

## FROM GEORGIAN TO VICTORIAN MILNGAVIE – PART TWO

*This is the second portion of the first in the series of seven ‘walks’ - using the 1841 to 1901 Scotland census’.*

*The first part of this walk passed along the road that came to be called ‘Main Street’ in the ‘Old Town’. Main Street stopped at the junction with the Mugdock Road. However, for the traveller – whether by horse, in the early days, or by car in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the ‘main street’ of the small town extended all along to the junction with the Strathblane Road/Glasgow Road. Once the railway came, the road from the Strathblane Road/Glasgow Road junction back to the junction with Mugdock Road was, of course, named Station Road. However, to the person who travelled right through Milngavie this thoroughfare would, in their mind, be the ‘main street’. In looking at the folk here, remember that comment made earlier, that ages were supposed to be ‘rounded’ – but often they have not been and are reported at whatever age people think they are. A reminder: at this time Milngavie lay in Stirlingshire. However, using search engines for BMD’s it usually appears as Dunbartonshire, although occasionally as East Kilpatrick (Stirlingshire) or New Kilpatrick (sometimes in both counties).*

In Part One we saw the enumerator, **David McMurtrie**, walking northwards, with Glasgow behind him, and taking the left fork off the Glasgow road to travel through Main Street, Milngavie. He would have left his colleague – Mr **William Buchanan**, the Mill Wright, at that junction.

Mr Buchanan’s route took him to Crossveggate – which had long been a dairy farm (post-WW2 mainly prize-winning Ayrshire cattle, but some Friesian) before, in much more recent times, becoming a multi-use development – on up the road – zig-zagging back and forth. Then to what was known as “**McAulay’s Corner**” on the edge of the Strathblane Road/the ‘New Town’ Road (‘Newton’ in census originals). He then set off along the edge of the village and moorland to the bleach fields and their associated dwellings. He went on past the site for the Kirk yet to be built then (he was on the opposite side of the road) and along to the junction with Mugdock Road, finally retracing his steps towards McAulay’s corner and handing over, on the way, to John Giffen the school teacher. Mr Buchanan was the last person, you’ll recollect, that David McMurtrie enumerated in Part One of this walk.

Let’s follow in Mr Buchanan’s footsteps. His first call was on young farmer **Alexander Weir** at Keystone, he’s stated as age 25, but actually age 28 years old. (Keystone was sometimes shown as ‘Caistoun’ [*Blaeu*] or Kayston or Kaystone). Mr Weir was single at this time, having taken over the farm from his father **Robert Weir** (noted in Pigot’s) and his mother **Janet Brock**. He had a number of staff living-in with him. **William Lumsden**, age 25 and from out of the county; **Alexander Gibb**, age 15 from Stirlingshire, **David Robertson**, age 14 but from outside the county and **Donald McKay** who is age 20 and from elsewhere; plus **Jennie McDonald** as housekeeper who is from out of the county too. The farm was noted, in old commentaries, as having ‘good firm buildings and a mill, operated by water via a narrow lade from the Allander, to grind feed for livestock’. In the New Statistical Account, Milngavie Minister, **Reverend Sym** comments on ‘claggy’ soil, but along the Allander are “deep rich loam deposits”.

Mr Buchanan moved on then to Crossveggate Farm. This farm was, in 1841, being operated by **Alexander Findlay**, from Shotts, and his wife, **Jane**, plus their son **Alexander**. Other children on the farm were **Sarah Findlay**, **Mary Findlay** and **Clementina Findlay** with ages running 15, 11 and just 5. **Ann McDermid**, who is – like the Findlay’s – from outside the county is the domestic servant. Adjacent to the farm is **Mrs Sarah Crawford** with her three sons: **John** age 12, **Alexander** age 9 and **James** age 5. Mrs Crawford is a dressmaker and she’s from out of the county, but her children are all born in Stirlingshire. Ladies who wanted clothes had to have them made. Plain day dresses had simple

round necks, buttoning down the front usually, fitted at the waist (the bodice being a separate construction to the skirt – but very often joined once the skirt was made), fairly ‘puffy’ sleeves (to accommodate bending the arms) and a gathered skirt over a full skirted petticoat, simmet, chemise, pantaloons and stays. Fashion was about to undergo another change and within the next decade or so, the ‘Balmoral’ (*right*) – a woollen striped petticoat made popular by **Queen Victoria** – was worn, often showing beneath the outer skirt.



As flannel petticoats were worn in winter, no doubt Mrs Crawford was asked ‘can you do something with this to make it like a Balmoral?’

The **Cameron** family lived next door. This family of father **John**, mother **Ann** and children **William** age 20, **James** age 13 and **Andrew** age just 3 and the two girls **Agnes** age 15 and **Jean** age 8 are all local people. John is a labourer, while William and Agnes work at the bleach works, possibly the ones nearby which would become the site of railway sidings and yards in due course. Seventy-year old **Janet Donald** lives by the Camerons, she’s noted as a ‘labourer’, so we don’t really know what this locally-born lady did for making her living. Next by is the **Gardener** family and father, **William**, is appropriately enough a gardener. Wife **Janet** and three daughters and two sons. They are **Elizabeth** age 12, **Jean** 9, **Agnes** age 2; the boys are **James** age 7 and **Alexander** age 5. All the girls are born in the county, the parents and their boys are all born outside the county of Stirlingshire.

Being a professional gardener was as precarious then as it can be now and Friendly Societies sprang up called Lodges of Free Gardeners. In the Glasgow area alone there were more than six. The nearest for Mr Gardener was the **Cherry Leaf Lodge** at Kirkintilloch, which ceased around 1894. As we saw previously, authorities were very frightened of ‘combinations’ and sought control through the Combination Act. The Free Gardeners were at pains to ensure that their Societies could survive and their articles of association often contained the wording, in deference to the Act, ‘as the Act allows’. Their Societies had to be approved by the Justices of the Peace and it had to be clear that the individual Society had been formed ‘for security’ of members and their families. There were no pensions in those days.

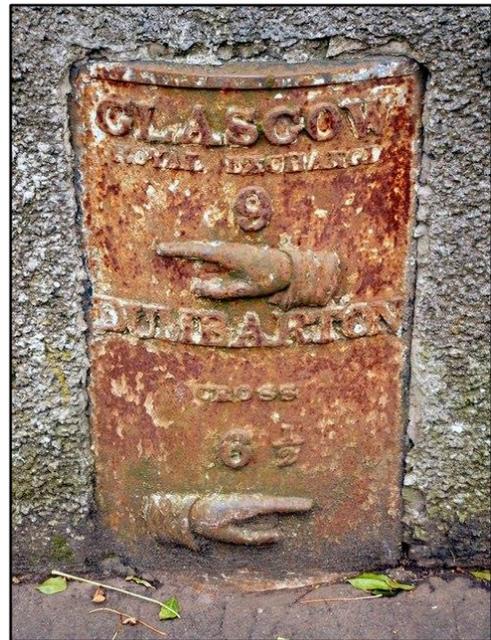
Next we see the Sym family. Mr **Richard Sym** is a calico printer while his wife **Catherine** looks after the home. They have two boys: **James** age 9 and **John** age 1; and one girl named **Ellen**. While Mr Sym isn’t locally born, all the rest of the family are born in Stirlingshire. The **Ewing** family live next door – father **Thomas** is a local man, born at Baldernock, and is a sawyer by trade. He may work with the wood merchant in the next house and will also work with the carpenters and joiners in the town. His wife **Helen**, comes from Glasgow and all their children are from in the county: **Mary** is 5 years old, **John** is 3 years of age and **James** is just 1 year old. Living with them they have **Alexander Hay**, who is a journeyman wright and **Jean Nicol**, who is fifteen years of age and works at the bleach fields.



At the house along, we see the Russel family. Mr **Thomas Russel** is a wood merchant. We may assume that he has a connection with the Dougalston estate's woodland and forestry interests. His wife, **Jean**, is a local lass and all his children were born here. He has six sons and just one daughter, **Ann**, age fifteen. Her brothers are **John** age twenty, **William** age fourteen, **Thomas** 12 years old, **Andrew** age 7, **Archibald** age 10 and little **Alexander** just 5 years old. None of the older sons have an occupation noted on this census so it seems possible that they help their father in the wood business.

Again, in the New Statistical Account, **Reverend Sym** comments: "There are six hundred Scots acres under wood. Three to four acres is natural, the rest is forested. Fir, beech, and in recent plantings, oak are the most common cultivated trees. Till of late (1839) little attention was paid to forest management, the trees being allowed to grow up as they might without pruning or thinning. The proprietors are now more sensible of the importance of this branch of rural economy and begin to plant more extensively and to bestow more care on the young plantations."

The postmistress **Jane Baird** is next door. We know that, although Jane is not shown on this census as the postmistress, 'Pigot's Commercial Directory' of 1837 shows her as such, commenting 'Letters from Glasgow and all parts arrive by first post every lawful morning at half past ten and are despatched every forenoon at eleven.' Mrs Baird was widowed just the preceding year. She was born Miss **Mclae** in Duntocher, not far away, and married husband **Robert** in the parish of Old Kilpatrick in 1811. (*Right - Milepost in Duntocher.*) It would seem that a friend of Jane's – **Margaret Chesney** – has come north from Kirkcubrightshire to help her. Sons **William**, age twenty-five, a joiner, and **John**, age twenty and currently a theological student are born in Milngavie and are both out enumerating other parts of the area. Two other boys – **Robert** age fifteen who is an apprentice joiner and **Alexander**, who is thirteen and still at the school are home with their two sisters, **Hannah** who is eleven and **Agnes** who is just a 2-year old toddler.



In the house adjoining the Baird's house is a forty-year old lady – **Janet Meikle** – who has come to live in Milngavie from elsewhere. Janet has no stated occupation. Next to Janet are the **Stewarts** – **John and Rebekah**, both from Ireland. John is a labourer and living with them is apprentice slater **William Calander**, age fifteen. The Howett family are next. Mr **Hendry and Mrs Mary Howett** have moved into Milngavie with their children. The children are **Elizabeth** age fifteen, **Fanny** age thirteen, **Hendry** age eleven, **Aron** age 9, **Richard** age 7 and **Robert** age 5. Mr & Mrs Howett and Elizabeth and Fanny were all born elsewhere, but all the younger children were born here. Staying with them is sixty-five year old weaver from Ireland – Mr **James Cochran** – here for the work which was becoming mechanised.

Next door are local couple **James and Jean Crawford**. Mr Crawford is a calico printer at the print field. By them are **Alexander Meiklam** and his wife **Isabella** (nee **Nicol**) and their three little girls **Janet** age 6, **Margaret** age 4 and **Isabella** who is just - months old and was born in Milngavie. Like Mr Crawford, Mr Meiklam is a calico printer. Thirty-five year old **Jean Hunter**, from the area, is beside the Meiklam's and she works at the cotton spinning mill in Milngavie. **Thomas and Margaret Morrison** are next with their wee son, **Thomas** age 1; Thomas's brother – **Grigor** – lives with them as does these two boy's mother **Mrs Helen Morrison**. Only the two ladies are from out of the county. Grigor and Thomas are both calico printers at the print field.

By them is the Lamond family. Mrs **Katherine Lamond**, born in Scotland in about 1791, her daughter also **Katherine** age fifteen and daughter **Flora**, son **Alan** with his wife **Mary** and staying with them **John Banes**, born locally and age 7; and **Thomas Stewart**, age 4 and another local lad. Only Allan is at work and he is a calico printer. Next door is Irish couple **Bernard and Agnes McManus**. Bernard is noted as a labourer. Their children are **Charles** age 7, **Francis** age 5, **Helen** age 1 and **Margaret** age 3. Only Charles has not been born in Stirlingshire. Living with them are **Agnes McEwen** and her children **Catherine**, age 12, **Margaret** age 10. All of them have come from Ireland. Beside this family is **William Craig**. Mr Craig, who comes from Ireland, is noted as a labourer and lives alone. **James and Agnes Logan** (nee **Kincade**) live next door with their son **John**, who is an apprentice engraver and was born in Milngavie. Agnes and James were married in Milngavie in 1812. Lodging with them is fifteen-year old **Robert McGregor**, who is an apprentice mason.

Now we come to a second **Gardiner** family whose father – **George** – is a professional gardener. George, who is from Stirlingshire, is married to **Jean** and they have one child – **James** – who is just 6 months old. Lodging with them is **John Wall**, a journeyman joiner and was born elsewhere. Another **Gardiner** family are their neighbours – **Thomas** is a tailor (one of four noted in Pigot's) and he's from the area as is his wife and children **James**, age fifteen who is a calico printer, **Thomas** is thirteen, **Susan** aged eleven, **Jean** aged 9, **Colin** age 7, **Janet** age 4 and **Catherine** who is just a year old. Men's styles in the 1840's featured frock coats with low but defined waists and wide lapels. Cutaway coats were still popular though, with fitted sleeves. Both trousers and waistcoats were very fitted and shirts and backs of coats had high upstanding collars with neck ties or cravats tied around them. Hair was usually worn over the ears.

Mrs **Margaret Steven**, who is fifty years of age, lives beside the Gardiners with her two sons **George** age twenty, who is a calico printer and **Robert** aged fifteen who is an apprentice block cutter at the print fields. Lodging with them is twenty five year old agricultural labourer **Ludovic Hill**. At the next house are **Mrs Hay Watson** aged forty-five with **Jane Hay Watson**, age 8, **James Watson**, age 8 and **Mary Hay** age twenty-five and working as a bleacher. Not a great deal of information, but that is all the enumerator has left us.

**Mr James and Mrs Mary Johnston**, both from out of the county, live by. He is a labourer. There's a major difference in ages, so they may well be brother and sister-in-law. The **Youngs** live next door, father is **David** aged forty, mother **Mary** aged thirty and four children – all born in the county: **Robert** age eleven, **Peter** aged 8, **William** age 5 and **Alexander** he's just a year old. Lodging with them is sixty-year old **Duncan Gemmell**, who is a labourer from out of the county. **John Gray** and his wife **Christian** come next with their baby daughter **Christian**. John is a local man, as is his daughter, but his wife comes from another county.



**Mr James Cochrane**, thirty-five, the carter, is next door with his wife **Janet** and sons **William** age fourteen, **Archibald** twelve, **James** 10 and **Richard** 7. The family have come to live in Milngavie. **Archibald Mason** a twenty-nine year old journeyman shoemaker lives by with his wife, **Mary** and their children **James** age 2 and 5-month old **Archibald**. Mr Mason is a local man, as are his boys, but his wife is from outside Stirlingshire. (*Above – woodcut of a village shoemaker.*)

Next door live **John Malcom**, age fifty from Ireland, with his wife **Margaret** age forty and from Ireland too. They have a big family. Six girls from **Sarah** age 20, **Ann** fifteen, **Susan** twelve, **Mary**

10, **Margaret** 6 and **Ann**, the baby, aged 1. There are 3 boys too: **James** who is 8, **John** who is 4 and **Henry** who is 2.

The enumerator now retraces his tracks and crosses the road and heads back towards Strathblane Road/Glasgow Road crossroads. On his way he calls on the **Scott** family. Head is **James**, age sixty and noted as a mason. Pigot's notes that he is a mason 'and spirit dealer'. He came to Milngavie some time ago marrying **Janet** age fifty-five. They have four children at home: **Catherine** age thirty, **James** aged twenty who is a joiner, **Thomas** age fifteen who is working as a journeyman mason and then, lastly, **Janet** who is fifteen. Living with the Scotts are **Janet Watt** age twenty, from out of county and **Peter McLaughlin**, also twenty from Milngavie – both are servants in the household.

Now we meet another of the McAulay family. Mr **James McAulay**, age eighty and of independent means, and a widower now his wife **Agnes Buchanan** has died. Son **John McAulay** is thirty and is a contractor. They are looked after by local lady and their housekeeper **Mary Calder**, who is forty-five. Next door is **Mrs Robert Graham**, age fifty. Mrs Graham was **Elizabeth Lothead** before she married

*We look now at schoolteacher, Mr John Giffen's enumerations which begin at the bottom of Hillhead Street, near where the Church was to be built (now turned into retirement flats). Mr Giffen had, like many teachers of the period, studied at university (Glasgow) for the church, but also for teaching. He had already been busy enumerating along Mugdock Road, Cheapside, Allander House and the top of Hillhead Street.*



**John Stewart Giffen BA** lodged with **Reverend Alexander McNaughton**, Minister of the Relief Church. The Manse was at the top of Kirk Row, so John would have enumerated himself.

*Although John was undoubtedly a good teacher, shortly after this census he was called to be Minister at the United Presbyterian Church at Earlston, Berwickshire (right).*

*Sadly he died there on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1847 age just twenty-nine.*

On this part of his work he began by calling upon **Peter and Margaret McNicol**. Peter was sixty-eight years of age and was born here as was his wife who was sixty-six. Mr McNicol is an agricultural labourer. **Granny Reid, Mary**, who is sixty is next door. She and the children with her are all from elsewhere. The Reid children are **John**, age eleven and noted as an agricultural labourer, **Mathew** age 10 who works at the cotton spinning mill. Assuming that one of Mrs Reid's daughters married a **McLean**, there are **John** age 7, **Charlotte** age 5 at the house that day too.

The Gardiner family are at the next house, which is also a blacksmith's shop. **John Gardiner**, who is from here, is thirty-six and is a smith, his wife **Isabella** is thirty-five and from out of the area. Their son, born here, is 8 and named **James**. **James Gardiner senior** lives there too, he's seventy-three and was noted in Pigot's in 1837 as one of the town blacksmiths. He is from the area and he's still working in the Smithy. Two apprentice smiths live in, both from other districts: **Alexander Barr** aged twenty and **William Gourlay** who is fifteen years old.

The **O'Haras** are at the next house and all are relatively local folk. **Charles**, from Glasgow, is head of the house age thirty-five, his wife **Janet** is the same age and **Sarah O'Hara** his sister lives with them. Both ladies are cotton spinners, but it looks as though Charles is presently unemployed. Local couple,

the **Adams**, are next door. **Alexander** is sixty and is an agricultural labourer, **Elizabeth**, also sixty, keeps the house. The **Michael family** come next and they seem to have moved into Milngavie, possibly for the work. Father, **Robert** is thirty-five years of age and is a calico printer. His wife **Elizabeth** is the same age; their children are **William** age seventeen and a calico printer like his father, **John** age fourteen and also a calico printer, **Janet** is eleven and her sister **Margaret** is 6 and 4 year old **James**, while baby **Robert** completes the picture at age 7 months.

Another **Gardener** family come next. All of the family are local folk. **James** the father is forty years old, his wife **Ann** is 4 years younger. James is a smith by trade. The couple's children are **James** age fifteen who is a calico printer, **Agnes** age thirteen works as a cotton spinner. **Janet** and **Walter** are both noted as 10 years of age, **John** is 6. Staying with them is twenty-year old **Martha McLey** who is local and is a cotton spinner too.

The **Mitchell** family, from Ireland, live next door. The father, **Andrew**, is thirty and is an agricultural labourer. His wife, **Mary**, is also thirty and they have three children: **Elizabeth** aged 10, **Mary**, aged 3 and baby **John** who was born in Milngavie just 2 years before. Next to the Mitchells are the **Weir** family. **Thomas Weir** is twenty-seven and is a calico printer, **Margaret** is twenty-five and their children: **Maria** age 5, **John** age 3 and **Thomas** age 1 are all from Ireland. **Joseph McKechnie**, age seventeen lives with the Weirs.



Adjacent are the **Hawthorne** family, also from Ireland. **John** is thirty-five and he is a stonemason. **Sarah**, who is twenty-five looks after the house, brother **James Hawthorne** is fifteen and is a cotton spinner.

**Mr and Mrs McLaren** live by. **Peter** who is an agricultural labourer, is seventy. His wife, **Mary**, is seventy also. Daughters **Catherine** and **Susan**, both noted as thirty-five and both dressmakers are still at home. A brother has

married because 5-year old **Isabella** is staying with her Grandparents on census day. Shoemaker **James McDonald** lives next door. He is forty years old and is from elsewhere, but his wife, **Isabella**, is a local lassie and five years younger than her husband. Their sons **James** age thirteen and **Peter** 10 are both born in the county. Lodging with the family is journeyman shoemaker **James Stott**, who is thirty-five years old and from somewhere else in Scotland.

Another part of the Milngavie **McAulay** family are next. **George** age thirty-six, single and a manservant probably at Dougalston House (*below*)

(They live in a house in 'Newton' owned by the Douglaston Estate).

Also there is **Margaret** age thirty-four. Margaret is the widow of the late (died 1835) **David McAulay**. Her children are **Elizabeth** who is 10, **James** 8 and **Margaret** who is 6. George is Margaret's nephew, son of her brother-in-law **James McAulay**. Their ages are very similar because her husband (and thus her brother-in-law also) was considerably her senior – age 84



when he died.

Next door are another locally-born family. **James McLean**, age thirty-six is an agricultural labourer, wife **Margaret** is the same age. Four of the six children work as calico printers: **Elizabeth** age seventeen, **James** age fifteen, **Jean** age thirteen and **Agnes** age ten years old. The two younger children are **Thomas**, age seven and **William** who is just four.

Finally we come to the house of **Agnes McMurtrie** (nee **Sorbey**) and her two children. Mrs McMurtrie is forty-five years of age and was born in Baldernock just a couple of miles up Garwhitter Brae.

*(View here is about 1883 looking up the Brae. McAulay's house on left. The cottages at the foot and opposite Cramb's public house, were demolished to build St Paul's Church.)*



Her daughter is **Isabella** age twenty-three and

**James** age seventeen. James is a labourer. Lodging with them is **William Grahame** who is sixteen years old and works at the cotton spinning works.

This period in Milngavie's history has been about recovery from the mill strikes of the late 1830's, changes in working methods in industry, in agriculture and in the supporting trades. Milngavie has grown in order to accommodate such expansion and has had to find accommodation for people coming into the town for work. The town, albeit small, is growing so that it now has a "new town" end. We shall see that new town develop apace over the next two decades when, like very many places, industry changes the town's fortunes, the railway comes to Milngavie and the well to do in Glasgow begin thinking of living 'out in the countryside'.

-ends-

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### Sources

The following sources have been consulted in the preparation of this article: General Register Office Scotland; The National Archives; Scotland's Places website; SCRAN; both the Old and the New Statistical Account; University of Glasgow manuscripts; 'Rambles Round Glasgow MacDonald, H; 'Milngavie and the District: Sketches Historical and Topographical', Lecture to Milngavie Mechanics Institution 1878 Smith, GJ; National Museums of Scotland; 'The Experience of a Lifetime' Gardner, JM; The Industrial Archaeology of Scotland, Butt J; legislation.gov.uk. Letters, diaries and a collection of photographs and postcards which were the property of HJ Cameron and MSM Morison Cameron and were bequeathed to the author.