

Pensioner Details
<i>Pensioner name:</i> Thomas Cairns
<i>Person ID:</i> SC1008
<i>Your name:</i> Linda Gilbert
<i>U3A group:</i> Scotland
Part One: Birth and Family
1: When and where was your pensioner born?
Thomas Cairns was born on 14 April 1866 in Haddington, East Lothian.
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: Alexander Cairns 1871 census: Livery groom, age 38, address: Lodge St (parish School House), Haddington Born in Chirnside, Berwickshire 1881 census: Groom, age 48, address: 6 Lodge St 1st Flat, Haddington Not on 1891 census, assumed deceased. Deceased on Thomas Cairns' marriage cert, 1897</p> <p>Mother: Jane Darling 1871 census: age 36, born Fannyside, Berwickshire 1891 census: Head of Household, address: 22 Burns St, Leith Jane was still alive when Thomas married in 1897</p>
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)
<p>Siblings 1871 census: Eliza 17 general servant b. Edrom, Berwickshire Mary I 13 b. Haddington – all later children also born Haddington except James Catherine 11 Isabella 8 1881 census age 18: millworker (Thomas 5) Janet 2</p> <p>Extra siblings 1881 census when Thomas is 15: Alexander 9 Charlotte 7 1891 census, age 16: Domestic Serv (Nurse) Minnie 3 1891 census has Jamima age 13 – likely to be same child Peter 1 1901 census, age 31 (this is likely incorrect, should be 21): General labourer</p> <p>Extra sibling 1891 census when Thomas is 24: James 8 b. Glasgow, Lanarkshire (see also Part Three, section 2, census data)</p>

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)

Thomas Cairns (31) married Elizabeth Graham (30, widow of John Graham, marine engineer) on 6 July 1897 at Clareview, Leith – a Church of Scotland wedding following banns, the celebrant was Thomas Millar, Minister of St Paul's Leith. Both signed their names.

Elizabeth's father is not listed, so she is daughter to a single mother, Rosina Wise, domestic servant, who was still alive at the time of the marriage.

Elizabeth was born in Tranent, East Lothian - from 1911 census. The 1901 census says Haddington. (The places are very close, and East Lothian was also known as Haddingtonshire.)

Thomas Cairns lived at 40 Glover St, Leith. Occupation: Telegraphist
Elizabeth Graham lived at 12 Thorntree St, Leith. No occupation listed.

Leith is now part of Edinburgh, but was a separate burgh.

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)

Thomas & Elizabeth did not have any children together, but Elizabeth and her late husband had a son, Robert Graham, who was living with them in Leith in 1901 and 1911.

Robert Graham

1901 census: age 13 Born: Glasgow Lanark

1911 census: age 21 Occupation: Ship plater's helper. Born Lanark Govan

Govan is south of the River Clyde (part of Glasgow) - at the time it was in Lanarkshire.

At the time there was a shipbuilding industry in Leith – the last Leith shipyard closed in 1984.

Leith had a history of shipbuilding from the 14th century. A royal shipyard was opened for James I of Scotland in 1424.

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

Thomas Cairns

1871 census: age 5, Scholar

1881 census: age 15, Telegraph Messenger

1891 census: age 24, 2nd Cl Telegraphist C S

1901 census: age 34, Retired Telegraphist

1911 census: age 45, Post Office Pensioner

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

1871 census: Lodge St (parish School House), Haddington

Alexander Cairns (father) age 38, Groom (livery)

Jane Cairns (mother) age 36, none listed

Eliza Cairns (sister) age 17, General Serv

Other children too young to work, all listed as scholars except Janet (2) who is too young.

1881 census: 6 Lodge St 1st Flat, Haddington

Alexander Cairns (father) age 48, Groom

Jane Cairns (mother) age 46, none listed

Isabella Cairns (sister) age 17, Millworker

Other children too young to work, all listed as scholars except two youngest who are too young.

1891 census: 22 Burns St, Leith South

Jane Cairns (mother, Head of Household) age 56, none listed

Charlotte Cairns (sister) age 16, Domestic Serv (Nurse)

Other children too young to work. Jamima age 13 has nothing listed.

Peter (10) and James (8) were scholars. Does this mean Jamima had left school?

George Duffus (boarder) age 23, 2nd Cl Telegraphist C S (same as Thomas Cairns)

1901 census: 78 Leith Walk Or McNeill Hall, Leith South

Peter Cairns (brother, Head of Household) age 31 but likely should be 21, General Labourer

Elizabeth Cairns (Thomas Cairns' wife) age 33, Housekeeper

Robert Graham (Elizabeth's son) age 13, Scholar

1911 census: 6 Burlington St, Leith

Elizabeth Cairns (wife) age 44, none listed

Robert Graham (Elizabeth's son) age 21, Ship Plater's Helper

Also in 1911 living next door to Thomas Cairns with the same address are:

James Cairns (Thomas Cairns' brother) age 28, b. Glasgow, General Labourer

Isabella Cairns (James' wife) age 30, b. Leith

James Cairns (their son) age 3 b. Leith

Part Four: Anything Else

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

Thomas Cairns' retirement is noted in St Martins-le-Grand magazine 1901. His occupation was described as SC & T (Sorting Clerk & Telegraphist) appointed in 1887 (when he would have been c. 21)

By 1913-4, 6 Burlington St Leith was not occupied by either Cairns or Graham (Postal Directory Edinburgh & Leith)

Elizabeth Cairns predeceased her husband. She died in 1914 aged 47 in Hutchesontown, Glasgow. This is the same place that Thomas Cairns died in 1934. (Reference below to Scotland's People record for Elizabeth Cairns).

It was not possible to trace Robert Graham, as the name is too common, so it is not known whether he moved to Glasgow too. The fact that he was living with a step-parent also makes searches harder.

If he moved, there is a shipyard in Govan so he could have continued with the same work.

Thomas Cairns died intestate on 24 April 1934 at 372 Ballater Street Glasgow. The Confirmation was made on 30 May 1934 to his sister Janet Cairns or Mitchell, address: Rest Harrow, Trossachs. The estate was worth £31 19s 08d. (Probate record)

It is therefore reasonable to assume that Thomas Cairns did not remarry.

Thomas' death cert gives Janet Mitchell's address as Glenbruach, Callendar. A search shows that both her addresses have the same modern postcode FK17 8HX. Glenbruach is by Loch Achray in the Trossachs.

Hutchesontown is the Gorbals area of Glasgow, south of the River Clyde. Many residents were buried in the Southern Necropolis, but no grave could be found for Thomas Cairns. Ballater St where Thomas Cairns lived is marked as Gorbals St. on the old map in the link below.

Part Five: Your Sources

Please use this space to record the sources you have used

- 1866 Birth transcription for Thomas Cairns:
<https://search.ancestry.co.uk/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=try&db=FS1ScotlandBirthsandBaptisms&h=23008144>
- Thomas Cairns 1871 census: Parish: Haddington; ED: 1; Page: 12; Line: 10; Roll: CSSCT1871_172
- Thomas Cairns 1881 census: Parish: Haddington; ED: 1; Page: 3; Line: 9; Roll: cssct1881_304
- Thomas Cairns 1891 census: Parish: Leith South; ED: 4; Page: 1; Line: 1; Roll: CSSCT1891_364
- Thomas Cairns 1901 census: Parish: Leith; ED: 21; Page: 51; Line: 16; Roll: CSSCT1901_401
- Thomas Cairns 1911 census: (Scotland's People) Census 692/2 37/7 page 7 of 26 Leith South
- Marriage Certificate for Thomas Cairns & Elizabeth Graham (Scotland's People) 1897 692/2 238 Leith South
- Retirement: St Martins-le-Grand magazine vol 11 1901, p.117
- Postal directory Edinburgh & Leith 1913-14 (covering 6 Burlington St)
<https://search.findmypast.co.uk/record/browse?id=s2%2fus%2fmcv%2f763526%2fpages%2f0566>
- Elizabeth Cairns Death (Scotland's People) Age 47 1914 644/15 334 Hutchesontown
- Thomas Cairns Death Certificate (Scotland's People) Age 68 1934 644/15 107 Hutchesontown
- Thomas Cairns Probate record (via Ancestry) (Calendar of Confirmations and Inventories) 1934:
https://www.ancestry.co.uk/imageviewer/collections/60558/images/40884_b206841-00109?treeid=&personid=&hintid=&queryId=39acebc7ab939d941075dcea1b8b4a0e&usePUB=true&_phsrc=hpt14&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&pld=376257
- *Shipbuilding in Leith:*
- <https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/heritage-and-retro/retro/17-photos-showing-leiths-legendary-henry-robb-shipyard-2862204>
- <https://www.thenational.scot/news/18098553.leith-built-history-rival-ships-clyde/>
- <https://leithbuiltships.blogspot.com/2009/12/shipbuilding-in-leith.html>
- Hutchesontown Glasgow old map:
- <https://www.craig-galt.info/maps/glasgow-city-map/hutchesontown-map/>

