




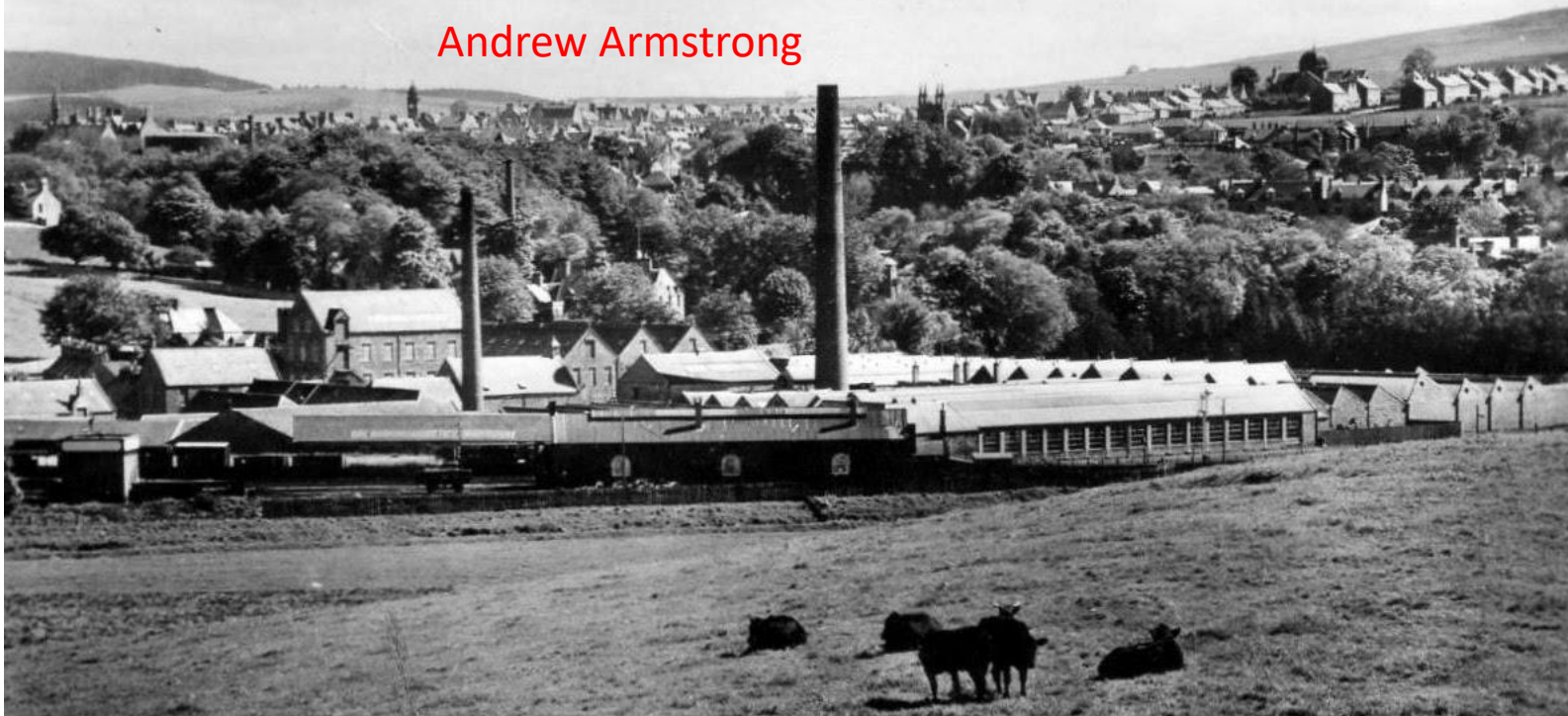
Learn how to trace your Scottish
family history 

www.scottishindexes.com



Textile Industry Migration 1750 - 1950

Andrew Armstrong



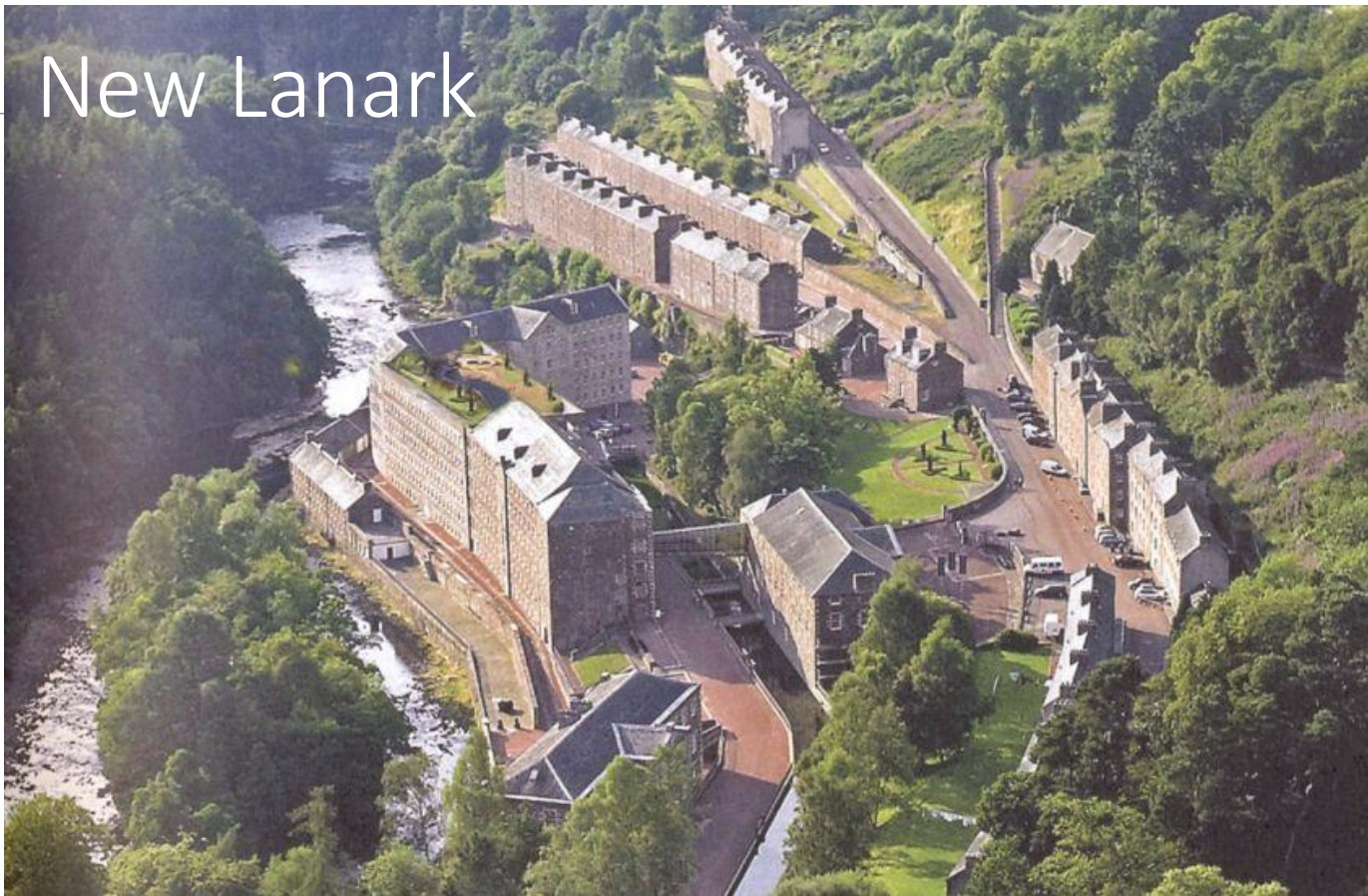
Textiles in Scotland pre-1750

- flax grown fairly widely across Scotland for hundreds of years. Scotland had a linen export trade to England which grew substantially after 1707. Various governmental initiatives to improve the product quality e.g. A group of French Huguenot cambric weavers brought in to teach the skills around 1730 – a little village of Picardie built for them close to Edinburgh (now Picardy Place). Establishing of bleachfields also encouraged. No factories - Spinners and weavers tended to work from home.
- traditional coarse wool plaids produced in rural areas by handloom weavers for local use. Quality of product meant that it was not commercially viable for export. England could produce cheaper and better product.
- Finer cloths for the merchant classes came from England and France.

Textile Revolution

- 4 key technological developments from the north of England then occurred kick-starting the cotton industry in England
 - James Hargreaves – the spinning jenny
 - Richard Arkwright – the water frame
 - Samuel Crompton – the spinning mule
 - Rev. Edmund Cartwright – the first powered loom
- 1783 saw the end of the American Wars of Independence and so the opportunity for guaranteed supplies of cotton.
- Richard Arkwright was invited to Scotland and looked at/approved sites at New Lanark and Stanley for water-powered cotton spinning mills in 1784.
- Local employees were sent down to Arkwright's factory at Cromford in Derbyshire to learn how to operate the machinery.
- Further mills in similar water-powered sites were constructed at Catrine, Ayrshire and Deanston, Perthshire

New Lanark



Cotton Industry in Scotland

- First factories were large spinning mills which took advantage of water power - so often situated in rural parts of the country. Houses were often required to house workers from elsewhere.
- Social reformers set up model factories with improved housing and conditions, educational facilities (David Dale /Robert Owen at New Lanark)
- Steam power was introduced into the industry before 1800. Meant that factories could be built in urban areas where there was no need to provide housing (or education)
- Large number of women and children employed. Pay rates poor compared with other textiles.
- Cotton technology then adapted for other textiles. (Lots of Scottish innovation employed here – and not just James Watt for the steam engine)

Cotton workers in New Lanark



Caithness Row, New Lanark

- Emigrant ship 'Fortune' foundered on the West Coast in 1791.
- David Dale then offered the would-be Highland emigrants housing and employment
- He built housing for 200 families – this row was named after their homeland
- Later influxes of workers included Irish immigrant families

Plight of the cotton handloom weavers

- By the 1860s there was very little work for traditional cotton handloom weavers (male) in Scotland
- Power loom weaving was much faster and cheaper – and employed women and children in abundance at low wage rates
- Bodies like ‘Cotton Relief Committee’ setup to find solutions to the poverty endemic in the handloom weaving community.
- Emigration to the colonies (to a farmstead) seen as the most practical step. Canada (Quebec and Montreal) the most popular choice of destination
- Numerous reports in the Scottish press at the time

Cotton worker migration



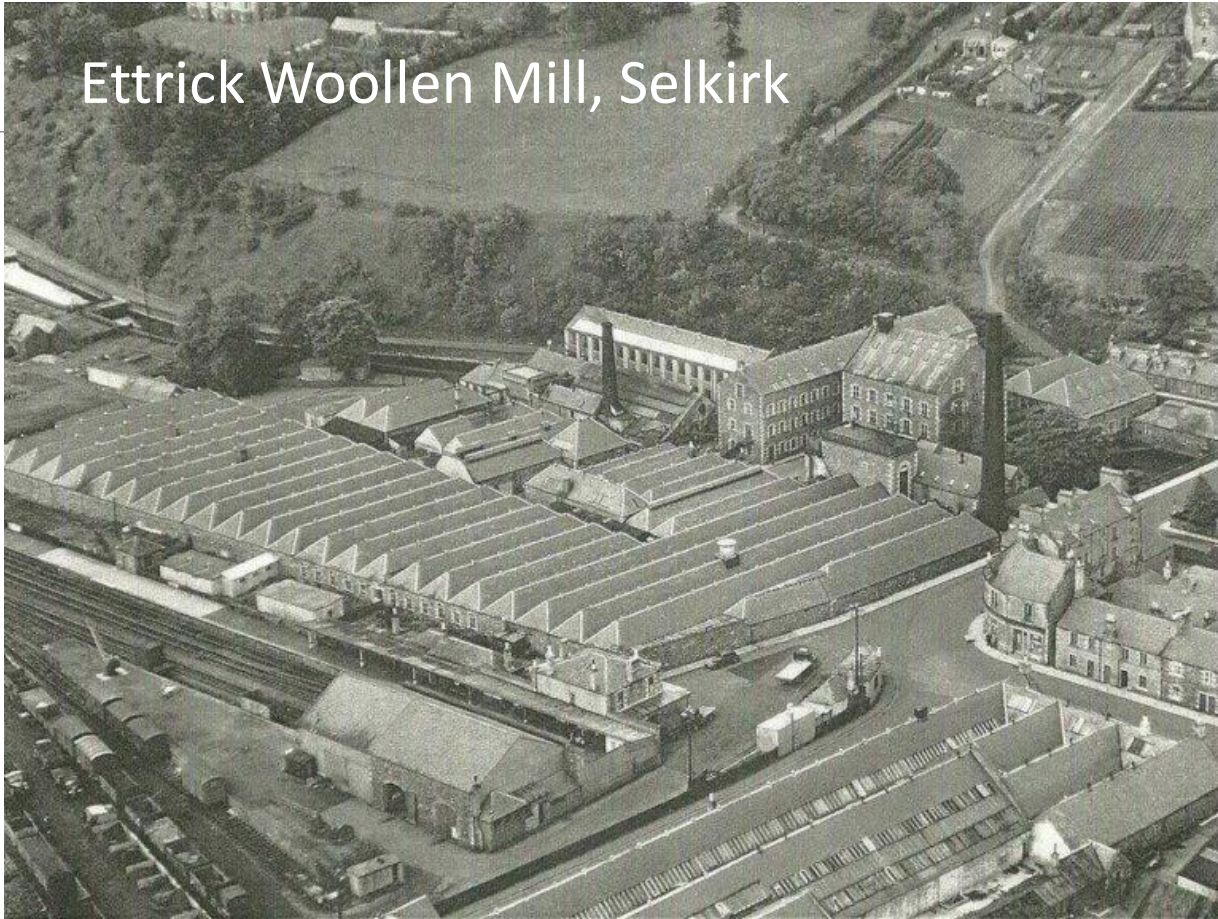
Stanley Mills, Perthshire

- Lots of Scottish workers working in Lancashire cotton mills
- Evidence of English-born mill workers in large rural Scottish cotton mills like Stanley and Deanston in Perthshire where there wasn't a large local population

Textile Occupations

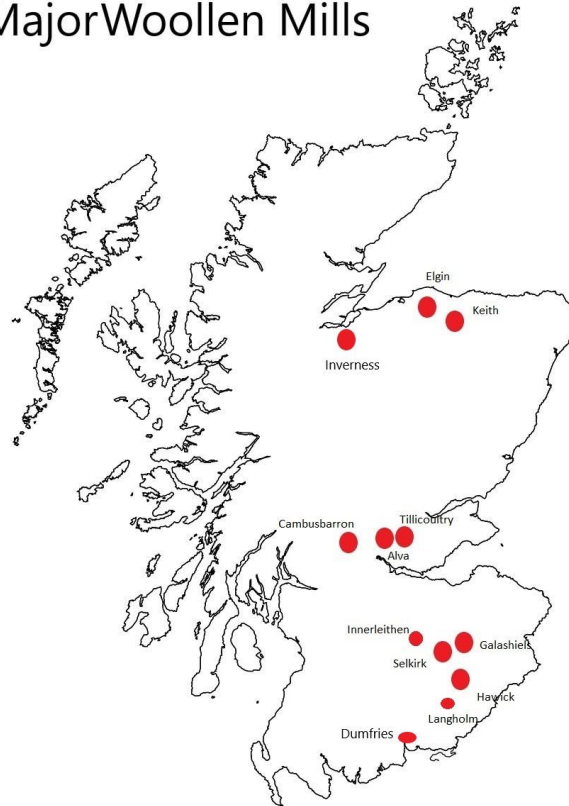
- Cotton Carder
- Cotton Winder
- Cotton Spinner
- Cotton Weaver
- Flax Mill
- Flax Spinner
- Linen Winder
- Linen Weaver
- Power Loom Tenter
- Damask Weaver
- Wool Carder
- Wool Sorter
- Wool Spinner
- Framework Knitter
- Tweed Weaver
- Tweed Designer
- Power Loom Weaver (PLW)
- Power Loom Tuner
- Thread Mill
- Thread Spinner
- Thread Worker
- Jute Carder
- Jute Mill
- Jute Factory
- Jute Spinner
- Jute Weaver
- Lace Mill
- Lace Designer

Ettrick Woollen Mill, Selkirk



Woollen Industry Migration

Major Woollen Mills



- Original advantages for these locations – local wool + water power
- Later – wool from Australia / New Zealand / Argentina – steam/electric power
- By 1890, 37,000 employed in Scotland

1881 Census – Keith, Banffshire

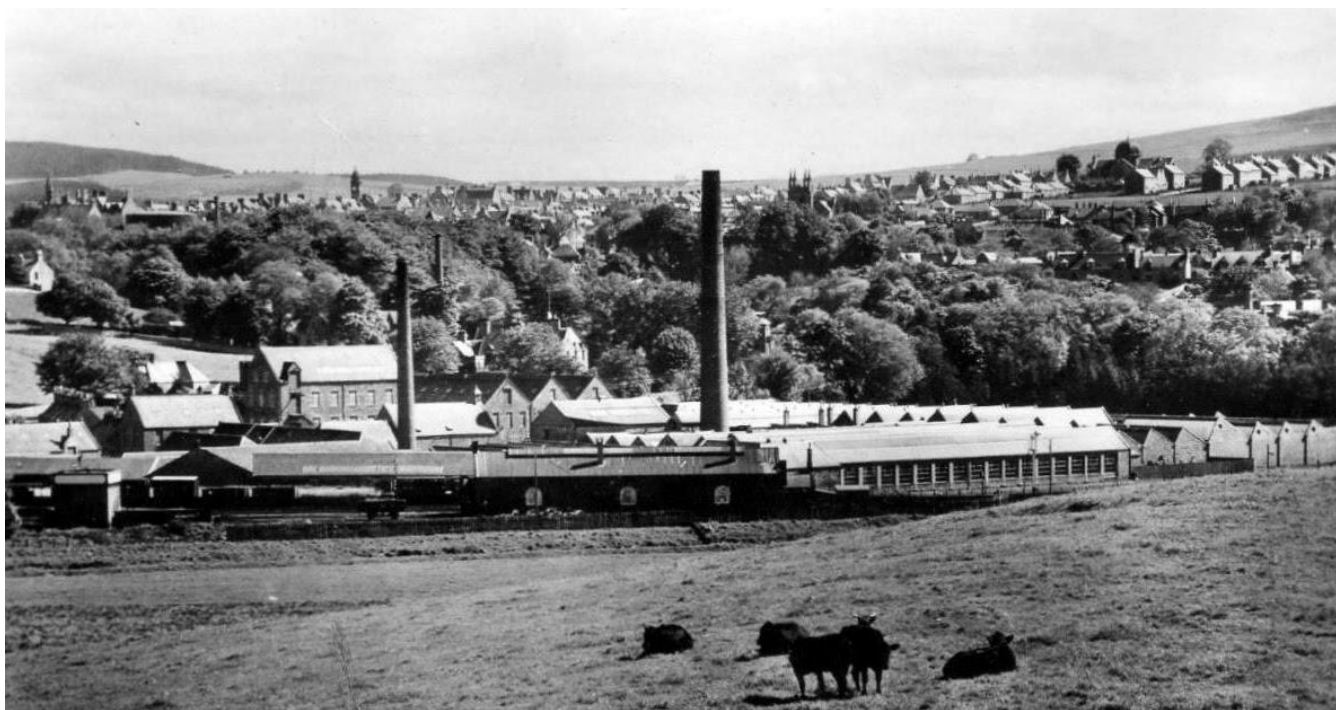
Source : FHL Film 0203440 GRO Ref Volume 159 EnumDist 5 Page 3

Reference Number : 86198

Census Place : Keith, Banff, Scotland

Address	Given Name	Surname	Relation	Condition	Age	Gender	Occupation	Birth Place	Handicap
Dwelling: Newmill Road	John	MILLAR	Head	M	34	M	Power Loom Tuner	Tillicoutry, Stirling, Scotland	
Dwelling: Newmill Road	Mary	MILLAR	Wife	M	31	F		Galashiels, Roxburgh, Scotland	
Dwelling: Newmill Road	Robert	MILLAR	Son		9	M	Scholar	Galashiels, Roxburgh, Scotland	
Dwelling: Newmill Road	James	MILLAR	Son		7	M	Scholar	Selkirk, Selkirk, Scotland	
Dwelling: Newmill Road	Christina	MILLAR	Daur		5	F		Selkirk, Selkirk, Scotland	
Dwelling: Newmill Road	John	MILLAR	Son		2	M		Keith, Banff, Scotland	

Woollens in Keith, Banffshire




Isla Bank Woollen
Mills (G & G
Kynoch Ltd)

1861 Census Wilton, Roxburghshire

146	Ducken St	Robert	Do	son	Do	35	Wilton Handloom Weavers	England	2
		Mary	Do	Wife	Do	28		Edinburghshire Dumfries	
		Elizabeth	Do	Daughter	Do	6		Do	
		Joseph	Do	Son	Do	5		England	
		James	Do	Do	Do	3		Edinburghshire Wilton	
		John	Do	Do	Do	2		Do	
		Sarah	Do	Daughter	Do	6 mo		Do	
145		Isaac	Do	Head	Do	34	Wilton Handloom Weavers	England	
		William	Do	Head	Do	36	Do	Edinburghshire Stone	2
		Euphemia	Do	Wife	Do	26		Edinburghshire Wilton	
		Alexander	Do	Son	Do	6		Do	
		George	Do	Do	Do	3		England	
		Mary	Do	Daughter	Do	1		Edinburghshire Wilton	
146	Do	Janet	Barnes	Head	Do	66		Edinburghshire Haddington	2
		Helen	Do	Daughter	Do	77	Wilton Weavers	Edinburghshire Haddington	
147		John	White	Head	Do	46	Wilton Weavers	England	
148		David	Milne	Head	Do	30	Coal Agent	Edinburghshire Wabaly	2
5	Total of Houses...						10	Total of School Children and Windowed Rooms...	8

3 year old
George
Hog(g)arth



1871 Census Brampton, Cumberland

43

The undermentioned Houses are situate within the Boundaries of the

[Page 13]

Civil Parish (or Townships) of		Municipal Borough of		Municipal Ward of		Parliamentary Borough of		Town of		Village or Hamlet, &c., of		Local Board, or Improvement Commissioners' District of		Ecclesiastical District of	
Brampton		Brampton		Brampton		Brampton		Brampton		Brampton		Brampton		Brampton	
No. of Schedule	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. or NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES		NAME and Surname of such Person	RELATION to Head of Family	CON- DITION	AGE		Rank, Profession, or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	Notes				
		No. of In- habited	No. of Empty				Males	Females			1. Deaf-and-Dumb	2. Blind	3. Imbecile or Idiot	4. Lunatic	
72	Coopers Hall	1		William Turner	Head	Man	37		Wood Larkie	Westland					
				Catherine do.	Wife	Woman	31			do.					
				John do.	Son	Room	12		Labourer	do.					
				James do.	Son	"	10			do.					
				Melissa do.	Daughter	"	7			do.					
				Margaret do.	Daughter	"	5			do.					
				Isabella do.	Daughter	"	2			do.					
				James do.	Son	"	12m			Cumberland, Brampton					
73	do.	1		George Holmes	Head	Man	43		Woolen Weaver	do.					
				Maria do.	Wife	Woman	40			Yorkshire, Chiswick					
				George do.	Son	Room	1			Westland					
				Joseph do.	Boys	"	7			Cumberland, Brampton					
74	do.	1		John Kerrall	Head	Man	24		Wool Spinner	do.					
				Elizabeth do.	Wife	Woman	36			do.					
				Margaret do.	Daughter	Room	12		Wool Weaver	do.					
				John do.	Son	"	13		Wool Spinster	do.					
				Robert do.	Son	"	10		Labourer	do.					
75	do.	1		Anthony McKie	Head	Man	25		Woolen Weaver	Westland					
				Isabella do.	Wife	Woman	28			do.					
				John do.	Son	Room	7		Labourer	do.					
				Anthony do.	Son	"	5			do.					
				James do.	Son	"	3			do.					
				Thomas do.	Son	"	1			do.					
				William do.	Son	"	12m			Cumberland Brampton					
				Margaret McKie	Daughter	Room	27		Wife, Woolen Weaver	Westland					
4	Total of Houses	4		Total of Males and Females			16	9							

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Reference -

RC 110/5208

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Brampton - history

[Brampton | Cumbria County History Trust](#)

(<https://www.cumbriacountyhistory.org.uk/township/Brampton>)

in 1785; one by 1829); both continued into 20th century. Tannery and skin yard from at least 1790, continued throughout 19th century, supplying large number of boot and shoemakers: in 1850s there were 17 businesses employing c.80 shoemakers in Brampton. Textiles employed large numbers (c.200 in 1841), initially weaving checks and gingham for Carlisle manufacturers. Numerous weaving shops and dye houses in town: one establishment of 13 rooms contained 22 looms in 1815. [Scotch Tweed Mill, established 1865, was employing 150 by 1873; destroyed by fire 1875; rebuilt but did not flourish and closed within a few years.] Other small-scale manufacturing included hat making and nail making and, during latter part of 19th century, mineral water manufacture. Population grew rapidly, rising to 2,754 by 1841 and peaking at 3,557 in 1871. With decline of manufacturing, Brampton's population fell across late 19th and early 20th century to stand at 2,526 in 1931.

1871 Census – Galashiels, Rox.

A snippet of a handwritten census document with two rows of entries. The first row contains 'Francis Blackwood' and 'Maggie Blackwood'. The second row contains 'Francis Blackwood' and 'Maggie Blackwood'. The handwriting is cursive and somewhat difficult to read.

4 Bridge St	Francis Blackwood	Head	Mar 27	Woollen Weaver	Tillicoultry (Clacks)
	Maggie Blackwood	Wife	Mar 19		Morebattle (Rox)

'Register of Criminal Prisoners'

REGISTER OF CRIMINAL PRISONERS.

Name	Francis Blackwood
Date	May 28 1872
By Whom Committed	Police Court Galashiels
Age	Age 28
Height	5ft 8½
Where born	Fifeshire
Where living	Galashiels
Weight	100lb
Marks	Dark Hair Swarthy Complexion Dark Eyes
Offence	Assault

Occupation	Mill Worker
Religion	Ep. Church
Reading/Writing	Can read a little Can write a little
Tried by Whom	Police Court Galashiels
Verdict	Convicted
Sentence	10 Days Imprisonment
Release Date	June 7 th
On whose authority	Expiration of Sentence
Conduct in Prison	Tolerable

Advertising – Power Loom Tuner

The Scotsman 1869

and thoroughly steady and trustworthy men need apply. Address No. 3043, Scotsman Office.

TUNER (Experienced Power-Loom) Wanted. Apply to P. & R. Sanderson, Tweed Mill, Galashiels.

TUNER (Power-Loom) Wanted for Tweed Factory. Address with testimonials as to ability, &c., No. 3068, Scotsman Office.

WARPERS Wanted. Must be familiar with Clan Tartans, and thoroughly qualified otherwise. Apply by letter only, giving name of present employer, George Lees & Co., Galashiels.

WEAVERS (17 Power-Loom) Wanted. Apply to Waddell & Turnbull, Selkirk.

WOOD-CARVERS—Wanted immediately, 1 or 2 Good Workmen. Apply to Alex. Hill, 156 Rose Street, Edinburgh.

WOOL-SORTER—Journeyman Wanted, accustomed to Cheviot Wools. James Scott & Sons, Waverley Mills, Langholm.

BOOTS (Under) Wanted. Address J. A., Post Office, Perth.

BOOTS (Head) Wanted for a Hotel in Town. Apply to Mr Tavernier, 45 George Street.

GARDENER and Coachman Wanted, at Martindale, near Edinburgh. State particulars, M. N., Scotsman Office.

GARDENER—Wanted, at Martindale, a First-Class Gardener.

The Scotsman 1907

issues. James Stewart & Co., Birnam.

TUNER.—Wanted at once journeyman tuner for section of Hattersley looms. Apply, stating wages wanted, to G. & G. Kynoch, Isla Bank Mills, Keith.

TUNER wanted for blanket looms; man with family working age preferred. Skeldon Mills, Hollybush.

WATCHMAKER.—Young man for town in Forfarshire. Address with references No. 1259, Scotsman Office.

The Scotsman 1919

POWER-LOOM tuner (good) wanted for a well-established woollen mill in New Zealand, near Auckland; must have first-rate references. Apply for particulars and terms to George Burns & Sons, Burnside Works, Galashiels.

DRIVING—Machineman wanted for counter work.

All press cuttings from
Britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk

Advertising – Tweed Designer

The Scotsman 1868

ment. Address No. 118, Scotsman Office.

MAN (Steady Intelligent) of experience Wanted, who is Clever at Designing Fancy Woollen Goods, and has had the Management of Jacquard, Box, and other Looms. A favourable opening for a Man of first-class abilities. Address, stating salary required, &c., Messrs Brichall, Webb, & Co., Park Mills, Leeds.

Hawick Express 1879

W^h apprentice to the Joiner trade. Apply to Robert Murray, joiner, Blacklee, Rulewater.

TWEEDS.—A Manager, who also undertakes Designing, is open for an engagement. Satisfactory reasons for leaving present situation. Testimonials if required. Address, "X," Express Office.

WANTED, an experienced Tweed Designer and general Manager for a Woollen Factory, near Dublin; also, an experienced Millman. Both must thoroughly understand their Business. Apply Greenwood, Watt, & Co., Hawick.

ALMANACS, Books, Letters, Pamphlets, &c. Lodgers Wanted. Apply Gilbert Adcock & Co., Hawick.

Alloa Advertiser 1894

WANTED, TWEED DESIGNER, thoroughly experienced in Fancy Goods.—BLENKHOEN, RICHARDSON, & Co., Limited, Hawick.

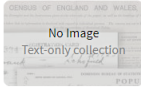
Framework Knitting - Stockingmakers



Framework Knitter (Hosiery) - 1881

[Save](#) [Print](#) [Share](#)

Thomas Coltman in the 1881 Scotland Census



Add or update information

Report a problem

Name: Thomas Coltman

Age: 37

Estimated Birth Year: abt 1844

Relationship: Head

Spouse's Name: Agnes Coltman

Gender: Male

Where born: England

Registration Number: 810

Registration district: Wilton

Civil parish: Wilton

County: Roxburghshire

Address: 13 Wellington St

Occupation: Woollen Frame Work Knitter

ED: 7

Household schedule number: 40

Line: 1

Roll: cssct1881_320

Household Members	Age	Relationship
Thomas Coltman	37	Head
Agnes Coltman	36	Wife
Sarah Coltman	16	Daughter
Thomas Coltman	14	Son

Suggested Records

- 1871 Scotland Census
Thomas Coltman
- Scotland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950
Thomas Coltman
- 1861 England Census
Thomas Coltman
- 1891 Scotland Census
Thomas Coltman
- 1901 Scotland Census
Thomas Coltman
- Scotland, Select Marriages, 1561-1910
Thomas Coltman
- 1851 England Census
Thomas Coltman
- England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915
Tom Coltman
- England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915
Thomas Coltman
- 1871 England Census
Thomas Coltman
- UK, City and County Directories, 1766 - 1946
Thomas Coltman

Framework Knitter (Hosiery) - 1861


No. of Schedule	Street, &c., and No. or Name of House	HOUSES In- cluded	Name and Surname of each Person	Relation to Head of Family	Condition	Age of		Rank, Profession, or Occupation	Where Born	Whether Blind, or Deaf and Dumb
						Male	Female			
10	22 Watling St	1	Robert Walton	Head	Mar	30		Frame work Knitter	Nottingham	
			Mary	Wife	Mar	26		Scamthess	Leicester or Leighton	
			Robert	Son		6		Scholar	Leicester	
			Mary Ann	Daughter		5		Scholar	Leicester	
			John	Son		3			Scotland	
11	24 & 26 Watling St	2	John Coltmann	Head	Mar	34		Frame work Knitter	Leicester	
			Sarah	Wife	Mar	40			Do	
			Thomas	Son	Mar	16		Do Do Do	Do	
			John	Son		12		Winding Boy	Do	
			William	Son		10		Do	Do	
12	Watling Street Foundry Lane	1	Joseph Ward	Head	Mar	48		Iron and Brass Framer Employing a few Boys	Leicester	
			Elizabeth	Wife	Mar	42			Hants Peterfield	
			Mary Ann	Daughter	Mar	15		Scholar	Leicester	
			Elizabeth	Daughter		2			Do	
			Ann	Daughter		1			Do	
13	Watling Street Foundry Lane	1	Ann Williams	Servant	Mar	15		General Servant	Leicestershire Little Harby	
			Eliza Adams	Sister	Mar	39		Flannel Keeper	Leicester	
Total of Houses...		587	Total of Males and Females...		109					

Eng.—Sheet D.

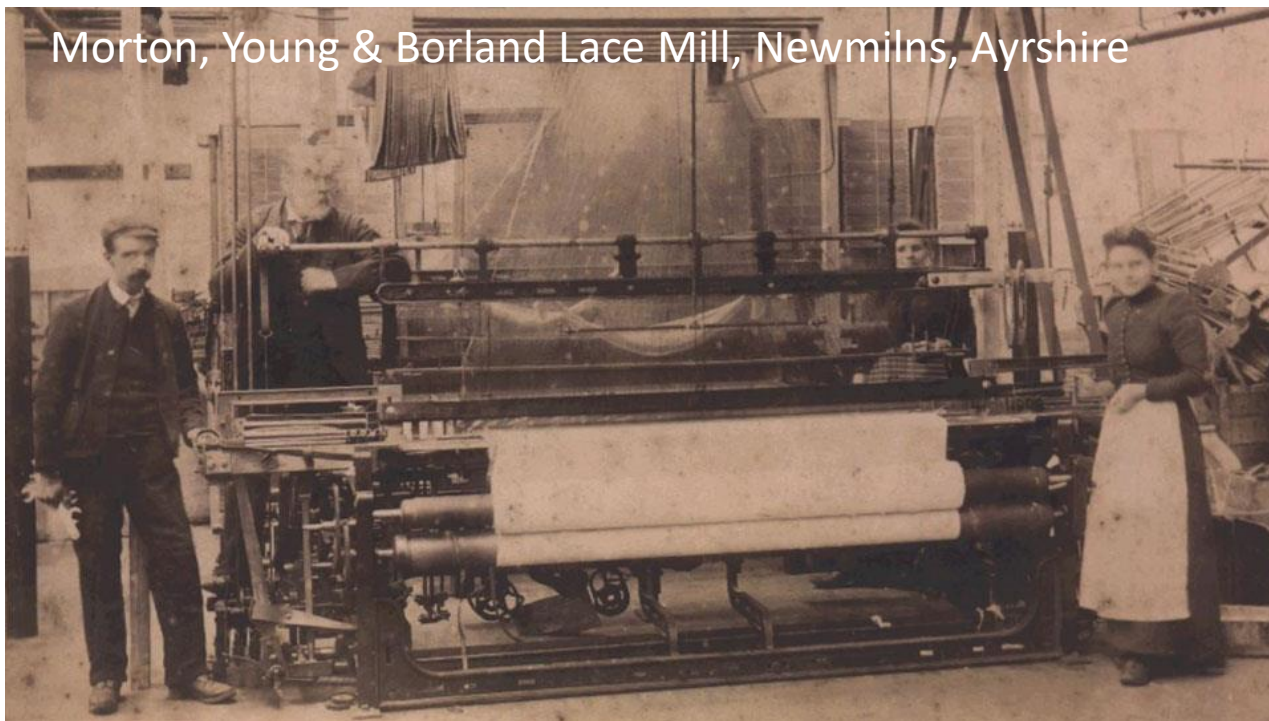
John Walton
age 3
Thomas
age 16

1857 Births



Surname 	Forename	Gender	Year	Ref	RD Name	Image View
WALTON	JOHN	M	1857	810/ 67	Wilton	View image (6 credits) 

Morton, Young & Borland Lace Mill, Newmilns, Ayrshire



Lace in the Irvine Valley

- Weaving introduced by Huguenot refugees in the 16th century
- The American cotton boom saw a large growth in Handloom Weaving in Newmilns, Darvel and Galston
- Lace making was introduced by Alexander Morton in 1876 which was the start of the Nottingham Lace and Madras Cotton production which continued in volume up until the 1970s.
- One company remains today producing traditional 'Nottingham lace' designs on original looms

Link to Nottingham home of lace making

CENSUS OF ENGLAND AND WALES, 1911.

Number of Schedules *462*
(To be filled up by the Enumerators after collection.)

Before writing on this Schedule please read the Examples and the Instructions given on the other side of the paper, as well as the headings of the Columns. The entries should be written in Ink.

The contents of the Schedule will be treated as confidential. Strict care will be taken that no information is disclosed with regard to individual persons. The returns are not to be used for proof of age, as in connection with Old Age Pensions, or for any other purpose than the preparation of Statistical Tables.

NAME AND SURNAME	RELATIONSHIP to Head of Family.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.		PARTICULARS as to MARRIAGE.					PROFESSION or OCCUPATION of Persons aged ten years and upwards.				BIRTHPLACE of every person.	NATIONALITY of every Person born in a Foreign Country.	INFIRMITY.
		For Infants under one year state the age in months as "under one month," "one month," etc.	Write "Single," "Married," "Widower," or "Widow," or other Relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."	Completed years the present Marriage has lasted.	Children born alive to present Marriage. (If no children born alive write "None" in Column 7.)	Total Children Born Alive.	Children still Living.	Children who have Died.	Personal Occupation.	Industry or Service with which worker is connected.	Whether Employer, Worker, or Working on Own Account.	Whether Working at Home.			
of every Person, whether Member of Family, Visitor, Boarder, or Servant, who	State whether "Head," or "Wife," "Son," "Daughter," or other Relative, "Visitor," "Boarder," or "Servant."	Ages of Males.	Ages of Females.	If less than one year write under one.					The reply should show the precise branch of Profession, Trade, Manufacture, &c.	This question should generally be answered by stating the business carried on by the employer. If this is clearly shown in Col. 10 the question need not be answered here.	Write opposite the name of each person engaged in any Trade or Industry, (1) "Employer" (that is employing persons other than domestic servants), or (2) "Worker" (that is working for an employer), or (3) "Own Account" (that is neither employing others nor working for a trade employer).	Write the words "At Home" opposite the name of each person carrying on Trade or Industry at home.	(1) If born in the United Kingdom, write the name of the County, and Town or Parish. (2) If born in any other part of the British Empire, write the name of the Dependency, Colony, etc., and of the Province or State. (3) If born in a Foreign Country, write the name of the Country. (4) If born at sea, write "At Sea."	State whether:— (1) "British subject by parentage." (2) "Naturalised British subject," giving year of naturalisation. Or (3) If of foreign nationality, state whether "French," "German," "Russian," etc.	If any person included in this Schedule is— (1) "Totally Deaf" or "Deaf and Dumb," (2) "Totally Blind," (3) "Lunatic," (4) "Imbecile," or "Feeble-minded," state the infirmity opposite that person's name, and the age at which he or she became afflicted.
1	Francis Henry Richardson	Head	33		married	71			Lace Curtain Designer 87	Lace.	Employer		Nottingham		
2	Kate Elizabeth Richardson	Wife	36		married	11	4	4					Nottingham		
3	Francis Richardson	Daughter	10						School	390			Gaston Duffield's NB	507	
4	Francis John Richardson	Son	9						School				Guidley Notts.	280	
5	Dorothy Jeanette Richardson	Daughter	3										Nottingham		
6	Kathleen Edith Richardson	Daughter	8 months										Nottingham		
7	Maria Elizabeth Blagden	Servant	21		Single				General Servant (Domestic)	10		Warder	Beeston Notts.	270	

Anchor Mills , Paisley

Silk & Cotton Threads



Thread Mills Employment

- First thread mill established in 1735. Originally silk threads made
- Moved to cotton following supply disruption during Napoleonic wars
- rivals Clarks / J & P Coats eventually merged. Set up US subsidiary.
- 3rd largest company in the world by 1910
- Principally local employees
- Quite a number of Paisley thread workers in 1901 census born in Aberdeenshire
- Thread manufacture in Aberdeen since 1750.



Porthill Linen Thread Mill, Aberdeen est. 1750

Thread Mills Migration

Paisley Herald 1857 –
marriage of James Coats jun.
to an American girl (of
Paisley blood)

**HOME-COMING OF MR AND MRS JAMES COATS,
JUN.**

On Thursday last, the west end of Paisley presented a very gay and animated appearance, occasioned by the welcome given by the inhabitants of that district to Mr James Coats, younger of Woodside, on returning from America with his bride. Our readers already know that on the 15th of last month Mr Coats was united in marriage to a daughter of John Auchincloss, Esq., merchant, New York. Although the lady and her father are natives of America, her grandfather was born in Paisley, and is still well remembered by many of our fellow-townsmen. It is now a considerable time since he settled in New York, where he became a very successful merchant. The young lady who has now reached our country, although an American by birth, inherits a large proportion of Scottish blood, and partly on that account her welcome has been all the warmer. When intelligence reached town on

Paisley Herald 1876 –
marriage of Thomas Glen
Coats to a Canadian girl

MARRIAGE REJOICINGS.

HOME-COMING OF MR AND MRS THOMAS GLEN COATS.

On Tuesday there were great rejoicings in the West-end of the town on the marriage between Mr Coats and Elinor Agnes, daughter of Alexander Walker, Esq., was celebrated at Montreal on the 28th April last, and the happy couple arrived in this country only a short time since. They will reside at Ferguslie Park, Paisley, where recently a magnificent new mansion has been erected, and the beautiful little estate charmingly laid out. With a view of offering a hearty welcome to Mr Coats and his lady, the employees at the Ferguslie Thread Works, under the superintendance of Mr J. Thomson, head gardener at Ferguslie, erected a triumphal archway, at the entrance to the grounds of Ferguslie House, the residence of Thomas Coats, Esq., which was composed of evergreens, and bearing the motto, made of roses, "Welcome Home." A similar archway was also

Thread Mills Migration

List of Directors from 1890 – one family member James Coats was running a large mill in Rhode Island in the USA. (Dundee Courier)



all previous payments made to terminate.
DIRECTORS.
ARCHIBALD COATS, Ferguslie Thread Works, Paisley (Chairman).
JAMES COATS, Providence, Rhode Island, U.S.A.
JAMES COATS, JUN., Ferguslie Thread Works, Paisley.
THOMAS GLEN COATS, Ferguslie Thread Works, Paisley.
PETER COATS, JUN., Ferguslie Thread Works, Paisley.
GEORGE COATS, Ferguslie Thread Works, Paisley.
DANIEL COATS, Ferguslie Thread Works, Paisley.
WILLIAM ALLAN COATS, Ferguslie Thread Works, Paisley.
(Directors and Members of the existing Private Unlimited Company, who are the Vendors, as mentioned below)
SIR JAMES KING, Bart., Deputy-Chairman Caledonian Railway.
SIR JAMES WHITEHEAD, Bart. (Director Fawson & Co., Limited).
SIR WILLIAM ARROL (Messrs Arrol Brothers, Glasgow).
OTTO E. PHILIPPI, Ferguslie Thread Works, Paisley.

DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN THREAD MANUFACTURER.
A Reuter's telegram from New York last night states that Mr William Clark, the well-known thread manufacturer, has died at Watch Hill, Rhode Island, of heart disease. Mr Clark belonged to the well-known Paisley family, and had charge of the extensive thread business which they established in America. Though chiefly residing in the United States, Mr Clark paid frequent visits to this country, and was widely known and highly esteemed in the West of Scotland.



Death of William Clark in Rhode Island, 7th Aug 1900 (Edinburgh Evening News)

Thread Mills Migration

- Very international in outlook in the 20th century – manufacturing operations across the world largely through takeovers and opportunities for travel/emigration for key employees.
- Coats Group plc remains the largest manufacturer of thread in the world today.



Coats Ferguslie Mill no.1 est. 1826 - demolished 1992)

Verdant Works – Jute Mill Museum, Dundee



Tradition of Linen Manufacture

- Flax grown and linen produced in many parts of Scotland in 18th century. It was a known industry since at least the 14th century.
- Government legislated to protect and support the local Scottish industry. Scottish linen was stamped to protect against foreign imports. In 1686 a law was passed to require all dead Scots people to have their bodies wrapped in Scottish linen for burial.
- Once demand grew local supplies were insufficient and much flax was imported from places like Latvia (then part of Russia) . An East coast port city like Dundee was an ideal location for spinning and weaving. It didn't have the advantages of the west coast in terms of cotton imports.
- The move to powered machinery was concentrated on parts of the country where the investment made most sense i.e. Eastern counties of Angus (Forfarshire) and Fife. In other areas the linen industry declined.
- Dundee was the main centre for commercial linen production
- Dunfermline became an important global centre for damask weaving (table linen)
- Very little evidence of migration in pursuit of linen-based employment beyond moves from local rural hinterland.

Causes of Migration to Dundee

- Dundee employers did their best to limit the power of local handloom weavers
- “In consequence of the harassing interference of the Weavers, in Dundee and neighbourhood, with the rights of their employers.....they have been refused farther employment”
- “FIVE HUNDRED LOOMS will, for a number of weeks, be kept exclusively for strangers, and every exertion will be used to ensure them regular employment.”

WEAVERS WANTED.

IN consequence of the harassing interference of the Weavers, in Dundee and neighbourhood, with the rights of their employers, a number of Manufacturers have resolved not to give employment to any one who shall not renounce such practices; and the Weavers at most of the manufactories not having acceded to this arrangement, they have been refused farther employment. Industrious and well-disposed men are therefore invited to come to Dundee; and, as an encouragement to those coming from a distance, **FIVE HUNDRED LOOMS** will, for a **NUMBER OF WEEKS**, be kept exclusively for strangers, and every exertion will be used to ensure them regular employment. The art of weaving the coarse fabrics, for which weavers are principally wanted, is easily acquired; and weaving-shops, looms, and all other requisites are provided by the employers. Every assistance and encouragement will be given to strangers whether they have been bred to the loom or not.

It will be found on inquiry, that the rate of wages for the above description of work in Dundee, has, for a number of years past, been very considerably above that paid to the common linen and cotton weavers throughout Scotland.

Those wishing employment may apply at any of the Manufactories; or to **SHELL & SMALL**, Writers, New Inn Entry, Dundee.

Dundee, 20th June, 1834.

The Scotsman 25th June 1834

Jute Mills Employment

- Developed from the Linen Factories – became a cheaper option for coarse linen fabrics
- supplied from the Empire - raw jute imported from Bengal
- Dundee as a whaling port was where it was discovered that whale oil softened jute fibres to allow them to be machine spun.
- Dundee, Angus (Forfarshire) , and Fife
- In 1901 the industry employed 40,000 in Dundee – 70% of these were women, many of whom were married
- Significant Irish population employed
- Significant drop off in employment after WW1

Perils of Working in Bengal

UNHAPPY ARBROATH MARRIAGE.
 Lord Pearson heard evidence in an action for divorce by David Ritchie, at present overseer, Gourepore Jute Works, Naihati, Bengal, against his wife, Agnes Colville or Ritchie, residing at 61 Hilltown, Dundee.

Ritchie's evidence, taken in India on commission, was read, and was to the effect that he was married to defender in Arbroath in October, 1890. He was then mill foreman in Arbroath. He and his wife lived in Arbroath till August, 1897, when he obtained a situation in Bengal, and went to India, leaving his wife and children in Arbroath. There had been four children of the marriage, two of whom are alive. He returned to this country in 1902, and, after four months, he went back to India in September. When he was away he regularly paid alimony to his wife, at the rate of £10 per month; then after August, 1903, he stopped doing so, and after a month or two he left her in the street.

SCOTTISH DIVORCE CASES.
DUNDEE MARRIAGE DISSOLVED.
 In the Court of Session yesterday Lord Kincaid heard evidence in an action for divorce by Wm. Welsh Imrie, mill foreman, Seebrook Mill, Howrah, Calcutta, against his wife, M'Alpine or Imrie, 90 Grassmarket, Dundee. The action was undefended. The pursuer, which had been married to defender in Arbroath, was read in evidence. He stated that he had been married to defender in Arbroath in October, 1890. He was then mill foreman in Arbroath. He and his wife lived in Arbroath till August, 1897, when he obtained a situation in Bengal, and went to India, leaving his wife and children in Arbroath. There had been four children of the marriage, two of whom are alive. He returned to this country in 1902, and, after four months, he went back to India in September. When he was away he regularly paid alimony to his wife, at the rate of £10 per month; then after August, 1903, he stopped doing so, and after a month or two he left her in the street.

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DUNDEE WOMAN DIVORCED.
 A decree of divorce was granted by Lord Dewar in the Court of Session on Saturday against Janet M'Leod or Scott, 14 Dalfield Street, Dundee. The pursuer was James Scott, overseer, Para of Aida, near Malano, Italy. The evidence of the pursuer had been taken in Arbroath. He stated that there had been a marriage between the parties in Arbroath in 1890. He stated that he had been married to defender in Arbroath in October, 1890. He was then mill foreman in Arbroath. He and his wife lived in Arbroath till August, 1897, when he obtained a situation in Bengal, and went to India, leaving his wife and children in Arbroath. There had been four children of the marriage, two of whom are alive. He returned to this country in 1902, and, after four months, he went back to India in September. When he was away he regularly paid alimony to his wife, at the rate of £10 per month; then after August, 1903, he stopped doing so, and after a month or two he left her in the street.

THE "WEEK-END" VISITOR.
CALCUTA OVERSEER GETS DUNDEE MARRIAGE SCANDAL.
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REVELATIONS IN DIVORCE COURT.
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IN A SEPARATE ROOM.
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DUNDEE MARRIAGE SCANDAL.
REVELATIONS IN DIVORCE COURT.
Tenter and His Wife.

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A DUNDEE DIVORCE CASE.
 Proof was led on Saturday in the Court of Session before Lord Curriehill—in an action of divorce by William Nicoll, tenter, Bute Mills, Calcutta, against his wife, Anderson or Nicoll, residing in Dundee. The pursuer and defender were married together in Dundee in the year 1863, when the pursuer went to Calcutta, there in the year 1864, and in the year 1865, when the pursuer went to Calcutta, the defender being left in Dundee in respect of which divorce is stated. The evidence of which divorce is stated. The evidence was partly heard, and the case continued.

DUNDEE MARRIAGE SCANDAL.
REVELATIONS IN DIVORCE COURT.
Tenter and His Wife.

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Articles from 1875 – 1926
 Dundee Courier
 (via britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)

Family Groups in India

BIRTHS.
MACDONALD.—At The Elgin Nursing Home, Calcutta, on the 29th October, to Ann, wife of B. Macdonald, Howrah Jute Mills, Howrah, Bengal—a son.

Births.
DAWSON.—At Fort House Nursing Home, on the 26th September, to Emily (nee Dear), wife of William Dawson, Nainhati Jute Mill, Bengal, India—a daughter.

BIRTHS.
BAIN.—At Angus Nursing Home, Hooghly District Bengal, on Dec. 1, 1947, to Mr and Mrs F. Bain (nee Agnes McFarlane), 36 Benvie Rd., Dundee—a son. (Both well.)

BIRTHS.
BROWN.—At Barrackpore, Bengal, India, on 14th July, to Mr and Mrs George Brown (of Anglo-India Middle Mill, and late Dundee—a daughter. Both well.

Births.
BISSET.—At Fort House Nursing Home, Dundee, on 21st November 1939, to Mr and Mrs F. Bisset, Kankinara, Bengal, India, and of 12 Hyndford Street, Dundee—a son. (Both well.)

BIRTHS.
ABBOT.—At Angus Nursing Home, Bengal, on Oct. 22, 1946, to May, wife of Stewart M. Abbot, Victoria Mills, Bengal, India—a son.

Births
ANDERSON.—At 151 Loches Road, Dundee, on the 6th December, the wife of John S. Anderson, Cheviot Jute Mills, Bengal—a son.

BIRTHS.
ADAMSON.—At Lankapara T.E., Bengal, on Dec 5, 1946, to Peggie, wife of Allan R. Adamson—a daughter. (By cable.)

From the Dundee Courier 1931 -1947

Ex-Pat Community

West Smeith, Tealing, Dundee.
PORTER-SOUTAR.—At St Andrew's Church,
Calcutta, on Apr. 2, 1949, by the Rev. A.
Baillie, Frank Bristowe, Bally Jute Co., Ltd.,
Bengal, younger son of Mr and Mrs Chas. Porter,
50 Glenmarkie Tce., Dundee, to Ann Lillian, only
daughter of Mr and Mrs E. Soutar, Kanknarrah
Co., Ltd., Bengal, and Carnoustie.



From the Dundee Courier 1949

Features of Early Textile Migration

- Pre-railway
- Generally Rural population to local mill towns – limited travel
- Unskilled labour
- Some Irish immigrants
- Special initiatives where a large unskilled workforce is needed e.g. Highland clearance victims to New Lanark.

Features of Later Textile Migration

- Often skills-based
- Temporary or permanent
- Keyword search for occupation very useful for censuses
- Movements often captured within censuses for workers with families with children born in several different locations (maybe multiple moves within a ten year window)
- To the major textile centres in Scotland and England for the best range of opportunities (e.g. Huddersfield for woollens, Leicester for hosiery, Manchester for cotton, Nottingham for lace)
- Centres like Paisley (cotton thread) , Hawick (woollen tweeds) and Dunfermline (damask) were globally significant centres and had two-way movement.
- Sent to outlying centres (often temporarily) to establish new factories. We saw the example of Keith. But there was also Elgin. And to this day Johnstons of Elgin is a prime cashmere producer with a factory in Hawick.
- International emigration for experienced technical/managerial grades (especially wool)
- Temporary international migration to Bengal from Dundee for the Jute Industry with/without family

Reliving Scottish textile history

Recommended Visits / Online Course

- New Lanark, Lanarkshire (cotton)
- Stanley Mills, Perthshire (cotton)
- Verdant Works Jute Museum, Dundee (linen & jute)
- Borders Textile Tower House, Hawick (woollens)
- Paisley Thread Mill Museum (thread)
- Textiles Gallery, Science & Industry Museum, Manchester (cotton)
- Working Lives in the Factories and Mills: Textile History & Heritage. Free Short Course from University of Strathclyde, available on the Futurelearn platform (cotton, woollens, linen, jute)