

**James Forrester and Janet Hamilton**



James Forrester Janet Hamilton

Married 6th June 1876 at Rushbuck near Cumbernauld. He aged 25, a carter, son of Joseph Forrester and Janet Stark of Woodmill, Kirkintilloch and she aged 25 (although the certificate says 26), a dairymaid, the daughter of Alex Hamilton and Jane (or Jean) Cuthel of Rushbuck farm in the parish of Falkirk.

Rashbush (or Rashbuck) is shown on the map of 1859 below. In 1999 nothing remains of this farm except a widening in the track which passed through the steading, and a well!

Rigghead, Bandomine are to be found towards the bottom right of the following 1859 map <http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch/view/?sid=74430878>



James and Janet's wedding china

Their first child, Jane (later known more commonly as Jeannie) was born at Dalshannon, Kirkintilloch on 28th April 1877 when James is described as a foreman miller.

Dalshannon is near Condorrat to the right of centre on this 1859 map: <http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch/view/?sid=74426627>

A contemporary map shows only three houses in Dalshannon. In 1999 Dalshannon is in the middle of a housing scheme in the new town of Cumbernauld but there are still three houses on the sites of the 1877 ones. These houses are shown below which one Jeannie was born in is a matter for conjecture.



1878 was the year of the crash of the City of Glasgow Bank in which the young couple was said to have lost money.

By the time a son, Joseph, was born to the couple on twenty-sixth January 1879, the family had moved to Coatbridge where James had become a dairyman and the family

was living at 72 English Square, Dundyvan, Coatbridge. A daughter, Jessie, was born on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1880 at the same address.

Although the Monklands area they had moved to had been described in the Statistical Account a century earlier as an “immense garden”, the coming of the iron industry in the 1830’s had changed its character completely and, by the 1880’s, English Square typified the lowest end of the social scale. Surrounding it were railways, canals, foundries, iron & steel works, a brick works, a slaughterhouse and an electricity generating plant. The workers rows (the “raa’s” in the local dialect) had been built by works owners as close as possible to their places of business. Long Row to the North of English Square, had at one time been much longer and a remnant can be seen beyond the boiler works to the North-East. Originally there was a coal pit between two gable ends in the middle of the row!

Throughout their existence, the rows were visited by recurrent eruptions of cholera and enteric fever (both contracted from polluted water and food), typhus fever (from body lice) and endemic fever (from bites of rat fleas). The Royal Commission on housing visited the district in 1914 and reported “Most have no rones to carry the rainwater from the roof. Rainfall simply runs down the roof and then down the walls... Coals are kept below the beds... The closet accommodation is hideous... In some of the rows 7 or 8 people occupy one room”.

English Square took its name from the influx of English workers which occurred in the early years of the century when the iron industry was expanding although by the 1881 census only three householders in the Square were of English birth and a significant proportion were from Ireland.

The 1881 census for Dist 652/2, Dist. 7, Pg. 37 has at 27 English Square:

Forrester James	h m	31	Dairyman & grain merchant	Dumbarton, Cumbernauld
Forrester Janet	w m	31		Stirling, Falkirk
Forrester Jane	d	3		Dumbarton, Kirkintilloch
Forrester Joseph	s	2		Lks, Coatbridge
Forrester Jessie	d	5mo		Lks, Coatbridge
Frew Catherine	serv	15	General serv. dom.	Lks, Coatbridge

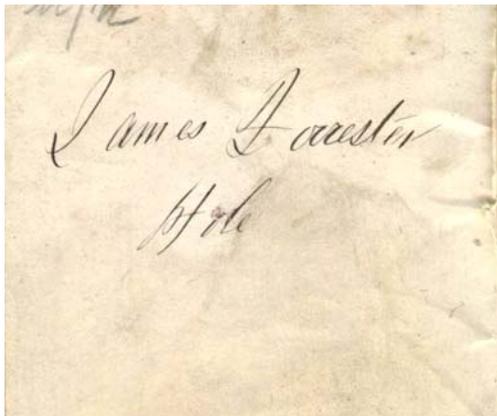
Being a Dairyman and Grain Merchant and having a servant does not fit in with the surroundings in English Square and it seems possible that James may have had business premises, perhaps a shop with a byre, somewhere else. It is also possible that he delivered milk and grain, by horse and cart, the customers coming out to have tins filled from churns but where, in this case did he get the milk? The suspicion must be that he ran the sales side of the business, selling milk, oatmeal and lentils for example, while she ran the dairy, hence the need for a “servant” to look after the children. Reference to a street directory or business directory might yield information about any such dairy but a fire in the library at Coatbridge destroyed all the directories stored there.

On April 15<sup>th</sup> 1881, just after the census, Jessie died aged five months, the cause being given as “congestion of lungs, three days”

Early in the year following the census, tragedy struck the family again with the death of James on 12 January 1882. This was the result of "ulceration of the stomach and

bowel". He was buried in lair no. 29P in Old Monkland New Burial Ground, the plot costing £3:15:- Stg. No record of Confirmation or Inventory has been found, perhaps not surprisingly considering the unexpectedness of his death. Janet (sometimes known as Jean) was left to bring up the family on her own.

After James's death, Janet's brother, John helped at the dairy for a time and it appears that she got some financial help from both her father-in-law and from her uncle, William. She built property at 42-50 Academy Street, Coatbridge, comprising a tenement incorporating a dairy, a byre and hen houses. At one time one of their cows contacted foot and mouth disease and, rather than inform the authorities and have the whole herd (about 4 or 5) destroyed, she isolated the infected animal and treated it herself, feeding it on raw chips to give it some sustenance. The poor beast was described as filling the whole trough and the area round about with foam from its mouth. It did survive, but as daughter, Jeannie said years later "never did well after that".



For many years no photograph was known to exist of James. His wallet has been kept and in it a notebook with his signature and address (when he stayed with his parents at Hole farm, Cumbernauld). This example of his writing is reproduced alongside.

1891 census 652/2 bk.032 p6.

48 Academy Street

Forrester Janet	h wid	40	dairykeeper	employer	LKS, Falkirk
Forrester Jane	d	12	dairymaid	employed	Dumbarton, Kirkintilloch
Forrester Joseph	s		scholar		LKS, Coatbridge

Academy Street is in the middle of 1858 map VII 12.10 and English Square towards the bottom right of

VII 12.19 on the following site. <http://maps.nls.uk/townplans/coatbridge.html>

1901 census 652/2 bk.33.

48 Academy Street

Forrester Janet	h wid	51	dairykeeper	employer	LKS, Falkirk
Forrester Jane	d	23	dairymaid	employed	Dumbarton, Kirkintilloch
Forrester Joseph	s	22	dairy assistant	employed	LKS, Coatbridge

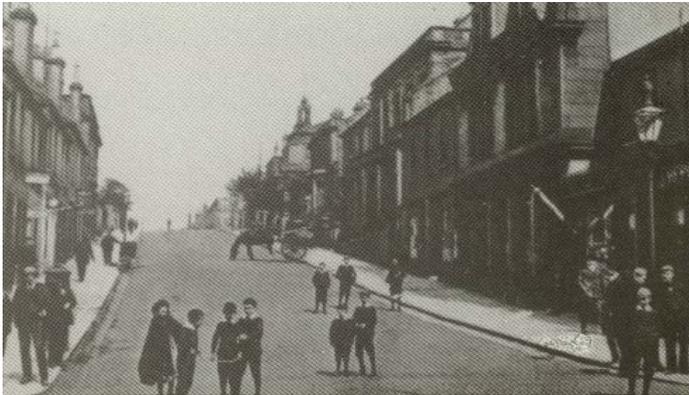
The dairy at Academy Street (on map above) was open from 7am till 11pm and even so people would come in before 7 saying “No open yet?” and at 11 p.m. saying “Why are you closing?” The children, of course, both helped in the dairy as soon as they were old enough. Joe, who had been a bright boy, fell and struck his head on a desk soon after starting at school. This was thought to be the cause of his remaining “simple” for the rest of his life, never progressing beyond the capabilities of a young child. He was, however, capable of carrying out routine manual tasks in a reliable fashion and helped around his mother’s dairy, his brother-in-law’s kennels and latterly at Jeannie’s son-in-law’s farm. In his later years it was thought that a brain tumour was the more likely cause of his disability.



Janet with Jeannie and Joe

In those days, the quantities purchased by customers would be small. There were no refrigerators, indeed most customers would have no space in their houses to store anything and would buy for immediate use only. Visits would be made to the shops, several times a day, with an order such as an ounce (25 grams) of butter, a glass of milk, a tin of treacle (the customer brought her own tin and it was filled from the barrel), two ounces of sugar. Purchases of such small quantities continued in many places until the 1950’s. One story of these times is of a customer who regularly came into Chris’s (Janet’s grand-daughter) butchers shop in Bellshill asking for “A penny worth of ham cuttin’s or anything at a’!”

Jeannie often repeated the story about one customer, Mary Ann, coming into the dairy for a tumbler of milk. She meant to put the tumbler on the counter but looked away as she put it down and missed the counter completely, the tumbler fell and smashed. A shocked Mary Ann said " Oh my God that's the tumbler Pat stole at Lourdes".



Academy Street Coatbridge

Jeannie always laughed at her own stories and loved stories with an anti-Roman Catholic bias.

Another favourite story was about the maid who left and gave both children a penny for helping her. For the dog she left twopence. Why? Because the dog, unknown to the family, had been helping more. The girl had apparently been putting the dirty plates down for the dog to lick clean thus saving herself a lot of work!



Photos of Janet Hamilton or Forrester circa 1926.

Stories about her mother recounted by Jeannie in later years include one about Janet representing herself in court in an action to claim payment from someone who was due her money - and winning the case. Another which occurred when police came to her door one morning asking if she had seen a man being murdered outside her gate the previous night. She truthfully replied that she hadn't since she had only seen a woman dancing on a man's chest! As it transpired no murder had been committed and the police had been trying to scare her into telling more than she knew. Finally there is the story of the time when Janet didn't bother to go and vote in an election. Someone remonstrated with her and she decided to go to the polling station at the last minute, arriving there just before it closed at 9.00p.m. As she climbed the stairs to the door, supporters of the candidate she would **not** be voting for shouted, "The knock's chapped". Janet, however went in and was the last person to vote before the poll closed and as a result her man was elected by one vote!



No record of the birth of James has been found but the records of Dennyloanhead church record the baptism of Janet:

1849 Dec 27 Janet Alexr. Hamilton / J Cuthell Ridgehead Dr Stark.

This event is also recorded in O.P.R's: 479/10.

C. Hamilton Jean lawl. P. Alexander Hamilton Janet Cuthel. Born Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> 1849.

1876 Marriage Falkirk L 479/2 No. 37

1876 James Forrester 25 Woodmill Joseph Forrester Dennyloanhead  
06<sup>th</sup> June Kirkintilloch farmer Church  
Rashbush Janet Forrester  
M.S. Stark

Janet Hamilton 26 Rashbush Alex Hamilton  
Parish of farmer  
Falkirk Jane Hamilton  
M.S. Cuthill

1882 Death Old Monkland 652/2 No. 37

James Forrester 1882 M 32 Joseph Forrester Ulceration of Ebenezer  
Dairyman 12 January farmer bowel and Forrester  
Married to Janet Dundyvan Janet Forrester stomach brother.  
Hamilton M.S. Stark

1930 Death Coatbridge 652/2 No. 563.

Janet Hamilton 1930 F 81 Alex Hamilton Hepatic catarrh Jeannie  
Widow of James Dec 28<sup>th</sup> farmer Cerebral Nelson  
Forrester farmer 9h 30m a.m. deceased Haemorrhage daughter  
Church Street Jean Hamilton present  
Coatbridge M.S. Cuthill  
deceased

Confirmation:

Forrester, Janet Hamilton or, Elton Mar, Church Street, Coatbridge, widow, died 28 December 1930 at Coatbridge, testate. Confirmation Airdrie 26 March to Thomas Martin, architect, Coatbridge, and David Sharp and John Simon Scott solicitors there, executors. Will dated 30 August 1929 recorded Airdrie 18 March 1913. Value of estate £229:00:2

Sc35/31/26 Janet Forrester d 28 Dec 1930 invy Airdrie 26/3/31.

1 Cash		1-00-00
2 Household effects		20- 3-00
3 Royal,Life Insurance Co. Ltd. No. 59595		
	200:-- :-	
add bonus	<u>109:10:-</u>	
	309:10:-	
deduct loan & interest	126: 5: 4	
		183- 4- 8
4 Sum at credit North of Scotland Bank Ltd. Coatbridge		- 1- 1
5 Sun at credit National Bang of Scotland Coatbridge		- -10
6 Rates of heritable property forming 42/50 Academy Street Coatbridge accrued to date of death Vis <sup>t</sup>		

		Years rent Payable and rates	Proportion accrued
No.42 John Gentles	house	13:--: 4 Monthly	1: 1: 9
No. 44 Mary Park	house	10: 3: 7 Quarterly	--:17:-
No.50a William Walker	house	21: 7: 3 Quarterly	1:15: 7
No.50b Samuel Moore	house	21: 7: 3 Quarterly	1:15: 7
No.50c Frank Harvie	house	12:13: 6 Half-yearly	1: 1: 1
No. 50d George Clark	house	13:00: 4 Monthly	1: 1: 9
No. 50e Andrew Milligan	house	22:15: 7 Quarterly	1:17:11
No 50f Robert Tulloch	house	21: 7: 2 do.	1:15: 7
No50g Matthew S16 Buchanan	house	10:17:10Monthly	:18: 2
No. 46 Monteith Khan	house	15:17: 7 Monthly	1: 6: 6
No.48 Kate S Gartshore	shop	20: : Quarterly	1:13: 4
No. 50 Robert Tulloch	office	10: : do.	:16: 8
		<u>192:10: 5</u>	16: :11

Add arrears of rent due vis<sup>l</sup>.

John Gentles	1: 1: 9
George Clark	5: 8: 9
Matthew S. 16 Buchanan	:15: 5
Monteith Khan	1: 3: 9

24:10: 7

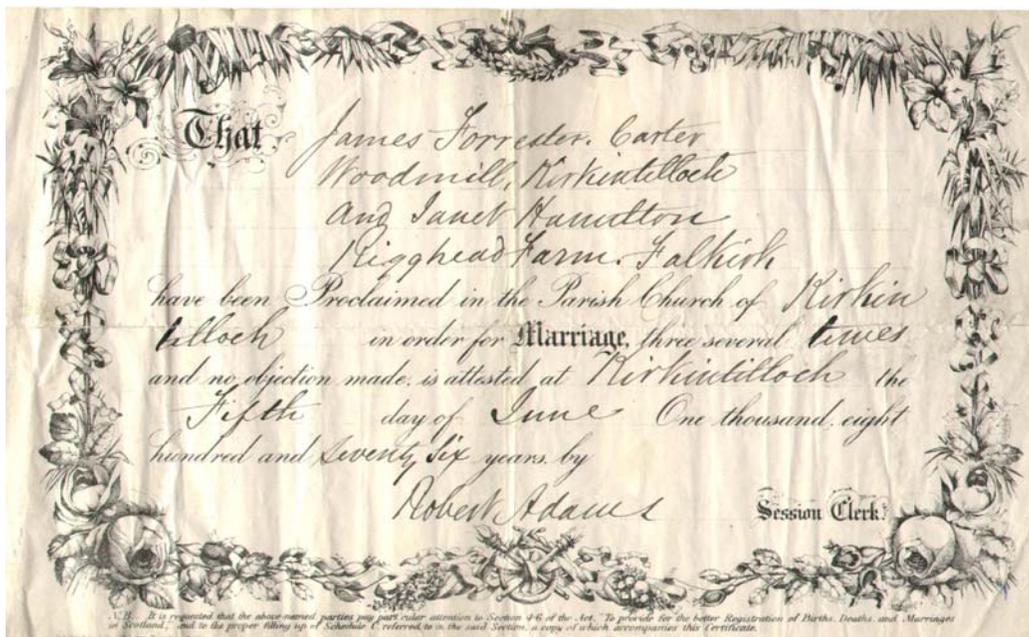
Gross amount of personal estate in Scotland

£229:--: 2

Janet's will set up a trust with Jeannie and Joe receiving liferent of all her property (this presumably to safeguard Joe's interests). Following the death of Jimmy Nelson, Jeannie's husband, Elton Mar was sold (on 21<sup>st</sup> August 1947 for £1500). The Academy Street property was also sold in 1947 and the trust was finally wound up.

Note: 1947 sasines Lanarkshire, Academy Street (formerly Railway Street) no. 3605. (Had been purchased 16th Feb 1909 using a loan from Ina Hamilton's father, William). Family moved here from Dundyvan.

52 Church Street no. 2527 was purchased 26 Mar 1924.





Old Monkland New Burial Ground.

£ 3. 15. -

21st January 1882.

Received by me on behalf of the Parochial Board of the Parish of Old Monkland, from Mrs. Janet Forrester or Hamilton, the sum of Three pounds, fifteen shillings & 6p. being the price paid by her for the exclusive right of Burial in the Lair numbered 29. P. in the New Burial Ground of the Parish of Old Monkland.

John Lawrence Treasurer

Birth 1880 652/2 no. 641

Jessie Forrester	1880 Oct 9 <sup>th</sup> 10h 20m p.m. 72 English Sq. Dundyvan	F	James Forrester dairyman Janet Forrester M.S. Hamilton 1876 June 6 <sup>th</sup> Falkirk Parish	James Forrester father present
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Death 652/2 no. 147

Jessie Forrester single	1881 April 15 <sup>th</sup> 9h 15m a.m. 72 English Sq. Dundyvan	F 5mo.	James Forrester grain merchant Janet Forrester M.S. Hamilton	congestion of lungs three days. Chas. Adam M.D.	James Forrester father
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