

Chapter 3 of Kerr Roots and Shoots



19th Century Coach and Coachman

James Kerr (1808-1891) and Barbara (Henderson) Kerr had three children between 1831 and 1836 in Mid Calder, and a further nine between 1837 and 1855 at Meadowbank Lodge, Kirknewton, on Lord Meadowbank's Estate.

Their oldest son, James, *named after his paternal grandfather*, is born in Mid Calder on the nineteenth of August, 1832. Subsequently he is traced as lodger in a hostel in Leith in the 1871 Census, and his occupation given as an unmarried Mason's Labourer. However by 1881, and still single, he has become a coachman, and is lodging with a Holdane family at 3 High Riggs, Edinburgh v.i.z.

Dwelling: 3 High Riggs
1881 Census Place: *Edinburgh St Cuthberts, Edinburgh, Scotland*
Source: FHL Film 0223990 GRO Ref Volume 685-1 EnumDist 12
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	<i>Marr</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Birthplace</i>
<i>Elizabeth HOLDANE</i>	W	40	F	<i>Edinburgh City, Edinburgh, Scotland</i>
<i>Rel:</i>	<i>Head</i>			
<i>David HOLDANE</i>		15	M	<i>Edinburgh City, Edinburgh, Scotland</i>
<i>Rel:</i>	<i>Son</i>			
<i>Occ:</i>	<i>Butchers Messenger</i>			
<i>Thomas HOLDANE</i>		12	M	<i>Edinburgh City, Edinburgh, Scotland</i>
<i>Rel:</i>	<i>Son</i>			
<i>Occ:</i>	<i>Scholar</i>			
<i>Isabella HOLDANE</i>		10	F	<i>Edinburgh City, Edinburgh, Scotland</i>
<i>Rel:</i>	<i>Daur</i>			
<i>Occ:</i>	<i>Scholar</i>			

Margaret HOLDANE 9 F Edinburgh City, Edinburgh, Scotland
 Rel: Daur
 Occ: Scholar
 James KERR U 48 M Mid Calder, Edinburgh, Scotland
 Rel: Lodger
 Occ: Private Coachman

By the 1890s, still single, and still a coachman, he is living in the Edinburgh City Poors House, Craiglockhart, Colinton and as can be seen from the following registration document, he dies there of Apoplexy on September the Fifth, 1894..

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1894. DEATHS in the Parish of Colinton in the County of Edinburgh

No.	Name and Surname, Rank or Profession, and whether Single, Married, or Widowed.	When and Where Died.	Sex.	Age.	Name, Surname, & Rank or Profession of Father, Name, and Maiden Surname of Mother.	Cause of Death, Duration of Disease, and Medical Attendant by whom certified.	Signature & Qualification of Informant, and Residence, if out of the House in which the Death occurred.	When and where Registered, and Signature of Registrar.
109	Sarah	1894	F	52	William Sibbald	Plumery	James H. Smith	1894
	Ronald	September		4st	Sarah (decd)	2 days	W. Govt	September 7 th
	Charwoman	4. 45. Pell.						At Colinton
	Widow of	City Poorhouse Craiglockhart Parish of Colinton			Sarah Sibbald M.S. Archibald	As Cert by John Kellie M. B. Bell		At Shandwick Registrar.
110	James Kerr	1894 September 5 th	M	62	James Kerr Coachman (decd)	Apoplexy 3 days	James H. Smith W. Govt	1894 September 7 th At Colinton
	Coachman	6. 45. Kell.			Barbara Kerr M.S. Henderson	As Cert by John Kellie M. B. Bell		At Shandwick Registrar.
	(Single)	City Poorhouse Craiglockhart Parish of Colinton						
111	James Barber	1894 September 5 th	M	73		Syncope	James Baxter Repaired 159 159 Dalry Road Edinburgh	1894 September 10 th At Colinton
	Shoemaker	9. 35. Pell.				As Cert by John Kellie M. B. Bell		At Shandwick Registrar.
	(Single)	City Poorhouse Craiglockhart Parish of Colinton						

Andrew Shandwick Registrar.

Barbara and James' next child was Robert, my Great Great Grandfather, born in Mid Calder on the Fifth of November, 1833 and named after his maternal grandfather, Robert Henderson. As he is my direct line ancestor, I will skip his story meantime and deal with it last in the account of this particular generation.

Suffice to say, he also became a Coachman!

Completing the births before removal of the Kerr family from Mid Calder to Kirknewton in 1837, is Margaret who, on the twenty-fifth of October was christened with her maternal grandmother, Margaret Pollock's name. All that can be said about Margaret's life is that it was short. She died aged about age twelve of unknown cause in 1849. By this stage, duty had been done (and with subsequent deaths, would continue to be done) to the forenames of the four grandparents, James Kerr, Margaret Roberts,

