

DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT SLIMMON & HELEN LINDSAY

Helen Slimmon (1821 - 1892) & John Lindsay (1815 - 1894)

Helen Slimmon was born on 26 May 1821 in Libberton, Lanarkshire, Sct. In the 1841 census of Scotland, she was living in Quothquan and recorded as a “female servant”. She appeared again in the 1851 census living with her father—Robert—her younger brother William and three of Robert’s grandchildren (see Section 1 for details.)

According to the International Genealogical Index (IGI), a Helen “Slimon” of Libberton married John Lindsay on 12 Jan 1855 in Libberton, Lanarkshire, Sct. The IGI also lists a Helen “Slimman” as marrying John Lindsay on 12 Jan 1855 in Covington, Lanarkshire, Sct. Since Covington is only about 7 km west (across the Clyde River) from Quothquan, it seems likely that this was ‘our’ Helen Slimmon who had proclaimed banns for marriage in those two villages.

In the record of birth for Helen and John’s first child, Isabella, the person registering the birth was “Robert Slimmon, Grandfather”. Helen and John’s ages were recorded as 33 and 39 years respectively.

Helen died on 19 Jan 1882 in Thankerton, Scot, at age 60. The death record indicates the cause of death was “bladder cancer” following one year of illness.

At the times of birth of Helen and John’s first two children, John Lindsay’s occupation was recorded as a “sawyer” (one who saws wood). When their third child was born, John was recorded as a “weaver”. In the 1861 & 1871 censuses, this was refined to “hand loom weaver (woollen)” and “wool weaver”. In the 1881 census, he was recorded as a “wire fencer”. In Helen’s 1882 death record, John’s occupation was recorded as a “joiner in a colliery” (finish carpenter in a coal mine).

All of the previously referenced records indicate that John Lindsay was born in Covington and, in the three censuses referred to, he was born ~1816. The IGI lists a John Lindsay having been christened on 6 Dec 1815 in Covington to parents James Lindsay and Isobel Black.

The 1841 census has a John Lindsay living with Isabella Black (b. ~1806) in Thankerton. Although it is possible that Isabella was John’s older sister it is more likely that it was his mother and her age was recorded or transcribed incorrectly. In that census, John’s occupation was recorded as a “wood cutter.”

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The 1851 census has John living with his mother Isabella (b. ~1782), sister Jean (b. ~1825) and 6 year old nephew James Brown at "Rail Station" in Thankerton. John's occupation was recorded as a "rail labourer".

Note that John Lindsay's mother's name was "Isabella", and "our" John Lindsay and Helen Slimmon named their first daughter "Isabella". Considering the Scottish naming tradition common at the time, this adds weight to the probability that we have the correct lineage of John Lindsay.

John died of "senile decay" (probably dementia) on 18 Jul 1894 at 19 St. Leonards Street in Lanark. He was living with his unmarried daughter Isabella at the time.

Children of Helen Slimmon and John Lindsay:

1.5.1 Isabella Lindsay

- Born 20 Mar 1855 in Quothquan, Lanarkshire, Sct.
- At the time of the 1881 census, may have been working as a "laundry maid", one of twenty servants at the Abercairny estate west of Perth. The estate was owned by Charles S.H. Drummond
- Recorded in the 1891 census as living with her 75 year old father and 9 year old illegitimate son John who was born 8 Jun 1881 in Carnwath. Her occupations was recorded as a "stocking knitter", at 19 St. Leonards Street, Lanark, Lanarkshire.
- Recorded in the 1901 census of Scotland as a "laundress", at 71 St. Leonards Street in Lanark. At that time she had another illegitimate child, 8 year old Helen and also a 22 year old boarder.
- Recorded in the 1911 census of Scotland as still living at 71 St. Leonards Street in Lanark with her now 18 year old daughter Helen.
- Died in her home at 71 St. Leonards Street in Lanark on 16 April, 1941 at age 86.
- Cause of death recorded as "hypostatic congestion of lungs, cardiac failure."
- Occupation at time of death recorded as "housekeeper".

1.5.2 Agnes Lindsay

- Born 9 Jun 1857 in Covington, Lanarkshire, Sct.
- Recorded in the 1881 Census of Scotland as a "ladie's maid" in Carnwath, Lanarkshire.

1.5.3 Marion Constance Lindsay

- Born 4 Sep 1861 in Covington, Lanarkshire, Sct.
- At the time of the 1881 census, she was a "student in college" in Carnwath, Lanarkshire.