

38 & 40 High Street

This is known locally as the “Well Entry”, because the opening to the left of no.38 leads through to Garries Park and to the old town well.



38 High Street (cream coloured wall) + 40 High Street

◀ Chronology of Ownership & Occupancy ▶

Both properties remained in single ownership until 1982 when no.40 High Street was sold as a separate building.

- 1771** Part of feu to Alexander Lillie, joiner in Gatehouse
1794 Sold to James Davitts, tanner.
1819 Sasine of John McWilliam junior heir of James Davitts, tanner, his grandfather and son of John McWilliam, manufacturer and his wife Mary Davitts.
1820 Ownership recorded of John McWilliam.
1832 Sold to Robert Coltart, grocer, Gatehouse.

- 1837-8 Pigot & Co. Directory :** Robert Coltart was a grocer & tallow chandler in Front Street.
1837-8 Pigot & Co. Directory : Eliza Wilson seems to have run a school in Front Street.
1837-8 Pigot & Co. Directory : John Denniston was an innkeeper & vintner in Front Street. (*The Thistle*).
1837-8 Pigot & Co. Directory : John Denniston was a shopkeeper & grocer in Front Street.

1841 Girthon Census - Enumeration District 7 Page 1 Front Street 47, 48 & 49

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Forename(s)</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>
Coltart	Robert			m	35	grocer	Kirkcudbrightshire
Coltart	Margaret			f	35		Scotland
Coltart	Josephine			f	11		Scotland
Coltart	Annie			f	9		Scotland
Coltart	Jannet			f	2		Kirkcudbrightshire
Coltart	Emma			f	1		Kirkcudbrightshire
Coltart	John			m	75	independent	Kirkcudbrightshire
Wallace	Jane			f	15	female servant	Kirkcudbrightshire
Wilson	Mary			f	22	teacher	Kirkcudbrightshire
Wilson	Eliza			f	20	teacher	Kirkcudbrightshire

Denniston	John	m	50	grocer	Kirkcudbrightshire
Denniston	Hathorn	f	45		Kirkcudbrightshire
Denniston	Helen	f	20	dressmaker	Kirkcudbrightshire
Denniston	Mary	f	18		Kirkcudbrightshire
Denniston	Jannet	f	12		Kirkcudbrightshire
Denniston	James	m	10		Kirkcudbrightshire
Denniston	John	m	8		Kirkcudbrightshire

1851 Girthon Census - Enumeration District 2 Page 6 High Street (South) 12

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Forename(s)</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>
Coltart	Robert	head	m	m	45	grocer	Kbts, Girthon
Coltart	Margaret	wife	m	f	45		Wigtown, Whithorn
Coltart	Janet	dau.		f	12	scholar	Kbts, Girthon
Coltart	Emma	dau.		f	11	scholar	Kbts, Girthon
Coltart	Georgina	dau.		f	9	scholar	Kbts, Girthon
Coltart	John	son		m	3		Kbts, Girthon
Kennon	Agnes	servant	s	f	18	house serv.	Kbts, Twynholm

1852 Slater's Directory : Eliza Wilson ran a school in High Street.

1852 Slater's Directory : Robert Coltart was a grocer & spirit dealer in High Street.

1858: Robert Coltart, merchant and farmer, Gatehouse borrowed £300 from Samuel McKean, joiner, Gatehouse. The title deed refers to the entry to the spring well.

1859-60 Girthon Valuation Roll : Mrs Margaret Coltart and other trustees of the late Robert Coltart owned and Margaret Coltart occupied a house, shop, offices & garden.

1861 Girthon Census - Enumeration District 1 Page 8 High Street South 13

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Forename(s)</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>
Coltart	Margaret	head	w	f	56	grocer	Wigtown, Whithorn
Coltart	Eliza	dau	s	f	22		Kbts, Gatehouse
Coltart	Georgina	dau	s	f	19		Kbts, Gatehouse
Coltart	John	son		m	13	scholar	Kbts, Gatehouse

1866 Passed to Samuel McKean as Robert Coltart's trustees did not have sufficient funds to pay back the loan.

1871 Girthon Census - Enumeration District 1 Page 8 High Street (S) 13

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Forename(s)</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>
Falconer	Margaret J	head	w	f	70	seamstress	Durham, Longframlington
McKay	Alexander	head	s	m	22	shopman draper	Fife, Aberdour
Fisher	John	head	m	m	29	tailor	Ireland
Fisher	Margaret	wife	m	f	35		Kbts, Kirkcudbright
Fisher	Alexander	son		m	1		Kbts, Gatehouse
Paterson	William	step-son		m	15	shoemaker apprent.	Kbts, Kirkcudbright
Paterson	John	step-son		m	13	apprentice tailor	England
Paterson	Margaret A	step-dau.		f	7	scholar	Kbts, Gatehouse
Paterson	Jessie	step-dau.		f	5	scholar	Kbts, Gatehouse
Paterson	Robert	step-son		m	3		Kbts, Gatehouse
Wilson	Isabella	head	s	f	25	schoolmistress	Kbts, Kirkpatrick Durham

1878-9 Girthon Valuation Roll : Samuel McKean, joiner, Gatehouse, owned a house, shop & garden in High Street that was occupied by John Fisher, tailor.

1881 Girthon Census - Enumeration District 1 Page 7 High Street (South) 20

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Forename(s)</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>
Fisher	John	head	m	m	39	tailor	Ireland
Fisher	Margaret	wife	m	f	45		Kbts, Kirkcudbright
Fisher	Alexander	son		m	11	scholar	Kbts, Gatehouse
Fisher	James	son		m	9	scholar	Kbts, Gatehouse
Fisher	Henry	son		m	7	scholar	Kbts, Gatehouse
Fisher	Jane J	dau		f	5	scholar	Kbts, Gatehouse
Fisher	Mary J	dau		f	3		Kbts, Gatehouse
Patterson	John	step-son	s	m	23	tailor	England

1884-5 Girthon Valuation Roll : Samuel McKean, joiner, Gatehouse, owned a house, shop & garden in High Street that was occupied by John Fisher, tailor.

1891 Girthon Census - Enumeration District 2 Page 5 High Street (S) 29

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Forename(s)</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>
Bendall	William	head	m	m	31	saddler	Dumfries, Dumfries
Bendall	Elizabeth	wife	m	f	27		Kbts, Gatehouse
Bendall	William	son		m	6	scholar	Kbts, Gatehouse
Bendall	Mary Jane	dau.		f	4	scholar	Kbts, Gatehouse
Bendall	John	son		m	3		Kbts, Gatehouse

The entry for William Bendall and family was 'fitted in' between Nelson Square and Victoria Street, implying that maybe it was a late entry, possibly because they were not at home when the enumerator first called.

1897: Sold by trustees of Samuel McKean, joiner, Gatehouse to William A Miller.

1901 Girthon Census - Enumeration District 1 Page 13 High Street (S) 40

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Forename(s)</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>
Bendall	William	head	m	m	41	saddler journeyman	Dumfries, Dumfries
Bendall	Elizabeth	wife	m	f	37		Kbts, Gatehouse
Bendall	William	son	s	m	16		Kbts, Gatehouse
Bendall	Mary J	dau.		f	13	scholar	Kbts, Gatehouse
Bendall	John	son		m	12	scholar	Kbts, Gatehouse
Bendall	Thomas	son		m	6	scholar	Kbts, Gatehouse
Bendall	James	son		m	2		Kbts, Gatehouse
Pitt	Mary	visitor	w	f	57	dec'd labourers wife	Kbts, Gatehouse

1911 Girthon Census - Enumeration District 1 Page 13 High Street

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Forename(s)</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>
Duff	John	Head	m	m	45	labourer	Kbts, Girthon
Duff	Helen	Wife	m	f	43		Kbts, Girthon
Duff	Davina	dau.	s	f	15	general servant (dom.)	Kbts, Girthon
Duff	Nellie	dau.	s	f	12	school	Kbts, Anwoth
Duff	Maggie	dau.	s	f	10	school	Kbts, Anwoth
Duff	Agnes	dau.	s	f	7	school	Kbts, Anwoth
Duff	Albert Edward	Son	s	f	3	school	Kbts, Girthon

1912-3 Girthon Valuation Roll : William A Millar, saddler, and his wife Mary owned a byre, a house and a shop in High Street. The byre was used by James McMichael, flesher, the house was occupied by Mary McBurnie + James McBurnie, labourer, whilst William Millar himself used the shop.

No sign of James & Mary McBurnie in Girthon 1901 & 1911.

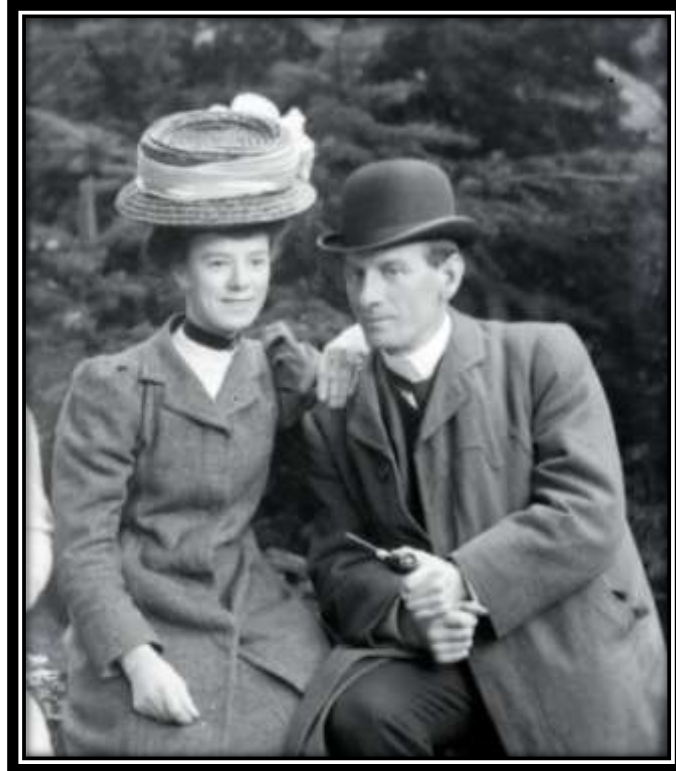
McMichael's were butchers at no.36 High Street.

1920 Sold by William Aitken Miller, saddler, Kirkcudbright to Gilbert McMurray and spouse.

1920-1 Stewartry P.O. Directory : Mrs A McMurray was a milliner in High Street.

Mr Angus, the dentist, visited Gatehouse once a week and used a room in the McMurray's house as a surgery.

The McMurray's ran a tearoom in the 1950's. It had a big red sign in the shape of a Teapot hanging outside.



Agnes & Bert McMurray

By 1982 Maire McMurray appears to own both 38 & 40 High Street.

She sold no.40 in that year, and then sold no.38 in 1988. They are now separate houses.

38 High Street

1988 38 High Street sold by Maire McMurray to David and Gillian Williams.
2009 38 High Street sold to present owners.

40 High Street

1982 40 High Street sold by Maire McMurray to Ian and Janet Kerr.
1984 40 High Street sold by Ian and Janet Kerr to Douglas Young, teacher, Kirkcudbright.
2003 40 High Street sold to present owners.

Last Updated : 10 April 2015