

Our Armour Ancestors

By
James Retson
Last Revised at
<https://www.retson.ca/armour.pdf>
November 22 2022

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Armour Context

Our earliest Armour discovered to date is Alexander Armour born in Fenwick, Scotland. Margaret Armour's marriage to Francis McManus in 15 September 1851 brought an end to the Armour line. In turn the McManus line married into the Retson line. The Surname was retained as a second name for some children for at least a two generations. Further descendants of Armours may be found at <http://www.retson.ca/armourdescendants>

1. James Armour, a weaver, b. about 1791
<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Armour-1616>

2. Alexander Armour 1792 – 1791 Margaret Cook
<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Armour-1240>

Alexander Armour was born abt 1792 in Fenwick, Ayrshire, Scotland. He died on 19 Feb 1870 at Catrine, Ayrshire, Scotland. Alexander, a Coachman, married Margaret Cook on 07 Mar 1812 in Kilmaurs, Ayrshire, Scotland

In the 1841 census he age 50, was residing on St. Cuthberts Street, Catrine with wife Margaret 50, and children David 20, John 15, Margaret 12 and William 10.. His occupation given as Ag Lab

In 1851 census he age 60, was residing with wife Margaret 60, and children Margaret 22 and William 19

In the 1961 census he is living with his granddaughter Mary McManus her father having died on May 24 1856 at Royal Infirmary, Glasgow.

Their children included,

i. James Armour b. 31 Jul 1814 m. Margaret McClure 16 Feb 1838 Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland, d. 13 Oct 1878

- ii. David Armour b. 31 Mar 1821 in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland, m. (1) Elizabeth Buchanan 17 Mar 1843 Sorn, Ayr, Scotland They had eight children. She died Bet. 1864–1871, (2) m. Mary Wilson 15 Dec 1871 in Sorn., They had no children.
- iii. John Armour b. abt 1826 Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland, United Kingdom, cotton spinner, m. Elizabeth Muir Wallace d. 29 Apr 1911 Dunedin,
- 3. iv. Margaret Armour b. 29 Jul 1828 Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland, m. Francis McManus 15 Sep 1851 in Sorn, d. 20 Apr 1869 in Catrine, Ayrshire, Scotland
 - v. William Armour b. 2 Apr 1831 Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland, d. 26 May 1934 Kilmarnock, Scotland
 - vi. Mary Armour b. 28 Mar 1834 Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland
- vii. Elizabeth Armour b. 28 Mar 1834 Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland died in 1834

Alexander Armour died July 23 1886 in Catrine, Ayrshire, Scotland

Fenwick Ayrshire Scotland

Fenwick is a village in East Ayrshire, Scotland, UK. In 2001, its population was 863. Fenwick is the terminus of the M77 following its extension which was opened in April 2005, at the beginning of the Kilmarnock bypass. The Fenwick Weavers' Society was founded in Fenwick in 1761 and is considered one of the first co-operatives in the world. Fenwick Parish Church dates back to 1643. The two main areas of Fenwick are High Fenwick and Laigh Fenwick, referring directly to the area of housing and community at the top of Kirkton Road and the area of housing at the bottom.

Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland¹

Sorn (Scottish Gaelic: Sorn, meaning a kiln) is a small village in East Ayrshire, Scotland. It is situated on the River Ayr. It has a population of roughly 350. Local services include: a pub, a church, a general store, a motorbike shop and a television shop. There is also a village hall and a bowling green and primary school. Sorn is known for its success in the Britain in Bloom competition. In 2004 it won gold in the "Small Villages" category and has previously won, amongst other awards, the "Highly Commended Certificate" a number of times in the 1980s. Sorn is also the first village in Scotland where all parking is off road parking.

Catrine

Catrine is a village in East Ayrshire, Scotland which was formerly a center of cotton manufacture. The village lies on the River Ayr which previously provided water power for local industry. It is in the parish of Sorn, 2 miles (3.2 km) south east of Mauchline. The A76 road lies south west of Catrine. Catrine lies at the edge one of the longest-lasting Gaelic-speaking areas in the Lowlands of Scotland. Catrine was constructed around one of the first cotton mills in Scotland in 1787 by Claud Alexander of Ballochmyle A plan of Catrine at that time shows the hamlet consisted of 11 buildings, including a smithy and corn mill. In 1801 the factory was purchased by Messrs. James Finlay & Co., of Glasgow. In 1802, two artificial lochs, covering between them 120 acres (0.49 km²), were constructed above Muirkirk, near the village of Glenbuck, to supply the cotton works. The business was greatly enlarged in 1823 when they added extensive bleaching works. The motive power for the works was supplied by wooden wheels, made from oak grown on Drumlanrig estate. In 1828, the wooden wheels were replaced by two large iron wheel. These wheels were a tourist attraction in their day and continued in service until the 1940s. Catrine today is a village of around 2,500 inhabitants. The site of the former bleaching works of Messrs. Finlay & Co. is now occupied by Glen Catrine Bond which bottles whisky and vodka and markets them under a number of different brand names.

¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sorn>

3. Margaret Armour 1828 – 1869 Francis McManus 1832 – 1856

<https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Armour-595>

Margaret Armour, daughter of Alexander Armour, and Margaret Cook was born on 29 Jul 1828 and baptized on 31 Aug 1828 at Sorn Ayrshire Scotland. She married Francis McManus an Ironstone miner in Sorn, Ayrshire, Scotland on 15 September 1851. She died on 20th April 1869, at St. Cuthbert Street, Catrine, Ayrshire, Scotland.

In 1841 census she age 12, was residing on St. Cuthberts Street, Catrine with father Alexander, Mother Margaret and siblings David 20, John 15, and William 10.

In 1851 census she age 22, was residing at St. Cuthbert Street, Catrine with father Alexander 60 Sorn, mother Margaret 60, and brother William 19.

Their children include,

- i. Mary McManus b. ABT 1852 Sorn
- ii. Francis McManus b. 07 Jul 1856 Milton, Glasgow, Lanark, Scotland, d. 2nd August 1857 at 22 North Woodside Road, Glasgow, male age 13 months, Cause of death Measles.

It would appear that Father Francis died before the birth of his son Francis McManus. He died May 24th, 1856 May 24th at Royal Infirmary, Glasgow. His usual resident at time of death was 26 North Woodside Road, age 24years. Cause of death was recorded as disease of shoulder joint and Phthitis. He was buried at High Churchyard, Glasgow.

Appendices

Abbreviation

Abt about aft. After b. born m. married d. died

Sources

Durie, Bruce, Scottish Genealogy, 3rd Ed Stroud, Gloucestershire: The History Press, 2009
Epperson, Amanda, The Family Tree Scottish Genealogy Guide: Cincinnati, Ohio, 2018

Website

The Relationship of the Armours to the Author


3rd great grandfather

	Alexander Armour b: 1792 Fenwick, Ayrshire, Scotland d: 19 Feb 1870 Catrine, Ayrshire, Scotland
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2nd great grandmother

	Margaret Armour b: 29 Jul 1828 Som, Ayrshire, Scotland d: 20 Apr 1869 St Cuthbert St. Catrine
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Great grandmother

	Mary McManus b: 1852 Som, Ayrshire d: 29 Mar 1937 15 St. Ninians Road, Preswick, S
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Paternal grandfather

	William Rankin Retson b: 22 Feb 1884 Townhead, Fenwick, Ayrshire, Sc d: 14 Jul 1975 Bible Hill, Colchester County, Nov
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Father

	George Clifford Retson b: 19 Dec 1912 Bible Hill, Colchester, Nova Scoti d: 17 Feb 1997 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S
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Self

	James Clifford Retson b: 28 Jul 1948 Truro, Colchester County, Nova S d:
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