From Railway Line to Front Line

Stories of Kilmarnock Railway Men from World War 1

Written by Primary School Pupils (Kilmarnock) & Kilmarnock Station Railway Heritage Trust
# Table Of Contents

2  The Provost  
4  Foreword  
6  Kilmarnock Station Railway Heritage Trust  
9  Introduction  
12  Rail Network - Kilmarnock  
13  Kilmarnock - Locomotive Builders  
14  Railways in Kilmarnock  
16  Kilmarnock Railway Station - Layout  
17  Bonnyton Square  
19  Andrew Barclay  
21  Dick Institute  
23  Kilmarnock War Memorial  
24  Kilmarnock Map (National Map Library of Scotland - Published 1911)  
25  Riccarton Map (National Map Library of Scotland Published 1910)  
26  Private Andrew Allison  
39  Private Hugh Boyd  
52  Sergeant John Cunningham  
65  Private Alexander McIntosh  
78  Private William Robertson  
91  Private William Thomson  
104  Private Andrew Young  
117  1922 Service  
123  2016 Service  
129  2016 Service - Kilmarnock Sarajevo Reading (Zara Ainsworth & Ava Hepburn)  
131  2016 Service - Toon O' Kilmarnock Reading (Sophie Gallagher & Ann McGiffen)
I would like to congratulate all those involved in Kilmarnock Railway Works: World War 1 – Then & Now Research Project. I sincerely thank the Heritage Lottery Fund whose funding allowed the project to develop and come to fruition and Kilmarnock Station Railway Heritage Trust for supporting and hosting the exhibition.

The ‘Then and Now’ project is an incredibly detailed and moving exhibition, telling the story of World War 1 through the lives of those who worked on the railway.

The real tragedy is that so many of these young men never came home and I’m pleased our young people today have been able to bring new life to the stories of those who made the ultimate sacrifice so many years ago.

Historical research is demanding and similar to putting together a complex jigsaw puzzle. Applying the knowledge from research and looking at it in a local context is also daunting, so this has been a great project for pupils to combine their detective and analytical skills with subjects such as history, maths and geography.

The ‘Then and Now’ project also meets many of the aims of Curriculum for Excellence, such as developing sustainable community links and I’m delighted that funding allowed the pupils to put their findings on show for public benefit and also production of a book which will provide a lasting memory.

As a keen local historian I enjoyed visiting pupils at Kilmarnock Railway Station to discuss their research. I am extremely impressed with the pupils’ knowledge of Kilmarnock at the time of World War 1 and was fascinated to hear about the station workers they were researching, some of whom were not much older than them when they went off to fight.

Jim Todd – The Provost of East Ayrshire
Foreword

It has been a privilege to work on this project, World War 1 – Then & Now, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The result, an archive and amazing display hosted by our partner, Kilmarnock Station Railway Heritage Trust. It was felt production of a book would provide a lasting memory.

The project has allowed pupils from primary, secondary schools and many community groups to work together with a shared outcome. A huge thank you to the four very talented senior pupils from St Joseph’s Academy who made a huge contribution to the success of the project. The stunning order of service, the organisation of the exhibition, the beautifully scripted Sarajevo / Kilmarnock stories these are all thanks to Zara Ainsworth, Sophie Gallagher, Ava Hepburn and Ann McGiffen.

The Primary 7s who each selected a Kilmarnock Railway Worker to research; it has been an absolute joy working with you all and your enthusiasm for this project.

It is possibly hard to appreciate just how much time they have put into these pages you will read. Every sentence had to be researched and double checked. Their maths and language skills were tested – their IT skills, and it all came together in what you read.

We’d like to say a massive thank you for making our job so easy, and for producing a lasting memory of these seven men and their life at Kilmarnock Railway Station and Railway Works one hundred years ago.

Shona Lawson / Graham Boyd
(East Ayrshire Council Education Services)
Kilmarnock Station Community Village

Officially incorporated as Kilmarnock Station Railway Heritage Trust in November 2014, a small group of trustees had been talking about the possibilities the vacant, derelict rooms at the station could offer for quite some time.

Coming together from a variety of backgrounds, the initial aim was simple: use the rooms at the station for something that benefits the community. A funding application was submitted for seven rooms along the platform including a gift shop that sold artwork for schools and a second hand bookshop. The Trust were successful in their application to the Scottish Stations Community Regeneration Fund (SCRF) and also to the Railway Heritage Trust (RHT).

Building and renovation works began in 2015 and more funding, this time from East Ayrshire’s Renewable Energy Fund (REF), was secured to fit out the rooms. The ‘Village’ was officially opened on the 31st of August 2015 with great attendance and much praise for the work done so far.

However the real work was just beginning; there was a lot of interest from organisations, groups and especially individuals looking to volunteer. More funding was secured, again from the REF, for a Volunteer Coordinator. To date we’ve had over ninety

volunteers in different roles at the coffee shop, bookshop and gift shop. Since opening we’ve had lots of different events happening including a Christmas Craft Fair taking over the whole station.

One of our most recent and successful projects to date was the Heritage Lottery Funded; World War 1 Stories. The project was run in close partnership with East Ayrshire Council Education Services. With vital support from many other community groups it enabled young people to research the stories of railway workers, some of whom went off to war and never came back. An exhibition was opened with members of the public able to view as they waited for their train. We continue to work closely with schools and are exploring future projects.

The Trust was set up to bring the rooms at the station back into community use, run activities which encourage members of the public to become aware of the heritage and culture of the surrounding areas and most importantly to help and support people through volunteer opportunities and partnership working.

So far we’ve been going for just over two years and we feel we have made great strides in a short space of time. We were again successful in securing funding from SCRF and the RHT to develop the last room on the platform as an Active Travel Hub. Most recently we were successful in a funding bid from the Big Lottery Fund for our Moving on Project which has
allowed us to employ two additional staff to help provide training opportunities for individuals dealing with social isolation, loss and loneliness. We are constantly looking forward to see how we can continue our work and develop it, with many more ideas and thankfully more vacant, unused space underneath the platform. Watch this space!

Introduction

Scotland’s first railway opened in 1812 to transport coal from Kilmarnock to the harbour at Troon. As the railways expanded, Kilmarnock was connected to Glasgow and then Carlisle to the south.

Growth continued, by the beginning of the 20th century Kilmarnock Railway Works stretched from the mosque in Hill Street to the station and all the way onwards to Bonnyton in the west. An incredible expanse of ingenuity and skill! Kilmarnock truly was the Railway Town! Glasgow & South Western Railway Company was a major employer at Kilmarnock Railway Works.

World War 1 broke out, soon becoming bogged down in trench warfare. Men across Britain increasingly enlisted and were eventually conscripted to serve King and Country. The railway men of Kilmarnock were no different!

Thanks to generous support from the Heritage Lottery Fund; local school pupils in partnership with Kilmarnock Station Railway Heritage Trust explored railway archives and accessed Scotland’s People at the Burns Monument Centre, Kilmarnock to develop their own archive and exhibition telling the remarkable and largely untold
story of these workers lives before, during and in some cases after the war.

Thanks to East Ayrshire Family History Society and Kilmarnock & District History Group and also both local and railway historians. All have worked alongside and supported the young people. The poppy display at the exhibition represented collaboration between numerous community groups, schools and the Station Trust. Willowbank School made their own contribution with a beautifully constructed submarine.

It was learned one worker was a prize winner with the local harriers before leaving for the front. Representatives from Kilmarnock Harrier & Athletic Club attended the Memorial Service on 11th November 2016. It was uplifting to witness research establish links to relatives who were also in attendance at the memorial event, Jessie Morran and her husband John. Jessie is the daughter of Private Andrew Allison. Also Jean Zerebeic and Douglas and Duncan Reid, their Great Uncle Hugh Boyd another railway worker. At the opening of the exhibition, Jackie Livingston was amazed to learn that Alex McIntosh was her great grandfather!

By the end of the Great War, Glasgow & South Western Railway Company had lost around three hundred men. Their memory was honoured when a memorial service was held at St Enoch Railway Station in 1922. The memorial unveiled can now be viewed at Ayr Railway Station.

In memory of Kilmarnock Railway Workers who served their country and in many cases gave the ultimate sacrifice, it was felt it was fitting to hold a similar dedication service to that of 1922. Both Order of Services can be found in later chapters.

Images in this production are reproduced with permission from Scotland’s People and the National Map Library of Scotland.
Rail Network – Kilmarnock

Kilmarnock – Locomotive Builders
Railways in Kilmarnock

Scotland’s first railway opened in 1812 and was used to transport coal from Kilmarnock to Troon.

The Glasgow, Paisley, Kilmarnock & Ayr Railway connected to Kilmarnock to the rail network in 1843 where it terminated. Soon the Glasgow, Dumfries & Carlisle Railway extended the line to the south. These two companies merged to form Glasgow & South Western Railway Company in 1850.

The Station House was built at Kilmarnock in 1850. It was demolished in 1995.

G&SWR Co faced competition from the Caledonian Railway Company who had built a line to Barrhead and Neilston. Both companies agreed to operate and extend the line to Kilmarnock which opened in 1878. This is railway to Glasgow today. The station was extended to the buildings we see today, the pillars and canopy Victorian in feel; some of the brackets have the letters G&SWR intertwined. The pillars and canopy used to be painted in maroon and cream the colours of G&SWR Co.

In 1923 the two rival companies became part of the London, Midland & Scottish Railway which was then nationalised in 1948. G&SWR Co also built workshops on a 13 acre site south west of the station which opened in 1856. 392 locomotives were built between then and 1921. In 1920 staffing levels reached to 1,100 workers.

In 1959 the works were finally closed. Today much of the land remains derelict however some has small industrial units including a small railway manufacturing company. G&SWR Co rivals, The Caledonian Railway had yards to the north of the station. Once both companies merged it declined and finally closed. After World War 2 Johnnie Walker Whisky occupied the site and today Ayrshire College has moved here.
The railway workers of Kilmarnock needed housed. Many lived in and around the town centre close to the station. In Bonnyton, Glasgow & South Western Railway Co Works were built in the 1850s not long after the railway arrived in Kilmarnock. Housing next to its railway works was then purposely built in the 1850s for the accommodation of the artizans and others employed at the Railway Works. It was named Bonnyton Square and consisted of 23 houses or buildings which were occupied by 92 families. Archibald McKay's The History of Kilmarnock called it “Bonnington Square”.

Bonnyton Square
The Kilmarnock Street Directory at the time of World War 1 provided a list of the head of each family and their employment. The vast majority of occupants had skilled trades such as fitters, iron turner, wagon fitter, craneman, iron finisher, boiler maker, loco fireman, railway porter and even railway police officer amongst many others.

What is of interest by this time the occasional house was occupied by someone not employed in the railway works. Miss Lapham at number 38 was a dressmaker. Perhaps her father had been a railway worker?

Glasgow & Western Railway Co Works closed in 1959. The houses no longer served their original purpose and were not fit for modern living. Bonnyton Square was demolished in 1966. Today flats at Busbiehill Place occupy the site of the former Bonnyton Square.

The photographs show the nearby G&SWR Co Works being demolished in 1983.

Andrew Barclay

Andrew Barclay, Sons & Co Ltd was a company that built robust locomotives and many of its products survive in working order on heritage railways. The company was the largest builder of fireless locomotives in Britain, building 114 of them between 1913 and 1961.

The total number of steam locomotives built was around 2,052.

Andrew Barclay was born in 1814. In 1840 He set up workshops specializing in the manufacture of winding engines for the local coal mining industry. Later he began manufacturing railway locomotives. On 20th April 1900 Andrew Barclay died.

By 1908-10 an average of twenty eight locomotives a week were completed. During World War 1, two hundred and forty seven locomotives were built. Twenty five of those made in 1917 were for war office staff abroad.

The photograph shows one of a batch of twenty five 0-6-0 well tanks in 1917. It seems that the Australian Light Railway
Dick Institute

James Dick was born in 1823 in Soulis Street, Kilmarnock and had 4 brothers and sisters. The family was poor but when James Dick died in 1902 he left an estimate of over one million pounds, an enormous amount of money at the time. From humble beginnings James and his brother Robert, became businessmen of world-wide importance.

James in particular was keen to give something back and was latterly known as a philanthropist and benefactor to a variety of good causes. For Kilmarnock, his most important gift was that he paid for the town’s new museum, art gallery and library. Opened in 1901, the Dick institute was named after James’ brother Robert who died in 1891.

The building was severely damaged by fire only eight years after opening and some of the museum’s collections were lost. It

Glasgow & South Western Railway Company also reported in 1916 that the situation was dire. Many railway companies across Great Britain realised the War was taking its toll on materials for locomotive repairs but also the loss of men as many joined up for the glory of serving King and Country. There are no figures available for Kilmarnock but G&SWR Co works at their Hurlford Depot reported 18% of engines were out of work and 42% at their Carlisle Depot.

Operating Company transported them to various areas of the front where they were fighting. The men in the photograph are New Zealand railway engineers in France during the war with one of the locomotives.

During World War 1, many men left the railway and other industries to fight, the shortage of skilled men resulted in a huge rise in the employment of women in the workplace. Output remained high initially. Unfortunately we do not know the names of any of the women photographed here in 1917 at the entrance to Andrew Barclay.
reopened in 1911 and was handed to the Red Cross in 1917 as an auxiliary Hospital during World War 1 as hospitals could not cope with the number of injured soldiers.

Games such as billiards and carpet bowls helped the soldiers recover. This games room is now an art gallery.

The photograph above is of nurses performing duties of cook in the Dick Institute Kitchen. Today, the Dick Institute continues to be one of the most important cultural facilities in south west Scotland.

Kilmarnock War Memorial

Kilmarnock War Memorial opened in 1927. It listed all those who died during World War 1. Later World War 2 was added, there are around 900 names inscribed inside the memorial.

The names of Hugh Boyd, James & William Robertson who died serving during World War 1 are inscribed. Alex McIntosh is also inscribed even though he died of illness after returning home. John Cunningham is not inscribed as his home address was in Glasgow at this time.
Where the workers lived:

Kilmarnock: Andrew Allison, Hugh Boyd, John Cunningham, Alexander McIntosh, William Robertson, William Thomson, Andrew Young

Riccarton: John Cunningham, Andrew Young

Where the workers were employed:

Kilmarnock: A Allison (Railway Works), H Boyd (GSWR Co), J Cunningham (Andrew Barclay), A McIntosh (Britannia), Wm Robertson (GSWR Co), Wm Thomson (GSWR Co)

Riccarton:
Private Andrew Allison

Andrew Allison was born on the 4th of May 1896 at 2 West Shaw Kilmarnock as shown on his birth certificate.

His parents were Andrew Allison, an iron moulder, and Elizabeth Higgins. They married in Kilmarnock. West Shaw Street, originally known as The Loan, was renamed in honour of Sir James Shaw from Riccarton who became Lord Mayor of London. His statue is opposite the Dick Institute.

Andrew Allison Birth Certificate:

In the 1911 census we see that Andrew had four sisters two of whom were older, Maggie born 1893 and Mary born 1895, and two younger sisters – Katy and Lizzie (a half-sister) born in 1900 and 1903 respectively. It also reveals that 14 year old Andrew was a ‘Can Boy’.
As children, we know that Andrew and his sisters Mary, Katy (Kate) and Betty (Lizzie) all attended Grammar School in Kilmarnock. This was confirmed in old school records, which also show they moved from Glencairn Primary to Grammar in 1907 and that they were now living with their mother at 37 Robertson Place.

Grammar School Records:

From previous census records we know that Andrew’s mother was 26 when he was born and his father was 28. Andrew’s father sadly passed away on 14th February 1900 in Kilmarnock Infirmary, aged just 32. We know from his death records he died 4 days after an accident which caused a fracture to his skull.

Andrew Allison (Senior) Death Certificate:

The 1911 census proves that Andrew was now living at 37 Robertson Place.

His mother Elizabeth was the head of the family and all four of Andrew’s sisters lived there too. In 1824, the Kilmarnock Building Company was formed to build more houses as the town centre was becoming overcrowded.

Robertson Place and surrounding streets were built by the Kilmarnock Building Company. The streets were mainly lined with sandstone tenements. The photograph shows what life was like in Robertson Place.
The streets and houses were built very close together and the many children living in the houses had to play in the streets. In this crowded housing area there was an open space where the woman of the house would hang linens and bleach them.

Children would play in this open space which became known as ‘The Bleachie’ but they knew to keep away from the hanging washing!

After leaving school Andrew worked as a Hammerman in the Railway Works (source 1911 Census).

Kilmarnock Standard, 29th January 1916 reports he had been wounded during World War 1 and also states he was a hammerman but does not mention with which company within the Kilmarnock Railway Works.

When war broke out, Andrew enlisted with the 1/4th Battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers stationed in Kilmarnock and mobilised on 4th August 1914. It was assigned to the South Scottish Brigade in the Lowland Division and in August 1914 moved to Stirling. Andrew moved to Stirling with the regiment where he married Kilmarnock girl Mary McCrone, a mill worker and miner’s daughter. They married in Stirling, both 18, while he was stationed in Baker Street in the city. From their marriage certificate, we know their wedding was 13th March 1915.

Andrew Allison / Mary McCrone Marriage Certificate:

Andrew Allison Wedding Photograph:

Andrew Allison in Regimental Uniform:
When Andrew enlisted, he was posted as part of the 1/4th Royal Scots Fusiliers to Gallipoli, as reported in The Kilmarnock Standard, 29 January, 1916.

During the First World War the 1/4th Royal Scots Fusiliers saw service in many areas, and achieved 3 Victoria Crosses alone.

On 11th May 1915 the formation became the 155th Brigade of the 52nd (Lowland) Division. The battalion then sailed from Liverpool to the Dardanelles on 21st May arriving in Murdos, Greece eight days later. The battalion then landed on enemy territory at Gallipoli, Turkey on 7th June and remained for six months during which time many brutal battles took place.

Andrew was wounded on the 12th July 1915, and moved to Alexandria in Egypt to recover. He was wounded again, this time on the back on the 31st December 1915. A few days after Private Allison was wounded, Britain evacuated soldiers from Gallipoli. He wrote a letter home to his wife telling her about his action which was also published in the Kilmarnock Standard in the 1916 article.

Also in the letter he wrote he was transferred to a hospital in Malta. He tells his wife of an experience two days before being wounded:

"On Wednesday morning, the 29th, two teams of bomb throwers were picked to support the 5th R.S.F. in their efforts to take a sap. I was one of the first team. We crossed the Nullah and reporting to the bombing officer we were told what has to be done. At one o’clock we sent up a mine and as soon as it went up the bombers advanced. We were the first reserves, and when the cry came for us we got our rifles and proceeded up the sap. We had not gone far when we came across three or four Turks who had gone up with the mine buried up to the waist. Beside them was our bomb officer wounded and he cried “Go on, lads and good luck to you.” On we went, passing a lot of Turks, until we came to a bit that had been filled in by the mine. That meant a run in the open, and so we made a bid for it, three of us getting across and joining three other men and a Corporal. We started to build our barricade and while doing so the Corporal had us all singing “Are we downhearted? No.” Johnnie Turk was giving us gip with his big black shells. When we had our barricade half up a Turk wandered along the sap. We were thinking he’d come to give himself up, but when ten yards from us he gave us a look of surprise and made to turn back. The man nearest to him struck him on the head with a water bottle and then we dropped a bomb in front of him. Poor fellow his football days are over. After two or three hours of hard work we got our barricade up, the trench deepened and a communication cut through."

The Kilmarnock Standard reported that his wife received official information of his wounding at 61 Robertson Place. It is interesting to note that after he married and returned from Stirling, he still lived in the same street as he had with his family when growing up.

After returning to Kilmarnock from the war, Andrew and Mary lived in a family home in Robertson Place. By the beginning of the 1920s, birth certificates on Scotland’s People show where they were living and that they had six daughters: Margaret 13th March 1920, followed by Agnes 9th June 1921, Elizabeth 30th December 1923, Janet April 28th 1926, Catherine 29th July 1928 and finally Jessie McCrone much later on 17th November 1939.

Jessie McCrone Allison Birth Certificate:
Bonnyton Road was built on the land of Bonnyton Farm. A Kilmarnock map, 1783 shows the farm. As the town grew in the early 1900s it swallowed up all the land around the farm.

At the age of 18, Andrew’s youngest daughter, Jessie, then married John Morran at St Joseph’s Church in July 1958. Sadly, from this certificate we can see that Andrew had died before her wedding.

Jessie McCrone Allison / John Morran Marriage Certificate:

Andrew’s eldest daughter Margaret married Allan Ferguson Aitken in 1942 at Bellfield House, Kilmarnock, a popular pace for weddings.

Margaret Allison / Allan Ferguson Aitken Marriage Certificate:

Sadly, Agnes Allison died aged just 17. Her death certificate below shows she worked in a carpet factory, but had developed a fever and passed away in Kirklandside Hospital.

Agnes Allison Death Certificate:

In 1945 Elizabeth Allison married Bernard Challinor who was in the navy and Catherine married Thomson Dale in 1948 in Symington.

Janet McCrone Allison married Joseph Robson in 1946 and they had a daughter called Mary McCrone Allison Robson the following year.

In 1966, Mary, Andrew’s grand-daughter, married George Gibson in Shortlees Church.

Mary McCrone Allison Robson / George Gibson Marriage Certificate:
Mary and George went on to have three children – Karen in 1967, David three years later, and finally Martin in 1981 – three great grand-children Andrew never knew.

Andrew had died on 15th March 1951 at the family home in Bonnyton Road. He was just 54 years old, as is shown in this death certificate. His death was recorded as partly due to chronic bronchitis and asthma.

*Andrew Allison Death Certificate:*

Andrew’s mother, Elizabeth Allison, survived her son. Her death certificate reveals she passed away in May 1952 – 52 years after her husband and a year after Andrew. She was living at 32 West Shaw Street and was aged 81.
I am 10 years old and working on this World War 1 History project has helped me with my Maths because we had to work with dates from Scotland’s People. It has also helped with Geography learning about new places and English when writing this. I now know much more about the history of Kilmarnock and how Kilmarnock was affected during World War 1. I have enjoyed all of my time working at the station and Burns Monument Centre and making new friends from other schools.
Hugh Boyd was born on 13th March, 1893. His parents’ names were Hugh Boyd and Margaret Lambie. His siblings’ names in the 1901 Census were George age 11, William 10, Frank 6, Janet 4 and Mary 2.

1901 Census:

Hugh’s birth certificate states that he was born in 15 North Hamilton Street, once part of Great Hamilton Street.

Hugh Boyd Birth Certificate:

The photograph shows house numbers 21-29 North Hamilton Street. Nearby, is a row of white enamelled brick tenements designed by local architect Robert Ingram and built in 1883. Known as the ‘Cheney Houses’ they are sited in the once industrial part of the town.

From the 1901 census we know he grew up in Langland Street, Kilmarnock which is round the corner. The street was built on the estates of Langlands, owned by the Dalrymple family in the early 19th century.

Travelling shop Langland Street circa 1890:
By the time of the 1911 Census, the family had moved to 46 Bonnyton Road.

1911 Census:

Interestingly it shows Hugh and Frank no longer lived in the family home! However 4 new siblings had been born since the 1901 Census John age 10, James 8, Maggie 5 and Euphemia 4. Hugh had six brothers and three sisters!

The family must have moved again as the Kilmarnock Standard article in 1915 reporting Hugh’s death gives his address as 5 Henrietta Street. This street was named after Henrietta Scott who was a local land owner when she married the Marquis of Titchfield, son of the Duke of Portland. The Valuation Roll of Kilmarnock Burgh for the year 1915-16 tells us the family paid £16 in rent.

The above photograph is one of the few available showing Henrietta Street, top left. It was taken in 1937 but the railway yard would have looked much busier during World War 1. The railway yard was then owned by The Caledonian Railway a rival to Glasgow & South Western Railway Company. After World War 2 Johnnie Walker whisky plant occupied this site. The only building that can be seen today is Nazareth House on Hill Street.

Henrietta Street is also long gone. In the late 1960s the last families left. The entrance would have been close to where the mosque on Hill Street is now. Many railway workers would have lived in...
Henrietta Street. Hugh would have had to walk past The Caledonian Railway Works to reach G&SWR Co Works on the other side of the station each day.

Hugh was a Hammerman to trade with the Glasgow & South Western Railway Company. A hammerman worked with cast iron steel. The hammer could have weighed up to 5 tons.

The steam hammer was in a hammer shop and was lifted and then dropped onto the steel until they had a rough shape.

When war broke out in 1914, Hugh was a Private in the 1st Royal Scots Fusiliers, 4th Battalion (service no 7866). Part of this Battalion's service was at Gallipoli. The Battle of Gallipoli, Turkey was one of the Allies great disasters in World War One. It was carried out between 25th April 1915 and 9th January 1916 on the Gallipoli peninsula in the Ottoman Empire.

Kilmarnock Standard 27th July 1915 reported that Private Hugh Boyd had been reported missing in action at Gallipoli on the 12th July and was assumed to be dead.

From the war records on the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website we know that Hugh Boyd was presumed to have died on 12 July 1915, in action at Gallipoli.
His name is listed on the Helles Memorial.
Additionally the Glasgow & South Western Railway Company War Memorial has Hugh Boyd’s name inscribed on it. The memorial was unveiled at a ceremony on 17th February 1922 at St Enoch Railway Station, Glasgow. All G&SWR Co workers killed in World War 1 had their name inscribed on this memorial. St Enoch Station closed in 1966 and the memorial was moved to Ayr Railway Station where it remains today.

From information in the Kilmarnock Standard report, it is known that Hugh had two brothers who also fought in World War 1. His oldest brother, Farrier Sergeant George Boyd was with the Royal Field Artillery in Egypt and Frank was with the Seaforths in France.

Both his brothers survived the war and came back to Scotland. Frank went on to have a job with the Council and was killed at Christmas 1944 when inspecting a boiler in The Grand Hall, Kilmarnock.

He had been checking the heating as the hall was being used to hold Italian Prisoners of War during World War II. The boiler exploded and he sadly passed away in the ambulance on the way to Kilmarnock Infirmary in Hill Street.

*Kilmarnock Standard 31st December 1944:*

Hugh and Frank Boyd have descendants who have been traced. Hugh Boyd was the great uncle of Duncan Reid, Jean Zerebeic and Douglas Reid, residents of Kilmarnock.
I really enjoyed learning about history and I wanted to learn more about Kilmarnock’s history and the railway station’s past. I now know much more and have enjoyed researching and putting together the story of one of the railway workers.
Sergeant John Cunningham

John Cunningham’s birth certificate shows us that he was born on 2nd May 1879 in the Burnpark Cottages, Riccarton.

John Cunningham Birth Certificate:

His parents were Alexander Cunningham and Isabella Livingston who married in Riccarton in February, 1859. They were both born in 1839 and Alexander was a coal miner.

Marriage certificate of Alexander Cunningham and Isabella Livingston:

Andrew Barclay Works (Electrical Engineer)

Scottish Horse Field Ambulance
Until 1832 Riccarton had been a separate village from the town of Kilmarnock, 1 mile to the north.

By the time the 1881 census was carried out, Alexander and Isabella had 8 children: David age 21, Agnes 14, Margaret 12, Isabella 9, William 7, Alexander 5, George 3 and finally John who was just 1 year old.

1881 Stewarton Census:

All the children were born in Riccarton except for William who was born in Galston. Interestingly this census reveals that the family was now living in Stewarton and Alexander was a publican.

The 1891 census, when John was 11, shows the family was back in Kilmarnock now living in 7 Robertson Place.

1891 Census:

There was also a 9th child called James, who was 8 years old and was born during their stay in Stewarton.

At that time John’s uncle, George, was living with the family. George was born at Inchgotrick in the Parish of Riccarton, 13th June 1848. He wrote poems under the name of Pate McPhun, many themed on Kilmarnock. Kilmarnock Standard produced a book of his poetry in 1912 dedicated to Alexander Walker who was then the managing director of the whisky firm he worked for.

Tenements - Princess St 1950s:

By 1901, when John was now 21 years old, the census reveals that his father had passed away and his mother, Isabella was now head of the house. Within her house at 23 Princes Street, we can see various generations of family living with her – children, grandchildren,
By this time John Cunningham served with Andrew Barclay and sons. He was an electrical engineer which was a position he continued after the war. Two specialities in his line of work were fireless locomotives (for use where smoke and spark were not permitted) and a crane jib mounted over the boiler. He would make winding gear to lift coal out of a deep mine.

It was also in 1901 that John married Janet Dickie Porteous, a lace curtain binder from 22 Richardland Road in the town.

Their wedding took place on 14th June in Janet’s home address and later that month Janet gave birth to their first child, Annie Semple Cunningham.

Two years later they had another daughter, Isabella Livingstone born in West Netherton Street and named after John’s mother.

We know from her death certificate that young Isabella died from tuberculosis when she was only 12 years old.
John was possibly at war at this point as it was Janet's father who registered the death and Isabella died at Janet's parents' house at the fire station in Green Street.

Isabella Livingston Cunningham Death Certificate:

In 1906 their first son Alexander was born at 42 Richardland Road, named after John's Father and brother.

Alexander Cunningham's Birth Certificate:

It was after his birth that the family moved to Glasgow. We know this as the birth of their fourth child, John, was in Govanhill, Glasgow in 1910.

Birth Certificate of John Cunningham 1910:

Their fifth child, Elizabeth was born in the parish of Eastwood in 1913.

Elizabeth Porteous Cunningham Birth Certificate:

Three months after World War 1 broke out John left to go to war. We know from The Kilmarnock Standard records of 17th June, 1916, that John fought at Gallipoli, Turkey. The Gallipoli campaign of 1915-16 also known as the Battle of Gallipoli or the Dardanelles Campaign. It was an unsuccessful attempt by the Allies to control the sea route from Europe to Russia during World War 1.

For a while John Cunningham worked for the Scottish Horse Field Ambulances. The Field Ambulances was a medical front line unit manned by troops of the Royal Army
Medical Corps. Most field ambulances came under a command of a division.

The newspaper also reported that John Cunningham, originally from Riccarton, now a Sergeant, had the unique honour of being the last man to leave Sulva Bay at Gallipolli as the Allies evacuated.

He also completed an engagement in West Africa before returning to Scotland and Glasgow.

This report also gives information on John’s two older brothers. William was serving in the Cameron Highlanders and Alexander sadly died in America shortly before John returned from the war.

We do not know for definite why she did this, but it was during this time that Janet must have looked for support from her own family. With five young children to look after and John away fighting in Gallipolli, we know from Grammar School records that young Alexander and John were enrolled there in 1915, with the guardian’s address as her parents’ home. We can imagine it was hard for her looking after them by herself.

Sadly, we know from his death certificate that John and Janet lost a second child, as young John died aged just 7 years old.

Death certificate of John Cunningham jnr. 1918:

In 1924, John’s daughter, Annie, married James Grier Soutter who was a motor mechanic, in Giffnock.

Annie Semple Cunningham’s Marriage Certificate:

Nine years later his other surviving daughter, Elizabeth married Frank Gee. Interestingly, Frank’s brother, James, was married that same day but in another place. James and his new wife were the witnesses at Elizabeth’s wedding.
Elizabeth Porteous Cunningham’s Marriage Certificate:

Frank and James Gee were the sons of a prominent Trade Unionist, Arthur Gee, as shown by this article in *The Glasgow Herald* from April 12th, 1940.

Although we know that John was still alive to see his daughters’ weddings, he had passed away before his wife’s death in 1952. We know this from her death certificate, as she was the widow of John Cunningham.

Janet Dickie Cunningham’s Death Certificate:

Therefore, we can confirm that between 1933 and 1952, John Cunningham died, however, we are unable to confirm his year of death in any records.
I put my name forward to be part of this project as I enjoy history projects. I never knew much about World War 1 but now I know the story of the railway worker I researched. Also when I visit Kilmarnock I take the train and I have enjoyed learning more about the railway and the station. When I started I only knew one other pupil from my school who is working on the project but I know everyone now and like working with them.
Alexander McIntosh was born in 1872, place unknown. His parents were Alexander McIntosh, a carter and Helen (Nelly) S Clark. We know this from his death certificate but have been unable to source the birth certificate for Alexander and both of his parents.

There is not much known about Alexander’s early life.

On the 29th of October 1898 at St. Joseph’s Chapel, Kilmarnock, Alexander married Elizabeth Murphy. Elizabeth was born in 1875 and lived at 27 Fore Street and worked as a carpet weaver, an important industry in Kilmarnock. Her parents’ names were John Murphy, from Ireland, and Catherine Donnachie.

The Murphys originally lived in Clerk’s Lane, one of the oldest streets in the town. It was narrow and zigzagged all the way to the Kay Park. It was named after William Patterson, the town clerk when built. Clerk’s Lane Church was first built in 1775. Its replacement was built in 1807 later becoming the town’s first cinema. In 1896 the buildings in the lane were described as “low decrepit thatched houses, their white washed walls grimy with weather stains”.

Clerk’s Lane fell into further decay and was completely cleared last century. Today the multi-story sits where this ancient street once was.

Kilmarnock had a number of Irish immigrants who lived in this area. Many were labourers at the railway station and the route they took from their lodgings to work at the station was along East George Street. The locals called this street Paddy’s Brae.

Alexander was employed as a general labourer at the time lived at 27 Fore Street as did Elizabeth Murphy as shown on the marriage certificate below. The address probably had several flats and it was common for people to marry a near neighbour.

Marriage Certificate Alexander McIntosh and Elizabeth Murphy:
Near Kilmarnock Cross, Fore Street was one of the oldest streets in the town dating from 1550. It was once the main street of the town but by the late 19th century it was becoming a slum. People lived upstairs in terrible conditions, the ground floor brokers’ shops with furniture, old boots and clothing spilling out the doors. Many suffered from poverty and ill health. Unwashed children played in the gutters with not much room for people walking. In 1896 local writer George Umber described it as “narrow and tortuous but had a delightful huddlement of angle and gables, and chimney stacks and outside stairs.” Two years later historian, artist and architect, Thomas Smillie said “a good fire would be no great calamity!” Much of this slum housing was cleared in the 1920s.

In 1899 Alex and Elizabeth had a daughter, Helen.

Helen McIntosh Birth Certificate:

Helen later married David Quinn in 1922.

Marriage Certificate Helen McIntosh and David Quinn:

In 1924 they had a daughter Annie Easdale Muir. She sadly died aged 13 months on 3rd August, 1925 at Kilmarnock Infirmary from pneumonia, after having been hospitalised with severe burns.

Annie Quinn Death Certificate:

Helen and David were living at 9 High Street at this time. It is interesting to note that Helen lived on the other side of the railway viaduct from where she had lived with her parents in Fore Street. The photograph shows a much better quality of house compared to that of her childhood.
The 1901 census, reveals that Alex McIntosh was serving in the army, as his wife was listed as Head of House due to “husband at front”.

1901 Census (Alex is mentioned as away at the front in 1901 and only wife/child/father in law John Murphy, born in Ireland, in 1911):

He had joined the Royal Scots Fusiliers circa 1877 and served with them for 29 years. Source Kilmarnock Standard 4th March 1916.

Royal Scots Fusiliers were formed in 1678 and existed until 1959, when it was amalgamated into the Royal Highland Fusiliers. During the World War 1 they saw action in many campaigns and battles including the Battle of the Somme, the Battle of Ypres and Gallipoli.

For six of these years Alex McIntosh served in India (then a part of the British Empire).

He also took part in the South African Campaign, the Second Boer War, receiving two medals - one with five bars and one with two. (Source Kilmarnock Standard 4th March 1916).

When the 1911 census was conducted, Alex was away. His wife and daughter were now living with Alex’s father-in-law, John Murphy, an Irishman who was now a widower, aged 74. Alexander McIntosh’s wife’s family possibly emigrated from Ireland to Scotland because of the potato famine. The famine was caused by blight which is a disease which attacks potatoes. The blight came from America and during this time Ireland lost 25% of its population as people left to go to other countries including America and Scotland.

1911 Census (Alex is Mentioned as away at the front in 1901 and only wife/child/father in law John Murphy, born in Ireland, in 1911):

At the outbreak of World War 1 Alexander was employed at the railway works. He was called up as a reservist and spent the early months of the war serving in France.

There was a variety of trades and skills across Kilmarnock Railway Works:
Station master [ he was in charge]
Clerical and technical staff
Porters [ carrying luggage onto trains]
Telegraph operator
Clerks in ticket office
Guards
Hammermen
Turners
Labourers

Kilmarnock Standard from the 4th March 1916 reported on Private Alex McIntosh’s death. His address was given as 18 Robertson Place.

Robertson Place:

He had been discharged from the army because of illness in December 1915. He returned to Kilmarnock, working for only four weeks at the Britannia Works before he died on 24th February 1916 from TB.

Alexander McIntosh Death Certificate:

He was survived by his wife, children and grandchildren and he was buried in New Cemetery (Grassyards Road)
Kilmarnock with military honours, according to the Kilmarnock Standard of 4th March 1916.

Being buried with military honours is a memorial or burial rite given by country’s military for a soldier, sailor, marine or airman who died in battle a veteran or other prominent military figures or heads of state. A military funeral may feature guards of honour the firing of the elements with a flag draping over the coffin.

With assistance from East Ayrshire Council, we were able to locate Alexander McIntosh’s lair within the New Cemetery, Kilmarnock. Although there is no head stone at his grave, these details of his lair show that buried alongside him were his unmarried brother-in-law Henry Murphy, aged 53 and his young grand-daughter, Annie, aged just 13 months.

East Ayrshire Council Record of Family Lair:

With the death of Alexander, his wife Elizabeth McIntosh became a widow and continued to live at 18 Robertson Place for the next twenty seven years. Elizabeth McIntosh died 16th January 1942 age 66.

Elizabeth McIntosh Death Certificate:
Taking part in this World War 1 Project has helped me with my Maths as we had to find out dates on censuses and then do sums to work out people’s age. It has also helped with Geography by finding out about places where Alex McIntosh served and English with writing this. I also have made new friends and enjoyed all my time working in the group.
Private William Robertson

Glasgow & South Western Railway Co
(Wagon Fitter)

5th Cameron Highlanders

David Robertson was born about 1865 and Jessie McKnight, his wife a year earlier. They were married in New Cumnock in July 1888.

Birth Certificate William Robertson:

The 1901 census reveals that their son William Robertson was born in Kilmarnock about 1896. The census also tells us that William had brothers Andrew aged 12 and James 10 and sisters Mary 8, Flora 7 and Janet 1. They were living in Wilton Buildings, Bonnyton Road. From the entries in the 1901 Census, it seems that the Wilton Buildings were between the numbers 46 and 50 Bonnyton Road.

1901 Census:
Nowadays, Kilgour Terrace is now part of Bonnyton Road further along from where the Wilton buildings were, on the same side of the street.

Also living in the house with them was Edgar Grierson, aged 28, a boarder.

Ten years later, in the 1911 census, William was still living with his mother, father and his siblings Janet aged 11, Andrew 22 and James 20. However, his mother and father had three more children by then – Alexander aged 8, David 6 and Hugh 3. The family had moved to 3 Gillsburn Place, Kilmarnock, a side street next to Dean Street.

1911 Census:

Gillsburn appears on late 18th century maps on the road to Glasgow. It’s not known what Gillsburn was – perhaps a farm or hamlet?

A rare photograph of Gillsburn Place circa 1950s looking towards Townholm. Sadly these red sandstone tenements have been demolished.

Edgar Grierson was still living with them; he was working at the Railway Locomotive Works as a blacksmith's stoker. By this time Mary and Flora had both left the house and were married.

After leaving school, William Robertson became a wagon fitter, with the Glasgow & South Western Railway Co which involved building and repairing railroad cars.
World War 1 began on 28th July 1914 and lasted until 11th November 1918. Britain declared War on Germany after it invaded Belgium and France.

William served in a regiment called the 5th Cameron Highlanders. This regiment was active from 1793-1961. The commander was Colonel HRH the Duke of Edinburgh. It was part of the Highland Brigade. The Highland Brigade consisted of three regiments,

- 42nd (Royal Highland) regiment of foot.
- 79th (The Queens Own Cameron Highlanders) Regiment of foot.
- 93rd (Sutherland Highlanders) Regiment of foot.

The 5th Cameron Highlanders landed in France in the Spring of 1915 and spent much of the rest of year in action at the Battle of Loos.

Kilmarnock Standard 19th February 1916 reported that on the 9th February 1916, Private William Robertson was killed from a bullet through the head. It did not mention where William died. In a letter to William’s parents the chaplain wrote:

“He was standing in front of the B Company at the time. He could not have been seen from where he was. I have stood there myself often and it is quite a safe place as far as any place can be. I think the bullet must have struck a tree and been turned down in its course, and in this way hit your boy. We buried him in a small cemetery at the corner of a wood about a mile and a half from the firing line.”
His Commanding Officer added:

"It may comfort you to know that the minister read a burial service, and that we are having a cross put over his grave. We are all mourning the loss of a very promising and gallant young soldier."

His family were devastated, particularly as his older brother James of the 2nd Battalion Gordon Highlanders was presumed dead, having been missing since the battle of Loos where he took part in a great charge on the 25th September 1915. He had not been seen or heard of since. James also worked with the Glasgow & South Western Railway Company at their Brassie Works as a joiner.

The Battle of Loos took place from 25 September to 13 October 1915 in Northern France. The photograph shows British Infantry advancing through poison gas at Loos on that day. The war had become bogged down into trench warfare. It was the biggest British attack of 1915. The French and British tried to break through the German lines and begin a war of movement. The British and French had better equipment and ammunition but the Germans held their ground. British casualties at Loos were about twice as high as German losses.

The war continued with soldiers fighting in trenches under terrible conditions. In 1916 this type of fighting continued at the Battle of The Somme where the British Army suffered its bloodiest day in its history. On the first day of the Battle of The Somme, Britain suffered 19,420 casualties and a total of 420,000 in the duration of the Battle of The Somme.

Many of the losses came from soldiers being ordered to climb out of their trench and advance through no man’s land towards the German trenches only to be mown down by machine gun fire from German trenches. The Somme was the first battle of Kitchener’s Recruits. Many were inexperienced.

When soldiers died in battle bodies would be retrieved during a ceasefire or a lull in the fighting. Many bodies were not found having been buried in the mud of the battle. Today bodies are still found in fields where battles took place. Nearly one million British and Commonwealth servicemen died during World War 1.

William lies buried in Hyde Park Corner Cemetery in Belgium, one of eighty seven burials: eighty three Commonwealth burials.
and four German war graves. The Hyde Park Corner Cemetery is in the care of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and was set up in April 1915 by the 1st and 4th Royal Berkshire Regiment Troops.

Among those buried there is Ronald Poulton-Palmer, who was captain of the England Rugby Union Team. He was killed by a sniper in May 1915, in Ploegsteert Wood.

William Robertson had written a "soldier's will" on 5th October 1915, which said: "In the event of my death, I give the whole of my property & effects to Mrs D. Robertson, 47 Dean Street, Kilmarnock." It seems the family had moved the short distance from Gillsburn Place – why we do not know. Dean Street was originally called Cotton Street. It is on the road leading out of Kilmarnock on the way north to Glasgow.

His signature is shown on the informal will with the name of his regiment, the 5th Cameron Highlanders, and his regimental number and rank – Pte No 18459.
Glasgow & South Western Railway Co. War Memorial confirms that both brothers died during the World War 1.

William's parents outlived their sons and were still living at 47 Dean Street in 1945, when his father died at the age of 79. The informant on the death record is David and Jessie's other son, Andrew Robertson, whose address is given as 5 Witch Road.

David Robertson Death Certificate:
I am 11 years old and I enjoyed this project because I made new friends. It was fun getting to go up to the Burns Monument Centre and using Scotland’s People. I learned about the history of Kilmarnock and different streets. I also learned about World War 1 including different regiments and where battles took place and who was involved.
After examining William's Birth Certificate, we determined that John Thomson and Elizabeth Guthrie were married on September 3rd 1886 in Blythswood, Glasgow. Both William and Elizabeth were born in 1862.

We then looked for a birth certificate for their son William and found that William Guthrie Thomson was born in Townhead, Kilmaurs on 22nd December 1894.

William Thomson Birth Certificate:

William had 2 brothers, Colin and Anthony, and 3 sisters Agnes, Annabella and Clementina.

According to the 1901 census, the family now lived at Fenwick Road, Kilmaurs. His parents were not from Ayrshire and Agnes the oldest daughter was born in Glasgow.

1901 Census:

The 1911 Census tells us the family was now living at 23 Fullarton Street, Kilmarnock and provides lots of information. John, the head of the house was now age 49, worked as a machinist with an engineering company. His wife, same age, has no occupation listed. We can assume she stayed at home to manage many tasks at home that were needed such as doing laundry in the wash house and constantly keeping coal fires going which heated the house. Of the children Agnes 26 worked as a shop assistant (Kilmarnock had many family owned businesses and shops in its busy town centre), Annabella 24 as a hosiery worker, Clementina 20 as a dressmaker, William 17 as an iron turner and Colin and Antony both 11 were at school.

It is interesting that three different families lived at number 23. Tenement houses in Fullarton Street, and many parts of Kilmarnock had a shared entry with three or four flats which had either one or two bedrooms.
The family lived at 23 Fullarton St, Kilmarnock at the outbreak of war in 1914, when William was approximately 20 years old – Kilmarnock Standard 19th February 1916.

William’s home would have been on the left hand side midway along the photograph. Fullarton Street has a link to the Duke of Portland because in the 19th century the Duke of Portland bought Fullarton in Troon. Then in 1812 the Kilmarnock and Troon railway was built. The railway line from Troon went behind this area and was then named Fullarton Street.

As a young man, William worked as a turner for the Glasgow & South Western Co Railway Works. He was in charge of a high speed turning machine. It would take cast metal and turn it into accurate shapes to make parts of trains like wheels and other circular objects. The turner would use tools to shape the metal. As well as metal it could be used to shape wood into other shapes.

In his spare time William was also a member of the local Harriers Club. The Kilmarnock Standard 19th February 1916 mentions this in the report of his injury. He won multiple medals with the
Kilmarnock Harriers. Kilmarnock Harriers was established in 1887 and is 'still going strong' to this day.

Kilmarnock Harrier & Athletic Club Minute Book 1924 - 33 has several records that are of interest:

**General Meeting Minute:**

Monday, August 31st, 1924,

A general meeting of members was held in the house of Mr. James, Dunlop's Commercial Hotel.

The financial statement made by the President, Mr. Thomson, showed that the Club had a balance of £28 11s. 6d. surplus in the Bank Account. The cash on hand amounted to £7 16s. 4d.


**Committee Meeting 15th December 1924:**

It could be said William Thomson is a common name - is this a correct match? The two documents above reveal that William Thomson was now living at 28 Fullarton Street although the dates differ. On 3rd July 1924 William Thomson had a daughter, Elizabeth Guthrie Thomson. Her Birth Certificate clearly indicates William Thomson lived at this address. This removes any doubt.

Elizabeth Guthrie Thomson Birth Certificate:

William Thomson was elected as President at this meeting.

**Committee Meeting 15th December 1924:**

Monday, 13th December 1924,

The committee met at the residence of the President, 28 Fullarton St. when the following members were present: Mr. Thomson, Mr. Wylie, Mr. Cowie, Mr. Richardson, Mr. Stewart.

Affidavit for members were received from Mr. Stewart and Mr. Wylie.

**Committee Meeting 31st August 1925:**

It is interesting to see that after William married in 1921 he moved out of his parents’ home at number 23 across the road to number 28.

A further record from Kilmarnock Harriers:
A General Meeting took place, 20th August 1928. William Thomson stepped down from office and became a Life Member.

The photograph shows athletes and officials. The President would have worn a lapel badge. The gentleman in the back row far left sports such a badge, an older William Thomson?

These archives and record books can be found today at Ayrshire Athletics Arena, Kilmarnock in the Kilmarnock Harriers Trophy Cabinet.

William was part of the Royal Scots Fusiliers (RFS), 1/4th Battalion, when war broke out and he also was part of the Territorial Army. William’s battalion was mobilised on 4th August 1914.

After training in Stirling, he left for Gallipoli. On the 9th January 1916, while serving with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force. William was admitted to a government hospital in Alexandria, Egypt, suffering from shell concussion from fighting in Gallipoli. His injuries were not severe and he was discharged soon afterwards.

Kilmarnock Standard 19th February 1916 reported on William’s injuries while serving with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

After the war, William came back to Kilmarnock and we assume that he returned to the railways.
He married Elizabeth Barr Wallace on 13th December 1921 in the Cooperative Hall, John Dickie Street in the town.

Elizabeth was a dress maker living in Purroch Cottage, Hurlford. Purroch Cottage no longer exists but Purroch Farm is still in use. It is just behind the HM Prison and the A76 road to Cumnock.

We then found out that William and Elizabeth had a daughter, Elizabeth Guthrie Thomson after finding a birth certificate (see Birth Certificate amongst Harriers records) and we later discovered that she was born July 3rd 1924.

William's daughter, Elizabeth, moved to Glasgow and lived in Burnbrae Street. On 29th December 1949 she married Ronald Powell, who lived in Colchester, the son of a lorry driver.

William died June 29th 1969 in Stobhill hospital in Glasgow.

William Thomson and Elizabeth Barr Wallace Marriage Certificate:

Elizabeth Guthrie Thomson & Ronald Powell Marriage Certificate:

William Thomson Death Certificate:
I have enjoyed meeting people from other schools and have enjoyed reading about World War 1 and Private William Thomson. I also liked reading about railways and the Glasgow & South Western Railway Company and its works as well. I have found it very interesting as well as having a good time. This project has helped my Geography and History skills and writing too and even Maths when using ages and dates from censuses. I liked working with East Ayrshire Family History Society and other community groups.
Private Andrew Young

The 1891 census shows Hugh Young, his wife Helen Young and their infant daughter, Helen, were living with Helen's parents and siblings at 21 New Street, Riccarton.

1891 Census:

Her birth certificate shows that young Helen had been born at 22 New Street.

Helen Young Birth Certificate:

Glasgow & South Western Railway Co. (Engineer Fitter)

Gordon Highlanders
On 14th April 1893, Hugh Young emigrated with his family on a ship from Glasgow to New York, United States of America to start a new life - taking 32 days to get there. The ship was called State of California and it held 388 people.

The State of California was first launched in January 1891 by Alexander Stephen & Sons of Glasgow, for State of California Company, Glasgow.

The ship was a 2,266 ton iron passenger steamer. In 1913 it foundered on the way to San Francisco from Gambier Bay, hitting a rock. The Captain reversed at full speed and headed for shore desperately trying to beach her before she sank. There were 74 passengers and 76 crew members on board. Thankfully SS Jefferson helped get passengers off safely, however 32 died. The ship was worth $200,000 and insured at $181,000.

The family were Hugh Young – an iron turner (27), his wife Helen Young (25), and their daughter Ellen Young (2). Mary Young (8) was part of the family but the connection is unknown. Their destination was listed as Allegheny, Pennsylvania.

The State of California - Passenger List:
After settling for several years in Pennsylvania, Hugh and Helen had a son, Andrew, named after Helen’s father. He was born on the 28th of February, 1896. Although we do not know exactly when or why they left America, the 1901 Census shows that the family was back in Kilmarnock. Historians tell us around that time many Scots came back home for a number of reasons such as business failing, homesickness or missing their family.

1901 Census:

The census tells us that they were living in a two roomed house in Dean Street with ten year old Ellen, their young son, Andrew plus another baby, Agnes, named after Hugh’s mother.

Hugh was now a Dairy Man and Helen a Dairy Attendant. Dean Street was built on main route from Kilmarnock to Glasgow as the town expanded northwards, along with Portland Street and Wellington Street.

Crucially, five year old Andrew is listed as “not naturalised”, which meant he was still an American citizen.

In 1911, the next census shows that the Young family was living in another different address at 42 New Street, Riccarton, once a small village, but now part of Kilmarnock.
Riccarton has a proud history and is said to be home of the Wallace family. It is claimed Sir William Wallace, campaigner for Scottish freedom was born in the village of Ellerslie in Riccarton Parish. What is known is a royal charter in 1165 granted the land around here, north of the River Irvine to Richard Wallace, great grandfather of Sir William Wallace. Riccarton was originally known as Richards Town.

New Street was build out of Compton Street mid-19th Century. The last thatched cottage in Kilmarnock was found here until 1911 when it was re-roofed.

1911 New Street Census:

We can see that Andrew’s Grandfather (Helen’s father), a retired dairyman, was now living in their house. Andrew, aged 15, was working as an engineer fitter with Glasgow & South Western Railway Company.

An apprentice engineer would be age 14-19. By the time Andrew was 18 he would be time served, and afterwards he would become a journey man. His job probably meant he worked with rolling stock such as carriages or if he was a civil engineer he may have learned about bridges and railway lines. He may have worked with points which is a leaver at the side of a fork shaped track when you pull it, it directs you up the right track. An engineer could also work with calls and signals.

Following the outbreak of war, 18 year old Andrew enlisted with the Gordon Highlanders and with eleven week’s training he was drafted to France. He fought through many battles before being taken prisoner at Loos. The Battle of Loos took place in France from 25th September to 13th October, 1915. It was the first time Britain used poisonous gas.
Kilmarnock Standard 12th February 1916, reported that Andrew was taken to a prisoner of war camp at Friedrichfeld, Germany.

He worked six days a week and his friends managed to send him parcels from home. In a letter to his parents he said he was “in good health”. He added that he was working six days a week which made the time go by quicker. He also acknowledged the kindness of a number of friends who sent him parcels.

Some POWs were forced to work in a nearby chemical factory.

After the war was over, we know from a marriage certificate that Andrew (now a locomotive fitter) married Elizabeth Galbraith on the 25th January, 1920. Elizabeth was the daughter of Robert Galbraith, a stone mason, and Mary Crawford. Sadly, we can see that her mother had passed away before the wedding took place.

Andrew Young / Elizabeth Galbraith Marriage Certificate:

After 38 years of marriage, Andrew’s wife Elizabeth passed away in her home town of Largs, although they were still living in Kilmarnock in New Street, Riccarton. She was 65. By this time, Andrew would have been approximately 62 and was working as a Streets Inspector according to her death certificate.

Andrew Young died on 16th July 1967. He may have been born in America, but Andrew passed away in what was to become his home town of Kilmarnock. He was 71 and had retired from fitting locomotives.
Andrew died at Springhill Place, Kilmarnock which was once on the grounds of Springhill House, a mansion house built around 1840 built by the Finnie family who made their fortune from digging out coal underneath Kilmarnock. John Finnie Street in the town centre is named after one of the family. The last of the Finnies left the house to the people of Kilmarnock to be used as an eventide home. In 1966 sheltered housing was built on the grounds of Springhill House. We can guess that Andrew perhaps spent his last year alone here.

*Andrew Young Death Certificate:*
I have really enjoyed being involved in this heritage project, using Scotland’s People and Station archives to take notes to put my presentation together. It has been fun too working with others and sharing ideas. I have enjoyed researching one of the workers and writing their story especially during World War 1.

I also enjoyed making the poppies, especially painting them which will be part of our exhibition. We hope to cover much of the station in poppies.
Unveiling and Dedication
of the War Memorial erected by the Glasgow
and South Western Railway Company to
their Employees who fell in the Great War.
1914-1919

Order of Proceedings

1. PSALM 46 (1 to 5)
   Tune "St PAUL"
   God in our refuge and our strength,
   In death a present aid;
   Therefore, although the earth remove,
   We will not be afraid.
   Though floods endure the sea be cast;
   Though waves roaring make,
   And troubled be; yet, though the hills
   By swelling seas be broken.
   A river is, whose streams do glad
   The city of our God;
   The holy place, wherein the Lord
   Most high hath His abode.
   God in the midst of her doth dwell;
   Nothing shall her remove;
   The Lord to her an holpset will,
   And that right early, prove.

2. New Testament Lesson
   REV. vii. (9 to 17)
   Rev. JOHN WHITE, D.D.
   [The Doctor]

At the hour of 11.40 a.m. a reverential silence
will be preserved for the space of two minutes.

3. Two Minutes' Silence

4. Unveiling of the Memorial
   and Address
   Field-Marshall EARL HAIG

5. The Lament
   — Piper
   — The Last Post
   (Buglers)

6. Dedication and Oratory
   Prayer
   Rev. JOHN WHITE, D.D.
   (The Doctor)
   — Reveille
   (Buglers)

PARAPHRASE 2
   Tune "St. Paul"
   O God of Israel by whose hand
   Thy people still are fed;
   Who through this weary pilgrimage
   Hast all our fathers led.
   Our vows, our prayers, we now present
   Before Thy throne of grace;
   God of our fathers! be the God
   Of thy succeeding race.
Through each perplexing path of life
Our wandering footsteps guide;
Give us each day our daily bread,
And suffer to provide.

O spread Thy covering wings around,
Till all our wandering cease;
And at our Father’s hand abide
Our souls invite in peace.

Such blessings from Thy generous hand
Our humble prayer invokes;
And Thou shalt be our chosen God,
And portion forever.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

God save our gracious King;
Long live our noble King;
God save the King!
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us;
God save the King!

May the Prince of Peace
On him be pleased to pour
Long may he reign;
May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice,
"God save the King!" Amen.

Floral Tributes

WILL BE PLACED AT THE MEMORIAL BY

Lord Glenarthur on behalf of the Directors,
Mr. David Cooper, General Manager.
Mr. John Robertson on behalf of the Officers.
Mr. G. McDowall and Mr. Wm. McQuiston.

Other tributes to follow after.

Roll of Honour

of the
Glasgow and South Western Railway

ADAMS, GODFREY.
ADAMS, JOHN.
ALEXANDER, ARCHIBALD.
ALFORD, CHARLES W.
ALLISON, SAMUEL.
ANDERSON, ALEXANDER.
ANDERSON, GEORGE.
ANDERSON, PETER.
ANDREW, WILLIAM.
ARMOUR, JOHN.
ARMSTRONG, ROBERT.
BANKS, ALEXANDER.
BARRIE, WILLIAM.
BEATSON, GEORGE.
BEATTIE, LLEWELYN.
BLACKWOOD, JOHN.
BLAIR, GEORGE.
BLAIR, JAMES T.
BOYD, HUGH.
BOYD, THOMAS.
BRACKENRIDGE, W.
BRINKWORTH, CHAS. F.
BROWN, ALEXANDER.
BROWN, ANDREW.
BROWN, HAMILTON.
BROWN, JOHN.
BROWN, ANDREW T.
BRUCE, HERBERT.
BURGESS, JOHN.
BURGOYNE, WILLIAM.
BULL, CHARLES.
CALLANDER, JAMES.
CAMERON, ANDREW.
CAMERON, WILLIAM.
CAMPBELL, GEORGE.
CAMPBELL, THOMAS.
CARL, JOHN.
CASELL, ROBERT.
CASES, JOHN.
CHALMERS, ANDREW.
CHALMERS, JAMES.
CHARTERIS, WILLIAM J.
CLEW, WILLIAM.
COIL, CHARLES.
COLE, ROBERT.
CONNELL, JAMES.
CONNELY, BERNARD.
CONNING, ROBERT.
CRAIG, THOMAS.
CRAWFORD, DAVID.
CRICK, JAMES.
CRAY, FRANK F.
CRAWFORD, PETER.
CUNNINGHAM, GEORGE.
CUNNINGHAM, WILLIAM.
CURTIS, ROBERT.
DAVIDSON, ISAAC.
DAVIDSON, JAMES.
DEMPSEY, JOHN.
DEMPSTER, JAMES.
DICK, WILLIAM.
DICK, WALTER.
DICKSON, JOHN.
DICKSON, ROBERT.
DOBIE, THOMAS.
DOCHERTY, ALBERT.
DOCHERTY, JAMES.
DOCHERTY, JOHN.
DOUGLAS, JAMES.
DOUGLAS, RICHARD.
DOWNIE, ALEXANDER.
DOWNIE, JOHN.
DOWNS, FRANK.
DRYSDALE, JOHN.
DUPP, ARCHIBALD.
DUNLOP, HARRY.
EDGAR, THOMAS M.
FELL, JOHN.
FERGUSON, ALEXANDER.
FERGUSON, GEORGE.
FERGUSON, JAMES.
FERGUSON, MATTHEW.
FINDLAY, JAMES.
FISHER, GEORGE A.
FÖRST, STUART F.
FRATER, ALEXANDER.
FULTON, ALEXANDER.
GALBRAITH, GEORGE.
GARVEN, GEORGE.
GAVIN, WILLIAM F.
GIRSON, CHARLES.
GILLIES, RICHARD.
GILLIES, JOSEPH.
GOLDSMITH, WILLIAM.
HOGG, ROBERT.
HOGG, STUART.
HOLT, FRANCIS.
HOLMES, THOMAS.
HUBBARD, WILLIAM.
HUGH, GEORGE.
HUNTER, WILLIAM.
HUNTINGTON, JOHN.
HUNTER, WILLIAM.
JAMES, WILLIAM.
JAMIESON, WILLIAM.
JARDINE, WILLIAM.
JAY, JAMES.
JAY, WILLIAM.
JENKINSON, WILLIAM.
JOHNSTON, JOHN.
JOHNSTON, THOMAS.
JOHNSTON, WILLIAM.
KEANE, JAMES R.
KEATING, HENRY.
KEATING, ROBERT.
KERR, THOMAS.
KERR, WILLIAM.
KERR, WILLIAM.
KIDDIE, JOHN C.
KING, JAMES.
KIRK, FRANCIS.
KIRKPATRICK, JAMES.
KIRKPATRICK, ROBERT.
KIRKPATRICK, ROBERT.
LAMBERTON, WILLIAM.
LAPRAIRIE, THOMAS.
LESLIE, JAMES.
LIGAT, WILLIAM C.
Memorial Event
for the workers of
Kilmarnock Railway Station
and
Kilmarnock Railway Works
who served their country
during World War I
Friday, 11th November, 2016
at 10.30 a.m.
Order of Proceedings

1. Welcome

2. ‘O God our Bethel by Whose Hand’
   Tune ‘St Paul’

   O God of Bethel! by whose hand
   thy people still are fed;
   who through this weary pilgrimage
   hast all our fathers led:

   Our vows, our prayers, we now present
   before Thy throne of grace:
   God of our fathers! be the God
   of their succeeding race.

   Through each perplexing path of life
   our wand’ring footsteps guide;
   give us each day our daily bread,
   and raiment fit provide.

   O spread Thy cov’ring wings around,
   till all our wand’ring cease,
   and at our Father’s lov’d abode
   our souls arrive in peace!

   Such blessings from Thy gracious hand
   our humble pray’rs implore;
   and Thou shalt be our chosen God,
   and portion evermore.

3. Councillor Jim Todd, The Provost of East Ayrshire

4. Verse ‘The Toon O’ Kilmarnock’ -
   Pate McPhun

5. Reverential Silence will be preserved for the
   space of one minute.

6. ‘Sarajevo’

7. The Last Post

8. National Anthem

   God save our gracious King;
   Long live our noble King;
   God save the King!
   Send him victorious,
   Happy and glorious,
   Long to reign over us:
   God save the King!

   Thy choicest gifts in store
   On him be pleased to pour;
   Long may he reign!
   May he defend our laws,
   And ever give us cause
   To sing with heart and voice,
   “God save the King!”
9. Invitation to view the archive in ‘Storm In A Teacup’ Cafe

Roll of Honour

Andrew Allison, Railway Works (Hammerman)
1/4th Royal Scots Fusiliers

Hugh Boyd, G&SWR Co. (Hammerman)
1/4th Royal Scots Fusiliers

John Cunningham, Andrew Barclay Works (Electrical Engineer)
Scottish Horse Field Ambulance

Alexander McIntosh, Britannia Works (Railway Worker)
3rd Royal Scots Fusiliers

William Robertson, G&SWR Co. (Wagon Fitter)
5th Cameron Highlanders

William Thomason, G&SWR Co. (Turner)
1/4th Royal Scots Fusiliers

Andrew Young, G&SWR Co. (Engineer Fitter)
Gordon Highlanders

World War I Schools’ Research Project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund ‘World War I - Then and Now’
P7 Pupils from local primary schools researched and produced the archive of 7 workers employed at Kilmarnock Railway Works and Kilmarnock Railway Station.

Callum Hart - Annanhill Primary
Lily Hunter - Annanhill Primary
Laura Kennedy - Gargieston Primary
Abbie McEwan - Crosshouse Primary
Luke O’Callaghan - Kilmaurs Primary
Katie Woods - Kilmaurs Primary
Skye Wyllie - Crosshouse Primary

Memorial Event and Exhibition organised by St. Joseph’s Academy S6 pupils
Zara Ainsworth
Sophie Gallagher
Ava Hepburn
Ann McGiffen
The last Sunday in June was the Grozet fair holiday which John and Bella, two unremarkable residents of Kilmarnock, were looking forward to. However, no one could have expected the events which would begin during the Grozet Fair of 1914.

John and Bella always walked to the Laigh Kirk for morning service. They would leave their house in Grange Street at half past ten as Bella always insisted on having plenty of time. Church time made the main streets quite busy and John would raise his hat as Bella nodded solemn greetings to friends they met.

The streets were crowded in another town that morning too, many more people than might have been expected lined the route the Archduke of Austria and his wife were to take through Sarajevo to reach the City Hall for the official reception by the Burgomaster and local political figures.

Before leaving the house John put a final shine to his boots and Bella brushed down her Sunday best clothes.

Cabrinovich, a Serbian Nationalist, threw a crude bomb at the Archduke’s car in Sarajevo. He missed and the bomb skittered under the car behind. The explosion wounded two officers and the Archduke was badly shaken. An hour or so later, the welcoming ceremony at the City Hall was over and the Royal couple requested that they make a brief visit to the city hospital to see the wounded officers.

John and Bella crossed John Finnie Street in Kilmarnock.

The procession in Sarajevo set off again. Princip, another Serb Nationalist involved in the assassination plot was surprised to find himself staring straight at the Royal couple as their car slowly passed less than ten feet away, on its altered route. Such a chance was enough to overcome all his nerves; he fired two shots into the car.

The choir was leading the congregation into the opening psalm in Kilmarnock’s Laigh Kirk.

The Royal Couple in Sarajevo were rushed to the nearest building as their wounds were too serious for there to be time to reach the City...
The Toon O’ Kilmarnock

When oor faithas, in quest
O’ a hame in the west,
Cam’ here to the glen o’ the Garnock,
They picked oot a place
That was just to their taste,
The bonnie toon o’ Kilmarnock.

Then hey for the glen o’ the Garnock!
Ho! for the toon o’ Kilmarnock,
The place o’ oor birth
The grandest on Earth,
Oor ain native toon o’ Kilmarnock.

A trip frae the Cross
To the Dean and Assloss,
And doon by the water o’Borlan’,
‘S as guid as a jaunt
To some favourite haunt,
The saft sunny sooth, or the nor’lan.
Chorus

Some boast o’ yon toon
On the banks o’ the Doon,
Whar Shaner was chased by the warlock.
We admit it is fair
But nocht to compare
Wi’ the bonnie toon o’ Kilmarnock.
Chorus

Hospital. It was the very one where the planned champagne lunch was at that moment being laid out for them.

John, Bella and the other worshippers in Kilmarnock were ending the last verse of the psalm.

Ferdinand and Sophie lay dead on hastily cleared tables in Sarajevo.

On July 4th, six days after the murders in Sarajevo, the Kilmarnock Standard carried no mention of them other than an editorial.

From such an innocent viewpoint the events in Sarajevo could be deplored as tragic, and condemned as one more example of how society was drifting away from proper standards, but they were certainly not seen as forming any serious threat to the future in places like Kilmarnock.

The Standard focused on local news. They reported that Mr and Mrs Andrew Kyle had enjoyed “an interesting family gathering” to celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary with “a pleasant social evening interspersed with singing.” More serious and illegal was the behaviour of seven Kilmarnock men on the Glasgow & South Western Railway who were trespassing. Their actions were an example of something that was becoming “far too common” said the Sheriff as he fined each of them. To the residents of Kilmarnock, the news covered in the Standard was deemed as very serious. However, there was no concern amongst them that within a month Britain would be involved in a war far bigger than any there had been for a century past.

The Toon O’ Kilmarnock

When oor faithas, in quest
O’ a hame in the west,
Cam’ here to the glen o’ the Garnock,
They picked oot a place
That was just to their taste,
The bonnie toon o’ Kilmarnock.

Then hey for the glen o’ the Garnock!
Ho! for the toon o’ Kilmarnock,
The place o’ oor birth
The grandest on Earth,
Oor ain native toon o’ Kilmarnock.

A trip frae the Cross
To the Dean and Assloss,
And doon by the water o’Borlan’,
‘S as guid as a jaunt
To some favourite haunt,
The saft sunny sooth, or the nor’lan.
Chorus

Some boast o’ yon toon
On the banks o’ the Doon,
Whar Shaner was chased by the warlock.
We admit it is fair
But nocht to compare
Wi’ the bonnie toon o’ Kilmarnock.
Chorus