

William Harley Sarah Forsyth

William Harley and Sarah Forsyth were the parents of Janet. Little is to be found about them except the following:

All the births recorded to the family are in the parish of Gretna in Dumfries. They are:

Births Graitney (827/1)

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| Fr 121
Harly | Feb 28 1775
Baptized Mary, daughter to William Harly and Sarah Forsyth in Hayford. |
| FR 132
Harly | October 18 th 1777
Baptized Robert, son to William Harly and Sarah Forsyth at Lochmaben Stonen. |
| FR 143
Harley | June 13 th 1780
Baptized Janet, daughter to William Harley and Sarah Forsyth in Haslene. |
| FR 150
Harly | September 1781
Baptized Janet, daughter to William Harly and Sarah Forsyth in Hadflane Moor. (The 'f' here may be an elongated 's'). |
| FR 164
Harly | January 31 st 1785
Baptized Eliz. Katharine, daughter to William Harly and Sarah Forsyth in(totally illegible). |

O.S. maps and an 1824 map of the district have been checked for the places named but they have not been found..

The family seems to have moved regularly. This makes it likely that William was a farm labourer and on this assumption a description of the labourer's lot, taken from the Old (First) Statistical Account for Graitney (i.e. Gretna) is included below:

“With these wages, the indutrious tradesman and labourer fupport their families in a pretty decent and comfortable manner, if fickness, bad weather, &c. prevent them not from following their respective employments.

A labourer's annual earnings may be as follows:

7shillings a week for the fummer and harveft quarters,	L.9 2 0
6shillings a week for the winter and fpring quarters,	<u>7 16 0</u>
Total annual earnings,	l. 16 18 0

The annual expenfes of a labourer's family, confifting of himfelf, a wife, and four fmall children, may be as follows:

Houfe rent, including a fmall garden and potato ground,	L. 1 0 0
1 ¹ / ₂ ftone of oat-meal a-week, at 1s. 8d. the ftone,	6 10 0
Milk and butter a week, 1s.	2 12 0
Tea and fugar, a year,	0 15 0
Soap, candles, and falt, &c.	0 15 0

Tear and wear on their Sunday' clothes,	1	0	0
A working jacket, veft, breeches, fhirts, ftockings, clogs, Handkerchief, and hat, for the man,	1	10	0
A bed gown, petticoats, fhift, ftockings, clogs, handkerchief, and cap, for his wife	1	0	0
A new veft, breeches, &c. for each of the four children at 10s. each fuit,	2	0	0
School wages for two of the children,		12	0
Coal or peats for fuel,		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
Total annual expenfes,	L. 18	14	0

The annual expenfes exceeds the man's annual earnings L. 1, 16s.; but the deficiency may be made up by the wife's industry, as fhe generally works at hay time and harfeft, by which fhe may earn about L. 1, at an average, and by fpinning the remainder of the year, may earn about 1s. a-week, besides doing the bufinefs of her family. When potatoes are a good crop, there will be a faving in the article of oat-meal, which is generally expended in purchafing better clothes, or a little butcher-meat.