TRANSPORT

ROAD

BUS STANCE

ACC Planning, 3567 — June 1946. Bus stance, Darvel, for Western S.M.T. Ltd. Approved, November 1946.

ACC, TPC 8.10.1946, 1415-20 — Hay & Steel, agents.
[I assume this is the 'turning-circle' at the east end of the town.]

DARVEL BY-PASS

SRC, HTC 24.1.1985 — Dr Riddell, Strathclyde University, appointed as specialist consultant to examine effects of proposed diversion of the Irvine in connection with Darvel by-pass.

RANALDCOUP BRIDGE

List 11 — Single segmental stone arch, low parapet. C.

RAIL

VIADUCT

List 13 — Railway Viaduct over Glen Water. 3 large round arches in blue brick. B.

INDUSTRY

LACE

Kilmarnock Directory for 1879 lists many weavers, and a few manufacturers [Alexander Morton - William Porter - Alexander Young] and agents [James S Clelland - James Clelland 1 Hastings Square - John Fleming - George Mair - Alexander Morton], but no companies.

AA 4.3.1886 — The lace factories in Ayrshire have for some time been fully employed, and as an outcome of the extra trade, more new factories are about to be put up. At Darvel, the Messrs Morton closed contracts last week with tradesmen for the erection of another factory.

AP 5.3.1886 — Messrs Morton have closed contracts for the erection of a new factory, west of their present factory. Proposed to use it for a new style of fabric.

Notes taken at a V&A exhibition on Arts and Crafts Textiles, September 1988

In the late C19, the variety of woven textiles available in Great Britain was greater than it had been for many decades. The mid C19 manufacturers had concentrated on damasks, heavy brocades and (for windows) machine lace. Morris & Co were the first firm to offer a wide range of woven silk, cotton and linen fabrics. They were soon followed by other companies. Alexander Morton first revived the flagging local gauze industry

of his native Darvel, and from weaving heavy chenille curtains turned to lighter more effective techniques, such as double cloths, eventually producing many different types of woven cloth. Gavin Morton, nephew of the founder, ran the design studios at Mortons until 1908. His designs show a mixture of influences, notably C F A Voysey and Lindsay P Butterfield [1869-1948], both of whom produced designs for the company. Took 2 photos of "The House that Jack Built", a 1924 printed cotton nursery fabric, designed by Voysey and manufactured by Morton Sundour Fabrics (at Carlisle?), and of a woven silk and cotton fabric of c.1900 designed by Gavin Morton and manufactured by Alexander Morton & Co.

3SA, 1946-1950, 504 — From 1870s declining handloom weaving replaced by growth of lace manufacture, brought from Nottingham in 1876 (Alexander Morton & Co Ltd). Presently 19 lace factories in town.

Sas Abridgement 819 of 1907 — 1907 Disp of 2 pieces of land in Darvel by now dissolved Young & Stirling (James Young, John Stirling, Robert Auld) to said James Young, of 24 East Main Street. 1451.164. [Stirling and Auld formed Stirling Auld & Co]

See also obituary of James Richmond, Provost of Darvel 1877 - †1893, in KS, precis in card index file. A draper, he became a partner initially in Findlay, Barbour & Co., which amalgamated with Alexander Morton & Co. He later 'had an interest in' Stirling Brothers.

[KS Sa 12.1.1924, 3c. Obit of Robert Findlay of Fernielea, 78, muslin machine weaver, with Thomas Barbour, in Findlay, Barbour & Co. Amalgamated with Mortons. Findlay a partner in Mortons.]

LACE FACTORY, 3 BURN ROAD

VR 1934/35 — Dobsons & M Browne & Co Ltd., Nottingham.

ACC Planning, A864 — April 1949. Weaving shed, Burn Road/West Donington Street, for Dobsons & Browne & Co Ltd., per Robert Clark & Co., Nottingham.

VR 1974-75 — Basford Dyers Ltd

LACE FACTORY, 4 BURNBANK STREET

ACC Planning, A3780 — July 1951. extension, for X & X Morton & Co.

CAMPBELL STREET

EG 17891, Tu 10.1.1961, 12b — A J (Darvel) Ltd. Proposal to wind up company to be put to a meeting, Tuesday 14th February 1961.

LACE FACTORY, 1 CAMPBELL STREET

VR 1974-75 — Woodrow-Universal Ltd

LACE FACTORY, 3 CAMPBELL STREET

VR 1934/35 — James McInnes & Co Ltd.

AP, F 28.2.1964, 31e — [The factory in Content Street, Ayr, of James McInnes & Co. Ltd is to close. The firm also have a larger factory in Darvel making curtains, ethylene, lace, &c.]

VR 1974-75	Mitchell Goldie & Co Ltd.

MADRAS FACTORY, 3 EAST CAMPBELL STREET

VR 1934/35	Lanfine Weaving Co Ltd.
ACC Planning, A357	November 1948. Storage Shed, East Campbell St., for Lanfine Weaving Co.
ACC Planning, A907	April 1949. Lavatories, Darvel, for Lanfine Weaving Co. Ltd.
ACC Planning, A4281	December 1951. extension, CS; **Alexander Dunlop**, for Lanfine Weaving Co.Ltd.
ACC Planning, B1235	May 1957. Shed, CS; Alexander Dunlop, for Lanfine Weaving Co Ltd.
VR 1974-75	Lanfine Weaving Co Ltd

LACE FACTORY, 5 EAST CAMPBELL STREET

VR 1934/35	Goldie Son & Co Ltd
ACC Planning, A1232	July 1949. Alterations to w.cs., for Goldie Son & Co Ltd. **Hay & Steel**, architects.
EG 17891, Tu 10.1.1961, 13b	Goldie Son & Co Ltd in process of winding up. Meeting on 14.2.1961.

LACE FACTORY, 5A EAST CAMPBELL STREET

EG, F 13.8.1915, 1263b	M.S. Mitchell, McInnes & Co., lace, madras and muslin manufacturers, dissolved 20th may 1915 by retiral of Matthew Stevenson Mitchell. The other partners, James McInnes and Thomas Whyte Alston continue.
VR 1934/35	Matthew S Mitchell & Co Ltd., lace curtain manufacturers.
EG 17891, Tu 10.1.1961, 13b	Matthew S Mitchell & Co Ltd in process of winding up. Meeting on 14.2.1961.

LACE FACTORY, 40 EAST MAIN STREET

VR 1934/35	Henry Gebbie & Co Ltd.
VR 1974-75	James Frier (of Port Murray, Maidens)

CARDCUTTING WORKS, 58 EAST MAIN STREET

VR 1934/35	Archibald Frame Ltd., cardcutters.
ACC Planning, A4343	January 1952. Alterations, for Archibald Frame & Co.

FINDLAY, BARBOUR & CO., muslin machine weavers.
See notes in Intro.

LACE FACTORY, 3 FLEMING STREET

VR 1934/35	Cleland Brothers & Co Ltd.
ACC Planning, A475	December 1948. Yarn store, Fleming Street, for Cleland Brothers & Co. Ltd. [**Hay & Steel**, Kilmarnock]

ACC Planning, A597 — January 1949. Addition, Lace Factory, Glencraig Street, for Cleland Brothers & Co. Ltd.

ACC Planning, A2148 — April 1950. Boiler house, and lavatories, for Cleland Brothers & Co. Ltd.

ACC Planning, A8046 — November 1954. Yarn store, for Cleland Brothers & Co Ltd.

VR 1974-75 — Cleland Jamieson Ltd

=?

CLELLAND CAMPBELL & CO

AP 5.3.1886 — Ground laid off, south side of Main Street, between Burnbank and Fleming Streets, for a factory for Cleland, Campbell & Co.

Sas Min 2037 of 1887 — 11.1.1887: 492.102. 1886 FCh between Loudoun estate and Cleland, Campbell & Co., manufacturers, Darvel. Partners are William Cleland, Glasgow - Archibald Campbell, Glasgow - James Cleland, Fairview Cottage, Darvel. The p.o.l. is 1A 3R 27P 9Y bot W by Fleming Street, ot S by Edith Street and ot E by Burnbank Street.

WS 1.8.1890, reprinting article in North British Daily Mail, nd — Lacemaking - chiefly curtains.

VR 1892/93 — Lace Factory, Fleming Street. Clelland, Campbell & Co., lace curtain manufacturers. [James Clelland, lace manufacturer, Darvel; William Clelland, manufacturer, Glasgow; Archibald Campbell, manufacturer, Glasgow]

CGA, CO1/12/1/2, Lanarkshire Planning Register 1900-1901 — 376, February 1900, is conversion of chapel, Chapel Road, Strathaven, to factory, for Clelland & Dykes, 4 Edith St., Darvel.

CARDCUTTING WORKS, GREEN STREET

VR 1934/35 — Mair & McCartney, cardcutters, sole partner, Mrs Rachael McCartney.

LACE FACTORY, GREEN STREET

VR 1934/35 — Stirling, Auld & Co Ltd

AP, F 21.1.1949, 7c — D, Southpark, Monkton, 18.1.1949, Robert Auld, managing director, Stirling Auld & Co Ltd.

VR 1974/75 — Stirling Auld & Co Ltd. Empty.

=?

Sas Abridgement 844 of 1908 — Feu Ch by Loudoun to John Stirling and Robert Auld (Stirling, Auld & C0), of 1A 3½P bounded on the east by a proposed new road. 1509.169

LACE FACTORY, GREEN STREET

EG 11399, Tu 15.4.1902, 405a — Stevenson, Young & Anderson dissolved 31st March 1902 by retiral of James Young. Robert Stevenson and Thomas Anderson continued as Stevenson, Anderson & Co. Witnesses were John Livingstone, designer, and John Hamilton, calenderer.

VR 1934/35 — Stevenson, Anderson & Co Ltd.

LACE FACTORY, 6/7 HASTINGS SQUARE

VR 1934/35 Alexander Morton & Co Ltd.

=?

LACE FACTORY

Hume 563373. Built from 1876 for Alexander Morton. An extensive group of yellow brick single storey weaving sheds with 2-storey office block and decorative tower.

Sas Min 865 of 1876 Partners in Alexander Morton & Co., muslin manufacturers, Darvel are Alexander Morton, Alpha Cottage - Alexander Morton, Hastings Place - Robert Morton, Townfoot - Thomas Scade, Townfoot.

WS 1.8.1890, reprinting article in North British Daily Mail, nd

Alex Morton & Co. Lace, madras, leno and tapestry curtains and Axminister carpet manufacturers. Introduced lace-making to Scotland. 22 years ago founded as a handloom madras and leno business. 15 years ago built factory and lace making machinery.

[nd Obit of Robert Findlay, †1924, calls him a partner in Alexander Morton & Co.]

VR 1892/93 Weaving Mills, &c., Hastings Square. Alexander Morton & Co., manufacturers. [Alexander Morton of Gowanbank; Alexander Morton of Kirkland Park; Robert Morton, Townfoot; Thomas Barbour, Burnbank Street; Thomas Scade, Townfoot]

EG, F 5.2.1915, 251b Restructuring of company. Gavin Morton no longer involved.

MORTON'S EMPIRE

TT, F 24.3.1899, 5e Alexander Morton & Co have acquired ground near Niagara Falls for the erection of a large carpet works. They already have branches in Ireland, Belgium, &c.

MADRAS FACTORY, 1 IRVINEBANK ROAD

VR 1934/35 Morton Brothers Ltd.

VR 1974-75 Store 1IBR. Prop: Secretary of State. T/t: Health Service

LACE FACTORY, JAMIESON ROAD

VR 1934/35 John Aird & Co Ltd [Directors: James Aird - Robert Aird]

VR 1974-75 John Aird & Co Ltd

=?

LACE FACTORY

EG 10230, Tu 17.2.1891, 214b John Aird, lace manufacturer, Main Street, petitioning for sequestration of John McMath Wilson (lace manufr & designer, Newmilns).

Hume 564377. Built 1896 for John Aird & Co. A 2-storey and attic, 4 by 9 bay cement rendered front building.

LACE FACTORY, JAMIESON ROAD

VR 1974-75 Stevenson, Anderson & Co Ltd

LACE FACTORY, JAMIESON ROAD

VR 1974-75 Stevenson, Anderson & Co Ltd. t/t: John Aird & Co Ltd.

FACTORY, MORTON PARK

VR 1974-75 Alexander Morton & Co Ltd

MADRAS FACTORY, 13-15 TEMPLE STREET

VR 1934/35 Morton Sundour Fabrics Ltd, Carlisle.

ACC Planning, 3991 October 1946. Extension, Mair's Road, for Morton Sandour Fabrics Ltd. [ACC, TPC, 12.11.1946, **Hay & Steel**, agents]

GLENBRIG LACE FACTORY, 1 TOWNHEAD

VR 1934/35 Stirling Auld & Co Ltd.

LACE FACTORY, 2 TOWNHEAD

VR 1934/35 Stirling Brothers & Co Ltd.

ACC Planning, 4756 October 1947. Additions and alterations, East Main Street, for Stirling Bros. Ltd. [**James Hay & Steel**]

ACC Planning, A2302 May 1950. Drawing Office, &c., for Stirling Bros & Co Ltd.

=?

LACE AND MADRAS FACTORY

Hume 569375. Built from 1877 for Stirling Brothers & Co. Behind a C20 frontage is a neat 6 bay range of north light weaving sheds with a circular section brick chimney.

VR 1892/93 Lace Factory, Townhead. Stirling Brothers, manufacturers.

LACE FACTORY, 3 TOWNHEAD

VR 1934/35 Morton Aird & Co Ltd. [Partners: James Aird - Jessie Morton - Matthew Morton - Andrew Morton - Hugh Morton - Archibald Morton]

ACC Planning, A1675 November 1949. Yarn Store, East Main Street; **Alexander Dunlop** for Morton Aird & Co Ltd.

=?

LACE FACTORY

Hume 571376. Built 1899 for Morton Aird & Co. A 2 storey and attic, 3 by 7 bay yellow brick front block, with single storey weaving sheds at the rear.

LACE FACTORY, 5 TOWNHEAD

AP 27.1.1933, 15b Big fire at Scade Hamilton & Co's lace curtain factory last Friday, c 3 a.m. Only the walls left.

VR 1934/35 Scade, Hamilton & Co. [Partners; Thomas Scade - William Cox - Thomas Kyle]

ACC Planning, 4464 June 1947. Extension, Lace Factory, Main Street, for Stiebel Ltd. [Alex Dunlop]

ACC Planning, 4506 June 1947. Bungalow, Main Street, for Stiebel Ltd [Alex Dunlop]

ACC Planning, A1969 February 1950. Addition, for Stiebel & Co Ltd.

ACC Planning, A3230 February 1951. Winding Shed and Yarn Store, Main Street, for Stiebel & Co Ltd.

ACC Planning, A9722	March 1956. Extension, Esco Mill, for Stiebel & Co Ltd.
ACC Planning, B1301	May 1957. Extension, Esco Mill; Alexander Dunlop, for Stiebel & Co Ltd.
VR 1974-75	Greenbank Mills, 5T. John Aird & Co Ltd

WEST DONINGTON STREET

ACC Planning, A2923	November 1950. Extension to Tracing Office, WDS, for Smith & Wylie.

[name not otherwise found: I assume Smith & Archibald is meant]

FACTORY, 33 WEST DONINGTON STREET

VR 1974-75	H M S Scotland Ltd

LACE FACTORY, 20 WEST DONINGTON STREET

VR 1934/35	Alexander Jamieson & Co Ltd.
ACC Planning, 4015	October 1946. Alterations, 14 Burn Road, D, for Alexander Jamieson & Co. Ltd.
ACC Planning, A4	July 1948. Extension to factory, East (sic) Donington Street, for Alexander Jamieson & Co. Ltd.
VR 1974-75	Cleland Jamieson Ltd

=?

LACE AND MADRAS FACTORY

Hume	562376. Built from 1886 for Alexander Jamieson & Co. An extensive group of buildings, the oldest being a 3 storey 7 bay block of madras loom shops, followed by 3 storey 2 by 17 bay buildings. A typical 2 storey, 8 bay, lace loom block and some single storey sheds complete the complex.
KS 15.5.1886	"At the end of last week, ground was taken off near where the old tile work stood, on the north side of the village, and west of the Matthew Burn, for a factory for the manufacture of gauze by a new firm". [is this Jamiesons?]

WS 1.8.1890. reprinting article in North British Daily Mail, nd

Alexander Jamieson & Co. Madras and crete curtains, tapestry woven as curtains, tablecloths and antimacassars, &c. Established 6 years ago in Glasgow, 3 years ago factory built and business moved to Darvel.

VR 1892/93	Mill/Factory, Burn Road. Alexander Jamieson & Co., manufacturers. [Alexander Jamieson, manufacturer, sole partner]
TT 23.9.1898	New pair of engines - Reader & Sons, Nottingham - in [Provost] A Jamieson & Co.'s mill.
(AA Th 10.8.1967, 15d	Will of Kirkwood Jamieson, Narvik, Kirkoswald, formerly of Broomhill, Darvel, lace and madras manufacturer, died last April. Estate £53K)

LACE FACTORY, 14 WEST EDITH STREET

VR 1934/35	McInnes Textiles Ltd.
ACC Planning, A666	February 1949. Yarn store, West Edith Street, for McInnes Textiles Ltd. [**Alexander Dunlop**, Kilmarnock]
ACC Planning, A3483	April 1951. Card store, West Edith Street, for McInnes Textiles Ltd.

VR 1974-75	M G & J Stross Ltd (Dewsbury). T/t: Barker & Connell (Hosiery) Ltd

LACE FACTORY, WEST MAIN STREET

VR 1934/35	Smith & Archibald Ltd.
ACC Planning, A2558	July 1950. Yarn store, West Donington Street; James Hay & Steel, for Smith & Archibald Ltd.
VR 1974-75	LF, West Donington Street. Smith & Archibald Ltd

FACTORY, TOWNHEAD

KS 13.1.1900	Passed at Dean of Guild Court last Monday, a new factory at Townhead.

OTHERS

DARVEL BLEACHWORKS (Ranaldcoup Road?)

Hume	565372. Built 1903 for James Clelland & Co. A 2 storey 4 by 11 bay red and white brick building with a tall chimney. Disused for many years.
VR 1934/35	Prop: Bleachers Association Ltd, Manchester. Tenants: James Cleland Ltd, a branch of the BAL.
ACC Planning, B783	December 1956. Conversion of Irvinebank Bleachworks, Darvel, to store, for Ayrshire Transport Services Ltd.

CARDING MILL, RONALDCOP

AA, Th 28.2.1828, 1d	To let, house, carding mill and lands of Ronaldcop, about 6 acres. Details from Alexander Lawrie, overseer at Lanfine.

GAS WORKS

ASH 31.3.1860	1853.
NMRS Sheaf Catalogue	AYD 235/1 - site plan, &c.

© Rob Close 2026