were tasked with fighting the war of the future. Their mission was to defend America cities against Soviet nuclear attack. Soldiers at these units would regularly practice by conducting computer generated war games of global thermonuclear war.



Reverend Captain  
William Brown McCready, Jr.



"*Nike*," named for the Greek goddess of victory, was the name given to this program which ultimately produced the world's first successful, widely-deployed, guided surface-to-air missile system. The Nike Hercules was designed to carry either nuclear and/or high-explosive warheads that could combat sophisticated Soviet supersonic offensive weapons. The enemy targets could be bomber aircraft that reached speeds of Mach 2, or missiles and rockets operating at velocities of Mach 3. The systems High Power Acquisition Radar (HIPAR) was an important component with an extended acquisition range of 175 nautical miles. This reach allowed soldiers more than 400 seconds from the time of target acquisition to the time of intercept. With the increasing speed of enemy aircraft and ballistic missiles, every extra moment was essential.

Nike Hercules Missile

In 1973, William B. McCready, Jr., graduated *cum laude* from Point Park University, Pittsburgh, PA with a BA degree in History and Political Science. He then attended the Institute of Foreign Studies in Monterey, CA where he received two masters degrees in Political Science and International Studies. From 1975 to 1977, he served as a special assistant to the Representative in the United Kingdom for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in London, England. During this time he also served on the support staff of the Command and General Staff School of the US Army War College in Frankfurt, Germany. Bill McCready, Jr. served in the military for 12 years, ending his serve as Intelligence Analyst/Section Chief/Czech Linguist at the Defense Language Institute and 3rd Psychological Operation Company, 99th ARCOM.

On September 22, 1978, William Brown McCready, Jr. married Paule Langelier, of St. Prosper, Quebec, Canada. The two were married in Pittsburgh, PA. Paule Langelier was born on December 7, 1947, in St Prosper.

McCready had just completed a year of training as a Czech linguist at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA, where he met his future wife. Earlier in this year, he began working for the Swindress Bond division of Pullman, Inc, ultimately becoming the youngest division general manager in the corporation's history in 1981.

In 1982, Bill McCready, Jr. left corporate life to begin a 25 year career in community service with the United Way, first in Pittsburgh and then in 1984 as the president of the United Way of Washington County (PA).



Paule Langelier McCready



In 2006, W. B. McCready, Jr. is licensed as a captain in the US Merchant Marine by the US Coast Guard and the same year he is ordained a minister of the Universal Life Church.

In 2007, W. B. McCready, Jr., retires after enjoying a 25 year career in the United Way. In his United Way career, he raised more than \$75 million for local community services and created many innovative programs. He retired in 2007 to spend more time with his family and enjoy life.

In 2009, W. B. McCready, Jr, came out of retirement to assume leadership of the Allegheny Valley Hospital Trust. Here he would lead and close a successful \$15 million capital campaign to fund construction of a new emergency medicine department. Additionally, in this position he served on the Hospital's seven member senior management team, as a member of the strategic planning group of the West Penn Allegheny Health System and was a director of the Allegheny Valley Chamber of Commerce. During Bill's career, his wife Paule raised a family and worked as the Office Manager of the Metal Building Insulation Company in Pittsburgh.





William Brown McCready, Jr. has spent almost 50 years of his life researching and writing on the history of the Brown, Lawson, Langelier and McCready families as well as the history and economics of western Pennsylvania.

Both Bill and Paule finally retired again in 2013, to relocate to Charleston, SC to be near their two sons and four grandsons. But, even then Bill could not stay retired. He now works as a school counselor for students from pre-K to the 5th grade in the Charleston County School District.



*Rev. Captain Bill and Paule McCready in retirement*



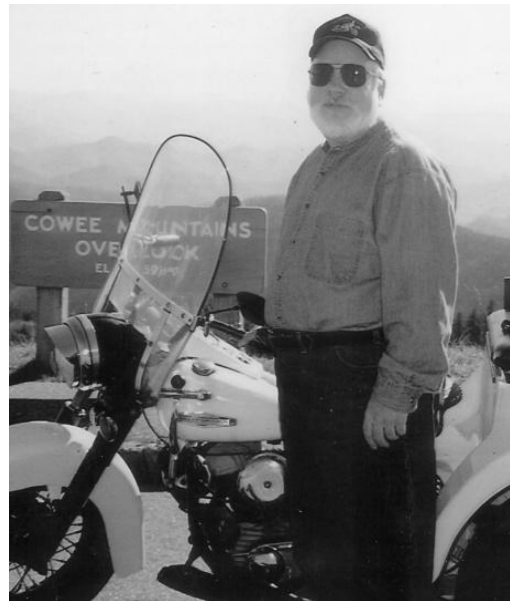
**Edward Lawson McCready**, was born on July 2, 1950, the middle son of William Brown and Margery Lawson McCready. Ed attended Clemson University and was a member of the school's elite Pershing Rifles. He graduated Clemson with a degree in nursing studies.

Ed remained a South Carolina resident until death. He was a distinguished emergency room trauma nurse at Greenville Hospital, St. Francis Bon Secures Hospital and also served the elderly at nursing homes and hospice care.

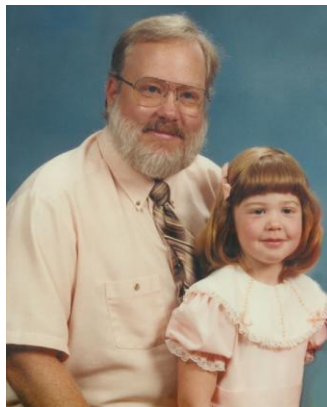
Ed was very active in his community and was recognized for his service with the prestigious *James Cash Penney Golden Rule Award*, one of the nation's most elite honors for distinguished community service.

Ed was married twice, to Beverly James and to Lois Palmer both marriages ended in divorce. Ed and Lois McCready had one child Anne Lawson McCready.

Edward Lawson McCready died on February 21, 2003. He was 53 years old.



Edward Lawson McCready





*James Lawson, Mickey and Margery McCready*

**James Lawson McCready**, was born on January 9, 1952, the youngest son of William Brown and Margery Lawson McCready. He attended Davis and Elkins College (WV) graduating with a BS degree in Biology. After graduation he worked for five years with in the US Steel Corporation. First, he worked on the coke batteries at Clairton Coke Works and later he worked in the Environmental Department monitoring smoke stack emissions at three Pittsburgh area steel mills: Homestead Works, Duquesne Works and Clairton Coke Works.

In January, 1979, James Lawson McCready married Helen "Mickey" McTighe Freyvogel, daughter of Thomas and Susanna Freyvogel. Mr. Freyvogel was a partner in the J. A. Freyvogel Funeral Home in Pittsburgh. Soon after their marriage, James McCready began a career in real estate with the Howard Hanna Real Estate Company in Pittsburgh. After beginning in residential sales, he eventually became the Broker of Record with American Appraisal Services, Inc., which later became Gamma Appraisal Services, Inc., a subsidiary of Howard Hanna Holdings. He is a licensed Broker of Real Estate and is a Pennsylvania Certified General Real Estate Appraiser. Jim currently works as a commerical real estate appraiser, specializing in eminent domain, legal cases and airport valuation assignments.



Jim and Mickey continue to reside in Pittsburgh, PA. They have two children: Margery Lawson McCready and James Lawson McCready, Jr.





## GENERATION 13.

### The Children of William Brown McCready Jr and Paule Langelier

| Number & Name                      | Type & Birthdate Place/            |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <u>William Brown McCready III.</u> | B April 4, 1981, Pittsburgh, PA    |
| <u>Andrew Langelier McCready</u>   | B January 14, 1983, Pittsburgh, PA |



*William Brown McCready, Jr Family  
Bill III, Paule, Bill, Andrew*



**William Brown McCready, III** was born on April 4, 1981, at St. Margarets Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA. He attended Our Lady of Grace elementary school and St. Clair High School. Bill was active in football, basketball and soccer. He played in both the Catholic League All Star Game and in the Pennsylvania State AAAA Championship Football Game. Every year his teams would play local and regional championship games at Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Stadium, the home of the Steelers.

W. B. McCready, III graduated from West Virginia University with a degree in Marketing. He has since had a successful career in the automotive industry. First, as a salesman with a Cadillac dealership in Pittsburgh and then in management positions with auto auctions in Charleston, SC and Savannah, GA. He ultimately was the Assistant General Manager of the Charleston Auto Auction before leaving to become the Executive Vice President of the Savannah Auto Auction. After the two auction merged, Bill became the general manager of both.



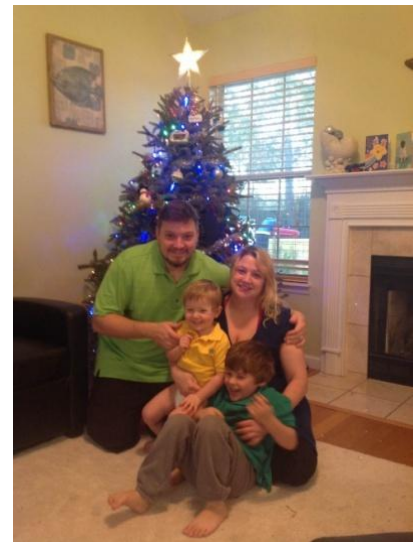
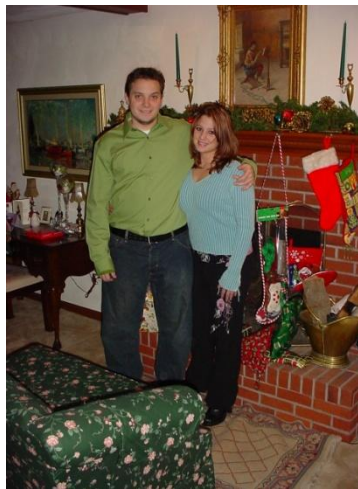
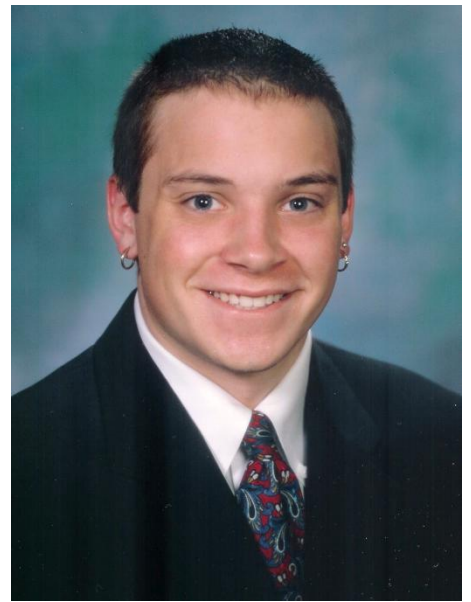
He is married to Amelia "Amy" Mellard a member of a distinguished family whose history in Charleston, SC extends to the Revolutionary War. Amy worked as a Nurse in the Operating Room at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). She left to raise their two sons, Marc Lawson McCready, born on May 11, 2012 and Henry David McCready born on December 10, 2015.



**Andrew Langelier McCready** was born on January 14, 1983. Andrew graduated from West Virginia University with a degree in Finance. For a time he worked at Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh and as a hotel night auditor. He later change careers, earning a degree in Physical Therapy and working at a Nursing Home. Then Andrew again changed careers and went to work as a Customer Service Representative at Verizon.

He is married to Francesca Locastro. Francesca is an esthetician who is employed by Benefit Cosmetics, a Louis Vitton company, and works for them in a Belk Department store.

Andrew and Francesca have two sons: Maximus William McCready, born on January 21, 2010 and Xavier Andrew McCready born on May 24, 2012.



*Andrew L. McCready Family  
Andrew, Francesca, Max and Xavier*





## GENERATION 13.

### The Children of Edward Lawson McCready and Lois Palmer

| Number & Name         | Type & Birthdate Place/           | Notes |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Anne Lawson McCready. | B October 9, 1984, Greenville, SC |       |

**Anne Lawson McCready** was born on October 9, 1984, and grew up in Easley, South Carolina. She graduated from Easley High School in 2002 as a member of the National Honor Society with an Enhanced diploma. Throughout high school, she was active in National Honor Society, Interact Club (the youth division of Rotary), Central Spirit and was a color guard in the award-winning Easley High School Marching Band.



After graduating from high school, Anne moved to Pittsburgh to attend the University of Pittsburgh and graduated in 2006 with a B.S. degree in Accounting. Anne became a certified public accountant in 2008 and started her career as a staff accountant at Parente Randolph (now Baker Tilly). Later she worked at the public accounting firms of Grossman, Yanak and Ford and Alpern Rosenthal (now BDO) as a senior accountant.



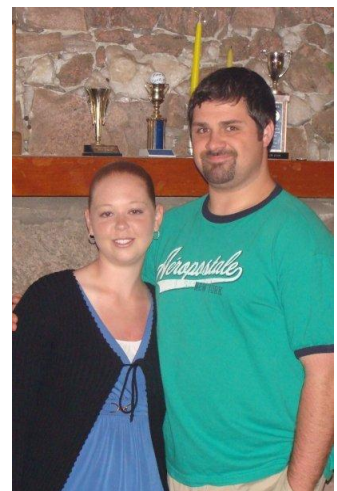
In October 2011, Anne was named a "*Member to Watch*" on the *40 Under 40 list* compiled by the Pennsylvania Institute of Certified Public Accountants as a result of her work with the PICPA Marcellus Shale Committee. In 2013, after 7 years of working as a public accounting auditor, and as the result of her experience auditing privately held oil and gas companies like Rice Energy (later sold to EQT Corp. for \$6.7 billion), she left public accounting to become the Assistant Controller of a small \$400 million oil and gas company.

After having her second child, Anne left full-time employment to spend more time with her young children. As of publication date, she is working as a part-time accountant at a public biotech company in Pittsburgh. She lives in Pine-Richland School District in the North Hills suburb of Pittsburgh.



Anne is married to Joseph Rogel of Pittsburgh. Joe works as an SEC accountant at a public company in Pittsburgh.

Anne and Joe have three children: Nathan Francis Rogel born April 1, 2014, Catherine Scarlett Rogel born May 15, 2016 and William Edward Rogel born November 1, 2018.



## GENERATION 13.

### The Children of James Lawson McCready and Helen Mickey Freyvogel

| <u>Number &amp; Name</u>        | <u>Type &amp; Birthdate Place/</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| <u>Margery Lawson McCready.</u> | B August 19, 1981, Pittsburgh, PA  |              |
| James Lawson McCready, Jr.      | B June 2, 1986, Pittsburgh, PA     |              |

**Margery Lawson McCready** was born on August 19, 1981 at Pittsburgh, PA. She received her elementary and secondary education in the Fox Chapel School district in Pittsburgh. Margery graduated from Ohio University in \_\_\_\_\_ with a BA degree in Psychology.

After graduation, Margery worked at

On \_\_\_\_\_, Margery married Derek McDonald and the couple resides in Pittsburgh.

**James Lawson "Jaimie" McCready, Jr.** was born on June 2, 1986 at Pittsburgh, PA. He received his elementary and secondary education in the Fox Chapel School district in Pittsburgh. Jaimie graduated from Clarion University in \_\_\_\_\_ with a BA degree in \_\_\_\_\_.

After graduation, Jaimie worked as a Plebotomist at Allegheny Valley Hospital and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC). He now works in the Plebotomy Lab at UPMC St. Margaret's Hospital in Pittsburgh.

On \_\_\_\_\_, Jaimie married Melissa \_\_\_\_\_ and they have one child: Claire Lillian McCready born on November 24, 2016.

## GENERATION 14

### The Children of William Brown McCready III and Amy Mellard

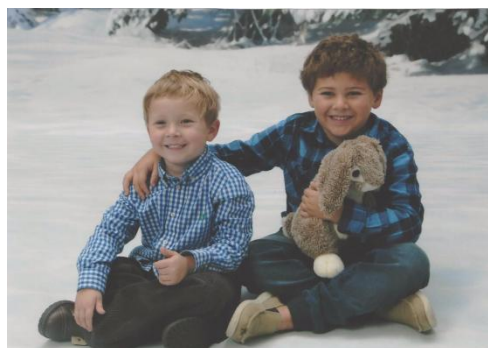
| <u>Number &amp; Name</u> | <u>Type &amp; Birthdate Place/</u>    | <u>Notes</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Marc                     | B May 11, 2012, Mt. Pleasant, SC      |              |
| Henry                    | B December 10, 2015, Mt. Pleasant, SC |              |



## GENERATION 14

### The Children of Andrew Langelier McCready and Francesca LoCastro

| <u>Number &amp; Name</u> | <u>Type &amp; Birthdate Place/</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Maximus William McCready | B January 21, 2010, Pittsburgh, PA |              |
| Xavier Andrew McCready   | B May 24, 2012, Pittsburgh, PA     |              |





## GENERATION 14

### The Children of Anne Lawson McCready and Joseph Rogel

| <u>Number &amp; Name</u> | <u>Type &amp; Birthdate Place/</u> | <u>Notes</u> |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Nathan Francis Rogel     | B April 1, 2014, Pittsburgh, PA    |              |
| Catherine Scarlett Rogel | B May 15, 2016, Pittsburgh, PA     |              |
| William Edward Rogel     | B November 1, 2018, Pittsburgh, PA |              |



## GENERATION 14

### The Children of James Lawson McCready and Mellissa \_\_\_\_\_

| <u>Number &amp; Name</u> | <u>Type &amp; Birthdate Place/</u>  | <u>Notes</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Claire Lillian McCready  | B November 24, 2016, Pittsburgh, PA |              |

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## **FINAL THOUGHTS ABOUT LAWSON FAMILY HISTORY**

So what have I learned along the way?

First, I caution anyone interested in genealogical and historical research to beware of the large amount of crap genealogy and sloppy research on the internet. This is a relentless source of frustration. I suspect that most of the people preparing these genealogies are not maliciousness but rather lack research or editorial diligence. I have found too many genealogical connections based not on records but rather imagination, leaps of faith or a desire for particular connections. The failures of too many researchers to fact check and/or correct inconsistencies within and among different family genealogies only perpetuates errors and compounds the problems for researchers who follow. The major genealogical websites are not curated and postings are not vetted. The result is that these sites are forums for people promoting false narratives and inaccurate family information. These sites are more typical of today's social media hubs where anyone can say anything and misinformation and fake news is rampant. It is sad that too many genealogical researchers simply replicate the errors of others.

The warning above applies to this book as well. I have tried to be as accurate as possible. I have made every effort to check names, spellings, dates and events for accuracy, consistency as well as appropriate historical continuity. Source references and often multiple source references are provided. I have tried to be clear about when and where I am speculate on connections and provide the reader with a clear understanding of all the circumstantial evidence that I used to make deductions. In these instances, the burden is on the readers to draw their own conclusions. Further, I encourage all readers to check for errors and inconsistencies and the question facts presented. I welcome your comments and corrections.

I also caution readers to put aside the illusion of existing western civilization that is regularly reinforce by print and broadcast media. Today, we do have laws and governments that regulate society and protect us from harm. But, the fact is that contemporary western civilization is not all that civilized and certainly does not accurately reflect the condition of most of the world or even parts of our own country. Poverty, despair, political fragmentation, civil violence, wars and general human stupidity are as pervasive today as in the past.

As you read this work recognize that our Lawson ancestors were living in primitive times where the ideals of western civilization were only beginning to evolve. But, the underlying themes are not all that different than today. Power politics, political scheming and infighting, political polarization and intolerance exist throughout history. For a Lawson in medieval times, safety and security was based first on the sword - individual power and the will to use it. Next came family - clan alliances and fealty to a powerful noble and/or the King provided protection but also entailed a commitment to be on called upon for battle. Life in ancient times was too often dominated by conflict - power applied with force, at every level of society. Wars, duels and violence between clans was frequent.

Given all of this, it is amazing that our family has existed for so long. It is a tribute to our ancestors strength and will to survive as well as their ability to skillfully negotiate alliances to put themselves on the dominant side. But, not all of our Lawson ancestors were so lucky. Some like Rev. James Lawson find that intelligence, reason, faith and good work are not enough to achieve righteous goals in their

lifetime. These ancestors may despair at their failures, but in time descendants see the success of their ideas.

In compiling this work, I have found some general characteristics common to most of our Lawson ancestors:

- They are capable warriors who survive. This indicates that they had a formidable size, strength, training and experience with strong instincts for survival.
- In almost every case, our Lawson ancestors are intelligent, knowledgeable and well schooled. This indicates a remarkable ability for this time period to read and work with numbers. To achieve this indicates a family commitment and dedication to learning.
- Our Lawson ancestors were hard working and good businessmen. At a time when most were simple farmers, Lawsons were acquirers of property, builders and traders.
- They exhibit a focus on increasing value and wealth and leaving a lasting legacy. Few squander their wealth and most preserve and grow their lands and assets for heirs.
- These ancestors show a dedication and loyalty to family, community and their sovereign. We see this in the many Lawson administrators serving on local and national councils and advisors to the Kings of England and Scotland.
- Our Lawson ancestors are recognized as valuable vassals and are called to service by nobles, princes and kings.

It is important to recognize that not all Lawson ancestors leave a wake in history. Many, if not most, live normal, uneventful lives with the records documenting their lives lost or simply not yet discovered. This work tries to build a continuous trail of Lawson ancestors based on known, established records covering a period of more than one thousand years. In all of this time, only four connections are somewhat tenuous and based on circumstantial evidence. These are:

**Circa 1600      Manx Lawson to Scottish Lawsson connection.**

No documentation is available to firmly establish that James Lawson, our first relative on the Isle of Man, is the son of Reverend James Lawson of Scotland. We only know that Rev. James had three children, one a son, and that the dates of the lives of these two James overlap. Also, both are from Perth. Importantly, the years after the death of Rev. James Lawson were difficult times for Scottish Presbyterians. After the death of her husband, Janet Guthrie Lawson was dispossessed of her home in Edinburgh. She most likely fled with her children to a more secure setting with her family in Perth. It would not be surprising, given the religious turmoil and conflict at the time, for a young James Lawson to decide to emigrate for a more stable and peaceful life on the Isle of Man. As yet no documentation has been discovered to prove or disprove this hypothesis.

**Circa 1550      Rev. James Lawson to Scottish baronial Lawson connection.**

No documentation is available to firmly link Rev. James Lawson to the Lawson baronies of Heiriggs, Cairnmuir, Boghall or Humble. We only know that several historians writing at a time contemporary to Rev. James say that he is "a son of Humble". We know that the Lawson baronets held lands in county Fife in close proximity to Perth, the birthplace of Rev. James, and that the dates of their lives overlap. Finally, Rev. James receives a warning that his life is in jeopardy before he flees to England. This secret information would have been known by a prominent member of either the King's Privy Council or the Edinburgh Civic Council, most likely Richard Lawson of Heiriggs. Here, family loyalty prevails over politics. As yet no documentation has been discovered to prove or disprove this hypothesis.



**Circa 1200      Scottish to English Lawson connection.**

All we know is that the English Lawson baronets covered large parts of northern England along the Scottish border. For hundreds of years our English Lawson ancestors were not simply land holders but they were also merchant traders. Lawson lands as well as business interests were on both sides of the border and Lawson ships traded in ports of Edinburgh, Newburgh/Perth and Aberdeen. In these Scottish locations we find prominent Lawson landowners and merchant traders. Over a span of several hundred years it is more likely than coincidence that some of our English Lawson ancestors emigrated to these Scottish locales to manage family business interests. Again, as yet no documentation has been discovered to prove or disprove this hypothesis.

**Circa 1066      Taillefer or Taillebois?**

Two remarkably similar names are recorded at the same time for two remarkably similar individuals whose actions and characteristics are also remarkably similar. Both men are confidants of William the Conqueror and distinguish themselves in battle at Hastings. The ancient ancestral links recorded by contemporary historians are similar for both men but are much more clearly established for Ivo Taillefer. Given the propensity of ancient scribes to uniquely spell names, it seem more likely than coincidence that these two men are one and the same. However, as yet no documentation has been discovered to prove or disprove this hypothesis.

So, as we weave the story of the Lawson family over more than 1,000 years, I think it is noteworthy that there are only four instances where connections lack firm documentation. More importantly, these connections are justified and supported by strong circumstantial evidence. However, I hope that all readers take away more from this work than just a long meandering family line through time. The real enjoyment and appreciation should be for the many individual Lawson stories presented here.

And, if you are a Lawson relative, your story adds to this fascinating and inspiring history.

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## NOTABLE LAWSONS (POST 1700)

- Alexander Lawson** (1773—1846), born in Lanarkshire, Scotland but died in Philadelphia, he engraved many of the best plates used to print Alexander Wilson's *Ornithology*. Wilson has often been called “the father of American ornithology.” A Scottish weaver turned poet who emigrated to Philadelphia in 1794, he immediately became fascinated by the bird life of America. He then began to draw the birds he saw. Engraver Alexander Lawson transferred the drawings to copper plates, and a group of young mostly female artists colored the prints by hand.



"Roseate Spoonbill"  
in *American Ornithology*,  
Alexander Wilson and Alexander Lawson

- Alfred William Lawson** was born on March 24, 1869, in London, England. He was a professional baseball player, manager, and league promoter from 1887 through 1916 and then went on to play a pioneering role in the U.S. aircraft industry. He published two early aviation trade journals.

He is frequently cited as the inventor of the airliner and was awarded several of the first air mail contracts, which he ultimately could not fulfill. He founded the Lawson Aircraft Company to build military training aircraft and later the Lawson Airplane Company to build airliners.

The crash of his ambitious Lawson L-4, "Midnight Liner" during its trial flight takeoff in 1921, ended his best chance for commercial aviation success. In 1904, he wrote a novel, *Born Again*, in which he developed the philosophy which later became Lawsonomy.

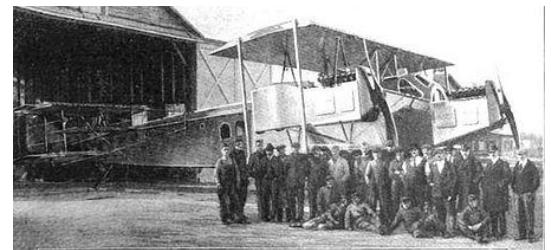
During the early days of professional baseball, Alfred pitched around the league with the *Boston Beaneaters* and *Pittsburgh Alleghenys* but never made an impact. He managed in the minor leagues and founded his own league known as the Union Leagues of Professional Ball Clubs of America – it failed within one month.



Lawson L-2 airliner

Alfred's next entrepreneurial endeavor was publishing an aviation magazine, "Fly", to stimulate interest in aviation which was then in its infant stages. After moving to New York City, he renamed the magazine "Aircraft" and it was published until 1914. Alfred learned to fly in 1913 and eventually became an expert pilot. After advocating aviation for ten years, Alfred Lawson built his first airplane in 1917 and founded Lawson Aircraft Corporation.

Although he attempted to build a plane for military use (World War I), the plans fell apart. After the war, Alfred began a project with the goal of building the world's first airline. In 1920, his company built the Lawson L-2, an 18-passenger biplane airliner that was demonstrated on a two thousand mile tour. The positive publicity allowed him to secure additional financing for his next project, a 26-



Lawson Midnight Liner

passenger model called the *Midnight Liner*. This plane was equipped with private sleeping areas and restroom facilities. Unfortunately, on its maiden flight, the plane crashed and was never repaired. In 1926, he later developed plans for a two tier, 100 passenger, Lawson super-airliner that was never built. Alfred Lawson was considered one of the leading thinkers in the budding American commercial aviation community. He received the *Winged America* award and was cited by *Scientific Age* magazine as the “world’s leading passenger aeroplane builder.” However, his troubles with getting financial backing for his ideas led him to turn to economics, philosophy, and organization.

During the Depression years, he developed a theory of “direct credits” and wrote a book on the subject. He proposed that the government rather than banks should provide loans to individuals and businesses. Under his system, the people would have direct ownership of the money system.

Alfred Lawson also founded his own philosophy or religion – *Lawsonomy*, which combined vegetarianism, physics, religion and economics. He was a vegetarian who developed a theory which combined diet, hygiene, rest and exercise that he believed could potentially allow a person to live to the age of two hundred; he called it “*Lawsonpoise*”. He lectured and wrote books which attracted a following, so much so that he decided to found a school. The University of Lawsonomy was founded in Des Moines, Iowa in 1943, and the first group of seventy students grew vegetables (eating them raw) and flowers and studied Alfred Lawson’s writings. The state of Iowa had designated the university as a non-profit organization, but in 1952 the IRS disagreed and revoked that status and demanded payment of back taxes. Lawson closed the school. Alfred Lawson died in 1954.

- Abercrombie Anstruther Lawson FRS (1870-1927), was a Canadian-born, Australian botanist at the University of Sydney. Fellowship of the Royal Society (FRS) is an award granted to individuals that the Royal Society of London judges to have made a "substantial contribution to the improvement of natural knowledge, including mathematics, engineering science and medical science". (Sources: *The Descendants of John Henry Lawson*, by Mona Gee Lawson; and, *The Lawson Golden Book*, by Virginia Ruth Lawson Trent)
- Alfred Voyle "Roxie" Lawson (1906-1977) of Stockport, Iowa, was a Major League Baseball player and manager. He was a right-handed pitcher in professional baseball for 13 years with the Cleveland Indians, Detroit Tigers, and St. Louis Browns. During his major league career, he compiled a 47–39 win–loss record with a career earned run average (ERA) of 5.37. He later managed in the minor leagues.
- Andrew Cowper Lawson (1861-1952), was professor of geology at the University of California, Berkeley;
- Eddie Lawson (born in 1958), was an American former four-time Grand Prix motorcycle racing World Champion. His penchant for not crashing and consistently finishing in the points earned him the nickname "Steady Eddie".
- Ernest Lawson, was an American/Canadian painter and a member of The Eight;
- Jason L. Lawson is an professional basketball player, formerly in the NBA. He played for Villanova College, the Orlando Magic, and Denver Nuggets.



"Steady Eddie" Lawson

- John Howard Lawson (1894-1977), was an American writer;
- Dame Lesley "Twiggy" Lawson D.B.E., (b. 1949), born in Neasden, Middlesex, England, was an English model, actress and singer more commonly known as Twiggy. She became a British cultural icon, was appointed Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire on December 29, 2018, for services to Fashion, the Arts and to charity by her Majesty The Queen (Source: "Birthday and New Year Honours Lists (1940 to 2019)." Issue 62507, 28 December 2018 in London Gazette, The Gazette, Dec. 2018);
- Denis Stamper Lawson (b. 1947), was a Scottish actor and director;
- Cecil Gordon Lawson (1851-1882), was an English landscape painter;
- Ernest Lawson is a Canadian painter known for his impressionistic urban landscapes using thick, intense color.
- Henry Lawson was a revered Australian writer of short stories and poetry.
- Jerry Lawson pioneered home video gaming in the 1970s by helping create the Fairchild Channel F, the first home video game system with interchangeable games.
- Laurence Augustus Lawson (1896-1951), was a Brigadier General and Commandant of the Army Air Force Training School (1942-1945) (Source: *Generals of World War II*);
- Margaret "Maggie" Lawson is an American actress who starred in a number of TV sitcoms.
- Melissa Lawson is an American country music singer.
- Nigella Lawson is a best-selling English cookbook author and internationally known domestic goddess and television host known for her distinctive philosophies on cuisine.
- Steven George Lawson is a former Major League Baseball pitcher who played for the Texas Rangers.
- William Lawson (1774-1850) was an explorer of New South Wales, Australia who co-discovered a passage inland through the Blue Mountains from Sydney.
- Manny Lawson was a linebacker/defensive end in the NFL for the San Francisco 49ers.
- Doyle Lawson was an American bluegrass and gospel musician.
- John Lawson was a United States Navy sailor who received the Medal of Honor for his actions during the American Civil War.
- Tywon "Ty" Ronell Lawson was a basketball player who played point guard for the Denver Nuggets of the NBA.



Twiggy Lawson



- Charles Davis Lawson was an American tobacco farmer in North Carolina who committed one of the most notorious mass murders in the state's history on Christmas Day 1929.
- Gaines Lawson (September 4, 1840 ? September 12, 1906) was a First Sergeant in the Union Army and a Medal of Honor recipient for his actions in the American Civil War.
- Gerard Lawson was an football defensive back with the Cleveland Browns of the NFL.
- General Sir Richard George Lawson KCB, DSO, OBE was a former British Army officer, who served as General Officer Commanding in Northern Ireland during the Troubles, and later as Commander-in-Chief of Allied Forces Northern Europe.
- Nina Lawson was a Scottish wigmaker who ran the Metropolitan Opera wig department (1956-1987).
- Rodger Lawson is a British-born, American businessman who is President of Fidelity Investments.

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