INDUSTRY

GENERAL

ASH Sa 11.9.1880, 5c and ASH 18.9.1880, 5ab — Articles on W & J Knox. Began, c.1790, with Robert K, father of W and J. Linen thread ('white ounce thread') manufacturer. Dennyhom Mill built 1845 - Garnock Mill acquired 1850, and Stoneyholm in 1864. In 1877 began to move from linen thread to netmaking. Presently (1880) employ 1200 hands use 3½ to 4 tons of flax daily.

ASH, Sa 26.7.1873, 3b — In article on Fifes and Fairlie. Nets are bought in Kilbirnie. "The newly made thread of mixed cotton, nicely twined, entirely superceded the old threeads and hand working, and it is gratifying to know that the valuable invention of net weaving by the late Mr Paterson, Musselburgh, has had so cordial an appreciation from fishermen along our coasts".

BLEACHFIELD

Pigot, 1837, 262 — William and James Knox, bleachers and thread manufacturers, Waterside.

2SA, 1845, p.716 [2/40 rev 12/41] — Opposite Spinning Mills. Began business on enlarged scale in 1829. 90-100 hands. Dyeing thread. [W & J Knox]

CABINET WORKS

AA 23.6.1892 — A few Beith gentlemen have leased ground at Stoneyholm, next the Caledonian Railway Station, for the purpose of erecting a cabinet factory.

This may be the building called the Alpha Cabinet Works in VR 1900, owned by Clark, Fisher & Darroch [partners: James Allan Clark - John Fisher - James Darroch], and which, in turn, appears to equate with the Kelvin Rubber & Tarpaulin Works, in VR 1910, owned by Robert Munro & Co., Glasgow [William A Sloan, sole partner]

KELVIN WATER-PROOFING WORKS, Dean Road

VR 1937-1938 — Kelvin Rubber & Tarpaulin Works. Sloan, Munro & Co Ltd., Glasgow.

ACC Planning, 4692 — September 1947. Alterations, for Sloan, Munro & Co Ltd.

DENNYHOLM MILL

Old List [P/BL/5/AR: Oct 1963] 22 — Principal building consists of a long 4 storey range with a raised 7 storey square tower at one end. NSA, v 715-717. B

ASH, Sa 11.9.1880. 5c — says that Dennyholm was built by Knoxs in 1845. Small 2-storey house near entrance gate was original works of Robert Knox

Hume — 315543. Founded as a spinning mill by W & J Knox, c.1830. A large complex of rubble buildings, now sadly reduced. The main surviving range is now a 4 storey 20 bay block, used as a sawmill.

McTaggart — Built and owned by W & J Knox. William Knox born 1802, James in 1807.

2SA, 1845, p.716 — [Is this Dennyholm?] Large Flax Spinning Mill. Erected 1834 by Messrs Wilson & Jamiesons, near power loom factory (which is Stoneyholm). 16 hp engine. 150 hands.

Stratten & Stratten, 1891 — [W & J Knox]. "The works form one of the largest and finest aggregations of great factories we have seen, the towering blocks rising to three, four or five storeys on both sides of the long central yard".

Ayrs, Hist Comm & Desc, 1894, 29 — "The importance of the village has been largely augmented by the flax-spinning and linen-thread works of Messrs W & J Knox".

AA 18.11.1897		Dennyholm Mill, of Messrs W & J Knox, is about to get a 160' extension on the north side - of 5 storeys; also new engine house and boiler. Builder work: R Snodgrass & Son, Beith.
VR 1899-1900		W & J Knox Ltd. Valuation of £687 includes provisional valuation for extension.
CO3/12/4/5	BBC 4.4.1912	Additions, DM, for W & J Knox Ltd; J S Snodgrass.
	BBC 4.7.1912	Additions, DM, for W & J Knox Ltd; J S Snodgrass.
A 8.12.1933		Mr James Houston LRIBA is the architect for a reconstruction and extension scheme to be carried out for Messrs W & J Knox Ltd at their Dennyholm Mills.
ABN, 8.12.1933		Proposed reconstruction and extension, 1933, James Houston, Kilbirnie, architect. Also in B., 8.12.1933.
VR 1937-1938		W & J Knox Ltd. Valuation: £1810.
ACC Planning, A705		March 1949. Alterations, Dennyholm Mill, for W & J Knox Ltd. Amended plans, June 1951.
nr		Demolished 1969.

FLANNEL SHIRTING FACTORY

Ayrs, Hist Comm & Desc, 1894, 29	"The large flannel-shirting factory of Messrs Paton, Brown & Co. is situated near to the Kilbirnie railway station".

GARNOCK MILLS. Mill Road

Hume	317543. Built 1834 by Wilsons and Jamiesons for flax spinning. A 3 storey and attic, 3 by 8 bay rubble building, with jack-arch interior. The corners of the building are braced by iron rod cross-ties with external tie-plates. There is also a 3 storey range at right angles to the main block.
Pigot, 1837, p.262	Wilson and Jamieson, flax spinners, Garnock Mill.
AA 3.2.1848	To sell, flax mill on the Garnock, 3 storey and attic mill, 39'6" wide. Coard & Co., Greenock, steam engine of 22 Havannah Place. 2 boilers, 21' by 6', from Wrens & Bennet, Manchester. machinery: Freebairn Fenton Murray & Co., and McLea and Marsh, Leeds. Being sold by creditors of J & R G Jameson & Co.
ASH, Sa 11.9.1880, 5c	Acquired by W & J Knox in 1850.
AA 21.8.1884	Among the building operations in progress at present may be mentioned ... a new brick engine house at Garnock Mill.
VR 1899-1900	W & J Knox Ltd. Valuation: £154.
VR 1937-1938	W & J Knox Ltd. Valuation: £450.

GLENGARNOCK WEAVING FACTORY

ASH, F 27.10.1899, 1e	To sell or let. Advert (see ref) details number of power-looms, &c.

MORRISON, Duncan, & Co., merchants and manufacturers, Glasgow & Kilbirnie

EG 5506, F 30.1.1846, 34b	In sequestration. Sole partner, Duncan Morrison.
EG 5589, Tu 10.11.1846, 473c	Dividend to be paid, 23rd December 1846.

MORTON SUNDOUR

ACC Planning, A2294	May 1950. extension, Glengarnock, for Morton Sundour Fabrics Ltd.

NET WORKS

Sasine Minute 3768 of 1864	Refers to Calder & Low, herring net manufacturers. Partners: William Hill Calder and John Low.
EG, Tu 20.4.1869, 480a	Calder & Low, patent net and twine manufacturers (William Hill Calder; John Low) dissolved 1st April 1869. Calder retired: Low continues
ASH, F 11.1.1910, 8h	[Obit of John Low, †1910]

First net machine in Kilbirnie was erected by John Low. His son John Low (1835-1910) was partner successively in Calder & Low, Low & Orr and finally Low Sons & Co.

VR 1899-1900 — Network, Bridgend. Low, Sons & Co. Ltd. Valuation: £52.

VR 1937-1938 — Network, Stoneyholm Road. Low Sons & Co Ltd. Valuation: £85.

ACC Planning, 4208 — February 1947. Net-drying shed, Dean Road, K, for Low, Sons & Co. Ltd.

NET WORKS

Hume — 317547. Built 1883. A small group of single storey rubble buildings, with a neat office block and a circular section chimney. Now used as a builder's store.

AA 18.9.1884 — [=?] Operations commenced on Monday for the erection of a fishing net manufactory for the new firm of Messrs Paterson and Reid.

=? Stratten & Stratten, 1891 — Reid & Co., fishing net manufacturers. Firm dates back to 1885

=? NETWORK

TT, F 2.6.1899, 1b — Robert Eden Mackay has retired, with effect from 31st December 1898, from the firm of Mackay Reid & Co., fishing net manufacturers. Hugh Mackay is now sole partner.

VR 1899-1900 — Bridgend. Hugh Mackay, net manufacturer. £35 valuation.

VR 1937-1938 — Garnockside Network, Muirend Street. Mackay, Reid & Co Ltd., net manufacturers. £65 valuation.

+cf

MUIREND STREET WORKS, 32 MUIREND STREET

ACC Planning, 4791 — October 1947. Extension, Muirend Street, for Ayrshire Yarn Dyeing Co Ltd.

ACC Planning, A772 — March 1949. Enlargement, Muirend Street Works, for Ayrshire Yarn Dyeing Co Ltd.

ACC Planning, A3864 — July 1951. Boiler house, chimney, &c., MSW, for Ayrshire Yarn Dyeing Co Ltd.

ACC Planning, A9936 — April 1956. Shed, 32 Muirend Street. James Houston & Son, for Ayrshire Yarn Dyeing Co Ltd.

NET WORKS

C1861 596-1-26 — Network (near Milton). James Walker, net manufacturer employing 7 men and 75 women, married, 42, born Kilbirnie.

ASH, F 31.1.1908, 5g — [Obit of James Allan, †1908]
c.1870 Allan acquired the fishing net factory of James Walker.

=? NET WORKS, School Road

VR 1899-1900 — James Allan. £92, with £16 house.

VR 1937-1938 — Reps late James Allan empty £10.

NET WORKS, 17 Townhead

VR 1899-1900 — (Townhead). Reps late William Martin, viz William, John and Robert Martin. £12.

VR 1937-1938 — (17 Townhead). Reps late William Martin, viz William, John and Robert Martin. £20.

NET WORKS, Garnock Street

ACC Planning, 5086 — March 1948. Additions and alterations, New Mill, Garnock Street, for W & J Knox Ltd.

ROPEWORKS

Hume — 316549. Late C19. A complex of red brick buildings, of which the largest is a 2 storey 6 bay building, with segmental arched windows. There is a circular section brick chimney.

=? ROPEWORK and NETWORK, Townhead

Stratten & Stratten, 1891	John Watt & Co., net manufacturers. Business founded by John Watt in 1848.
VR 1899-1900	John Watt, ropemaker.

STONEYHOLM MILL, inc GATE PIERS

List 21	C19 mill complex. Rubble-built with ashlar dressings. West elevation: mid C19 symmetrical 3 storey 9 bay block, 3 centre bays slightly advanced and pedimented with oculus. Eaves course and piended slate roof; set behind railings with tall gate piers flanking entrance [now blocked] to left. Connected by lower gabled block to mid C19 advanced 5 storey 4 bay gabled block; windows on ground floor originally round headed with similar door to right and blocked pend in screen wall. 2 windows in 5th floor [attic] below blind oculus and gable head stack. South return elevation has 3 bays, all windows blocked and 8 bays in recessed 5 storey block of 1831 beyond. Engine house dated 1870 at east has tall round headed windows. Tall brick chimney. Mid C19 free standing block to east has 3 storeys and 14 bays, 2 projecting bays on west elevation. Slate roofs throughout. Ref: NSA, v, 715 - Hume. B.
Old List 8	"The most imposing of the early C19 textile factories in Kilbirnie."
Hume	Built 1831. A very interesting complex. The oldest part is a 4 storey and attic 8 bay block built as a cotton mill in 1831, with a similar 3 by 4 bay extension. Adjacent to the former is a beam engine house, and adjacent to that a later horizontal engine house. This old block, now used for storage, forms an E-plan with a later building. The latter is a 3 storey and attic rubble structure, with a 9 bay pedimented frontage and 8 bay wings. Behind the E block is a 4 storey rubble block, a range of single storey weaving sheds, and a 2 storey, 5 by 28 bay yellow brick net weaving factory, built in 2 portions. There is a very large red brick circular section chimney. Still in use as a net and twine factory by W & J Knox, who bought the mills in 1864.
2SA, 1845, 709	5 storeys high. Built by George Allan, 35 years ago. Burnt down in 1831 and rebuilt by Mr Allan on larger scale. In 1834 sold to David Watson of Glasgow, and then fitted up with power looms. Machinery - 4000 self-acting mule-spindles provided by Smith of Deanston on Smith & Orr's patent principle. Driven by 2 engines. 32 and 12 hp. 350 hands.
Pigot, 1837, 262	David Watson, power cotton manufacturer, Kilbirnie Mill. Matthew Shanks, manager.
ASH, Sa 11.9.1880, 5c	Acquired by W & J Knox in 1864, and converted to linen thread manfacture. Knoxs moved into net making from 1877.
ASH, Sa 7.1.1865, 8c	W & J Knox have recently bought Kilbirnie Cotton Mills - have disposed of the old machinery and it is now being fitted up with the view of converting it into a flax mill. Knox's have had delivered - "drawn by some 16 of Wordie & Co's strong horses" - a steam boiler from Mr Wilson's Boiler Works, Lilybank, Glasgow: third delivered to them recently.
ASH, Sa 19.8.1876, 5e	Messrs W & J Knox, twine manufacturers, "are about to commence to manufacture cotton and linen fishing nets, and are building a weaving shed for the purpose to hold 30 looms". [Is this Stoneyholm or Dennyholm, or elsewhere?]
ASH, Sa 18.9.1880, 5a	Refers to offices presently being built, but doesn't say whether Dennyholm, Garnock or Stoneyholm.
AA 16.7.1885	Messrs W & J Knox, linen thread and fishing net manufacturers, are about to make extensive alterations at Stoneyholm, by taking down

some of the old buildings there and erecting a new mill of 3 storeys in height.

VR 1899-1900 — W & J Knox Ltd. Valuations: Stoneyholm Mill, £760; Network £105; Addition £20.

CO3/12/4/4 BBC 4.7.1907 — Additions to factory, for W & J Knox Ltd; John S Snodgrass. [May not be Stoneyholm]

VR 1937-1938 — W & J Knox Ltd. valuation, £2047.

ACC Planning, A3750 — June 1951. Lavatories, Stoneyholm Mill; **James M Monro & Son**, Glasgow, for W & J Knox Ltd.

ACC Planning, A4227 — November 1951. Gatehouse, &c., Mill Road, for WW. & J. Knox Ltd. [Here, or ?Dennyholm]

ACC Planning, A4351 — January 1952. Lavatories, Fire escapes, Stoneyholm Mill, for W & J Knox Ltd.

AA, Th 31.12.1970, 15c — Ref tio m.d., W & J Knox Ltd: J.F. Pim.

WOODROW, James, manufacturer, Kilbirnie

EG, F 9.7.1869, 849b — In sequestration.

TRANSPORT

RAIL

BRIDGE

BN, li, 556 — Begun 1886. Railway Bridge, Glengarnock, on Kilbirnie to Barrhill line. Incline bridge. Contractor: Robert McAlpine.

GLENGARNOCK HIGH STATION

KS, Sa 7.6.1924, 3b — Name changed, w.e.f. 2.6.1924, from Glengarnock (CR) to Glengarnock High.

GLENGARNOCK, RAILWAY BRIDGE

[see also L&A R, below]

BN, liv, 518 — 1888. Bridge to take L&AR over GSWR being built.

liv, 552 — 1888. Contractors are J & R Houston, Greenock. Engineer-in-chief: John Strain, Glasgow. Resident engineer: David Simson. Steel lattice girder bridge.

ASH, F 6.4.1888, 3e — Bridge over GSWR at Glengarnock - iron lattice girder bridge - “triumph of engineering skill”.

KILBIRNIE STATION

CO3/12/4/4 BBC 5.3.1903 — D Cottage, KS, for D McDowall.

AA, Th 22.9.1904, 4c — GSWR have agreed contracts for four new stations: North Johnstone, Kilbarchan, Lochwinnoch and Kilbirnie.

BI 15/175 October 1904 — New station for GSWR. Contractors: Boyd & Forrest, Kilmarnock.

KILBIRNIE SOUTH STATION (L&A)

KS, Sa 7.6.1924, 3b — Name changed, w.e.f. 2.6.1924, from Kilbirnie (CR) to Kilbirnie South.

L&A RAILWAY

ASH F10.6.1887, 4g — Kilbirnie section of L&AR is being pushed on vigorously. The contractor is Mr McAlpine.

ASH, F 14.10.1887, 4ef — Description of work on line. Bridge No.10 over GSWR, appears to be that that used to be at c NS 324529

ROAD

AA, Th 21.4.1808, 1c — Bridge Money applications include 5 bridges on Largs-Dalry Road, and Hourat Branch. Costliest is that over the Hourat Burn, at £110.

FINGERPOSTS

TPT, F 1.7.1910, 5h — New fingerposts. "Now we have got a finger post on the Institute Bridge and a tablet at Bridge Street, and one at the foot of Schoolwynd, erected by the County Road Authority, which will be a great boon to people passing through the town for the first time."

UTILITIES

CAMPHILL WATERWORKS

A, 6.4.1888, Supp, p.9 — To be extended, 1888. R B Stewart, Glasgow, contractor. Mr Leslie, engineer.

AA 6.9.1888 — The extension of these works for the Paisley Water Commissioners is being vigourously carried on. The sluice keepers house is a fine substantial building of red sandstone from Gartley Bridge, Dumfries-shire.

COUP

ACC Planning, A4924 — July 1952. Coup, Kilbirnie, for Ayr County Council.

DRAINAGE

CO 3/8/1/3, County Council 1895-98, 509, Report of Standing Joint Committee to County Council, 21.12.1897
Approve expenditure of £5700 on Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Special Drainage District.

CO 3/8/1/3, County Council 1895-1898, 517-8, Finance Committee, 11.1.1898
Sum to be borrowed is now £5000.

CO 3/8/1/4, County Council 1898-1902, 56, County Council 30.8.1898
Additional £750

CO 3/8/1/4, ACC 1898-1902, 370, County Council 18.12.1900
£4500 approved, for Disposal Works

GAS WORKS

ACC Planning, A3158 — January 1951. Governor and Meter House, Kilbirnie Gas Works, for Scottish Gas Board.

PLAN RESERVOIR

AA 14.11.1907 — The new waterworks/reservoir, Lands of Plan, were formally opened last Saturday. Engineers: W R Copland & Sons.

SEWAGE WORKS

ACC, Water & Drainage C, 11.9.1950
Discussion of bridge at Hebron Hall, says 1905, and built as access to old (no longer used) Kilbirnie and Glengarnock Sewage Works.

WATER

CO 3/8/1/4, ACC 1898-1902, 347, County Council 2.10.1900
£1500 approved.

HOLEHOUSE FILTERS

ACC Planning, A7964 — November 1954. Fuel store, for Ayr County Council.

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