

TECHNOLOGY EMBRACED IN MILNGAVIE

*In this **second half** of the walk through the other side of Milngavie in 1851, we shall see that some changes in housing have been made in the last decade. And, as this census took place, the enumerators noted, in the books, where new housing was being put up. A number of tradesmen, for the building industry, have come to Milngavie and include David Bain from Hamilton and Robert Worrall from Carse of Gowrie – both of whom are plasterers. They lodge with Jean Brock (Mrs Shearer). Many of the people we met in 1841 are still living in the town, but others have moved on, some have married local girls or men and, of course, some have died.*

The policeman, who was in Milngavie in 1841, has moved on (into Glasgow) and now a new police officer lives in the town. Robert Stewart, the constable, is from Kinloch Rannoch, Perthshire and his wife, Catherine Waddel was from Coupar Angus in Perthshire. They have three living children: Margaret, Alexander and Duncan.

Beginning at Keystone (Keystone it was known as then) we see **Alexander Weir**. He has now been married to **Marion Scott** for a while and they have **Robert**, age eight and **John** age five and baby **Jane** age nine months. All the staff live-in on the farm and include **Jane Buchanan**, age 13 and from Milngavie. Jane is one of four house servants helping Mrs Weir: **Robina Phillips** age 13 from Cambuslang and two Argyleshire lassies **Flora Graham**, age 21 and **Elizabeth McDonald** age 23. Farm workers are **Arthur Morton** age 23 and from Hamilton, **John Fleming** age 16 from Glasgow and **David McLeod** who is married, age 23 and from Balfroon. ‘Visiting’ are **Flora McLeod** (who is married to David) and is age 24 from Kilfinichen, Argyleshire with four-month-old **Robert McLeod** born in Milngavie. The enumerator has possibly put ‘visitor’ as Mrs McLeod does not fall into the category of either house servant or of agricultural labourer, but it seems unlikely that the couple maintain another home, elsewhere, on agricultural labourer’s wages.

On the walk up the road the enumerator called at Dougalston. The drive – which was quite a long way to walk up, as I know myself having done it as a lassie – led to the house or Mansion, as it was called in those days. There were two lodges at the gate for this drive, but it seems that these were not occupied, so at the main house lived a gamekeeper **John Mitchell** who was born in the West Indies in 1819. His wife **Elisa** is from Renfrewshire and their two children are **James** age two years, who was born in Aberfoyle, and **Mary** age seven months born in Milngavie. Mrs Mitchell has help in the house from **Margaret McDonald** born in Port of Menteith. Also living at Dougalston House are **James McNicol** and his wife **Anne**. Mr McNicol is a forester. He’s a fairly local man as he was born in Killearn – as was his wife. Three of their children – **James, John** and **Jane** were born in Strathblane, while **William**, age two years and his three-month old sister **Ann** were both born in Milngavie. They have a lodger, **David McLachlan**, who is 26 years old, is from Glasgow and is a wire worker.

Next port of call was ‘Crossvegate Farm’. **Alexander Findlay**, age 65 is still running the farm. His wife, **Jane**, is at home as is **Clementina**, their 16-year old daughter. Five-year old **Agnes Paterson** is there too. Born in Kirkintilloch, she is the daughter of **Agnes Findlay, Sarah** and **Mary**’s older sister, who married **James Paterson**. An **Agnes Pender**, from Baldernock, age 28 helps Mrs Findlay with the housework. Also at Crossvegate are **Alexander Findlay (junior)** who helps run the farm with his elderly father; his wife, **Helen** and their daughter **Ann** age four and **Alexander** age two months are at home on census day. Living in are **Neil Douglas** of Kilmore, Argyllshire age 22, **Janet Urquhart** age 22 and from Cardross and **Mary Clark** age 14 from Kilbride, Lanarkshire.

In the last census we saw various people living by the farm and along the Glasgow Road. Some of them may have left the district altogether, some have moved elsewhere in the town. This part of the census books is very disorganised. The enumerators handed out the forms and then collected them back again later. These forms were then transferred, by hand, into the census books. Room for error, it seems. However, there may be two other possibilities. One, that although there were houses along the eastern side of the road, the enumerator did not collect the census forms and so there are no records until we reach **Mrs Jane Baird**, the one-time postmistress. Or that these houses have been pulled down and tenants offered a home in one of the improved houses up on Strathblane Road – along from Lower Barloch. These dwellings were lying on ground put up for sale by roup on 30th November 1844. When this ground was sold it would “yield a qualification for a Vote in the County of Stirling.” Certainly **John Cameron** and his family and some of his neighbours moved to these improved houses.

Of those who we previously met along the Glasgow Road, **John Cameron** and his family have, indeed, moved up to Strathblane Road. John, who is a farm labourer has his granddaughter, **Elizabeth Cameron**, staying with him and his wife **Ann**. There’s no sign of his son **William**, so we may assume that he has married and **Elizabeth** is his daughter. **Janet Donald**, who lived next door, has moved up to Strathblane Road too and still lives by the Cameron family. **Jane (Jean) Hunter** has moved also to live on the other side of the Cameron family.

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In addition, **John and Rebekah Stewart** have moved too up the road. John is the Watchman at the calico print field. On census day they have lodger, young **Mary Hay**, there and two of Rebekah's brothers **John** and **Hugh McLeary** – both from County Tyrone like Rebekah. The **McMannus** family have moved as well.

Others, who we saw in the last walk on this road, seem to have moved away from this part of Milngavie or away from the town altogether or may have died. These include **Janet Meikle**, **William Calander**, **Mary Howett**, **James and Jean Crawford**, the **Meikleham** family, the **Morrison**s, the **Lamonds**, **Agnes McEwen** and her children, the **Craigs**, the **Logans**, **John Wall**, the **Gardiner** family, the **Stevens**, **Ludovic Hill**, **Mrs Hay Watson** and some children (but **Mary** has stayed), **Duncan Gemmel**, **John Gray** and family, **John Malcolm** and his family, the **Scott** family, **Janet Watt** and **Peter McLaughlin**, **John McAuley** the contractor, **Peter McNicol** and his wife, **Mary Reid**, the **Barrs**, the **Gourlays** and the **O'Haras**, the **Michaels**, the **Mitchells**, **Joseph McKechnie**, **James Hawthorne**, **James Stott** and the **McLarens**.

Mrs **Jane Baird** and her son **William**, a carpenter and joiner, still live in the upper flat of her late husband's house (**Mr Robert Baird**). At home on census day are William, now age 35, his wife **Margaret (McLae)** – a relative of Jane's), **Hannah** their daughter age 18 months, Jane herself, **Hannah**, Jane's daughter age 21 and Margaret's sister **Hannah McLae**. Jane's son **John**, having completed his theology training, decided to go to Canada and settle there.

On the ground floor of this house is **John Cance** of Stranraer. Mr Cance is a grocer and spirit dealer. Interesting - because this site was a public house until the mid-20th century. Mr Cance is a bachelor but his sisters **Martha**, age 27 and **Elizabeth**, age 16 live with him. In the previous decade John was a book dealer on the other side of the town.

Now, if we were to cross this crossroads diagonally we would arrive at what came to be known, in Milngavie, as "**McAuley's Corner**" which lay at the junction of the Strathblane Road and what was termed 'Town Road' but – after 1863 – would be known as Station Road. This cottage, which at that time had grazing land at its rear, is home to **Margaret McAuley** (nee Paterson), her brother-in-law **George McAuley** and Margaret's children. Margaret, the widow of the late **David McAuley**, is described in this census as a "cow feeder". This means that she has cows, for which she cares - and probably milks them too, but she is not a 'farmer'. George is noted as a servant. Latterly we saw that he worked at Dougalston House. However the house is currently untenanted and there is a family dispute about the Estate, so we may assume that George works at one of the other houses in and around Milngavie such as Craigmaddie, which was part of the Dougalston Estate. **James** is away at this census, but the two girls **Elizabeth** and **Margaret** are at home helping their mother run the house and the land. Living with the family is **Alexander Graham**, the school teacher. Mr Graham had the misfortune to have a wooden leg.

Two gentlemen named **Gardener** live at the next cottage along Town Road on the north side of the road. **George**, who we saw in the last census – is the gardener - and his wife **Janet**, now noted as **Jane**, and their son **James** are at home. No other children are at home on census day. Shown as a separate household, but at the same address, is **Robert Gardener**. He, like George is born in Milngavie, so we might assume that these two men are brothers as their ages are three years apart. Robert, who is a calico print field labourer, is shown as a single man.

Next comes **Mary Nicol** who is 48 years old and is married. Mrs Nicol, who hails from Linlithgow, is a lodging house keeper. Her husband is not at home this day, but with her is Milngavie girl **Elizabeth Scoular** who works at the cotton spinning mill in Milngavie. Next door is **Mrs Agnes McMurtrie** (nee Sorbey) who we saw a decade ago. Her age is now stated as 67, so this illustrates the rounding up or down of the 1841 census. Although listed as a pauper she has money coming into the home since her son, **James**, works at the print field (printing works). Also at home on census day is a **Mary McMurtrie**. This lady is 22 years old, from Glasgow and listed both as unmarried and a wife! She works at the print field, so some more income for the household. A one-year old **Agnes McMurtrie** is there too. Little Agnes was born in Glasgow. Lodging with the family is **James Bulloch**. He's from Strathblane and is 21 years old. He is a 'calico engraver' – he engraves blocks or cylinders for the calico print works. A second lodger is **Margaret Fletcher** from Paisley. Margaret is 28 years old and works at the print works.

Next door is **James McDonald** of Forteviot, and his wife **Isabella**. All the children, who we saw in 1841, have left home but James continues with his shoemaking business now employing two men. **James Stott**, the journeyman, who we saw in the 1841 has moved on. **Alexander Hay** lives by the McDonalds. He used to lodge with the **Ewings**, but he's married **Elizabeth** (a Milngavie lass) and is in business for himself as a cartwright. He and Elizabeth have two children – four year old **Elizabeth** and son **David** who is age two. Their neighbours are **James** and **Elizabeth Meikle**. James is from Ayrshire and is a calico printer, his wife is from Inverary, Argyllshire. Their son, **Robert**, who was born in Glasgow, is an apprentice tailor. By them is **Alexander Adam**, now stated as age 72,

with his wife **Elisabeth**. Mr Adam we met in our last walk when he was in work as a farm labourer. Unfortunately, he is now noted as a pauper. Cloth lapper at the print works, **Robert Meikle**, is their neighbour. Robert is age 50 and was born in Bonhill, Dunbartonshire. His wife **Elisabeth** was born in Glasgow. Their son **John** is age 23 and he was born in Govan. He works at the print works as a pattern drawer, we'd say today that he was a designer. Others at home are daughters **Janet** and **Margaret**, who both work at the calico print works. Margaret is noted as a "stitcher" which meant that the repaired faults in the cloth before printing took place. Sons **Robert** and **Alexander** are still at the school.

Widow **Janet Dunn** is this family's neighbour. Mrs Dunn is the widow of **John Dunn** the millwright who lived across the town in 1841. **Martha McLey**, who did lodge with John Gardiner the blacksmith, and daughter **Janet Dunn** both work at the cotton printing works. Janet is a stitcher, while Martha is a packer. Brothers **Robert** and **Alexander** work, respectively, as a warehouse boy and an errand boy. The two youngest, **Walter** and **Mary**, are at school. Their neighbour is **Archibald Mason**. He is no longer a journeyman shoemaker, but has his own shoemaking business in Milngavie. His wife, **Mary**, has died and he has re-married to **Elizabeth McSparran** from County Antrim, Ireland. Elizabeth has two children from her previous marriage – **Mary** age 13 and **James** age seven. **Archibald** is now 10 years old and at school and the couple have a new baby – **Elisabeth** age one year.

County Fermanagh-born **John Baxter** is Archibald's neighbour. His wife **Mary McAuley**, is also from the same place as are four of their six children – the two youngest **Alexander** age four and four-month old **John** were born in Milngavie. Older children **Biddy**, **Patrick** and **Ann** work at the cotton mill and the print works and 10-year old **Helen** is at school. The Smiddy is next door. Milngavie-born **John Gardiner** is the blacksmith who we saw in the last walk. He now employs three men and his son, **James** age 18, is now a fully-fledged blacksmith too. Since we last met this family **Isabella** has given birth to seven year old **John** and five year old **Robert**.

Henry McMurtrie, the butcher (not noted as a flesher – that was Francis Paterson etc), lives at the next house. He is the brother of both **Thomas** and **David** – who had the Blackbull Inn on the other side of Milngavie. Henry is part of a family business. Thomas has the milk and beef cattle, which he pastures in the rich grasslands along by the mill on the Allander, Henry is the butcher; and much of the produce – either dairy or beef – is utilised by David at the Inn for guest's meals. Henry, now a widower since his wife, **Jean Layburn**, died several years ago, is at home with his son **Thomas** who is an apprentice tinsmith (he's apprenticed to **William Turnbull** the gas fitter), daughter **Jane** who looks after the house and son **William** who works at the print works. The enumerator has the lad's age as eight years old, but William was baptised on 7th March 1841 in Milngavie.

Henry was the only butcher in Milngavie (he was a slaughterer) but, apart from **Francis Paterson** (above) the other fleshers, in 1851, were **Walter Mitchell** – we saw him and his family in part one of this walk – and **Mrs Ann Young**, the Glasgow-born lady living opposite the new gasworks on the other side of town. Ann was also a spirit dealer.

Mrs **Margaret Nichol** is the McMurtrie family's neighbour. She is noted as a pauper, formerly a house servant. Mrs Nichol was born in Strathblane.

The next house, after a gap where there are no houses, is that of Mr **John Walker** and his wife **Ann**, both of whom are from Strathblane. Mr Walker is a calico printer as is one of his lodgers – a **Joseph Graydon** from Bristol. The other lodger is widower and 'General Medical Practitioner' **Dr William Provan** and his little daughter **Jane Graham Provan** age just four. Dr Provan was not the only GP in Milngavie at this time. A **Dr William Allan**, from Dalry, Ayrshire, had come to take over the late **Dr Robert Smart's** Practice (and house) and lived at 'Rockbank' just off the Mugdock Road.

Dr Smart, who had had two other doctors in Practice with him – **Dr Neil Smith** and then **Dr John Skene**. had died in 1850 and, as one paid for medical help then, his financial affairs were in a sorry state at his death with many, many bills unpaid. His wife, **Margaret Dunn**, was forced to sell the house at rump and move out of the house and into Glasgow with her children. His son, **Robert**, was just 10-years old but would go on to study at Glasgow and become a GP himself in due course, practising in Glasgow. To return to **Dr William Provan**, he was the son of **Reverend William Provan** and **Margaret Graham** of Calder. Son William studied at Glasgow and married firstly **Mary Campbell**, who died in 1816 in Glasgow (where William had a Practice). William then married **Isabella McLardie**, who was from Strathblane. The couple had two children – Jane (above) and Archibald Graham Provan. Isabella died in 1848 leaving Dr Provan with the two young children. Dr Provan and Dr Allan had a great deal of work to do as Milngavie rapidly expanded. **Dr Allan** married **Jacobina Elisabeth Johnston** of Kilwinning and the couple had two children – both born in Milngavie. The family decided to emigrate to Australia and Dr Allan went ahead. Unfortunately Dr Allan died in 1852 when the boat he was on capsized in Moreton Bay, Brisbane. His wife

and her children went to live with her parents in Ayrshire. Dr Provan soldiered on, but overwork caught up with him and he died in Milngavie on 25th July 1855. A **Dr William Logan** came to Milngavie then – and we shall learn more of his work – and the work of others – as time goes on. By the way, if you needed the dentist at this time you'd to go into Glasgow. **Mr Andrew Nesbitt** of St Vincent Street and **Mr R Cameron** of 6 Abercromby Place both advertised in the Glasgow Herald.

At the next house along Town Road we see **Alexander Hamilton**, a slater and his wife **Jane**. Alexander is from Stewarton while his wife is from County Fermanagh. Their neighbours are **Alexander Wilson** and his wife **Isabella**. He is from Tradeston and Isabella is from Rutherglen. Alexander works at the nearby print works and Isabella is at home with new baby **William** who was born in Milngavie. The enumerator now notes a **Mrs Drew** who is age 56 and is from Strathblane. Mrs Drew's neighbours are **William** and **Mary McCutcheon**. Their daughter is married to **Peter Porteous** at the Coach and Horses across in Douglas Street. Mr McCutcheon is a madder (blue) dyer at the print works and their daughter, **Margaret**, who lives with them is also at the print works. Visiting on census day is four-year-old **Agnes Porteous**, their granddaughter and their grandson, 14-year-old **George Geddes** (son of **Mary McCutcheon** and **George Geddes**).

Next door is **Robin Gray**, age 63 and from Perthshire. Mr Gray was a millwright, but is now noted as a pauper. His wife **Margaret** is from Glasgow and their daughter, **Agnes**, age 19 was born in Milngavie and she works at the cotton spinning mill (Robert McGrigor & Co.). There are three visitors on this day – **Mrs McDougall**, age 23 and born at Clober. She has with her her two children: **Margaret** who is two years old and her baby sister **Jane**, who is just one month old. A tailor lives by, **Mr Robert Galloway**, from Derry in Ireland. His wife, **Emily**, is from Derry too and **John**, the 30-year old son is also. **Jane Thomson**, a stepdaughter (so probably Mrs Galloway was married previously), who is 26 years old is also from Derry; and **Jane Galloway**, John's daughter, is one-year old and was born in Milngavie.

Mary Cance, (nee Bigham) who is a widow age 57 and from Stranraer, lives next door. She is the widow of the baker Alexander Cance who we met in our last walk. Her son, **Joseph**, age 22 and single is a baker and is from that town too, but daughter **Mary** and son **Alexander** were both born in Milngavie, as we know. The family did live in Main Street, but have moved to this side of town in the past ten years. Mr **William Giffen**, from Londonderry, lives by and his wife **Margaret** is from there too. William is a bleacher in Milngavie. They have a lodger – **Samuel J Baxter**, age 19 from County Fermanagh and there is a visitor – **William Thompson**, also from Fermanagh. Neighbour **James Cochrane** and his wife **Janet** (nee Young) have moved from Glasgow Road along to this part of Town Road. **Jane** is from Glasgow, **Janet** from Maryhill. **James** still works at the print works.

Finally we come to 'Allander House'. Mr **James Spens Black** lives here. Mr Black is brother to **John Black** who owns the print works. However, James, who is a widower, runs the Milngavie business and has interests in other firms within the considerable 'Black empire' in both the UK and in Dublin. At this time James lives alone (although he will re-marry) and he is looked after by **Margaret Ewing**, who is a local lady age 35 and **Agnes Brown**, age 42 and from Dalry. His workforce, at this time, at the printworks (at the end of his garden, so to speak) is two hundred and sixty four persons.

Across the road is **Charles Bissland** and his family. (His brother, **James**, lives up on Hillhead Street, so just round the corner). Charles is 38-years old and is from Drymen. He is a grocer and spirit dealer. In forthcoming walks we shall come across his nephew, **Charles Bissland**, who was also involved in food and drink – he had the 'Douglas Arms' in Douglas Street – and he became a Milngavie Baillie. **Barbara (Mathieson)**, his wife is from Campbeltown, Argyll. **Catherine** and **Helen**, their two daughters, are in the house and are both born in Milngavie, but **Archibald**, their son is absent. Mrs Bissland has help in the house from Donegal-born **Susanna Docherty**, age 18. Their neighbour is the commercial clerk for **Daniel McFarlane**, the Milngavie print works manager. **Mr James Aitken** is the next neighbour. Mr Aitken is from Kilwinning and he is married to **Catherine**, age 56, from Rothesay. Their visitor, this day, is 64-year old **Mary McLeod** who works as a 'reeler' at a cotton factory. She is also from Rothesay. Their lodger is Banff man, **Alexander Allen** who is 24 and he is a clerk at the bleach works.

Lastly we reach the house of **John Walker**, a locally born man, who is a joiner. His wife, **Sarah**, was born in Kirkintilloch as were six-year old **Alexander** and five-year old **James**. He will have been a busy man with houses being built and, no doubt, home improvements made.

If we go back along Town Road to McAuley's Corner and continued walking up Strathblane Road we would come to Milngavie Reservoir, or "Milngavie Waterworks". Talks have been ongoing, since 1834, about the need for Glasgow to have very much better and far purer water supplies. The outbreaks of cholera in the past ten to fifteen years have spurred the Glasgow Town Council to pursue their objective. Within the next five years we shall see

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several things that will help their case. The Town Council will hire the services of Mr John F Bateman, a water engineer of some note, to conduct what, today, we call a feasibility study with a consideration of a number of possibilities, including the expanding of the Gorbals Waterworks. His opinion will be that only Loch Katrine, some thirty-five miles away, can answer the need for Glasgow. Accordingly the Glasgow Town Council will prepare a Bill to place before Parliament to carry this project through. While in 1854 we know that the Admiralty will oppose the Bill (because it is believed that such a project will reduce flow into the River Forth), the outbreak of cholera in Soho, London in 1854 (so near to Westminster) will lend support to the aims of the Bill and it will be passed in 1855. And before we even start our next walk together, **Queen Victoria** will have visited Milngavie in order to open the first Reservoir – the Mugdock Reservoir – on 15th October 1859.

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Note: Data on industries in Milngavie is set out in the document entitled “Milngavie’s Industrial Past” on this website.

Sources: GRO Scotland, National Library of Scotland, Scottish PO Directories, ScotlandsPlaces, Valuation Rolls, The Gazette (Edinburgh & London), British Newspaper Archive GRO Scotland, ‘Random Notes and Rambling Recollections of Drydock, the Dock or Kelvindock, All Now Known by the More Modern Name of Maryhill 1750-1894’ Thomson, A, GRO England & Wales, OS mapping, Hansard, Old and New Statistical Accounts Telephone Directories, Grace’s Guide, University of Glasgow collections, ‘Rambles Round Glasgow’ MacDonald, H, The Law Journal Reports for the year 1897 - Cases Decided by the Judicial Committee and the Lords of Her Majesty’s Privy Council and in the House of Lords (Scotch and Irish Appeals); reported by Thompson, JE Barrister at Law; edited by Mews, J, Volume LXVI, University of Glasgow, Scottish Business Archives, The Society of Dyers & Colourists, Bradford, Yorkshire, Cameron family papers, photographs and postcard collection concerning Milngavie and now in the possession of the author, The Law Advertiser, Commercial Directory of Scotland, ‘The Parish of Strathblane and its Inhabitants From Early Times’ Smith, JG.

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