

Fleetbank, Dromore Road



◀ Chronology of Ownership & Occupancy ▶

- 1824** Fleetbank was built by the owners of the Ship Inn.
In 1820 The Ship Inn was owned by Elizabeth McClellan, the only child of Peter McClellan and niece and only heir of Alexander McClellan, merchant in Halifax.
In 1828 Elizabeth married Hugh McLachlan, farmer Ullioch, Balmaghie. They married at Balmaghie.
By the time of the 1861 census the family were living in Everton, Liverpool, with Hugh being 70 and a retired farmer. Elizabeth was 52 and both were born in Scotland.
- 1834** The Ship Inn was sold to Nathaniel Neilson, who is also likely to have bought Fleetbank.
A Nathaniel Neilson, born 1760 Kirkcudbrightshire, died 1834 Castle Douglas (parents William Neilson & Agnes Hawthorn) and according to The Ship Inn details James Lidderdale was his only surviving trustee. However on Ancestry.co.uk there is a family tree which suggests that Nathaniel Neilson married Barbara Agnew in 1812. The couple had 11 children (most born in Crossmichael) including Nathaniel Agnew Neilson, born 1818 Crossmichael, died 1847 Edinburgh, and a daughter Barbara Rome Neilson, born 1828 Crossmichael, died 1855.
Nathaniel Neilson was the half brother of William Neilson who built Neilson Square in Ann Street. The Neilson family made their fortune in Canada and invested some of it in Gatehouse.
- 1841 census :** Unnamed house in Rusko Street (old name for Dromore Road)
John Newbigging (30) & wife Elizabeth with children Thomas, John & William, all born Scotland. John senior was manager of the cotton mills.
John Newbiggin and Elizabeth Beldon/Bayldon married in 1832 in Lanark.
The children were probably all born in Glasgow and the family moved to Gatehouse sometime after 1837.
The cotton mills in Gatehouse got into financial difficulties and were sold in 1846. The Newbigging family moved from Gatehouse and by the 1851 census the family were living in Bury, Lancashire.



Fleetbank postcard, probably taken about 1920.

1844 The church on the opposite side of the road was opened as the United Secessional Church (known locally as the Wee Kirk) and it is believed that Fleetbank was rented as the church manse.

In 1847 this Church joined with the Relief Church to form the United Presbyterian Church. The name of the minister is unknown.

1851 census : Fleet Bank House

Robert Carson, widower, age 60, born Colvend with his niece Mary H. Proudlock, 22, born England, and Jessie McGaw 16, born Anwoth, servant.

In the 1861 census Robert Carson, widower, 69, born Scotland, gardener, was a boarder in Durham with William Shepherd and his wife Mary Hall (age 31, born Durham). William Shepherd & Mary Hall Proudlock married in Durham in 1857.

1859/60 The Ship Inn was owned by Barbara Neilson.

Is this Nathaniel senior's wife? She died in 1864 in Castle Douglas.

1859/60 Valuation Roll: Mrs Ann Neilson owned 4 properties in Anwoth. One house that she lived in herself, with a garden and byre. The other 3 properties (no street name given) were occupied by John Carter, ex farmer; William Douglas, tea merchant and Hugh Gordon, horse breaker.

Might one of these properties be Fleetbank?

Mrs Anne Neilson, widow aged 67 was born in Whitehaven, Cumberland according to 1871 Anwoth census, so may have no connection with the Neilson family that once owned Fleetbank.

1861 census : unnamed house. Back Fleet Street

Mary Faed, widow aged 65, born Girthon with daughter Susan Faed, (37) born Girthon.

Mary McGeoch married John Faed in 1819 at Girthon. He was a miller and engineer. She was the daughter the farmer from Girthon Kirk.

John & Mary lived at Barlay Mill where they had 5 sons and daughter Susan. Four of the sons became well-known Victorian artists and engravers.

1865 The Ship Inn was sold by Nathaniel Neilson to John Rae.

Who is this Nathaniel Neilson, as both father and son above have died in 1834 & 1847 respectively?

1866 Mary Faed died in 1866 at Fleetbank. John Faed died in 1843..

1871 census: Fleetbank

Mary Campbell, aged 53, born Borgue, annuitant, with Margaret Carter (41, born Gatehouse), domestic servant.

Mary Campbell is probably the daughter of Samuel Campbell, farmer and Grace or Grizzel Porter. She was born in 1817 at Borgue and died at Margrie, Borgue in 1898. She was unmarried.

1878/9 Valuation Roll: house & garden *Hannay Street* : Owner John Swainson, wood merchant. Tenant: Mary Campbell.

1881 census: Fleet Bank

Mary Campbell, aged 63, born Borgue, annuitant, with Margaret Carter (48, born Gatehouse), cook.

1889/90 Valuation Roll: house Garden Street - owner John Swainson, Tiend Hill, Duns. Tenant : Miss Mary Campbell.
John Swainson also owned another house in Garden Street tenanted by Mrs Martin.

1891 census : Fleetbank, Dromore Road

Mary Campbell, aged 73, born Borgue, private means, with Elizabeth Gordon, servant/cook.

1997/98 Valuation Roll : house & garden, Garden Street

Owner John Swainson, wood merchant. Tenant : Margaret McMillan, widow.

1900/01 Valuation Roll : house & garden, Garden Street

Owner Mary Swainson, wife of John Swainson, wood merchant. Tenant : Margaret McMillan, widow.

1901 census: Fleetbank, Dromore Road

Margaret McMillan, widow, (55, born Sorbie), boarding house keeper, with daughters Nicholas (15, apprentice dressmaker, born Anwoth), and Jessie (12, born Anwoth)

Also boarders James (10) and William Gilchrist (9), born Balmaghie, scholars and John Carlyle Aitken (55, born Dumfries), living on his own means.

James & William Gilchrist were the sons of John & Jessie Gilchrist from Cullendoch, in the Fleet valley. They attended Gatehouse School walking the 8 miles home and then back to Gatehouse every weekend.

Margaret McMillan was the widow of ship's captain William McMillan who was lost at sea in May 1891 as his boat 'Gateforth' was leaving Bangor harbour. His home address was Fleet Street, Gatehouse.

William McMillan (born 1841, Kirkcudbright) and Margaret Brown (born 1844 Sorbie) married in 1871. In the 1870's the family lived in Belfast, where several of their children were born.

In 1891 Margaret was living in Fleet Street (probably Moravia, 29 Fleet Street) with her 4 daughters (Margaret, Agnes, Nicholas & Jessie). She is a ship captain's wife but William was not at home.

By 1911, Margaret had moved to Northview, 21 Garden Street - the present day site of the Gatehouse Surgery. She was a boarding house keeper. Her granddaughter Jessie McKellar (age 3, born Gatehouse - daughter of Agnes McMillan & her husband Alexander McKellar) was with her, plus 2 boarders (one still being John Carlyle Aitken) and a servant.

Margaret McMillan later moved to Ayrshire, where her daughter Mary and husband Alexander Roy lived. Margaret died in Kilmarnock in 1920.

1911 census Fleetbank (a house with 8 rooms with windows)

Herbert Buxton (42), retired farmer with wife Hester F. (41) - both born England plus children James M. (17, born Mochram), farm worker and Jeanie B. (10, born Girthon), scholar.

Herbert Buxton, farmer, and Hester Ford Martin were married in Uley, Gloucestershire in 1890.

Herbert was born in 1869 At Fazeley, Staffordshire, Hester Ford Marin was born in 1869 at Dursley, Gloucestershire.

In 1901 Anwoth census the family lived at Woodhead, Dromore Road.

1930s The Murchie family moved to Fleetbank .

The Murchie family were from Kirkmabreck where they were living in both the 1901 and 1911 census. In 1901 they were at Kirkdale Port. Charles was a road surfaceman.

Charles Murchie (born c 1854 Minnigaff), married Annie Bryden Gordon (born 1859, Dalry, Kirkcudbrightshire), in Kirkmabreck in 1878. They had at least 6 children, several of whom came to live at Fleetbank and are buried in Anwoth cemetery.

1931 Annie Murchie (nee Gordon), age 72, wife of Charles Murchie died at Fleetbank.

1933 Charles Murchie, retired roadman, age 78, died . Mr & Mrs Murchie are buried in Anwoth Cemetery. The Murchie family continued to live at Fleetbank.

Daughter Maggie A. Murchie married John Lewis in 1909 at Kirkmabreck, also lived at Fleetbank with her husband. Maggie died in 1954 (age 82) and John in 1955 (age 75) at Fleetbank.

Sisters Sarah and Elizabeth Murchie continued to live at Fleetbank.

Sarah Murchie died in 1968 (age 72) and Elizabeth died in 1975 (age 82).

1940/41 Anwoth Valuation Roll: Fleetbank. Elizabeth and Sarah Murchie, spinsters

1950/51 Anwoth Valuation Roll: Fleetbank. Elizabeth and Sarah Murchie, spinsters

1960/61 Anwoth Valuation Roll: Fleetbank. Elizabeth and Sarah Murchie, spinsters

1974/75 Anwoth Valuation Roll: Fleetbank. Miss Elizabeth Murchie

c.1976 Fleetbank bought by Robert Carson and his wife Janet Taylor.

Bobby and Janet married in 1958. They lived at Fleetbank with their 2 sons Robert and John Carson.

Janet died in 1982, Bobby in 2019.