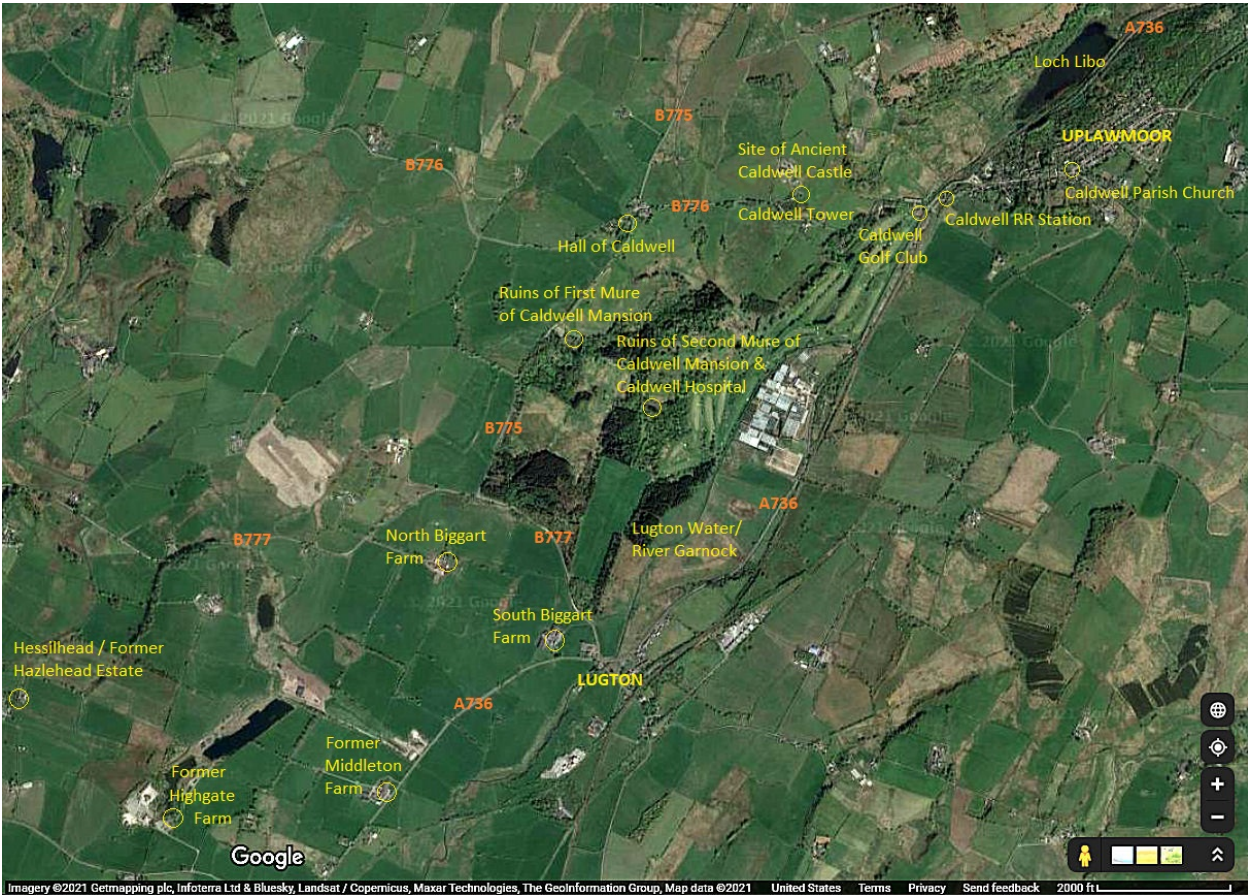


# Caldwells of Scotland and Wisconsin





My opportunity to visit Lugton was on March 10. We finished our tour of a construction yard near Dunoon, on the west side of the Firth of Clyde, about 4:30 PM. One rental car was driven east through Glasgow and on to Edinburgh. I drove the second car and convinced two of the other engineers to join me in a detour to Lugton. Approaching from the west, we stopped first at a road sign that caught our attention and then at Caldwell Hospital, formerly the second Mure of Caldwell mansion. We did not stay long, as it was dusk and some of the people in the hospital were obviously staring at us.



By the time we reached Lugton, it was pitch dark. There was not much to see, and apparently there never was. Two toll roads were completed through Lugton in 1820, one going to Kilmarnock and Ayr and the other to Irvine. For a fee, the turnpikes provided better road surfaces and much more direct routes. In the 1830s Lugton consisted of only four buildings: a hotel/inn, a smithy, and two toll houses. The toll houses might have been the main source of local revenue. In 1845 the records show six other buildings, all of which were pubs and none of which lasted. The tolls on all turnpikes in Scotland were abolished in 1878. There have never been any merchants generating revenue in Lugton. Local farmers shop to the northeast in Neilston or to the west in Beith. Consequently, Lugton has not grown very much since the 1830s and the population today is about 80.

Our plan was to stop in Lugton just long enough to get directions to North Biggart Farm. Looking in all directions, we saw only a single light. It was above the entrance to the Lugton Inn, which was actually a pub, the namesake inn or hotel having gone out of business long before. We entered and found ourselves in a quaint, stereotypical British country pub. There was a bar with a single elderly customer at one end of the room and two middle-aged farmers throwing darts at the other. I approached the bartender with my assortment of photos, seeking his directions. He had such a strong Scottish brogue that I could not understand his version of English. Every time I asked for his help, he directed me to "Willie," his single customer at the end of the bar. After this sequence was repeated several times, I finally concluded there was no alternative but to go ask Willie.

Willie was 76 years old, but he could have easily passed for 96. He was small, quiet, and dressed in a rumpled tan trench coat and a traditional Scottish flat cap. I soon learned that he was penniless. His full name was William Caldwell Raeside and he lived at South Biggart Farm, or so he said. Actually, he probably lived at Middleton Farm. Both farms were nearby. He was sipping a wine glass of Scotch whisky without ice. At first, he did not want to talk, but then agreed to tell me all the Caldwell history he knew if I would keep his glass full. Back then, a glass of what he liked cost the equivalent of 25 cents and I figured that several hours of his testimony would cost me only a few dollars. Seeing that we were potentially going to be there for some time, my traveling companions got into a rousing game of darts with the aforementioned local farmers.

Willie stated that he was born on December 30, 1898. His mother was Jane Caldwell, who was born in 1862. His maternal great-grandfather was John Caldwell, who was born in 1793 and lived for 97 years. His maternal second-great-grandfather, William Caldwell (my third-great-grandfather, born in 1751), once met famous Scottish bard Rabbe Burns in the pub. His maternal third-great-grandfather, William Caldwell (my fourth-great-grandfather, born in 1723), married Janet Shedden and built the Middleton farmhouse in 1769. A woman living at Knockshoggle Farm, off to the south, is a Caldwell who is married to someone who is not a Caldwell. He believed that she is a cousin or second cousin of his mother, Jane Caldwell. Note: Willie's statements were subsequently found to include several errors, which have been corrected above.

As long as the Scotch whisky kept flowing, Willie kept talking. He recited his understanding of early Caldwell history, including Caldwell Castle, the Mures of Caldwell, their mansion that became Caldwell Hospital, and so forth. All of that will be presented in detail later in this report. Pubs in the United Kingdom are required to close promptly at 11:00 PM. That hour was quickly approaching, so we finally got directions to North Biggart Farm and said goodbye.



Willie died around 1982. By all accounts, he was then living in abject poverty in one room at the ruins of the Middleton farmhouse. He had no electricity, no gas, no phone, no water, and almost no furniture. His only heat was from a small wood-burning stove. The photo to the left shows that farmhouse in the 1980s.

The Lugton Inn, a local institution that had served customers for more than 150 years, tragically burned to the ground shortly after 2000. The photo to the right shows the inn sometime during the 1800s.



Willie's directions to North Biggart Farm seemed straightforward, just head out of town on B777 and take the first left turn. The first left turned out to be an opening in a fence. Beyond the opening was a pasture. There was not a paved road, not even a gravel or dirt road, just two wheel ruts leading off into the darkness. Had we been entirely sober, we likely would not have proceeded. We were not, so off we went to the south, bouncing along the wheel ruts and hoping they would lead somewhere. After 300 or 400 yards, we came upon a farmhouse which I instantly recognized from my photos as North Biggart Farm. Unsurprisingly, all of the lights in the house were off. Arriving unannounced, almost at midnight, we were concerned that we might be greeted with a shotgun, so instead of knocking on the door, we stayed in the car and beeped the horn a few times.

A light came on and Mr. Graham came outside, without a weapon. I introduced myself and explained my purpose. He remembered a visit by Sam Caldwell a few years earlier and warmly greeted me and my traveling companions. He went back into the house, turned on all the lights, and got his wife and two children out of bed. Then he invited us in. Sensing our condition, Mrs. Graham insisted that we sit at the kitchen table and enjoy some hot coffee and snacks. Then Mr. Graham went to the safe and pulled out a 1910 Ordinance Survey of the property, which he proudly spread across the table. I photographed it and asked where I might buy a copy. Mrs. Graham asked for my address in Texas and promised that she would send one. A few weeks later it arrived, the 1966 version, the only one then available. After coffee, we were given a thorough tour of the home and adjacent dairy barn, which was full of Holsteins. The tour even included the children's upstairs bedrooms. Amazed at their hospitality, I took photos of everything. The photos below are a few examples.



My lasting memories of the visit to North Biggart Farm are how nice the Graham family was and how thick the rock walls of their house were. Those walls will last forever. We finally thanked the Grahams and said goodbye around 2:00 AM, starting our drive across Scotland to Edinburgh and arriving at our hotel in the wee hours. The next day we toured a construction yard near Methil, on the north side of the Firth of Forth. That evening, while my traveling companions commenced a pub crawl of Edinburgh, I found my way to the Scottish Record Office. The genealogy bug had soundly bitten me and I was determined to gather more information. I ended up discovering the legal documents of William Caldwell (1723-1803) and his son William Caldwell (1751-1834). With the office closing, I arranged for the documents to be reproduced and sent to me in Texas. I still have the receipt. The cost was £2, plus shipping and handling. Satisfied with my success, I happily joined the pub crawl.

The photo below shows the North Biggart Farm in 2021, courtesy of Google Street View. The sign in the window with the Holstein background states: "J+F Graham, North Biggart." An Internet search confirms that the Graham family still operates the farm under the North Biggart name. However, they apparently no longer live there, having moved about 700 yards northwest, across secondary road B777, to what used to be South Highgate Farm.



Upon my return to Texas, my father called and asked that I write a report on what I learned and present it at a future Caldwell family reunion. I promised that I would do so, perhaps by 1977, just as soon as I had time to gather and organize my information. Over the next two years, I corresponded with several other amateur Caldwell genealogists. Eventually, I became frustrated with two unanswered questions and my efforts ground to a halt. In the early 1990s, I was contacted by several other amateur Caldwell genealogists. One even traveled from his home in California to my home in Texas to go through my box of accumulated information. That rekindled my interest and I resolved to finally write the long overdue report. After a couple of years and continuing frustration with the two still unanswered questions, my efforts once again ground to a halt.

What were these questions?

- Since the 1960s, there have been two competing versions of the Caldwell history in Scotland. Sam Caldwell believed that “our” John Caldwell lived at Middleton Farm and was the son of William Caldwell, also of Middleton Farm. If his version is correct, my efforts in Edinburgh added a generation to the family tree. Ralph Caldwell believed that “our” John Caldwell lived at North Biggart Farm and was the son of John Caldwell of Knockshoggle Farm. Clearly, Sam and Ralph cannot both be correct. Perhaps, both are mistaken.
- William Caldwell Raeside stated that his great-grandfather was John Caldwell of Middleton Farm, and his second-great-grandfather was William Caldwell, also of Middleton Farm. His great-grandfather John never left Ayrshire. Clearly, this could not be “our” John. Yet, his second-great-grandfather William appears to be the same person as my third-great-grandfather William. There must be two John Caldwells, but were they related? If so, how were they related?

The Caldwell Family Zoomunion on March 7, 2021 and the related online Caldwell photo gallery rekindled my interest. This time, I had access to resources that were previously unavailable, including Google Maps, Google Street View, Wikipedia, and two incredibly valuable Internet websites:

- <http://caldwellgenealogy.com/>
- <https://www.familysearch.org/>

With these newly available resources, both questions can finally be answered. In addition, a new generation in the family tree can now be documented, extending back to 1684. Thus, at long last, I am finally able to honor the promise that I made to my father in 1975. This report attempts to present a factual account of the Caldwell history in Scotland. Other than my direct family line, I have not attempted to present the Caldwell history in Wisconsin and beyond. That has already been well-documented by many others. The few gaps and inconsistencies that remain in our Scottish history are clearly stated and addressed in this report using my best judgment.

Most Caldwells are likely familiar with the sensational stories of our ancestry. Supposedly, our Caldwell ancestors were part of two groups of people living in northern Italy who called themselves the Albigenses and the Waldenses. Both of these groups were Protestant and were subjected to torture and mass execution by the forces of the Roman Catholic Church. Those who survived fled west over the mountains to Toulon, France. There, three brothers were born: John, Alexander, and Oliver. They joined a group of pirates in the Mediterranean and later became privateers, each with his own ship. In return for their services, King James V of Scotland welcomed them and gave each a large tract of land in Ayrshire or Renfrewshire. Also, Oliver Cromwell and Queen Elizabeth I were somehow related to the Caldwell family. All of this is utter nonsense. These fables were the creation of a prolific, self-professed genealogist named Gustave Anjou (1863-1942). Over the course of his lifetime, he prepared hundreds of false pedigrees for well-paying clients wanting to document a glorious past without much concern for the truth. It has been confirmed that the Caldwell ancestry fables were his work. These fables are not addressed further in this report.

Several others have made valuable contributions to this report and deserve proper credit. They include: Dorothy Beck of WI, David Andrew Caldwell of NC, Don Caldwell of MN, Ralph Caldwell of IN, Sam Caldwell of MO, Stanley Robert Caldwell of WI, Dwain Dedrick of IL, Shirley Goetz of KS, Mr. & Mrs. Graham of Ayrshire, Linda Herrmann of MA, Joann Sloan Johnson of TX, and Bill Robertson of CA.

# First Millennium

At the start of the first millennium the British Isles were a tribal society, like most of the world at that time. The tribes were mainly comprised of hunter-gatherers. Nearly all of the land was covered in forest, so farming was very limited. Fierce battles between tribes were frequent. In what would eventually become southern or lowland Scotland, five tribes were predominant. They were the Otadini, the Selgovae, the Novatae, the Maeatae, and the Damnonii. Each of these tribes claimed large land areas, which they constantly defended while raiding the lands of their neighbors. In the southwest, in what would eventually become Ayrshire and Renfrewshire, the predominant tribe was the Damnonii, a Brittonic people. Their language and culture were Brythonic, or Brittonic Celtic.



The Romans invaded the British Isles in 43 AD. They started their conquest in the south, but steadily moved north. Roman General Agricola occupied the land around what would become Glasgow and in 84 AD established Fort Vanduara, a wooden fort, at what would become Paisley. The purpose was to provide a stronghold from which to resist attacks by the highland Picts and Gaels, who they collectively called Scotti as an insult. This was a failure. Frustrated by relentless attacks from the north, Roman Emperor Hadrian ordered the construction of 73-mile-long Hadrian's Wall about 122 AD, marking the northern limit of Roman Britannia. The stone wall was 15 feet high and had a stone base. In a cross section from north to south, there was a ditch, wall, military road, and another ditch with adjoining mounds. There were small forts spaced at one mile intervals and major forts every five miles. The small forts were staffed with static garrisons, whereas the major forts had fighting garrisons of infantry and cavalry.

Continuing invasions from the north caused the Romans to send out expeditions to try and expand their territory beyond Hadrian's Wall. Emperor Anontinus Pius ordered construction of a second wall about 100 miles to the north, reaching from the Firth of Clyde to the Firth of Forth, a distance of about 39 miles. In a cross section from north to south, there was a ditch, a 10-foot-high earthen berm on a stone base, a wooden palisade on top of the berm, and a military road. Construction began about 142 AD and took 12 years to complete. Antonine Wall was protected by 19 major wooden forts spaced every two miles, with small wooden forts between them. The nearest major fort along Antonine Wall to what would become Caldwell Castle was at Bishopton, about 9 miles to the north. The Romans also built auxiliary forts and fortified supply bases. One was constructed at Lochwinnoch, about 6 miles to the west of what would become Caldwell Castle. Both of these locations were served by Roman military roads that passed through the future Caldwell Estate. It is likely, although not proven, that the Romans constructed a wooden fortification about 150 AD on a prominent hill offering commanding views in all directions, the hill that would eventually become the site of Caldwell Castle. Out of necessity, the Romans brought in Anglo-Saxon warriors to man their defenses. Antonine Wall was abandoned only 8 years after its completion, but some of the Anglo-Saxons chose to remain. The Romans were never able to establish and sustain their rule north of Hadrian's Wall. By 410 AD, they abandoned all of Roman Britannia due to economic pressure and problems arising elsewhere.



The Damnonii were never conquered by Rome. Instead, they apparently reached an accord of cooperation and occasionally fought alongside the Romans against the Picts and Gaels. At other times, they fought effectively against the Romans. The Damnonii worshiped the Druid religion. Accordingly, they regularly burned witches and common criminals alive in wicker baskets. This practice continued for centuries, and witches were burned alive in Renfrewshire until 1700. At some point during the Roman era, the Damnonii created an independent kingdom known by the Brythonic name of its capital at Alt Clut, or “Rock of the Clyde.” Specifically, this was Dumbarton Rock, a 240-foot volcanic basalt outcrop along the northern coast of the River Clyde. Alt Clut was one of the few British kingdoms that were never conquered by the Romans, the English, or the Normans. However, after a four-month siege, Alt Clut fell to the Danes, or Vikings, in 870. One of the Viking leaders was Ivar the Boneless, who was portrayed in the *Vikings* TV series. Ivar killed the Alt Clut king and gave the kingdom to the king’s son, a Gael. The kingdom was renamed Strathclyde, or “straddling the Clyde,” and the capital was moved to the east along the valley of the River Clyde. The language and culture became Gaelic, and the kingdom quickly grew to encompass all of what would become southwestern Scotland, including the future counties of Ayrshire and Renfrewshire.

Over time, Alt Clut and Strathclyde became a mixture of many peoples and cultures. Between 400 and 600, the Damnonii were joined by Britons, Gaels, Picts, and Anglo-Saxons. Starting in 500, Anglo-Saxons from Northumbria and Mercia began settling in the lowlands that would become southern Scotland. With an average Anglo-Saxon male height of 6 feet, easily 6 inches taller than all other peoples, and with a fierce demeanor, they had a reputation of displacing or dominating all other cultures wherever they settled. To a degree, that occurred in Strathclyde, but not to the extent that it occurred elsewhere in the lowlands. Nevertheless, nearly all place names in Ayrshire and Renfrewshire are of Anglo-Saxon origin. Beginning in the late 800s, Danes settled in Strathclyde. Finally, after 1066, Normans settled there.

Caldwell became a place name almost eight centuries before it became a surname. William the Conqueror ordered a survey of England that was completed in 1086. Called the Domesday Book, it was written in Medieval Latin and was a survey of land and property, not of people. The survey extended only into the English midlands, ending about 50 miles south of the long-abandoned Hadrian’s Wall. The Domesday Book recorded more than a dozen settlements named Caldwell. All were established by Anglo-Saxons during the first millennium. Given the widespread illiteracy of that period, the spelling varied widely, for example: Colwela, Cauldwel, Cauldwell, Calwylad, Cauldweille, Cawdewelle, and Caldwaellan. The standardized spelling of Caldwell would not occur until the 1400s. Of the Caldwell settlements in the English midlands, two stand out. Cawdewelle was established in the early 400s in north Yorkshire. King Oswald of Northumbria ordered that a stone chapel be erected there by Irish monks about 640. It eventually became St. Hilda’s Chapel. Caldwaellan was established in the 700s in south Derbyshire. A stone chapel was also erected there. The nave of that chapel remains today and is now part of the Church of St. Giles.

In what would become Scotland, only one settlement named Caldwell existed in the first millennium. Terra de Caldwell was established about 640 in the Levern Valley several miles southwest of what would become Glasgow. Terra de Caldwell translates to “Land of Caldwell,” and it apparently was intended to be applied to the region, not just to the village on the Levern Water (river) that later became Caldwellstoun. That village no longer exists.

Where did the Caldwell place name come from? In the English midlands, the answer is quite clear. People preferred to settle near sources of fresh water. In Old English and Anglo-Saxon, respectively, “caeld weille” and “caelde waellan” mean water flowing from a fissure in the earth, or an artesian well.

In what would become Scotland, the answer is more complex. In the future counties of Ayrshire and Renfrewshire, the Caldwell place name could have simply been brought by migrating Anglo-Saxons. Alternatively, it could be from the Gaels of Strathclyde. In Gaelic, “keld well” means a well in the wood. Or it could even be from the Danes, or Vikings. In Old Norse, “keld” means a well, fountain, spring, or marsh, and “cald” means cold water, which leads to another question. Artesian wells were common throughout all of what would become the Scottish lowlands, especially in the region along the future Ayrshire and Renfrewshire border. The water in all of those wells was cold. Why name a place after such a common geographic feature?

Another explanation might be the Old Gaelic words “calltuin” and “collde,” both of which mean hazels, or hazelnuts. These nuts were an important ancient source of food and were sacred to the Druids. Hazels were plentiful in the forests along the future Ayrshire and Renfrewshire border. In Old Gaelic, “weil” means pool of water. Thus, Caldwell could mean a pool or well in the hazel woods. There is also an interesting twist. Caldwell Castle would eventually be constructed on a prominent hill, or law, long known as Brandy Hill. The primary well on that hill was known as Brandy Well. Did the Caldwells possibly get their name from this well?

The Vikings repeatedly swept through the area. They were known for changing all place names encountered to Old Norse, but they did not change Caldwell. Perhaps that was because in Old Norse the name was so similar to the already established name, Caldwell. My best guess on the etymology of Caldwell is “a cold well in a forest with hazels,” which might or might not be correct. Readers must draw their own conclusions.

Surnames did not reach Scotland until the second millennium. This became a problem. Imagine ancient Edinburgh with 25 men simply named Robert. That might lead to a lot of confusion. One solution that evolved near the end of the first millennium was “of.” One Robert might proclaim that he was Robert of Greyfriars, another, Robert of Burgh Muir, and yet another, Robert of Grassmarket. This was an imperfect solution, but an improvement nevertheless. Along the future Ayrshire and Renfrewshire border, many ordinary people from 800 onward began to proclaim that they were “of Caldwell.”

Two ancient Celtic-speaking peoples, the Picts and the Gaels, were traditional enemies. However, facing a persistent and increasing threat from the Danes, or Vikings, they reconciled to mutually defend their lands. In doing so, they formed the new country of Alba in 843.

Malcolm I, King of Alba, repeatedly raided Northumbria as a way to keep the English out of Alba. Edmund I, King of England, did not reciprocate. Instead, he sought an alliance. In 945, Edmund I invaded and conquered Cumbria and Strathclyde. He claimed Cumbria for England. In return for a military alliance with Malcolm I, Edmund I endorsed Strathclyde as a vassal state of Alba. Strathclyde did not willingly accept this status and struggled to maintain its independence for several years.

To check threatened Viking invasions from Dublin and to fulfill their military alliance with Alba, a succession of English kings erected a line of stone forts in what would become Renfrewshire. It is likely, but not proven, that a stone fort was erected on Brandy Hill, the site of the future Caldwell Castle. That fort would have been manned by Anglo-Saxon soldiers, or knights, who then would have established a more permanent community of Caldwell.

# Caldwells of the Middle Ages

About 1030, Alban King Malcolm II seized Strathclyde, Cumbria, and Lothian. From that point onward, Alba became known as Scotland and Strathclyde became a permanent part of the expanded kingdom. Ironically, the Picts and Gaels ended up founding a country named after the Scotti, the derogatory term that the Romans called them seven centuries earlier. In 1061, Scottish King Malcolm III decreed that all of his chief subjects should acquire surnames based upon their territorial possessions. However, there were very few lords (nobles) or lairds (large-scale landowners) in Scotland at that time.

William the Conqueror defeated England at the Battle of Hastings on October 14, 1066. The British Isles were forever changed as a result. The Normans brought surnames, European feudalism, and literacy. Within two years, Anglo-Norman forces ravaged the English midlands, including all the villages with Caldwell place names. Villagers had to choose between fleeing to Scotland or remaining for certain slaughter. Most chose to flee. As a result, the Caldwell villages were permanently depopulated, or nearly so, and most of the villages ceased to exist. The devastation did not extend into Scotland.

In 1070, upon his marriage to Margaret Atheling, Scottish King Malcolm III declared English the official language of Scotland, but it took more than three centuries to fully replace Anglo-Norman. In 1093, he established Ayrshire. Malcolm III's fifth child, Alexander, and eighth child, David, each became King of Scots. David became Prince of the Cumbrians upon receiving the region of Strathclyde as a gift from his older brother Alexander, King of Scots, in 1113. Born and raised in Scotland, David spent several years in exile in England, where he became a favorite of King Henry I of England. Upon the death of his older brother, with the full support of Henry I, David seized the throne of Scotland as David I, King of Scots.

David I ruled Scotland from 1124 until his death in 1153. His reign was especially consequential. He dismantled the existing Celtic society and replaced it with Anglo-Norman feudalism. He accomplished this by inviting more than 1,000 Anglo-Norman knights and landless nobles (second and third sons) to settle in Scotland with promises of large land grants. In turn, these knights and nobles were obligated to fight whenever needed on his behalf. David I also started monasteries, villages, and regional markets for immigrant merchants.

David's largest land grants were to Walter Fitzalan. Walter started adulthood as a minor English baron in Shropshire. He befriended David while he was in exile in England and the two eventually collaborated in an unsuccessful attempt to install David's niece, Matilda, the daughter of King Henry I, as successor to the English throne following the king's death. Walter arrived in Scotland in 1136. David I promptly granted him charters for the western provincial lordships of Mearns, Strathgryfe, Renfrew and North Kyle. In 1166, David I granted Walter additional charters, including the lordships of Paisley, Pollock, Talahret, Cathcart, Dripps, Eaglesham, Lochwinnoch, Innerwick, West Partick, Inchinnan, Stenton, Hassenden, Legerwood, Mow, and Birkenside. These lands encompassed nearly all of what would become Renfrewshire, and much more. Walter managed this massive estate from Renfrew Castle. As his wealth rapidly grew, he became a major benefactor of several religious orders and he founded Paisley Abbey. In 1150, David I named Walter as the first Lord High Steward of Scotland, second in power only to the King. The high offices then in Scotland, in the order of descending power, were:

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. King of Scots        | 4. Lord Great Chamberlain |
| 2. Lord High Steward    | 5. Lord High Constable    |
| 3. Lord High Chancellor | 6. Earl Marischal         |

Walter Fitzalan served as Lord High Steward for three successive Scottish kings, until his death in 1177. He was succeeded by his son, Alan Fitzwalter, and then by his grandson, Walter, who was the first to morph "Steward" into the surname of "Stewart." Over time, a total of 23 consecutive people named Stewart, sometimes spelled Stuart, served as Lord High Steward. They were the founders of the Stewart Dynasty. The Stewart family considered Renfrew to be their home until they ascended to the English throne. Today, Prince Charles, the Prince of Wales, still holds the titles of Baron of Renfrew and Lord High Steward of Scotland.

Next to the Fitzalan Estate, King David I granted a royal charter for the Caldwell Estate. Although records cannot be found, this likely occurred around 1140. The recipient is also unknown, but he certainly was either an Anglo-Norman noble or knight who had been recruited to Scotland. If a noble, he became Lord Caldwell. If a knight, he became Laird Caldwell. The estate was large, although not in comparison with the Fitzalan Estate. The Caldwell Estate included lands principally to the south, with some to the east and west. These lands would eventually include more than two dozen tenant farms. An entry in the Registrum of the Paisley Abbey in 1294 states that the Caldwell Estate abutted the Stewart's Forest of Fereneze to the north. This forest was the "King's Reserve," and any peasant caught there with a weapon (such as a knife, or bow and arrow) was immediately slain even if not actively hunting.

In 1195 the first record of someone named Caldwell appeared, when Adam de Caldwell was included in the Pipers Rolls in Derbyshire. Perhaps more importantly, the Paisley Abbey recorded a Caldwell "of that ilk" in Lochwinnoch in 1292. The phrase, "of that ilk," is important. This phrase denotes a prominent family that has been established at a location for at least 100 years. Thus, the Cawdells at Lochwinnoch might date back at least to the late 1100s.

Although no documentation exists, Caldwell Castle probably was erected around 1234 on Brandy Hill. The English fort that previously might have been at that site could have been incorporated into the castle construction, or the stones remaining from that fort could have been reused. Little is known of the castle, other than it was a common courtyard design, square or rectangular in plan, with towers at the corners. It was the only Caldwell Castle ever erected in Scotland or England.

On October 2, 1263, Scotland defeated the Vikings at the Battle of Largs. Three years later, in the Treaty of Perth, Scotland purchased the Hebrides Islands and the Isle of Mann from the Vikings. In return, they agreed to a complete and permanent retreat from Scotland. This ended 500 years of Viking invasions and depredations all over Scotland. There is a legend that a Viking named Kald was taken prisoner at the battle. After serving time as a laborer on a lowlands farm, he was freed and settled near a well in the Lavern Valley. He became known as Kald of the Well, or Caldwell. If Kald actually existed, he had nothing to do with the etymology of Caldwell, since by that time in Scotland, Caldwell had already been a place name for about 640 years and a surname for at least 90 years.

Beginning around 1100, those people calling themselves "of Caldwell" began assuming the surname Caldwell. By 1200, those living or working on or near the Caldwell Estate, and those farming its lands as tenants, also began to assume the surname Caldwell. Around 1250, everyone in Scotland was ordered to assume a surname in order to simplify recordkeeping of rents and feu-farmin fees. By 1400, surnames were universal across Scotland, and Caldwell had become one of the most common surnames in southwestern Scotland. Starting in the Lavern Valley, the Caldwell surname spread south and west throughout all of Ayrshire. Caldwell was as common there as Smith and Jones are in the United States today. Yet while the Caldwell surname had become increasingly popular in Scotland, it had nearly vanished in England.

While the battles with the Vikings had finally ended, the battles with the English were just starting. King Edward I of England, also known as Edward Longshanks, was determined to rule Scotland as a vassal state with an iron hand. Toward that end, he invaded Scotland in March 1296. Scotland responded in open revolt, which later became known as the First War of Scottish Independence. Unlike popular characterizations, the war was not a revolt by the highlander clans. Most of the fighters were Scottish lowlanders, and most of the battles took place in the Scottish lowlands. In fact, some highlander clans actually fought for England.

William Wallace, who was portrayed in the *Braveheart* movie, was born in 1270 in what would become Renfrewshire. He rose to prominence when he killed the English High Sheriff of Lanark in May 1297. Then he raised an army of commoners, engaged in numerous skirmishes, and fought two battles against the armies of Edward I. On September 11, 1297, he won the Battle of Stirling Bridge. Following this victory, he was given the title Guardian of the Kingdom of Scotland, and by year-end he was officially knighted. The English army invaded Scotland again in 1298. On July 22, 1298, they defeated Wallace at the Battle of Falkirk. He resigned his title as Guardian and went into hiding. In 1305, he was captured by the English near Glasgow and taken to London, where he was brutally executed on August 23, 1305.

Robert the Bruce was born on July 11, 1274 in Ayrshire. He was born into nobility as the fourth-great-grandson of David I, King of Scots. Robert the Bruce was crowned Robert I, King of Scots on March 25, 1306. In response, Edward I sent another English army into Scotland. Upset with the martyrdom of William Wallace, Robert I raised an army comprised of commoners, nobles, and knights. He was defeated in the Battle of Methven on June 19, 1306. Robert I fled and commenced seven years of effective guerilla warfare. To put an end to this, Edward II, who succeeded his father as King of England in 1307, invaded Scotland again in 1314. Robert I raised another army and defeated the English at the Battle of Bannockburn on June 23 & 24, 1314. Edward II refused to relinquish his overlordship of Scotland, so on April 6, 1320, the leading nobles and magnates of Scotland sent the Declaration of Arbroath to Pope John XXII. This was a letter arguing for the recognition of Scotland's independence under Robert I. The Pope concurred with the arguments in the declaration and urged Edward II to accept Scottish independence, but he still refused. Finally, on March 1, 1328, his successor, Edward III of England, signed the Treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton. It renounced all English claims on Scotland.

Records indicate that the men of the Levern Valley, meaning many or most of the Caldwell men, fought with William Wallace and Robert the Bruce in their battles with the English. This might explain the lack of any male heirs to the Caldwell Estate. The Laird, or possibly the Lord, of the Caldwell Estate died in battle, leaving only a wife and a young daughter. Based on the timeline, he most likely died in 1314 at the Battle of Bannockburn. The Declaration of Arbroath in 1320 does not include his signature, which would make sense if he had died. At his death, his daughter was probably about four years old. His wife became known as Lady Caldwell, indicating that she now held a lairdship in her own right. After Lady Caldwell died, her daughter became known as Heiress Caldwell (her forename is unknown). In 1333, at the age of about 23, she married Gilchrist Mure (a.k.a., More, Muir), Baron of Cowdams, a less prestigious estate in Ayrshire. He was also about 23 years old. Records refer to Heiress Caldwell as "of that ilk," denoting a prominent family that had been established at a location for at least 100 years. The marriage probably did not involve love or romance. At that time, marriage was almost entirely viewed as a vehicle to gain wealth, property, prestige, and legitimate heirs. The marriage marked the end of the Caldwell family directly controlling the Caldwell Estate. After two centuries, control now passed from the Caldwell family to the Mure family for the next six centuries. However, the name of the Caldwell Estate did not change, as it was protected by a royal charter.

Since the late 1800s, various Caldwells have searched for an official Caldwell Coat-of-Arms (CoA). They have not found one, because none exists. CoAs were brought to Scotland by Anglo-Norman knights after 1066. They were a means by which European knights wearing full suits of armor could identify each other in battle. A CoA could only be granted by a king, and it was granted only to an individual knight, not to a family or a surname. A CoA could only be inherited by a direct male descendent of the person to whom it was originally granted. If the Laird Caldwell of the Caldwell Estate was a knight, he might have had a personal CoA. However, if he did, the CoA ended with him on the battlefield about 1314.

Similarly, some Caldwells have searched in vain for a Caldwell Clan or a Caldwell Tartan. Neither exists today and neither existed in the past. The Caldwells were Scottish lowlanders. It was only the Scottish highlanders that had clans and tartans.

Heiress Caldwell gained prestige not just from her brief ownership of the Caldwell Estate, but also from her uncle or cousin in Glasgow, William Caldwell. He was a prebend of the Diocese of Glasgow that encompassed both Ayrshire and Renfrewshire and was likely a bishop or archbishop. Thus, William Caldwell was head of both the ecclesiastic and secular courts of fourteenth century Scotland and might have been among the wealthiest individuals in Scotland at that time. As a prebend wanting to increase the tithes and rents payable to the diocese, he likely supported deforestation as a way to increase farm land. That process had commenced nearly two centuries earlier and now was widespread. Many of the farmers who rented these newly cleared lands probably assumed Caldwell as their surname.

In 1349, William Caldwell was appointed Lord High Chancellor, the third most powerful position in Scotland, behind only King of Scots and Lord High Steward. The position was usually given to the most learned and scholarly men of the time, and the most influential with the King. The Lord High Chancellors at that time were Catholic Prelates. William Caldwell presided as Lord High Chancellor over the Scottish Parliament until he died in 1354. The cause of his death is unknown, but the plague is likely.

Four waves of Bubonic Plague, also known as the Black Death, ravaged all of England in 1348, 1361, 1369, and 1371, but did not significantly impact Scotland. The population of England was estimated to have increased from 2.00 million in 1086 to 6.00 million in the late 1200s. By 1377, due to the plague, the population had dropped to 2.75 million. Scotland was ravaged by the Pneumonic Plague, with the first wave in 1350 and followed by several additional waves through 1640. More than one-third of all Scots died, and the population in 1350 was not restored until the late 1600s.

Following the norms of most leading families in Scotland at the time, Caldwells living at Caldwell Castle would encourage their young adult Caldwells to marry other young adult Caldwells. According to a decree by the 1215 Lateral Council, this was legal and proper as long as the parties were at least fourth-degree cousins. At the time of Heiress Caldwell's marriage, the Caldwell family had been growing within the castle walls for a century. Some members of the family eventually moved out and settled on lands they owned about one-half mile to the west, at what is now the intersection of secondary roads B775 and B776. This area eventually became known as Little Caldwell, or alternatively, as Wester Caldwell. A large house was built and became known as Hall of Caldwell. Initially, this was a "tower" house, but it was reconstructed and enlarged in 1596 as a "hall" house. The Caldwells also owned the lands to the east that centuries later became Caldwell Golf Club.

In 1402, Renfrewshire was established by King Robert III. His great-grandfather was Robert the Bruce, or King Robert I. Robert III's sixth-great-grandfather was Walter Fitzalan, who had originally received the charter to those lands from Robert III's seventh-great-grandfather, King David I.

## Mures of Caldwell

In the remaining sections of this report, there are a lot of repetitive forenames, particularly John, William, and Robert. The clergy kept records of births throughout Scotland starting in 1564. Here is a brief summary of birth statistics from 1600 to 1899 for people with the surname of Caldwell:

Forename	Location	1600 1699	1700 1799	1800 1899	Total	% in Ayrshire
John	Ayrshire	26	104	122	252	12.9 (25.7)
William	Ayrshire	14	80	103	197	10.0 (20.1)
Robert	Ayrshire	8	58	72	138	7.0 (14.1)
J + W + R	Ayrshire	48	242	297	587	29.9 (59.9)
All (M + F)	Ayrshire	152	703	1,106	1,961	NA
All (M + F)	Scotland	590	1,834	3,578	6,002	NA

In the right-hand column of the table, the numbers in parentheses are the assumed percentages of all Ayrshire Caldwell males if one-half of all Ayrshire Caldwell births were females. Remarkably, nearly 60% of all Caldwell males born in Ayrshire over three centuries were named John, William, or Robert.

The bottom two rows of the table are interesting as well. There were 34 shires, or counties, in Scotland during this period. If people with the Caldwell surname were uniformly dispersed across Scotland, each shire would have had an average of 2.9%. Instead, Ayrshire alone had 32.7%, more than ten times the average. A different set of records, from 1553 to 1853, has even more startling results. Of all the Caldwell birth, marriage, and death records in Scotland over that period, 56% were in north Ayrshire, 68% were in all of Ayrshire, and 32% were elsewhere in Scotland. Very few were in Renfrewshire.

Why were forenames so repetitive in Scotland? The Scots did not lack creativity, nor were they lazy. They simply were following long-standing Scottish naming traditions. The general custom, to which there were some variations, was to name the first three sons and daughters as shown below. Subsequent children typically would be named after earlier ancestors, but this pattern varied widely.

- The first son after the paternal grandfather
- The second son after the maternal grandfather
- The third son after the father
- The first daughter after the maternal grandmother
- The second daughter after the paternal grandmother
- The third daughter after the mother

Sir Reginald Robert de Mure (1290-1340) was Lord of Abercorn and Cowdams. He was the Lord Great Chamberlain of Scotland from 1329 to 1333, and again from 1334 until his death. He acquired the Abercorn Estate upon his marriage to Sybilla de Graham, Heiress of Dalkeith. They had three children, William de Mure of Abercorn, Gilchrist de Mure of Cowdams, and Alicia de Mure.

[1] Gilchrist Mure (1310-1400) was Baron of Cowdams. He acquired the Caldwell Estate upon his marriage to Heiress Caldwell in 1333. He had at least one child, John "Godfrey" Mure of Caldwell. The mother might have been Heiress Caldwell, but some historians believe the mother was actually a mistress or second wife named Isabel Comyn (1315-1400).

[2] John "Godfrey" Mure of Caldwell (1342-1409) was the first Mure family member to be born at Caldwell Castle. He was also the first family member to include "of Caldwell" in his name. He and his wife, Baroness Anne (1352-1399), had at least one child, John Mure of Caldwell.

[3] John Mure of Caldwell (1385-1430) was the first family member to be called Lord Caldwell, or alternatively, the Second Lord of Caldwell. He and his wife, Marjory (1390-Deceased) had at least one child, John Mure of Caldwell.

[4] John Mure of Caldwell (1410-1476) was called Lord Caldwell and the Third Lord of Caldwell. He and his wife, Elizabeth Lindsay (1428-1468), had at least two children: Marjory Mure and Adam Mure of Caldwell. In 1450, the lands of the Biggart, Ramshead, and Little Highgate Farms were granted to the Caldwell Estate, a significant addition to the already large estate.

[5] Sir Adam Mure of Caldwell (1454-1513), the Fourth Lord of Caldwell, was knighted by King James IV of Scotland. Sir Adam and his wife, Elizabeth Sempill (1456-1496), had four children: John Mure of Caldwell, Elizabeth Mure, Lady Margaret Mure, and Janet Mure. On September 9, 1513, Sir Adam died fighting at the Battle of Flodden Field in Northumberland, England. King James IV, who led the invasion of northern England, also died in that battle.

[6] Sir John Mure of Caldwell (1478-1538) married Lady Janet Stewart (1460-1530). They had at least one child, John Mure of Caldwell. The Scottish Reformation was the process by which Scotland broke with Catholicism and developed a Presbyterian national kirk (church). On February 20, 1515, at the beginning of this movement, Sir John led a group of men in an assault on the castle and palace of the Archbishop of Glasgow. They battered the walls with artillery, gained entry, and ransacked the premises. Later, he was tried, found guilty, and forced to pay reparations.

[7] Sir John Mure of Caldwell (1504-1554) married Elizabeth Isabel Montgomerie (1508-1596). They had three children: John Caldwell, William Mure of Glanderston, and Agnes Mure. In 1543, the Earl of Arran, Regent to Mary, Queen of Scots, who was then an infant, abruptly switched from Protestant to Catholic. In response, William Cunningham, the Earl of Glencairn, and Sir John Mure of Caldwell rose in revolt. With their kinsmen and dependents, they met in two bloody battles against the Earl of Arran on March 16 and May 24, 1544 at Glasgow Muir. About 300 died on both sides, but the leaders survived.

[8] Sir John Caldwell (1532-1570) was knighted by King James V. He married Janet Kennedy (1536-1636). They had at least seven children: Agnes Boyd Kilmarnock, Thomas Boyd, the 6th Lord Boyd of Kilmarnock, Andrew Muir, James Mure, William Mure, Robert Muir, and William Caldwell. On September 10, 1570, Sir John was murdered by William and Alexander Cunninghame of Aikett.

[9] Sir Robert Muir (1558-1619, not a spelling error) was knighted by King James VI. He married Elizabeth Kincaid (1562-1641). They had at least three children: Patrick Mure, Peter Caldwell, and James M. Muir. James M. Muir (1584-1645) and his wife and cousin, Margaret Muir (1572-1644), had four sons and four daughters. Sir Robert was succeeded by his grandson Robert Muir, the eldest son of James M. Muir.



[10] Robert Muir (1606-1641, not a spelling error) married Jean Knox (1607-Deceased). They had four children: Euphemia Mure, Robert Mure of Caldwell, James Mure of Caldwell, and William Mure of Caldwell. Robert Muir died in battle.

[11] Robert Mure of Caldwell (1630-1647). He died unmarried at the age of 17 and was succeeded by his younger brother, James Mure of Caldwell.

[12] James Mure of Caldwell (1632-1654). He married, but he and his wife had no children. He was succeeded by his younger brother, William Mure of Caldwell.

[13] Sir William Mure of Caldwell (1634-1670) was also known as the Ninth Lord of Caldwell. He married Barbara Cunninghame (1638-1707) about 1655. They had three daughters: Jane Mure, Barbara Mure, and Anne Mure. Like many of his countrymen, Sir William was a Covenanter. The Covenanters were a Scottish religious and political movement that supported the Presbyterian Kirk of Scotland and the primacy of its leaders in religious affairs. After 1660, Presbyterian doctrine was increasingly being replaced with Episcopalian doctrine and the Covenanters became a persecuted minority. This led to a period of armed rebellions. In November 1666, Covenanters from southwestern Scotland, mostly from Ayrshire, marched on Edinburgh.

Sir William raised a troop of about 50 horsemen, mostly comprised of local tenant farmers, but also including the Caldwells of Little Caldwell. They arrived late to the Battle of Rullion Green, which was a bitter defeat for the Covenanters. This was a minor skirmish, but about 50 Covenanters died in battle and 80 to 100 were captured. The victors, led by General Tam Dalyell, later known as "Bluidy Tam," were ordered to make an example of the captives. Nearly all were tortured, 36 were executed, and the rest were exiled to slavery in Barbados. The next decade became known as the "Killing Time." Sir William fled to Holland with his wife and daughters. The Caldwells of Little Caldwell also fled, possibly to New Jersey. The Caldwell Estate and Hall of Caldwell were both forfeited. General Dalyell ordered the complete demolition of Caldwell Castle and the slaughter of all the livestock there. For reasons unknown, Hall of Caldwell was spared.

Sir William died in Holland on February 9, 1670. His wife Barbara returned to Scotland with her daughters. She and two of her daughters, Barbara and Anne, were promptly imprisoned in Blackness Castle, where they were cruelly persecuted. Anne died in captivity, but her mother and sister survived and they were eventually released. With the Caldwell Estate now mostly destroyed, Sir William was succeeded by his daughter, Barbara Mure.

[14] Barbara Mure (1658-1698) married John Fairlie (1654-Deceased). They had no children.

Sometime around 1680, Barbara Mure purchased Hall of Caldwell and started its restoration. At her direction, a wall was constructed around the house using stones from the ruins of Caldwell Castle. The ornamental gate has a plaque dated 1684. The photo to the right was taken in the 1800s, before secondary roads B775 and B776 were paved.





After the restoration, Barbara Mure leased Hall of Caldwell and the adjacent Hall Farm to Allan Caldwell in 1690. He married Margaret Clerk in 1710 and they had three children. He married Janet Fulton in 1724 and they had three more children. Both weddings took place in Hall of Caldwell. There is no evidence that Allan Caldwell is related to the Wisconsin Caldwells. The aerial photo to the left was taken in 2020. Today, Hall Farm is still being operated by a Caldwell, but he does not live there. Tom Caldwell lives in a condominium.

Barbara Mure worked tirelessly to restore her inheritance. On July 19, 1690, after King James VII was overthrown by William of Orange, she received full restitution of her patrimonial estates through a special act of Parliament. She then honored her father, Sir William Mure of Caldwell, by constructing a three-story memorial tower with a parapet at the site of Caldwell Castle. Caldwell Tower was constructed using stones from the ruins of Caldwell Castle. Almost from the beginning, the tower was seriously abused. A 1775 survey shows it as a "doocot," or pigeon house. An 1832 survey shows it as a

"Bacon House," or a building used for curing hams. It was likely never used as a residence before 2011, when a controversial renovation was undertaken. That renovation, with an ugly light blue enclosed stairway attached to one side, is an absolute disaster. Caldwell Tower was offered at auction in 2017 for £122,500 (about \$169,500). The sales brochure concedes that the tower "requires further work prior to habitation." Locals now call it "Folly Tower."



The recent photo to the left faces SE, and the recent photo to the right faces NW.

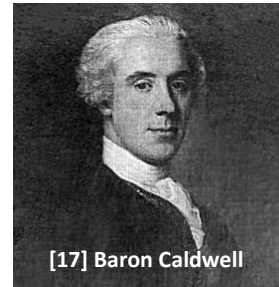


Barbara Mure left no successors, so the Caldwell Estate passed to William Mure, Fourth Laird of Glanderston, a descendent of William Mure of Glanderston, who was the second son of [7] Sir John Mure of Caldwell, who inherited the Caldwell Estate in 1539.

[15] William Mure (1655-Deceased), the Fourth Laird of Glanderston, married Margaret Mowat (1659-Deceased). They had no children. He was succeeded by his nephew, William Mure, son of James Mure, Esq. of Rhoddens, Ireland.

[16] William Mure, Sr. (1689-1722) married Anne Stewart (1690-1747) in 1710. They had five children: Margaret Mure, Elizabeth Mure, Agnes Mure, James Mure, and William Mure, Jr. Needing a new family home, William Mure, Sr. constructed the first Mure of Caldwell Mansion in 1712 about 2,400 yards southwest of Caldwell Tower. Today, it is in ruins.

[17] William Mure, Jr. (1718-1776), known as Baron Caldwell, married Catherine Graham (1729-1822) in 1752. They had six children: Katherine Mure, Anne Mure, James Mure, Esq., Margaret Mure, Elizabeth Mure, and Col. William Mure. Baron Caldwell served as a Member of Parliament for Renfrewshire from 1742 until 1761, when he was made one of the Barons of the Scottish Exchequer. He was considered to be an “improving landlord” because he extended tenant lease terms to promote tenant improvements and planted many trees in the area. Wanting a grand mansion, he commissioned famous



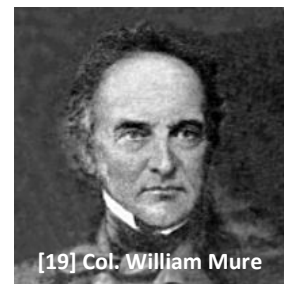
[17] Baron Caldwell



Scottish architect Robert Adam to design it. The second Mure of Caldwell Mansion was completed in 1773 about 300 yards southeast of the first mansion. The new mansion was immediately recognized as one of the finest in all of Scotland. It was also known for its extensive gardens and its steady stream of such esteemed visitors as philosopher David Hume and economist Adam Smith.

[18] Col. William Mure (1770-1831) married Anne Hunter-Blair (1771-1854). They had thirteen children: Jane Mure, Catharine Mure, Elizabeth Mure, George Mure, Clementine Mure, Col. William Mure, Jemina Mure, James Mure, Anne Mure, David Mure, Robert Mure, Sophia Muir, and Robert Muir. Col. William Mure served as Vice-Lieutenant of the Renfrewshire Militia. In 1799, while adding extensive gardens on Brandy Hill, he converted the first Mure of Caldwell Mansion into horse stables.

[19] Col. William Mure of Caldwell (1799-1860) married Laura Markham (1804-1876) in 1825. They had six children: Elizabeth Laura Mure, Col. William Mure, Ann Clementina Mure, Charles Reginald Mure, Emma Mure, and James Mure. Like his father, Col. William Mure served as Vice-Lieutenant of the Renfrewshire Militia. He also served as a Deputy Lieutenant of the Ayrshire Militia, and as a Justice of the Peace in both Renfrewshire and Ayrshire. In addition, Col. William Mure served as a Member of Parliament for Renfrewshire from 1846 through 1856.



[19] Col. William Mure

[20] Col. William Mure of Caldwell (1830-1880) married Constance Elizabeth Wyndham (1833-1920) in 1859. They had five children: Constance Madeline Emma Mure, Mary Laura Florence Mure, Col. William Mure, Marjorie Caroline Susan Mure, and Liliias Emily Elizabeth Mure.

As an aside, Caldwell Station on the Glasgow, Barrhead, and Kilmarnock Joint Railway (GB&K) opened on March 27, 1871 to the east and downhill from Caldwell Tower, just to the south of Uplawmoor. On April 2, 1962, it was renamed Uplawmoor Station, and on November 7, 1966 it was closed. Today, the building is a private residence.

[21] Col. William Mure of Caldwell (1870-1912) married Georgina Theresa Montgomerie (1876-1938) in 1895. They had three children: Marjorie Janet Mure, Lt. Col. William Mure, and David William Alexander Mure.



In 1889, the Mure family funded the reconstruction of Caldwell Parish Church in Uplawmoor. The previous church was a "tin" structure built in 1859. The large replacement church, constructed with sandstone walls and a slate roof, is still in active use today. Next door stands Mure Hall, a public meeting hall that was also funded by the Mure family.



Caldwell Golf Club was founded in 1903 between primary road A736 and the second Mure of Caldwell Mansion. The course was originally designed by Willie Fernie, a winner of the Open. The clubhouse features the Tower Restaurant, and Caldwell Tower overlooks the fairways.

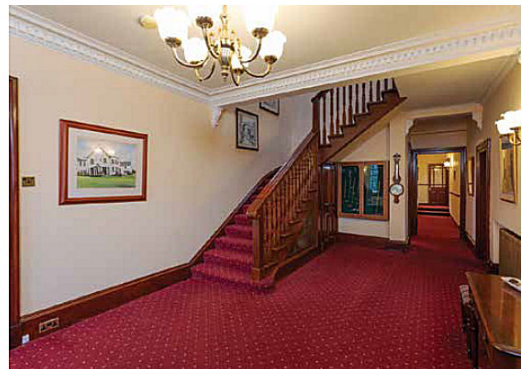


In 1909, Col. William Mure of Caldwell concluded that the taxes and operating costs for the second Mure of Caldwell Mansion and grounds had grown too high, so he leased the property and moved his family into Hall of Caldwell, which he renovated and expanded. In 1912, at the age of 42, he died of appendicitis. His youngest son, David William Alexander Mure was born that year. He was the last member of the Mure family to be born in Scotland, because the family moved to England shortly after Col. William's death. Lt. Col. William Mure died in London in 1977, and David William Alexander Mure died there in 1986.

In 1923, the second Mure of Caldwell Mansion and 280-acre Caldwell Estate was sold by the Mure family to the local government for £7,500 (about \$10,394 then, or \$161,002 today). The government turned the mansion into a hospital for intellectually disabled children (page 3 photo). The hospital closed in 1985 and the Caldwell Estate property was sold off in lots. In 1995, the empty hospital was gutted by fire. Today, the rock walls of the building stand in ruins.



Hall of Caldwell fared much better. It was sold by the Mure family to individuals who continually renovated and improved the property. At some point the house was determined to be too large to be maintained or sold, so it was partitioned into two units. This essentially created a very large duplex. The larger of the two units was put up for sale in 2019. With six bedrooms and 1.86 acres, it was offered at £499,000 (about \$690,292). The sales brochure includes many impressive photos throughout the house and grounds.



## Scotland to Wisconsin

The story of the Wisconsin Caldwell is part of a larger story of Scottish emigration. With the possible exception of Ireland, perhaps no small country has exported more of its population than Scotland. Scots began leaving for Northern Ireland as early as the 1500s. By the late 1600s, Scots were sailing to North America. This included many people with the Caldwell surname. In fact, Caldwells fought in the American Revolution, some for the emerging United States and others for England.

Where did the Caldwells come from? A survey in 1881 identified 2,513 people named Caldwell living in the Scottish lowlands, mostly in Ayrshire, and especially in northern Ayrshire along the border with Renfrewshire. By contrast, the survey only identified 4 people named Caldwell living in the English midlands. Historians agree that virtually all of the Caldwells living today in Northern Ireland, the United States, Canada, and Australia descended from people living in Scotland, not in England.

The early Caldwell immigrants settled primarily in the colonies of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and the Carolinas. After the American Revolution, as the United States pushed westward, so did the Caldwell immigrants. According to census data, there were 1,164 Caldwell families living in the United States in 1840, ten years before John Caldwell arrived in Wisconsin. Also according to census data, there were 20,157 Caldwell families living in the United States in 1880, thirty years after John Caldwell arrived in Wisconsin. The following table shows the states where many of the Caldwell families settled.

State	1840 # of Families	1880 # of Families
Pennsylvania	173	1,828
Tennessee	93	1,364
Ohio	116	1,291
Kentucky	88	1,179
Missouri	45	1,114
North Carolina	31	1,106
South Carolina	67	1,070
Texas	0	941
Illinois	37	939
Virginia/West Virginia	60	927
New York	82	787
Indiana	76	775
Mississippi	22	716
Georgia	30	693
Alabama	28	690
Massachusetts	83	555
Iowa	2	521
Arkansas	5	499
Louisiana	7	381
Michigan	7	380
Wisconsin	5	184

According to data from the 2010 census, per MyNameStats.com, there are 107,871 people living in the United States named Caldwell. That amounts to 33.86 Caldwells per 100,000 Americans. By contrast, there are 5,530 Caldwells in England, or 9.92 Caldwells per 100,000 Britons. In Scotland, there are 1,782 Caldwells, or 56.12 Caldwells per 100,000 Scots. While the United States has the highest number of people named Caldwell, Scotland has the highest percentage of people named Caldwell. The following table shows a sampling of states where people named Caldwell are living today:

State	# of People Named Caldwell
Texas	10,479
California	7,960
North Carolina	6,937
Ohio	4,740
Pennsylvania	3,617
Michigan	3,209
New Jersey	2,054
Wisconsin	564

According to the 2010 census, some of the historic male forenames are still very popular among those named Caldwell: John (#2 at 1.73%), Robert (#4 at 1.38%), and William (#6 at 1.07%).

[1] Allan Caldwell (1684-Deceased) is the first of the Wisconsin Caldwell family to be positively linked to our ancestry. He was born in Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire, Scotland. He married, and he and his wife had at least one child:

- William Caldwell (1723-1803)

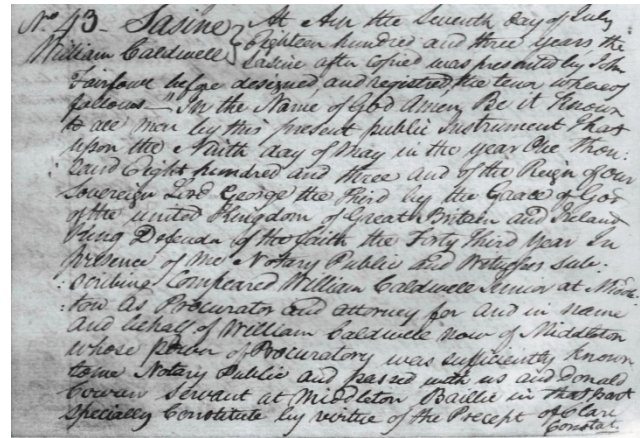
That is all that is known of Allan. Based on Scottish naming traditions, it is likely that Allan's father was named William. A search for people named William Caldwell born in Lochwinnoch between 1645 and 1665 found two candidates, but neither can be positively linked to Allan. One was born in 1655 and has no defined family tree. The other was born in 1665, which means he would have only been about 19 years old when Allan was born. If he could be linked to Allan, our ancestry would extend another five generations, going back to the birth of John Caldwell in 1533.

[2] William Caldwell (1723-May 3, 1803, not a spelling error) was born in Neilston, Renfrewshire, Scotland. Neilston is about 4 miles northeast of Caldwell Tower. William married Janet Shedden (1730-Deceased) on January 23, 1747. Her parents were James Shedden (not a spelling error) and Janet Caldwell (her maiden name), and she was the first of their eleven children. William Caldwell and Janet Shedden had four children:

- Jane Caldwell (1747-Deceased)
- Elisabeth Caldwell (1749-Deceased)
- William Caldwell (1751-1834)
- Janet Caldwell (1755-Deceased)

William Caldwell purchased the tenancy of Easter Highgate Farm on September 13, 1768. He bought the farm, but he could not buy the land beneath it. He changed the name to Middleton Farm and built a two-story farm house there in 1769. Middleton Farm is located about one mile southwest of Lugton on primary road A736.

A Precept of Sasine is a legal document through which a superior authorizes his agent to give possession of his property to someone else. A Precept of Clare Constat is a legal document through which a superior recognizes the title of the heir of a vassal or tenant to enter upon the superior's lands. A Charter of Confirmation is an endorsement by a superior of a previous grant, or an existing possession, agreement, or other right.



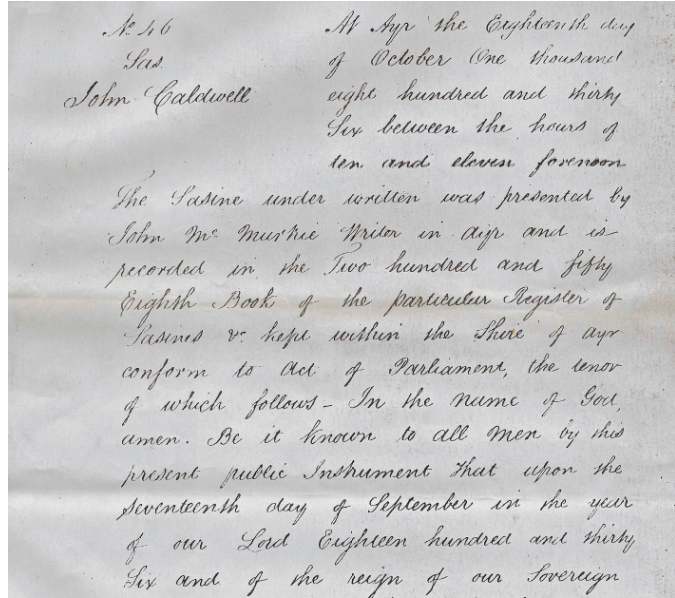
Following the death of William Caldwell, his son William Caldwell appeared with two servants, Donald Cowan and Walter Wier, and executed these legal documents on July 7, 1803. The documents, which were five handwritten legal pages, confirmed an existing feufarin fee, payable annually on Martinmas (November 11) to the Barony of Hazlehead. The existing fee was £22 and 12 shillings (about \$31.30 then, or \$734 today). With the transfer of the Middleton Farm tenancy from father to son, the existing fee apparently doubled at least for the first year. The Barony of Hazlehead and Hazlehead Castle no longer exist. All that remains there today is a small hamlet named Hessilhead, which is shown at the left edge of the page 1 map.

[3] William Caldwell (July 1751-November 28, 1834) was born in Neilston, Renfrewshire, Scotland. William married Margaret Williamson (1765-Deceased) on September 7, 1788. They had fourteen children:

- William Caldwell (1787-1866)
- Janet Caldwell (1789-1871)
- James Caldwell (1790-Deceased)
- Allan Caldwell (1791-1860) He is the great-grandfather of Agnes "Nan" Biggart, who was visited by numerous amateur Caldwell genealogists from the 1960s until her death.
- John Caldwell (1793-1890) John died as the result of an accident while curling in Beith Parish. He is the great-grandfather of William "Willie" Caldwell Raeside, who I discovered at the Lugton Inn and who was then visited by numerous amateur Caldwell genealogists until his death.
- Alexander Caldwell (1795-Deceased)
- Margaret Caldwell (1797-1860)
- Thomas Caldwell (1798-Deceased)
- Agnes Caldwell (1801-1865)
- James Caldwell (1803-Deceased)
- Elisabeth Caldwell (1805-1881)
- Robert Caldwell (1807-Deceased)
- John Caldwell (1808-1879) He left Scotland for Wisconsin in 1850 with his five children.
- Jean Caldwell (1809-Deceased)



John Caldwell (1793-1890) and Allan Caldwell (1791-1860) appeared with John Caldwell's servant, John Gilmour, and executed a Precept of Sasine and related documents on September 17, 1836. The documents, which were sixteen handwritten legal pages, included the will of William Caldwell, which he signed with his wife, Margaret Williamson, on August 13, 1830. The documents confirmed the continuation of a feufarin fee, payable annually to the Barony of Hazlehead. Feufarin fees in Scotland continued until 1974, and the feudal system was not abolished until 2000.



John inherited Middleton Farm, except for a piece of the old Easter Highgate Farm that had previously been given by William to his son, Allan. In addition to Middleton Farm, John inherited long-term debts payable to most of his brothers and sisters, with individual amounts ranging from £300 to £550 at 3% annual interest.

My primary source of the information on William Caldwell's fourteen children is the database maintained by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS). While this database is not perfect, it is generally regarded worldwide as the gold standard for genealogical research. However, William Caldwell's legal documents address only eleven children. There is no reference to the first James, to the second John, or to Jean. It is possible that the first James and Jean both died before 1830. The second John, "our" John, was 22 years old and married with three children in 1830. He would not have been wealthy then, so he would not have declined an inheritance. Perhaps he had a dispute with his father and was disinherited. Alternatively, the LDS database might be wrong. In that case, John's ancestry is unknown. Hopefully, this question can be resolved by amateur Caldwell genealogists in the future.

In 1834 and 1835, there was a survey of male heads of families and places of residence in Beith Parish. The following people of interest were listed:

- Allan Caldwell at Highgate Farm
- John Caldwell at Middleton Farm
- John Caldwell at North Biggart Farm
- William Caldwell at Highgate Farm (apparently retired, not yet deceased, living with Allan)
- William Mure, at the Caldwell Estate

[4] John Caldwell (March 15, 1808-May 11, 1879) was born in Neilston, Renfrewshire, Scotland. John married Elizabeth Robertson (August 3, 1805-1837) on April 25, 1826. They had five children:

- Margaret Caldwell (1826-1922)
- William Caldwell (1829-1893)
- Janet Caldwell (1829-1862)
- John Caldwell (1833-1917)
- Robert Caldwell (1835-1885)

John Caldwell may have owned North Biggart Farm, but it is more likely that he rented it. Either way, he paid an annual feuferin fee to the Caldwell Estate. Raising five children alone after losing his wife while still in his twenties must have been difficult. By 1850, he decided it was time for a fresh start and the opportunities available in another location, the newly established state of Wisconsin.



[4] John Caldwell

John gathered his children and sailed for the United States with his brother-in-law, William Robertson. According to other amateur Caldwell genealogists, the journey at sea took six weeks and included a near shipwreck off the coast of Northern Ireland. Arriving in New York City, the group traveled up the Hudson River to Albany and then along the Erie Canal to Buffalo. From there, they traveled by lake steamer to Milwaukee. There are conflicting accounts of their travel westward to Columbia County. Some think the trip was by ox team, while others think they walked. Perhaps it was a combination of both.

John and his family spent the first winter in the town of Caledonia. Then they settled in Section 6 of the town of Arlington. In 1854, John purchased 175 acres of nearby farm land in Section 7. He and his children were successful farmers and eventually owned several dairy farms in Columbia County. The family was also active in local civic and political affairs. They were among the organizers of the United Presbyterian Church of Arlington, the Arlington Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and Columbia Bank.

In Wisconsin, John Caldwell married Esther Mackie Stevenson (1819-May 26, 1897) in 1863. Both were born in Scotland, and this was the second marriage for both. John and Esther had one child:

- James Craig Caldwell (1864-June 12, 1933)

[5] John Caldwell (January 13, 1833-September 8, 1917) was born in Beith, Ayrshire, Scotland. He married Marion Wardrop (August 25, 1835-November 22, 1909) in Wisconsin on September 8, 1858. John and Marion had nine children:

- Elizabeth Sword Caldwell (1859-1944)
- John L Caldwell (1861-Deceased)
- William Wardrop Caldwell (1863-1947)
- Robert Caldwell (1866-1950)
- Agnes Caldwell (1868-1955)
- James Marshall Caldwell (1871-Deceased)
- Isaac Sword Caldwell (1873-1959)
- Marion Caldwell (1875-1958)
- Hugh Sloan Caldwell (1878-1959)

John Caldwell followed his father's footsteps and became a successful dairy farmer who was active in Arlington's civic and political affairs. Like his father, he served as the president of Columbia Bank. He also supervised auctions and sold insurance. In 1907, he and his family relocated to Lodi.



[5] John Caldwell



Marion Wardrop Caldwell

[6] Robert Caldwell (March 7, 1866-August 29, 1950) was born in Arlington. He married Lucy Elizabeth Morrison (August 11, 1865-January 2, 1946) on November 26, 1890. They had five children:

- Baby Caldwell (1891-1891) Baby lived only 7 days.
- Dr. Morris Gilmore Caldwell (1893-1972)
- Russell Caldwell (1897-1985)
- Stanley Robert Caldwell (1902-1979)
- Grace Lucille Caldwell (1909-2001)

Robert Caldwell was born in Arlington, but followed his father to Lodi, where he was a dairy farmer. He became very active in the civic and political affairs of Lodi and served as the mayor, as the president of the Columbia Bank of Lodi, and as the president of the Lodi Union Agricultural Society. In addition, he served on the Lodi Board of Education, the Columbia County Board of Supervisors, and the local draft boards during World War I and World War II.



[6] Robert Caldwell

Robert Caldwell was also very active in Republican Party politics. In 1915, 1921, 1923, and 1925, he represented Columbia County in the Wisconsin State Assembly. He then served in the Wisconsin State Senate from 1927 to 1931. He was also a Republican presidential elector in the 1928 presidential election and a delegate to the Republican national conventions in 1936 and 1944. In 1931, he and his wife moved to the Maple Bluff neighborhood in Madison. After a long illness, he died in a hospital there.

[7] Stanley Robert Caldwell, Sr. (January 28, 1902-July 21, 1979) married Eunice Lucille Merriman (February 6, 1908-November 6, 1985) on June 20, 1931. He was born in Lodi and she was born in Eau Claire. They had three children:

- Jeanne Louise Caldwell (1932-Living)
- Roberta Ann Caldwell (1936-2020)
- Stanley Robert Caldwell, Jr. (1947-Living)



[7] Stanley & Eunice Caldwell

Stanley moved to Madison to study business at the University of Wisconsin. After graduation in 1925, he stayed in Madison and joined the Wisconsin State Banking Department, where he spent his entire career. Eunice earned a degree from Oberlin College. Stanley and Eunice bought a home in the Nakoma neighborhood of Madison and they were active participants in several bridge clubs and other neighborhood groups. Like his father and grandfather, Stanley was active in local civic and political affairs. He was an active member of the Lions Club, serving as the president of the Downtown Lions Club and as one

of the founders of the Westside Lions Club. He also served as a deacon at the First Congregational Church. For decades, he served as the chief election official at the Nakoma Elementary School polling location. Eunice was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease around 1950. As the disease progressed, tending to her care became his top priority. Stanley died unexpectedly of a heart attack while on vacation in North Carolina with Eunice, his sister Grace, and her husband Hollis Hopkins.

This concludes my report on the Caldwells of Scotland and Wisconsin. The report is as accurate as I have been able to make it with the information currently available. Some gaps and inconsistencies remain, and my attempts to address those areas with my best judgment may or may not prove to be adequate. Therefore, I hope that future generations of amateur Caldwell genealogists will be inspired to continue the work.

Please send your feedback. I welcome any and all comments, not just compliments, but also criticisms, corrections, suggestions, additions, and questions. I can be reached as shown below.

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