

DESCENDANTS OF ROBERT SLIMMON & HELEN LINDSAY

Margaret Slimmon (1816 - ?) & William Jackson (?)

Margaret Slimmon was christened on August 11, 1816 in Libberton Parish, Lanarkshire, Scotland—just 2½ months after her parents were married. When her mother died in 1835, Margaret was 18 years old. As the eldest daughter, much of the responsibility for caring for her younger siblings would probably have fallen to her. We know, for example, that she was still living at home six years later when the June 7, 1841 census was conducted.

Then, in June of 1841, 24 year-old Margaret married ~39 year-old William Jackson of Lesmahagow Parish. Documentation of their marriage appears in the Old Parish Records of both Lesmahagow and Libberton. Here is the record from Lesmahagow:

William Jackson in this parish and Margaret Slimmon in the parish of Libberton were looked for proclamation of Banns 5 June 1841 - were proclaimed on 6th 13th and 20th same month and year

Margaret and William next appear in the 1851 census living in [Kirkfieldbank](#) in the parish of Lesmahagow, just west of the town of Lanark. Her (15 years older) husband was working as a “[hand weaver](#)” at the time. In the 1800’s many people, on both sides of the border with England, were employed as hand weavers—an occupation that eventually became almost extinct due to mechanization and increased use of powered looms.

At the time of the 1851 census, Margaret’s children—all born in Lesmahagow parish—were listed as:

- Ellen (age 7) b. ~1844
- Rachel (age 6) b. ~1845
- Ann (age 3) b. ~1848
- John (age 1) b. ~1850

At the time of the 1861 census Margaret and William were still at Kirkfieldbank but William was recorded as a “cotton weaver.” Children in the household were listed as:

- Helen (age 17) b. ~1844
- Ann T. (age 13) b. ~1845
- John (age 11) b. ~ 1850
- Robert (age 9) b. ~ 1852
- Andrew (age 6) b. ~ 1855
- Janet (age 4) b. ~ 1857
- Alexander (age 1) b. ~ 1860 (grandson)

Alexander was the illegitimate son of Helen (~1844).

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We next find the Jacksons in the 1871 census living in St. Stephens Parish in Edinburgh where William's occupation had changed "Coal Agent". Living with Margaret and William were:

- John (age 21) b. ~1850
- Robert (age 19) b. ~1852
- Andrew (age 16) b. ~1855
- Janet (age 14) b. ~1857
- Alexander (age 11) b. ~1860 (grandson)
- Agnes (age 7) b. 1864 (granddaughter)

Agnes was the second illegitimate child of Helen who was recorded in the child's birth registration as a "Cotton Weaver" living in St. Stephens Parish of Edinburgh.

When the 1881 census was taken, Margaret and William had moved to [61 Cumberland Street](#) in St Andrew Parish in Edinburgh. William's occupation had again changed as was recorded as "Coal Agent." Living with them were their two grandchildren, Alexander and Agnes.

The next record for Margaret was the 1891 census when, at age 75, she was the head of household with a single male lodger (Wm. F. Robb - copper smith) living at [No 26 Lorne St](#) in St. Cuthberts Parish in Edinburgh. Presumably William had died sometime during the past ten years.

Margaret last appears in the 1901 census living with her second son Robert at 50 St. Leonard Street in Edinburgh. Although her age was recorded as 87 rather than her actual age of 85, and her birth place was recorded as Carnwath rather than Libberton, she was recorded with her maiden name of Slimmon and the names and ages of the members of her son's family are consistent with those from previous censuses.

No death registration for Margaret has yet been found.

Children of Margaret Slimmon and William Jackson are believed to have been:

- 1.1.1 Helen (b. ~1844)
- 1.1.2 Rachel (b. ~1845)
- 1.1.3 Ann (b. ~1848)
- 1.1.4 John (b. ~1850)
- 1.1.5 Robert (b. ~1852)
- 1.1.6 Andrew (b. ~1855)
- 1.1.7 Janet (b. ~1857)
- 1.1.8 Jane Wright (b. 10 Sept. 1859)¹

¹ Birth record found on *FamilySearch.org* but this child is not listed in the 1861 census suggesting she may have died as an infant.