

Pensioner Details
<i>Pensioner name:</i> William Brown
<i>Person ID:</i> SC1004
<i>Your name:</i> Sheila Culross
<i>U3A group:</i> Scotland
Part One: Birth and Family
1: When and where was your pensioner born?
William Brown was born in Saltcoats, Ayrshire according to the censuses 1851, 1861, 1871, 1891, 1901. In the 1881 census he is recorded as being born in Ardrossan, Ayrshire. In 1841 he is recorded as being born in the County of Ayrshire. I have been unable to find a birth/baptism record for him anywhere. In all these census transcriptions he is recorded as being born in "1841".
2: Who were your pensioner's parents? Record any details you can find out about them here (e.g. occupation, religious affiliation, whether they could read or write)
William Brown's parents were Peter Brown and Elizabeth Barclay, who were married in 1839 in Ardrossan, Ayrshire. Both Peter (father) and Elizabeth Barclay (mother) are recorded on the various census records as being born in Saltcoats, Ayrshire. Peter is HLW in 1841 census, Hand Loom Weaver (Cotton) in 1851 and Silk Weaver in 1861 . On William Brown's death certificate in 1920 , his father Peter is recorded as Gardener (deceased). In the 1881 census, Peter (father) is aged 68. He obviously died prior to the 1891 census (Raise Street, Old Ardrossan), where Elizabeth Brown (nee Barclay) is aged 75 and a widow.

3: Did your pensioner have any siblings? What were their names, and how old were they in relation to your pensioner? Use this space to record anything else you have found out about them (e.g. occupation, later life)

According to the **1851** census (Raise Street, Ardrossan) he had 3 siblings: **Ann**, aged 7, born "1844" in Saltcoats, **Hugh**, aged 4, born "1847" in Saltcoats, and **John**, aged 1, born "1850" also in Saltcoats. By the time of the **1861** census there was also **David**, born "1852" and **Elizabeth**, born "1854", both in Saltcoats. There was a brother, **Peter**, born in 1856 in Ardrossan, who does not appear on the 1861 census. Did he die before the census took place?

In the **1881** census **John** and **David** are still unmarried and living with their father Peter: **John** is aged 31 and a **silk weaver**; **David** is aged 29 and his occupation is **Ironmonger**.

In the **1891** census **John** & **David** are still unmarried and living with their widowed mother: **John** is a **Woollen Weaver**, aged 41 and **David** is aged 39 and a **Store Keeper**.

In the **1881** census 3 grandchildren are staying with Peter Brown (father): James Miller, aged 10, scholar, born Saltcoats; Elizabeth Miller, 8, Scholar, born Saltcoats; Janet Miller, aged 6, scholar, born Saltcoats. They appear to be the children of William Brown's sister **Ann**, who married a John Miller in Ardrossan in 1869. In the 1871 census John Miller, wife Ann Brown and son James are living in Old Ardrossan. John Miller is a **mason** by occupation, born Saltcoats, Ayrshire. In the 1891 census John Miller is no longer on the scene (died?). Ann Miller (as Head of household) is living with her 3 children: James, Elizabeth & Janet in 75 Raise Street, Old Ardrossan together with a boarder, William D. Tait, aged 30, born Leith. Her occupation is **Ladies' Nurse**. The Boarder's occupation is **Printer Compositor**. Ann's son James is aged 20, **Draper's Assistant**, Elizabeth, Ann's elder daughter, is aged 18, **Seamstress** and Janet, Ann's younger daughter is aged 16, **Stationer's Assistant**.

Part Two: Marriage and children/ boarders

1: Did your pensioner marry? What was their spouse's name, and when and where did they marry them? Use this space to record any extra details you can find out about their spouse (e.g. when/where they were born, their occupation). **Note:** *You can also use this space to record any details about people your pensioner boarded with.*

William Brown married **Jane McDonald** in 1871 in St Andrew District, **Edinburgh**. According to the 1881 & 1901 census, she was born in Halkirk, Caithness in "1846". In the 1871 census her birthplace is given as Thurso, Caithness. In 1891 her birthplace is simply described as Caithness.

The **1871 marriage certificate** indicates that the couple was married according to the Forms of the **Free Church**. This might explain why I was unable to find William's birth record: if his parents were members of the Free Church, their children were unlikely to be recorded in the Established Church of Scotland OPR. On the other hand, it might be Jane McDonald who is a member of the Free Church, not William. Jane McDonald was recorded as a **Domestic Servant** on the marriage certificate. She signed with her "X mark", so was obviously not able to write. She was 27 years old, indicating a birth year of 1844, not 1846 as in the 1881 & 1901 censuses. Her parents were: Alexander McDonald, **Farmer** (Deceased) and Barbara McDonald MS McDonald.

2: Did your pensioner have any children? What were their names, and when they were born? Use this space to record any extra details you can find out about them (e.g. occupation, where they lived later in life)

He had a son **Peter** born in Ardrossan in "1878", a daughter, **Elizabeth B.** born in Ardrossan in "1876" and a daughter **Jane** born in Ardrossan in "1881", according to the 1881 census. **Jane (Wee Jeanie)** died 16 September 1898 aged 18, according to the "Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald" of 23 September 1898, p.4 (Deaths).

There was another child born alive to the couple, according to the 1911 census, which states they had been married for 40 years, had 4 children born alive of which 2 were still alive (i.e. Peter & Elizabeth B.) I think that the other dead child was **Barbara**: a Barbara Brown aged 2 died in New Ardrossan in 1874, whose mother's maiden name was McDonald (SP reference: 576/2 69). That would follow the Scottish naming pattern of naming the 1st daughter after the maternal grandmother, who, in this instance, was Barbara McDonald. To be absolutely certain, one would have to purchase the certificate from ScotlandsPeople.

Peter married **Erskine Sinclair Murray** in St Andrew district of Edinburgh in 1905. Her parents were Donald Murray, **Police Constable** and Mary Murray, whose maiden name was Fotheringham. Elizabeth B. Brown was a witness to the marriage. This is likely to be Peter's sister, but it is also possible that it was his mother. His occupation on the marriage certificate is "**Law Clerk**", as it was on the 1901 census. On the 1891 census he was "**Message Boy**". On the 1911 census (28 Westfield St., Cathcart, Glasgow) his occupation is still "**Law Clerk (Industry or Service: Law Agent)**". He is living with his wife Erskine and 3 children: William (4 years old), Donald Murray (2) and Elizabeth (1). All the children were born in Cathcart. There is also a **visitor**: Leonard James Betts, Law Clerk (Law Agent), aged 24 who was born in **England**. Erskine, his wife, was born in **North Ronaldsay Orkney**. (The enumerator has misspelt this as North Ronaldstray).

Peter's wife Erskine Sinclair Murray died in Springburn in Glasgow in 1963. She is recorded as the widow of Peter Brown "**Tobacconist & Newsagent**". So Peter had changed career (from Law Clerk). Although she died at 659 Edgefauld Road, her usual residence is 192 Provanmill Road, Glasgow, where her informant (son W. Brown, probably William) resided also. It's also the same address at which her sister-in-law Elizabeth B. Brown died in 1955. Erskine was 85 years old and died of **Aortic Stenosis, Cerebral atherosclerosis, Congestive cardiac failure**. There is an RCE connected with this death.

Elizabeth B. Brown never married, as evidenced by her death certificate in 1955. In the 1891 census she was "**Message Girl**"; in the 1901 census she was "**Dressmaker**". On her death certificate she is "**Dressmaker**", aged 79. The cause of death is "**Bronchial Carcinoma**". The informant is her nephew W. Brown. Her place of death is 192 Provanmill Road in Glasgow.

Part Three: Work

1: What occupation was your pensioner recorded as doing in census years? Please make sure to state clearly which year you are referring to

1851: Listed as Hand Loom Weaver (App) aged 10
1861: Listed as Silk Weaver aged 20
1871: Listed as Letter Carrier aged 30
1881: Listed as Letter Carrier PO aged 40
1891: Listed as Post Office Letter Carrier aged 50
1901: Listed as Letter Carrier aged 60
1911: Listed as Post Office Pensioner aged 70

2: What occupations were people living with your pensioner (e.g. spouse, children, boarders) doing in the census years? Please make sure to state clearly which year you are referring to

In **1841** William Brown's father Peter is "**HLW**" [Hand Loom Weaver].

In **1851** William Brown's father is recorded as "**Hand Loom Weaver (Cotton)**".

In **1861** Peter Brown (father) is "**Silk Weaver**" (like William). Ann & Hugh (William's siblings) are also noted as "**Silk Weavers**". The other 3 siblings are Scholars. Their **boarder**, Henry Muir (unmarried, aged 27) is "**Stone Mason**" by occupation, born Saltcoats, Ayrshire.

In **1871** William Brown and his wife Jane have a **visitor**, Ann Douglass, unmarried, aged 23. No occupation is given for her, nor place of birth in the transcription. Also in 1871, William & Jane are supposedly in the same household as Margaret Ferriet, aged 23, a labourer's wife, born in Ireland, according to the FMP transcription. This is actually an error on the part of FMP, as Margaret Ferriet was living elsewhere, not with William & Jane.

In **1881** William & Jane have a **boarder**, named Hugh Provan, unmarried, aged 25, who was a "**Railway Clerk**", born in Ayrshire.

In **1891**, William's daughter, Elizabeth is a "**Message Girl**" and his son Peter is a "**Message Boy**".

In **1901**, Daughter Elizabeth B. Brown is single, aged 25 with the occupation "**Dressmaker**". Son Peter, single, aged 23 is "**Law Clerk**".

Part Four: Anything Else/Later Life

Please use this space to record anything else you have found out about your pensioner. For example: what do we know about their life after retirement?

In the Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald of 25 October 1901, p.5, col.3: **Testimonial to Wm. Brown, Postman.** This reports that William had had to retire after 36 years as a postman, as he had reached the age limit. Movement was afoot to inaugurate a testimonial “in recognition of his long and faithful services”.

Part Five: Your Sources

Please use this space to record the sources you have used

Marriage of Peter Brown (father) and Elizabeth Barclay (mother), Ardrossan, Ayrshire, 1839:
[Church registers - Old Parish Registers Banns and marriages - Search results |](#)

[ScotlandsPeople](#) :

[576/ 20 209 \(FR473\), Ardrossan, 07/12/1839](#)

Peter Brown (father) 1881 census Ardrossan:

[Record Transcription: 1881 England, Wales & Scotland Census | findmypast.co.uk](#)

Elizabeth Brown (mother) 1891 census Ardrossan:

[Record Transcription: 1891 England, Wales & Scotland Census | findmypast.co.uk](#)

Birth of Peter Brown (brother) 1856 Ardrossan:

[1856 BROWN, PETER \(Statutory registers Births 576/ 139\) ScotlandsPeople](#)

Ann Brown (sister) marriage to John Miller, 1869, Ardrossan Old:

[Statutory registers - Marriages - Search results | ScotlandsPeople](#)

John Miller, wife Ann Brown and son James 1871 census, Old Ardrossan, Ayrshire
(Ancestry):

[Parish: *Ardrossan*; ED: *1*; Page: *8*; Line: *5*; Roll: *CSSCT1871 105*](#)

Ann Brown 1891 census, Old Ardrossan, Ayrshire (Ancestry):

[Parish: *Ardrossan*; ED: *1*; Page: *19*; Line: *16*; Roll: *CSSCT1891 196*](#)

William Brown (Postal Pensioner SC1004) Marriage 1871 St Andrew, Edinburgh:

[1871 BROWN, WILLIAM \(Statutory registers Marriages 685/2 14 \(ScotlandsPeople\)](#)

William Brown (Postal Pensioner SC1004) Death Ardrossan 1920:

[1920 BROWN, WILLIAM \(Statutory registers Deaths 576/2 26 \(ScotlandsPeople\)](#)

William Brown 1841 census, Ardrossan, Ayrshire:

[Record Transcription: 1841 England, Wales & Scotland Census | findmypast.co.uk](#)

[Parish: *Ardrossan*; ED: *8*; Page: *11*; Line: *900*; Year: *1841* \(Ancestry\)](#)

William Brown 1851 census, Ardrossan, Ayrshire:

[Record Transcription: 1851 England, Wales & Scotland Census | findmypast.co.uk](#)

William Brown 1861 census, Ardrossan, Ayrshire:

[Record Transcription: 1861 England, Wales & Scotland Census | findmypast.co.uk](#)

William Brown 1871 census, Ardrossan, Ayrshire:

[Record Transcription: 1871 England, Wales & Scotland Census | findmypast.co.uk](#)

William Brown 1881 census, Ardrossan, Ayrshire:

[Record Transcription: 1881 England, Wales & Scotland Census | findmypast.co.uk](#)

William Brown 1891 census, Ardrossan, Ayrshire:

[Record Transcription: 1891 England, Wales & Scotland Census | findmypast.co.uk](#)

William Brown 1901 census, Ardrossan, Ayrshire:

[Record Transcription: 1901 England, Wales & Scotland Census | findmypast.co.uk](#)

William Brown 1911 census, Ardrossan, Ayrshire:

[1911 BROWN, WILLIAM \(Census 576/2 3/8\) ScotlandsPeople](#)

William Brown Testimonial 1901:

[Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald, 25 October 1901, p.5, col.3: Testimonial to Wm. Brown, Postman. FindMyPast](#)

Elizabeth B. Brown (daughter) death 1955 Provan:

[1955 BROWN, ELIZABETH BARCL \(Statutory registers Deaths 644/4 689\) | ScotlandsPeople](#)

Jane Brown (daughter) death 1898:

[Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald, 23 September 1898, p.4 \(Deaths\) FindMyPast](#)

Peter Brown (son) marriage 1905 St Andrew, Edinburgh:

[1905 BROWN, PETER \(Statutory registers Marriages 685/2 248\) ScotlandsPeople](#)

Erskine Sinclair Brown (nee Murray) death Springburn, Glasgow 1963:

[1963 BROWN, ERSKINE SINCLAI \(Statutory registers Deaths 644/4 686\) | ScotlandsPeople](#)

Peter Brown (son) 1911 census:

[1911 BROWN, PETER \(Census 560/13/17\) ScotlandsPeople](#)