

John Watson

John Watson was married to Helen Ross (probably the daughter of David Ross Hilltown and Ann Munro baptised 6/11/1767). They had eight children baptised in Tain between 1790 and 1810. Helen may have died young because when the youngest daughter died in 1882 the mother's name was given as Ann Munro.

In 1790 and 1793 Watson was described as a mason in town. In 1800 he was Lieutenant John Watson of the Caithness Legion and Lieutenant again in 1803. In 1805 he was Captain John Watson late of the Caithness Legion. In 1807 he was John Watson Craighill and in 1810 John Watson Hill of Tain.

He is mentioned in Macgill no. 1259 in 1800: Lieut John Watson residing in Tain between water of Aldie and road to Scotsburn and road to Lairg (according to Macgill apparently Mineralbank).

In the appendix to the Edinburgh Almanac of 1808 he is listed as Lieutenant and Quarter Master of the 1st or Easter Ross Battalion of the Ross-shire Volunteers. The senior officers were Lt Colonel Donald McLeod of Geanies, Lt Colonel Hugh Rose and Major Charles Ross. The captains included William Baillie Rose, one of Hugh Rose's brothers, after whom Watson named his youngest son.

The Caithness Legion of Fencible Men was in existence from 1794 to 1802, commanded by Sir Benjamin Dunbar of Hempriggs, and served in Ireland. Watson's second son, baptised in 1795, was named Benjamin Dunbar.

Watson may have come from Caithness. There is no record of him or his descendants in Tain after 1813 so the family seem to have moved elsewhere. A Gilbert Watson (the name of the eldest son) got married at Reay, Caithness, in 1828.