

A MATTER OF CIVIC PRIDE – PART TWO

This second part of the 1861 census walk takes place largely over in Newton (what Milngavie folk of the old part of town called the ‘new’ part of the town). There have been a number of changes in Milngavie as a whole and some people have moved across to Newton. In the area alone, including Hillhead, Strathblane Road, Lower Barloch, a few of the houses owned by J Black & Co at the Allander Printworks and some of the outlying cottages, there are in excess of one hundred and forty families.

So, as we usually do, let’s meet the enumerator at Keyston (Kayston then) who calls upon Mr **Alexander Weir** and his wife **Marion**. Alexander is noted as being forty-seven years of age, born in Milngavie, while Marion is thirty-seven and from Glasgow. They are farming one hundred and forty acres, Scots with the assistance of four staff. The gentlemen are: **Duncan Fletcher**, age thirty-three and is a ploughman from Strathblane and **William Gillan** who is eighteen years old and hails from Old Monkland. The two dairymaids are **Agnes Gibb**, age thirty-three and from Cambuslang and **Christina McLean**, age twenty years of age and from Coll in Argyleshire. Also in the house is fifteen-year-old **Agnes Coyle**, from Milngavie, who is noted as a governess. The children of the family are: **Robert**, age eighteen, **Jane** age 10 and at school, **Alexander** age 8 and at school and **Walter**, age 6 and at school. All the children were born in Milngavie.

When the enumerator calls at Douglaston House there is only **Charles Dakers Mollison**, wife and family in residence and acting as caretakers. Mr Mollison is a twenty-nine year old gamekeeper from Forfarshire. His wife, **Ann Talbert**, is from Montrose and she is thirty years old. Children are: **Jane** age 8 and born in Menmuir, son **Joseph** age 6 and also born in Menmuir – both are at school. **Alexander** is age 3 was also born in Menmuir, while **Jessie**, age 2 was born in Milngavie, as is **Archibald** – born on 27th March. **Jessie Carswell**, age fifteen, from Lanarkshire is their house servant. Visiting is **Mary Talbert**, Ann’s sister, age twenty-two and noted as “a slater’s daughter”, so their father’s occupation is that of a slater.

Normally we’d encounter **Mrs Jane Baird** and her family at the corner of Glasgow Road and Garwhitter Brae. At some time between 1851 and 1855 the family moved from the corner there over to Hillhead Row. However, in April 1855 Jane decided that she would put her shop and house (‘with five apartments, a large garden, stable, wash house and other conveniences’ up to let ‘to a respectable person commencing the grocery and provision business’.(*Glasgow Herald 30 April 1855*). The rent was described as moderate and this was ‘a good opportunity’. Applications were to be made to Mrs Baird, Hillhead, Milngavie or to her son **William** at **Baird & Brown**, Timber Merchants, Port Dundas. (**James Espie**, grocer and spirit dealer took this property on the corner of Garwhitter Brae and the Glasgow Road. Mr Espie married into the **Strathdee** family – of whom we shall hear much more in forthcoming walks.)

Photograph: ©Joe Lesperance

Mrs Baird and her daughter **Agnes** set sail on the ‘Edinburgh’ from Glasgow in April 1858 and arrived on 10th July in New York. They then travelled, from New York on to Pickering, Ontario where son John Baird (who was an 1841 Milngavie census enumerator) was the United Presbyterian Minister. Agnes married **James Mitchell** in Canada and in 1874 they had a child, **Mary Robina Mitchell** who later married the **Reverend Norman Harold McGillivray**.



Jane died in Claremont, Ontario on 16th March 1868. A memorial for Jane and her son John, who died in 1874, stands in Oshawa Cemetery. On the reverse of the memorial is an inscription to James Mitchell’s parents, who were natives of Aberdeenshire and who had emigrated to Brooklin, Whitby, Ontario.

Now we come to Crossveggate farm. The farm was run by **Alexander Findlay** and his son, **Alexander**. However, Mr Findlay (senior) became ill and the family moved off the farm. Mr Findlay went to live in Kirkintilloch. He was bedridden for many years and eventually died at his house in Hillhead Street there on 6th May 1861. Since the Findlays left Crossveggate the farm has had two different occupiers. The first was Milngavie miller, **James Calder**, who hailed from Campsie. He and his family had both the farm and the mill for some years but by September 1858 the farm was advertised in the Glasgow Herald (*13 September 1858*). James Calder and his family moved out and took a farm and mill at St Ninians and **James Gilmour**, from Darvel, Ayrshire took over Crossveggate. He is thirty-eight and is married to **Violet Wilson**, from East Kilbride. Their children are **Mary Alexander Gilmour**, age 5 born in Eaglesham, **Jane Young Gilmour** age 3, born in Eaglesham, **Violet** age 1 again born in Eaglesham and **James** just 3-months old and born in Milngavie.

Living on the farm, most likely in the bothy, are **Walter Pender** from Baldernock, age forty-four who is a ploughman. **William Struthers**, is an agricultural labourer and he is from East Kilbride, age fifty-three. **Malcolm Maxwell**, also from East Kilbride is fourteen years of age and is a farm servant. Local lad, eighteen year old **James McNair** and son of **John and Jean McNair**, who live next door to **Walter Graham** the Postmaster/grocer across the town, is a second ploughman. The dairymaid is **Catherine Black**, from the island of Lismore, Argyllshire and she is twenty-four years old. In the house helping Mrs Gilmour are domestic servant **Martha Hinshelwood** from Eaglesham. She is sixteen-years old and nursery nurse **Elizabeth Craig** from Glasgow age fifteen.

At McAulay's Corner we see **Mrs Margaret McAulay**, now age fifty-eight, widowed and born in Rutherglen. With her are son, **James**, age twenty-seven and he is noted as a carrier. James will go on to be a carrier, an undertaker, a contractor and a Provost. His sister **Margaret** has married English blacksmith **Edward Bowden** in 1859. Granddaughter **Margaret McAulay Hendrie**, age 8 and born in Strathblane (daughter of **Elizabeth McAulay** and **George Hendrie**) is with her Grannie. Two carters live-in with the family, they are **Bernard Smith**, age twenty-one and from Ireland and **Peter Aulie**, age eighteen, from Milngavie.

As before, the house and Smiddy of **John Gardener** is on the route. John is now fifty-nine and his wife, **Isabella** (nee **Brash**) is fifty-seven. Their three sons live with them – **James** age thirty-nine (father of baby **Mary Holmes Smith**), **John** age eighteen and **Robert** age fourteen. All the boys are blacksmiths in their father's business.



Photograph: Smiddy of John Gardener, Station Road, Milngavie. This stood on the site that became St Joseph's Catholic Church, Station Road/Buchanan Street. © Copyright S. Brown

At this period in time Milngavie had sixteen blacksmiths in total. They were: **Robert Drummond** from Duntocher, **James Gardener**, **John Gardener**, his three sons, **James**, **John** and **Robert**, all from Milngavie, **William Meechan** also from Milngavie, **Michael McDevitt** from Ireland, **Daniel McDonald** from Strathblane, **Malcolm McKenzie** from Burntisland, **William McQuat** from Balfron, **Peter Moodie** from Milngavie, **John Smith** and **Peter Thomson** from Milngavie and **John Wright** from Glasgow.

John Cranmer, age thirty-one from Bonhill, is the enumerator's next call. Mr Cranmer is married to **Margaret** (nee **Graham**) age twenty-two from Port of Menteith. Mr and Mrs Cranmer live in Allander House as **James Spens Black** has moved out to Craigmaddie House. Mr Cranmer is a clerk in Black & Cos. calico printworks and is also caretaking Allander House. (In time Mr Cranmer will become a particularly important person to Milngavie.) Their daughter is **Agnes Ewell Cranmer**, who was born on 23rd October 1860 in the town.

Living at Allander Cottage, just at the foot of Hillhead Row (to become Hillhead Street in time) is pattern designer **Peter Buchanan** from Glasgow. He is age thirty-three and he is married to **Mary McLuckie** from Campsie. The McLuckie male side of the family are joiners and her father **Alexander**, who lives on McLuckie's land in Milngavie, is a Master Wright (builder). He – and other McLuckies - who also live on McLuckie's land up near Woodlands Place, all appear to be joiners employed in house construction. The couple's first child, **Mary Ross Findlay Buchanan**, was born in Milngavie on 2nd July 1859. She is, in part, named for Mary's mother, **Mary Ross**.

To serve such a population over in this part of Milngavie, there are several shops including two grocers one of whom – **James Espie** - is also a spirit dealer, an inn – kept by **William Buchanan** who we've seen in previous walks; and two dressmakers, **Catherine McLaren**; and **Margaret Lang**, daughter of **John** the colour maker at J Black & Co. printworks. **William Norval**, who hails from Strathblane, saw an opportunity as Milngavie expands and he and his wife **Jane Howat** and their eight children moved to Milngavie earlier this census year. Baby, **Jane Howat Norval** is born in March 1861, but survives just a few months. William determines upon being a spirit dealer in this new part of Milngavie. Unfortunately ill health caught up with William who suffered a massive stroke (then termed apoplexy) and died instantly at the Milngavie Railway Station on 24th April 1864. **Alexander Dunn**, who used to live in the old town and was an errand boy is now an engraver of copper printing plates at the printworks. **Mary Nicol**, who has been living on Strathblane Road for a while, has changed her occupation from lodging-house keeper to grocer. Mary, **Mrs William Baird**, reverted to her maiden name after the early death of her husband. She is from a middle class Edinburgh/Lothians family and her brother, **William**, who lives in Glasgow has a private income. **Bernard McMannus** is another person we've met before. He is living on Strathblane Road with his family around him. Sadly, his daughter **Helen** (Ellen) will become unwell and die in 1867 of an abdominal abscess.



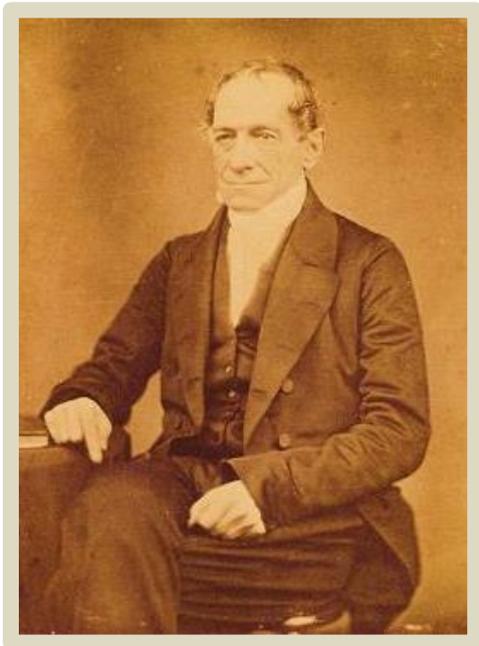
Another person of interest in this area is **Alexander Hay** the housewright (builder). He is from Croftamie, south west of Drymen. He has now, and will have in the coming decade, a great deal of work with all the new housing that is going up. **Bernard Coyle**, the carter, who lives in the locality is also very busy indeed with loads of supplies for builders like Alexander Hay and the **McLuckie** brothers too.

The **Reverend George McQueen** (left) has moved to Milngavie. Glasgow-born and educated, he is the new UP Minister. George's father was a cotton handloom weaver and must have worked hard to help to put young George through his studies to achieve his MA in divinity. George senior belonged to the Govan Weaver's Society, which was formed in 1756 to control entry to the handloom weaving trade. It provided assistance for handloom weavers who had experienced poverty. In this case, George and his parents lived on land that was owned or feued by the Society and it seems that the organisation may have, in part, helped with young George's

education to become a UP Minister. Six years ago George married **Catherine Anderson Rankin** and they subsequently moved to Milngavie where little **Catherine B McQueen** was born at Barloch Cottage.

Thirty-two new families have come from outside Milngavie and moved to the new part of town. While seventeen households have moved across from the old town to housing in Newton. One of these is the gatekeeper for the **McGrigor** cotton mill, **Henry Ross**, who moved from Cheapside to Newton in 1861. Mr Ross is from Neilston and has been - and will be - the gatekeeper for the premises for some time. Also among those who have moved from the old town is **Mrs Isabella Porteous** (nee **McCutcheon**) and she and her family live in Hillhead Row. Peter, her husband and proprietor of 'The Coach and Horses' hostelry, died in the last decade, after the family moved into Glasgow. That property is now in the hands of **Matthew Weir**, publican, grocer and spirit merchant. Isabella and her seven children (**Margaret**, age twenty, **Mary**, age eighteen, **Agnes**, age fourteen, **Isabella**, age twelve, **Ann**, age 9, **Peter**, age 7 and **William** age 4.) are next door to three uninhabited houses. Margaret and Mary work at Black & Co. All the other children, apart from William, are at the school. Isabella has also lost her mother **Mary**, (nee **Millar**) on 6th May 1856 so living over in Newton means that she can be closer to her elderly, ailing father, **William**.

Isabella's nearest neighbour is **Eliza Anderson**, the schoolteacher. We met Eliza in a previous walk. She was born off the Cape of Good Hope and is now upward of thirty years of age. She lives in a two-storey house, the ground floor of which is the school. The school and house were built by **Miss Campbell of Garscube**, daughter of the Baronet. Boarding with Eliza is **Marion Stewart**, from Campsie. **Marion** is thirteen years old and is noted as a scholar. Seventeen-year-old **Janet Sim**, from Milngavie, is their domestic servant.



The **Reverend Alexander McNaughton**, the United Presbyterian Minister, is at the Manse, with his wife **Janet Blackwood** and family. (Photograph of Reverend McNaughton: Collection of HJ Cameron). Boarding with the family is **George Peters**, age eleven, who is the son of **James Peters** and **Elizabeth Ann Boone**.

Young George was born in Tasmania. **Jessie Blackwood**, age twelve, is a granddaughter staying with her grandparents. Her home is in Neilston where daughter **Isabella McNaughton** lives with her husband **William Blackwood**.

The Reverend McNaughton is now seventy-four years of age and has been a very active man with a determined social conscience who has done a great deal for Milngavie. Hard work began to take its toll across the previous two decades with cardiac disease, which will take his life shortly.

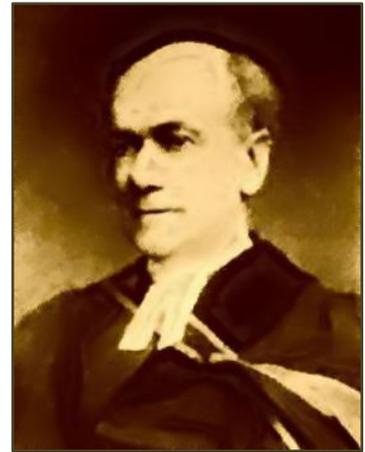
Another cleric, living over on the new part of town, is the Roman Catholic Priest, **Reverend Andrew Boland**. He is the second Catholic Priest for Milngavie. Father Boland is from Ireland, along with his sister, **Ann** and they have a home in Woodlands Place. Shortly after this census was taken he moved to Bathgate parish, Edinburgh. After a short while he became ill and died very suddenly.



The memorial seen in the photograph was erected by his parishioners in recognition of his care of them. The first Roman Catholic Priest for Milngavie was a **Father Kelly**, who was put into post about 1856 in response

to the developing Catholic population - both within the town and in connection with the waterworks. Two cottages in Woodlands served as a house and a church and a school (Father Kelly had previously served in a parish around West George Street, in Glasgow.)

Another clergyman, across at Newton, is the **Reverend Robert Bell** (*right*) who is the Church of Scotland Minister. He is from Dundee and, age twenty-nine, lives with his younger sister, **Isabella**, at the house at the foot of Woodland Place. They have one domestic servant living-in, thirty-seven year old **Alice Kerr** who is from Fife.



Their next-door neighbours are **Mr and Mrs Urie**. **John Urie** is from Paisley and is a photographic artist. He is, along with **Robert Lillie** and **John Bruce Cameron**, one of several of Milngavie's most creative sons. The son of a silk weaver, John Urie was initially an apprentice in the printing business. He soon made a step on to hand carving wooden typefaces and then to making wooden engraved printing blocks.

He and his wife attended The Great Exhibition at the Crystal Palace, in 1851. They were greatly enthused by everything that they saw, especially the daguerreotype process on display. Fired with the concept of developing photography as a modern art form, he then went on to build his own cameras and experiment with photography in a way similar to that of an oil portraitist. We see him on this census living at Mugdock House, at the end of Woodlands Place with wife **Margaret**, and children **Helen**, age thirteen and **John** age 6. Both attend the school. Mr Urie has a photographic studio, like a glasshouse, atop 33-35 Buchanan Street, Glasgow where he uses predominantly natural light to photograph many very famous Scots. Shortly, he will photograph explorer **Dr David Livingstone**, on his return to the UK and they will develop a close friendship. The use of natural light was revolutionary at that time in a studio setting, but its results then – and now – are very much kinder to the sitter.

During the last decade there has been a great deal of work on this side of Milngavie. The water main, from the Mugdock Reservoir has been laid down the Strathblane and Glasgow Roads. Some cottages have been lost in this development and the road has required some raising and re-surfacing. **Mr John Graham**, of Glasgow, is currently living close to site in the forester's cottage on the Dougalston estate. The cottage lies where, in time, the new entrance drive will be for Douglaston House, close to the woodland on the Baldernock Road. Mr Graham has his two children with him: **Robert Graham**, age 2, **Jane Graham** age 3-months and their mother, **Jane Pirrie**. While Jane is from Lanarkshire, her children were both born here in Milngavie. Housekeeper is seventy-year old widow **Mrs Mary Calder**.

James Gardener, **John Gardener's** brother, and a blacksmith too, is at home with his wife **Ann** on census day. A Milngavie man, his wife is from Strathblane. Living at the house is **Peter McDougall** from Glasgow, age twenty-three he is a schoolteacher. The household is situated from Strathblane Road, shortly after McAulay's Corner.

We have now completed this last part of the 1861 walk. On the whole comfortable prosperity and an air of profitable speculation seems to be the overriding impression at the moment. However, in the decade to come Milngavie will be thrown into serious disarray as a result of business collapse in the textile trade and extreme poverty will become a feature of very many people's lives. In contrast some of the townsfolk hope that, with the completion of the railway, wealth can be attracted to Milngavie.

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Note: Data on industries in Milngavie is set out in the document entitled "Milngavie's Industrial Past" on this website.

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Sources: GRO Scotland, Glasgow Museums Service, National Library of Scotland, Scottish PO Directories, ScotlandsPlaces, The Scottish Archives, 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, Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, 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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