

Pensioner Details
<i>Pensioner name:</i> William Simpson
<i>Person ID:</i> SC1035
<i>Your name:</i> Anne Martin
<i>U3A group:</i> Scotland
Part One: Birth and Family
1: When and where was your pensioner born?
<p>I was unable to find a birth record for William. With the help of Barbara from the Borders Family History Society we found a civil servant evidence of age for William Simpson in 1869. The paper has a Margaret Simpson Oliver vouching for her nephew, William Simpson, having been born on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 1840 in St Boswells, Roxburghshire. It recorded that there was no birth record for him. I would assume that this was the point in time when he was looking to join the Post Office.</p>
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)
<p>Father: William Scott</p> <p>Mother: Agnes Simson.</p> <p>This information comes from William's marriage certificate (1867). Both parents are deceased at that point in time. I have been unable to find any further information on them.</p> <p>On the 1851 census William is living with his aunt, Margaret, and her husband, George Oliver. On that census George was a pauper, formerly saddler. He was also a tackle maker and a fishing line maker in other documents.</p> <p>I followed Margaret to her death in 1875 and found her parents were William Simpson or Simson, a woollen frame worker and his wife Catherine Kerr. William Simpson, her nephew, was her informant on her death certificate in 1875.</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, later life)

I have not been able to find any siblings.

### 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.*

I started out looking for the marriage of William Simpson. There were no marriages on Scotlands People that seemed right.

Working backwards from William's children, in particular, Agnes Johnstone Simpson I established that when Agnes was born in 1870 her father was a letter carrier. Looking at marriages there were no marriages for a William Simpson around this time.

There was a marriage of a William Scott, aged 28, to Jane Scott (aged 25) in 1867 according to the terms of the Free Church in Scotland in Jedburgh. William was a general labourer and Jane was a farm worker.

It appears that after his marriage he used the surname Simpson as all his children have that surname.

Jane was born in 1841.

Father: William Scott

Mother: Margaret Thomson.

William and Margaret were married in 1829 in Oxnam. William and Margaret died before 1867.

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)

Children:

- George                      born 1868 Jedburgh
- Margaret Scott          born 1869
- Agnes Johnstone        born 1871 St Boswell's
- Jane                         born 1872
- Elizabeth Lees          born 1874
- Mary                        born 1878
- Robert                     born 1883 St Boswell's

**George** was born in 1868 in Jedburgh. He is on the 1891 census as a blacksmith in Galashiels.

**Margaret** on 1891 census working as a cook in Galashiels.

**Agnes** had a son, George, in 1891. There was a paternity case and the accused father was George Bunyan Miles, a butcher.

Single mothers often took the fathers of their children to court for child support. Such cases were known as filiation and aliment cases. The court could order the father to provide maintenance payments to the mother. If the mother won her case, the court would issue a decree, which would allow the mother to enforce payment of aliment.

Later Agnes married Thomas Millar, a widower, in 1894 in St Boswells. At that time she was a domestic servant. They had 3 children: Isabella in 1894, Agnes in 1897 and Thomas.

**Jane** married Andrew Graham in 1905/6. On the 1911 census Graham is a ploughman (horses)

**Elizabeth** had an illegitimate son, Benjamin, in 1898. At that time Elizabeth was a domestic servant. In 1900 she had another illegitimate daughter Mary Jane. She later married John Moffat in 1902.

**Mary** On the 1891 census aged 13 working as a domestic servant. In 1895 she married William Morgan.

**Robert James** is on the 1910 census in England living in Lazonby, Penrith. He was a wood waggoner.

### 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 Scholar Pauper
- 1861: Listed as Farm servant
- 1871: Listed as Post Runner
- 1881: Listed as Post Runner
- 1891: Listed as Postman
- 1901: Listed as Postman (Retired)
- 1911: Listed as Retired farm servant

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 1 Q2

William is on the 1901 census with his two daughters, Jane 28 (Housekeeper) and Elizabeth, and grandchildren James Simpson 18 (cab driver), William Scott 18 (farm servant), Benjamin Simpson 3, and Mary Jane Simpson 8mo.

By 1911 he is living with his daughter, Jane, and her husband Andrew Graham.

#### 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?

William's wife Jane died in 1898.

William died in 1911 on 15<sup>th</sup> of April from senile decay. The death certificate records that his death was registered by Andrew Graham his stepson, but Andrew was actually his son in law.

St. Boswell's or Lessudden is a parish containing a village of its own in Roxburghshire near the river Tweed. For many years the main source of employment in the parish was agriculture.

In 1861 the population was 865 ([http://www.bordersfhs.org.uk/st\\_boswells.asp](http://www.bordersfhs.org.uk/st_boswells.asp))

#### Part Five: Your Sources

Please use this space to record the sources you have used

**1851 census for William Simpson:** Piece: SCT1851/804 Place: St Boswells - Roxburghshire Enumeration District: 1 Civil Parish: St Boswells Ecclesiastical Parish, Village or Island: St Boswells Folio: 806 Page: 13 Schedule: 55

**1867 marriage record for William Simpson:** ScotlandsPeople Marriage Registers (1867): 792/7

**1871 census for William Simpson:** Parish: *St Boswells*; ED: 1; Page: 8; Line: 6; Roll: *CSSCT1871\_180*

**1881 census for William Simpson:** Parish: *Bowden*; ED: 1; Page: 5; Line: 14; Roll: *cssct1881\_316*

**1891 census for William Simpson:** Parish: *St Boswells*; ED: 3; Page: 5; Line: 1; Roll: *CSSCT1891\_387*

**1901 census for William Simpson:** Parish: *St Boswells*; ED: 1; Page: 7; Line: 21; Roll: *CSSCT1901\_426*

**1911 death record for William Simpson:** ScotlandsPeople Death Registers (1911): 800/6