

Pensioner Details
<i>Pensioner name:</i> William Bryson
<i>Person ID:</i> SC1006
<i>Your name:</i> Janice Robinson
<i>U3A group:</i> Forfar
Part One: Birth and Family
1: When and where was your pensioner born?
Born: 23 Dec Jan 1835 in Kirkcaldy. Baptised 18 Jan 1836 in Kirkcaldy ⁱ
2: Who were your pensioners' parents? Record any details you can find out about them here (e.g. occupation, religious affiliation, whether they could read or write)
<p>Father: Robert Bryson</p> <p>Discrepancy in birth dates. Two Robert Brysons born both to fathers named Robert and both weavers: one in 1802, and another in 1804. The Fife burial index for Robert Bryson d 13 March Bookseller suggests he was born in 1789 but I haven't been able to find that on Scotland's People or anywhere else. But the one that seems most likely is the Robert born 20th May 1804 and baptised Nov 1804.ⁱⁱ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born: 1802/4 or 1798ⁱⁱⁱ • 1825: Marriage to Helen Kennedy 17 Oct. Robert listed as "Bookbinder of this parish Son of Robert Bryson Weaver in Cupar". Helen listed as "of this Parish, Daughter of William Kennedy Ship's Carpenter".^{iv} • 1834, 1835 directory: Robert Bryson, Bookbinder and Stationer, 189 High Street Kirkcaldy.^v See also reference to Fife Herald being made available to buy because of increased demand at Robert Bryson Bookseller.^{vi} Advert for apprentice boy for grocer in Fife Herald 1840, apply to Robert Bryson bookseller.^{vii} • 1841: Court case regarding passing of counterfeit shillings. Mentions Robert Bryson.^{viii} • 1841 Census: No information to be found on any site. Suggestion that the 1841 census info for much of Fife was lost in the Firth of Forth as it was being transported across. • Died: 13 March 1848^{ix} • Buried: b 16 March 1848. Bookseller aged 45. Son-in-law of William Kennedy and Janet Henderson.^x A newspaper death notice mentions his "lingering illness" of 8 months duration.^{xi} Another refers to him as a "bookseller and councillor".^{xii} Wife Helen the sole beneficiary of his will. Bequeathed £121 0s 2d. Will written month prior to death.^{xiii} <p>Mother: Helen Kennedy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1798: Born Dysart, Fifeshire. Daughter of Janet Henderson and William Kennedy (ship's carpenter).^{xiv} Born: 28 Sept 1798 Dysart Fifeshire • 1825: Marriage to Robert Kennedy (see above) • 1841 Census: Not available

- 1851 Census: Helen Bryson 52 (head). High Street Kirkcaldy. Occupation: Bookseller. Living with children John (Janet?) 24, Eliza 22, Robert 21 (bookbinder), Christina 18, William 15 (pupil teacher), John 12 (bookbinder's apprentice), Alexander 9 (scholar).^{xv}
- 1861 Census: Helen Bryson 62 (head). 130 High Street Kirkcaldy. Occupation: Bookseller. Living with children Jessie 34, Elizabeth 32, Christina 28, John 22 (lithographer), Alexander 19 (tobacconist), George 17 (banker's clerk), and Ann Williamson 20 (domestic servant)
- 1871 Census: Helen Bryson 71 (head). 130 High Street Kirkcaldy. Living with children Jessie 44 (bookseller) and Eliza 42. Also living with them is Isabella Muir 18 (domestic servant)
- 1875: Death 28th July at High Street, Kirkcaldy. Cause of death: debility. Profession: bookseller. Son John Bryson present and informant.^{xvi}

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)

Janet Henderson Bryson (1826-1905)

- 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871 Census: See Part One Q2 (Helen Kennedy)
- 1881 Census: Living with sister Eliza with their brothers John and George and a domestic servant in the family home in Kirkcaldy.^{xvii}
- 1891 Census: Missing
- 1901 Census: Living with sister Eliza with their brother Robert, two of his children and a domestic servant in the family home in Kirkcaldy.^{xviii}
- **1905: Death**
- 1910: Described in obituary of brother William along with sister Eliza as "cultured and hospitable".^{xix}

Eliza Bryson (1828-1906)

- 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871 Census: See Part One Q2 (Helen Kennedy)
- 1881 Census: Living with sister Janet with their brothers John and George and a domestic servant in the family home in Kirkcaldy.^{xx}
- 1891 Census: Missing
- 1901 Census: Living with sister Janet with their brother Robert, two of his children and a domestic servant in the family home in Kirkcaldy.^{xxi}
- **1906: Death**

Robert Bryson (1830-1906)

- 1841, 1851 Census: See Part One Q2 (Helen Kennedy)
- 1871 Census: Postmaster GPO, 104 High Street Kirkcaldy. Living with children Robert Bryson 10, Jemima M Bryson 7, Helen K Bryson 5, William K Bryson 4. Also living with him is cousin Rachel Dall Bryson 57, and Janet Macfarlane 20 (Servant).^{xxii}
- 1881 Census: Headpostmaster GPO Kirkcaldy, 130 High Street Kirkcaldy. Living with son Robert Bryson Jr and Helen Kennedy Bryson.^{xxiii}
- 1891 Census: Postmaster GPO, widower. Living with daughter Ellen K Bryson b.1866 and Sarah Hutchinson b. 1871 (general servant, domestic)^{xxiv}
- 1901 Census: Retired Postmaster GPO, widower. Living with sisters Janet and Eliza, son Robert Bryson Jr b.1861 (Electrical Engineer) and daughter Helen K. Bryson b. 1866. and a domestic servant in the family home in Kirkcaldy.^{xxv}
- Robert Bryson served as Postmaster for Kirkcaldy after his career as a bookmaker and stationer.^{xxvi}
- 1906: Death.^{xxvii}

Christina Kennedy Bryson (1832-1866)

- 1841, 1851, 1861 Census: See Part One Q2 (Helen Kennedy)
- 1866: Death^{xxviii}

John Kennedy Bryson (1838-1890)

- 1841, 1851, 1861 Census: See Part One Q2 (Helen Kennedy)
- 1881 Census: Described as “Newspaper proprietor & printer employing 8 men & 9 boys” living at 130 High Street, Fife. Living with sister Jessie 54, Eliza 52, brother George 37 (banker) and Georgina Amislie 18 (domestic servant).^{xxix}
- Described variously as lithographer, bookseller, subscription library proprietor, newspaper proprietor for *Fife Journal*, soldier in Crimean War, agent for travel to Australia and NZ through the Suez Canal and New York^{xxx}
- 1890: Death. Leaves £1,135, 8s.6d to his brother George and two others. Described as bookseller, Kirkcaldy.^{xxxi}

Alexander Grinton [?] Bryson (1842-1886)

- 1841, 1851, 1861 Census: See Part One Q2 (Helen Kennedy)
- 1881 Census: Stationer living at 173 High Street, Fife with wife Barbara McLeod (sister of William Bryson’s wife Helen) Bryson and son John 4 and Alexander 2.^{xxxii}
- 1886: Death. Stationer in Kirkcaldy left £361,2s. 11d to his widow Barbara McLeod.^{xxxiii}
- Fought in the Maori Wars^{xxxiv}

George Smith Bryson (1844-1895)

- 1841, 1851, 1861 Census: See Part One Q2 (Helen Kennedy)
- 1881 Census: Banker, 37 living at 130 High Street, Fife. Living with brother John Kennedy (newspaper proprietor), sister Jessie 54, Eliza 52, and Georgina Amislie 18 (domestic servant).^{xxxv}
- 1895: Death. Agent National Bank. Leaves £3502 16s 7d.^{xxxvi}

Part Two: Marriage and children

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)

William Kennedy Bryson married Helen McLeod in Inverness on 9 Oct 1867^{xxxvii}

Helen McLeod (c.1839-1924)

- 1839: Born 19th December in Inverness. Father: Evan MacLeod (farmer) and mother Ann McKenzie.^{xxxviii}
- 1851 Census: Living at 49 Shore St, Inverness, with parents and seven siblings. This includes Barbara McLeod who would later go on to marry William's brother Alexander.^{xxxix}
- 1871 Census: Living at Post Office Buildings Inverness with husband William K 35 (Clerk Post Office), daughter Helen (2mo), and servant Betsy Ross 24.^{xl}
- 1881 Census: Living at 10 South Hamilton Street Kilmarnock with husband William K 45 (Postmaster), children Evan McLeod 7, William 5, Robert 3. Also servant Nellie Munro 26.^{xli}
- 1891 Census: Living at 159 Eldon Street Greenock with husband William K 55 (Postmaster), children William 15 (scholar), Robert 13 (scholar), and Mary Campbell 17 (servant)^{xlii}
- 1901 Census: Living at 4 Windsor Street Angus with husband William K 65 (Retired Postmaster), children William 25 (Student of Science), Robert 23 (Student of Medicine), and Catherine Finlay 24 (Servant).^{xliii}
- 1924: Dies 23rd May in 8 Russell Road Crouch End London, living with son William (patent agent). Leaves £3595 to William.^{xliv}

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)

William and Helen had four children:

- Helen Christina (1871-1872)
- Evan McLeod (1873-1887)
- William (1875-1947)
- Robert (1878-1934)

Helen Christina

- 1871: Born 9th January in Inverness^{xliv}
- 1871 Census: Living at Post Office Buildings Inverness with father William K 35 (Clerk Post Office), mother Helen 31, and servant Betsy Ross 24.^{xlvi}
- 1872: Dies 24th January in Inverness.^{xlvii}

Evan MacLeod/McLeod

- 1873: Born 20th April in Inverness^{xlviii}
- 1881 Census: Living at 10 South Hamilton Street Kilmarnock with father William K 45 (Postmaster), mother Helen 41, brothers William 5, Robert 3. Also servant Nellie Munro 26.^{xlix}
- 1887: Dies in Kilmarnock April 9th. Cause of death is "hearty disease 6 years".^l

William Bryson

- 1875: Born 5th June.^{li}
- 1881 Census: Living at 10 South Hamilton Street Kilmarnock with father William K 45 (Postmaster), mother Helen 41, brothers Evan 9, Robert 3. Also servant Nellie Munro 26.^{lii}
- 1880-1890: Educated at Kilmarnock, Perth and Kilblain Academies.^{liii}
- 1891 Census: Living at 159 Eldon Street Greenock with father William K 55 (Postmaster), mother Helen (51), brother Robert 13 (scholar), and Mary Campbell 17 (servant)^{liv}
- 1901 Census: Student of Science. Living at 4 Windsor Street Angus with father William K 65 (Retired Postmaster), mother Helen (61), brother Robert 23 (Student of Medicine), and Catherine Finlay 24 (Servant).^{lv}
- 1898-1901: Receives BSc Engineering at University of Glasgow.^{lvi}
- c.1901-1907: Moves to Crouch End, London. By 1907 is working as an assistant to Dugald Clerk Esq M.I.C.E.^{lvii}
- 1924: Marries Blanche Nicoll in a nonconformist ceremony at Presbyterian Church, Crouch Hill. Is described as patent agent living at 8 Russell Rd Crouch End London.^{lviii}
- 1947: Dies 9th March. Leaves £544,0s.11d to wife Blanche.^{lix}

Robert Bryson

- 1881 Census: Living at 10 South Hamilton Street Kilmarnock with father William K 45 (Postmaster), mother Helen 41, brothers Evan 9, Robert 3. Also servant Nellie Munro 26.^{lx}
- 1900: First year student of medicine at the University of Glasgow.^{lxi}
- 1901 Census: Student of Medicine. Living at 4 Windsor Street Angus with father William K 65 (Retired Postmaster), mother Helen (61), brother William 24 (Student of Science), and Catherine Finlay 24 (Servant).^{lxii}
- 1903: Graduates with MD from University of Glasgow.^{lxiii}
- c.1903-1915: Moves to New Zealand. In 1915 enlists as soldier.^{lxiv}
- 1918: Marries Elizabeth MacDonald, also a doctor, in New Zealand.^{lxv} They have two children: William Kennedy Bryson who studied at St Andrews (b.1922);^{lxvi} Mary E Bryson, who became a doctor (b. 1920?)^{lxvii}
- c.1926: Moves medical practice to Wellington NZ from previous practice in Levin NZ. Was anaesthetist at Wellington Hospital for around five years. Worked as physician at Ohiro Home.^{lxviii}
- 1934: Dies of “heart trouble”.^{lxix}

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

- 1841- Missing
- 1851- Pupil Teacher (at Burgh School Kirkcaldy; leaves 1854)^{lxx}
- 1861- Clerk General Post Office
- 1871- Clerk Post Office
- 1881- Postmaster
- 1891- Postmaster
- 1897 – Appointed Postmaster of Dundee^{lxxi}
- 1901- Retired Postmaster

- 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

See Part One Q2 (Helen Kennedy) and Part 2 Q1-Q2

Part Four: Anything Else

Please use this space to record anything else you have found out about your pensioner

William died of “Cerebral Thrombosis, Heart failure” in 1910 at the age of 74.

- Civil Service Evidence of age, evidence of employment history and salaries
<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id=GBOR%2FCSEOA%2F019%2F0577&parentid=GBOR%2FCSEOA%2F00006714>
- Newspaper article about being elected Postmaster of Dundee, includes line drawing of William (Dundee Advertiser 18 Jan 1897 p.5)
<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0000295%2f18970118%2f120&stringtohighlight=william%20kennedy%20bryson>
- Newspaper article about being elected Postmaster of Dundee, (Dundee Advertiser 16 Jan 1897 p.5)
<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0000295%2f18970116%2f108&stringtohighlight=william%20kennedy%20bryson>
- Obituary (Fifeshire Advertiser 23 July 1910, p.7)
<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0001577%2f19100723%2f172&stringtohighlight=william%20bryson%20postmaster%20kirkcaldy>

Part Five: Your Sources

Please use this space to record the sources you have used

See endnotes

ⁱ Scotland's People: Old Parish Registers (1835): 422/50/94

ⁱⁱ Scotlands People OPR (1804): 420/30/222 Cupar .

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBPRS/FIFE/FHS/DEATH/00037582>

^{iv} https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=R_695764623/1

^v <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/discoveryui-content/view/4059771:3145?tid=&pid=&queryId=bcf7a05a587a24034c188e370a9abcce&phsrc=CXx1130&phstart=successSource> and <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/discoveryui-content/view/4417012:3145?tid=&pid=&queryId=bcf7a05a587a24034c188e370a9abcce&phsrc=CXx1131&phstart=successSource>

^{vi}

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0000447%2f18390815%2f006&stringtohighlight=robert%20bryson>

^{vii}

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0000447%2f18400402%2f048&stringtohighlight=robert%20bryson>

^{viii}

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0000447%2f18410610%2f012&stringtohighlight=robert%20bryson>

^{ix} <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBPRS/FIFE/FHS/DEATH/00037582>

^x <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/167353839/robert-bryson>

^{xi}

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0000160%2f18480322%2f047&stringtohighlight=robert%20bryson>

^{xii} <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBPRS%2FFIFE%2FFHS%2FDEATH%2F00040302>

^{xiii} Scotlands People Wills and testaments (1848): SC20/50/19, Cupar Sheriff Court

^{xiv} https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=R_689786244 and Scotlands People Old Parish Records (1798): 426/ 40324 Dysart

^{xv} Parish: Kirkcaldy; ED: 8; Page: 8; Line: 18; Roll: CSSCT1851_91; Year: 1851

^{xvi} Scotland's People Deaths (1875): 442/183 Kirkcaldy and Abbotshall

^{xvii} Parish: Kirkcaldy; ED: 10; Page: 4; Line: 14; Roll: cssct1881_122

^{xviii} Parish: Kirkcaldy and Abbotshall; ED: 20; Page: 19; Line: 4; Roll: CSSCT1901_142

^{xix}

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0001577%2f19100723%2f172&stringtohighlight=william%20bryson%20postmaster%20kirkcaldy>

^{xx} Parish: Kirkcaldy; ED: 10; Page: 4; Line: 14; Roll: cssct1881_122

^{xxi} Parish: Kirkcaldy and Abbotshall; ED: 20; Page: 19; Line: 4; Roll: CSSCT1901_142

^{xxii} Parish: *Kirkcaldy*; ED: 10; Page: 1; Line: 4; Roll: CSSCT1871_76

^{xxiii} Parish: *Kirkcaldy*; ED: 10; Page: 4; Line: 10; Roll: cssct1881_122

^{xxiv} Parish: *Kirkcaldy and Abbotshall*; ED: 5; Page: 15; Line: 1; Roll: CSSCT1891_135

^{xxv} Parish: Kirkcaldy and Abbotshall; ED: 20; Page: 19; Line: 4; Roll: CSSCT1901_142

^{xxvi}

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0001577%2f19100723%2f172&stringtohighlight=william%20bryson%20postmaster%20kirkcaldy>

^{xxvii}

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0001577%2f19100723%2f172&stringtohighlight=william%20bryson%20postmaster%20kirkcaldy>

^{xxviii} Scotland Peoples Deaths (1866): 442/74 Kirkcaldy

^{xxix} Parish: Kirkcaldy; ED: 10; Page: 4; Line: 14; Roll: cssct1881_122

^{xxx}

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0001577%2f19100723%2f172&stringtohighlight=william%20bryson%20postmaster%20kirkcaldy>

xxxix https://www.ancestry.co.uk/imageviewer/collections/60558/images/40884_b206784-00053?pid=57923

xxxix Parish: *Kirkcaldy*; ED: 16; Page: 2; Line: 14; Roll: *cssct1881_122*

xxxix https://www.ancestry.co.uk/imageviewer/collections/60558/images/40884_b206780-00046?pid=38766

xxxix

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0001577%2f19100723%2f172&stringtohighlight=william%20bryson%20postmaster%20kirkcaldy>

xxxix Parish: Kirkcaldy; ED: 10; Page: 4; Line: 14; Roll: *cssct1881_122*

xxxix https://www.ancestry.co.uk/imageviewer/collections/60558/images/40884_b206789-00035?pid=601477

xxxix Scotlands People Marriages (1867): 098/73 Inverness

xxxix Parish: Inverness; ED: 1B; Page: 10; Line: 1040; Year: 1841

xxxix Parish: *Inverness*; ED: 1A; Page: 23; Line: 9; Roll: *CSSCT1851_22*; Year: 1851

xl Parish: Inverness; ED: 3; Page: 23; Line: 12; Roll: *CSSCT1871_17*

xli Parish: Kilmarnock; ED: 30; Page: 23; Line: 6; Roll: *cssct1881_190*

xlii Parish: Greenock West; ED: 39; Page: 34; Line: 1; Roll: *CSSCT1891_183*

xlii Parish: Liff and Benvie; ED: 19; Page: 4; Line: 19; Roll: *CSSCT1901_91*

xlii https://www.ancestry.co.uk/imageviewer/collections/1904/images/31874_222476-00405?pid=4122718

xlii Scotland, Select Births and Baptisms, 1564-1950 (1871): 6035516

xlii Parish: Inverness; ED: 3; Page: 23; Line: 12; Roll: *CSSCT1871_17*

xlii https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/181189846/helen_christina-bryson

xlii Scotlands People Births (1873): 098/ 196 Inverness

xlii Parish: Kilmarnock; ED: 30; Page: 23; Line: 6; Roll: *cssct1881_190*

l https://www.scotlandsppeople.gov.uk/view-image/nrs_stat_deaths/2885042?return_row=0 and

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/181189845/evan_macleod-bryson

li https://www.ancestry.co.uk/imageviewer/collections/3585/images/41172_1831109387_0405-00421?pid=3273

lii Parish: Kilmarnock; ED: 30; Page: 23; Line: 6; Roll: *cssct1881_190*

lii https://www.ancestry.co.uk/imageviewer/collections/3585/images/41172_1831109387_0405-00421?pid=3273

lii Parish: Greenock West; ED: 39; Page: 34; Line: 1; Roll: *CSSCT1891_183*

lii Parish: Liff and Benvie; ED: 19; Page: 4; Line: 19; Roll: *CSSCT1901_91*

lii https://www.ancestry.co.uk/imageviewer/collections/3585/images/41172_1831109387_0405-00421?pid=3273

lii https://www.ancestry.co.uk/imageviewer/collections/3585/images/41172_1831109387_0405-00421?pid=3273

lii https://www.ancestry.co.uk/imageviewer/collections/1906/images/31846_214247-00519?pid=137617

lii https://www.ancestry.co.uk/imageviewer/collections/1904/images/32858_635001_2113-00455?pid=1718776

lii Parish: Kilmarnock; ED: 30; Page: 23; Line: 6; Roll: *cssct1881_190*

lii

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0000472%2f19000419%2f038&stringtohighlight=robert%20bryson%20glasgow%20university>

lii Parish: Liff and Benvie; ED: 19; Page: 4; Line: 19; Roll: *CSSCT1901_91*

lii

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0000446%2f19030721%2f073&stringtohighlight=robert%20bryson%20glasgow%20university>

lii https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=ANZ%2FDWILSON_NZWW1%2F33030

lii <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0001421%2f19180426%2f052&stringtohighlight=robert%20bryson%20doctor>

lii <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/family-tree/pt/RequestTreeAccess.aspx?tid=172517917&pid=232244777525>

^{lxvii} https://www.ancestry.co.uk/imageviewer/collections/2997/images/41039_b001606-00713?usePUB=true&_phsrc=i41-432483&usePUBJs=true&pId=145008446

^{lxviii} <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/EP19341008.2.122?query=robert+bryson&snippet=true>

^{lxix} <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/newspapers/EP19341008.2.122?query=robert+bryson&snippet=true>

^{lxx} <https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record?id=GBOR%2FCSEOA%2F019%2F0577&parentid=GBOR%2FCSEOA%2F0006714>

^{lxxi}

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0000295%2f18970118%2f120&stringtohighlight=william%20kennedy%20bryson> and

<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/bna/viewarticle?id=bl%2f0000295%2f18970116%2f108&stringtohighlight=william%20kennedy%20bryson>