

IVISON HISTORY
(Revised September 2004)

PART I

**Family History Letter from Henry Ivison (b. 1786 in Carlisle, England)
to son Henry Ivison (b. 1808 in Paisley, Scotland)**

shared by W. Jensen, descendent of Henry Ivison b. 1808, Jane Ivison Scott's brother

The Ivison family for six generations owned and occupied the beautiful estate of Jenistown, containing 360 acres of tolerable land.

The first of the family that we have any record of was a John Ivison, who in the reign of Elizabeth obtained a Grant of 200 acres of common, for services rendered the government against the Moss Troopers, who were in the habit of committing great depredations upon the English who lived on the borders.

In the reign of Charles I, Geo. Fox traveled into Cumberland, and Henry Ivison, who then occupied the estate became convinced under his ministry, and joined the Society, along with the Dodgsons, Jacksons, Grahams and Fosters, and numerous other families in that quarter. The above Henry was the third generation.

By care and industry they added 160 acres more by purchase. It descended by regular succession to my grandfather's brother, who was the oldest of the only two children my great grandfather had. It is one of the most beautiful spots in Cumberland, five miles from Carlisle, on the Scotch road.

Uncle John, as we always called him, my Grandfather's brother raised a large Quaker, family upon the estate, consisting of five sons and six daughters, who all grew up to mature years, John who you met at Carlisle, being the second son.

They attended Skyside Meeting, a beautiful country meeting house two miles from Jenistown. I have often, when a young man stopping a week or two with them, gone to their meeting, when ten of the family rode there, all on horseback the women behind the men on a pillion seat on the same horse.

On the death of Uncle John, the estate was divided between two of the son's David and Spencer, who still occupy it.

Old Uncle John's wife was Mary Bell, of a highly respectable Quaker family, who had an estate called Sowport, Her Great- grandfather gave ten acres of ground, called Megs Hill, for a burying ground for the Society of Friends, and there they all lie- numerous ancient families.

All my uncle's family, who have died in distant parts of England, are brought there. It is a quiet secluded spot; no house near it. It is three miles from Jenistown. I visited it three or four times at funerals. No tombstones are erected in the graveyards of Friends, they are laid side by side, just as they die: but

Where heaves the turf in many a mouldering heap
Each in his narrow cell forever laid
The rude forfathers of the hamlet sleep

My grandfather, being the youngest of the two, had to learn a trade and shift for himself. He learned the soap and candle making, and with the assistance of his father commenced and succeeded in business. He married a Quaker girl, who was a Quaker milliner, and sold Quaker dry goods, viz drab silks, drab hkf. etc, etc. They did well, and were enabled to purchase the two shops in Carlisle Market Place. He had one for the sale of soap and candles; the other for her business. They saved money by care and industry. To make good in those days was considered of as much consequence as a guinea now.

My grandfather never had more than two children -sons. It is somewhat remarkable that four of the six Ivisons who occupied Jenistown had only two children, -sons. [I guess girls didn,t count, the author had 5 sisters, no brothers -- jwj]

My mother's father and mother Richard and Jane Irwin, of Wigton, were both rigid Quakers also. They had only two children a son and daughter. They kept a mercer and draper shop in Wigton, and aquired considerable property. The Quakers Meeting in Wigton is built on two acres of land given by my grandfather Irwin. Grandfather Richard Irwin died young, and left my grandmother considerable property during her life, and at her death, a great part of it went to my mother's brother, who died and left one daughter, who now enjoys it.

Wigton is a beautiful market town, eleven miles west of Carlisle, and there I used to be sent every Christmas to spend my holidays with my Wigton grandmother, who never failed to send a Christmas pie to each of us as long as she lived; a large one to our parents, and a small one to each of us little ones, with our several names on them. The family of the Irwins are all buried in the Friends graveyard at Wigton.

My grandfather Ivison had only two children,- sons. My father the youngest, learned the mercer and draper business. My Uncle John was placed as a clerk in a large calico printing establishment, but falling in with a rich Quaker lady, named Rachel Blagmire, they were married and lived independent on her fine property until it was nearly all spent, when Aunt Rachel's only sister, Abigail Blagmire, died and left them a large fortune, which they also nearly finished before their death.

They had two daughters, Mary, the younger, died in her sixteenth year of her age, and Debby, who kept my grandfather's house, a number of years, at whose death that side of the family became extinct.

My father after serving his time in a Quaker woolen store, went, as was customary in those days, to finish his business knowledge to London, where my mother was stopping with an aunt, and both being from Cumberland, they were married there in a Friends Meeting House, Friday Street, and had two children buried there. They then returned to Carlisle, where my father joined in a partnership with a large cabinet maker, of the name Dan Patterson. He continued this till within six years of his death, when my grandfather was getting old, persuaded him to take the management of his business, which he did, and died in the shop superintending the workmen, of apoplexy.

When my grandfather died I got 1600 Lb Sterling, and would gladly have come to this country with that sum, but your mother's friends in Glasgow urged and urged me to go into business there, and in two years it was all lost except three or four hundred pounds.

There have been nine Henrys in the family, four of them possessors of the Jenistown estate. The eldest brother of John Ivison of Carlisle, who yet lives, is a Henry, and my grandfather, father, self and you make up the number nine.

Henry Ivison, Senior

Auburn, NY Dec 21, 1847

PART II

The Clockmakers of Carlisle, by Dr. John B. Penfold, p. 43

[This is about Henry's (b. 1731) brother John's family.]

"IVISON FAMILY - Jerriestown, Westlinton and Carlisle

This Quaker family seems to have originated at Jerriestown, a rather remote farm in Westlinton.¹ They were originally yeoman farmers and where they learnt the craft of clockmaking is quite unknown. As the Quaker Ivisons and the Quaker Grahams were well known to each other attending the same meeting and as George Graham was by this time well established in London, could he have helped with the teaching of the young John Ivison? Or was he put apprentice to the Monkhouses or Lawries in nearby Carlisle? We shall probably never know. It is perhaps not without significance that John (3) christened one of his children John Earnshaw - a name illustrious in horology. John (1) born August 24th, 1729, the son of Henry Ivison of Jerriestown, lived all his working life at the farm. About 1757 he married and he and his wife Mary had thirteen children of which his eldest, second and fourth sons, Henry born 1758, John (2) born 1759, and David born 1772, all became clockmakers. The two elder moved to Carlisle and set up in business separately there. Meanwhile their younger brother David stayed at Jerriestown assisting his father John (1) until the old man died in 1807 when David took over the country

¹ This should actually read Kirklington (a parish).

side of the business and continued so to do until his own death on June 3rd, 1833. It appears that father John(1) and son David combined farming and clockmaking apparently quite successfully.

It seems John (2) and Henry came to Carlisle in 1787. There was certainly not enough outlet for four clockmakers at Jerriestown. Henry leased a property from the corporation for L14 per annum in the Bullring (at the Market Place end of St. Alban's Row), and probably John (2) worked with him, but by 1810 they had separate businesses, John in St. Alban's Row and Henry in Scotch Street. The will of John (1) made on December 15th, 1808, left considerable land at Jerriestown to David, an annuity of L 10 per annum to Henry and nothing to John (2). It may have been that Henry and John (2) separated because Henry was a poor business man for he went bankrupt in 1812 and was imprisoned for debt. He appears to have been released before 1819 when according to the Carlisle Patriot of November 6th his assignees paid a further dividend to his creditors and of Henry the advertisement further states that he "was a Prisoner for Debt." His subsequent whereabouts are unknown but as his widow Ann died in Liverpool on February 7th, 1851, he may have moved to that city.

John (2) continued to flourish and worked in St. Alban' Row until he retired in favour of his sons John (3) and Spencer on October 30th, 1829. Almost a year later he died at his home in Earl Street, on October 17th, 1830.

Unfortunately the partnership of the young brothers did not last long. John (3) the elder son born in Carlisle on January 21st, 1801, worked after his father's death at No. 3 Green Market and died at his home in Princess Street, Carlisle on March 8th, 1837. Spencer the younger son born in Carlisle on April 17th, 1808, predeceased his brother dying in 1835.² They both left a young family. John (3) had married a Mary Brown of Sheffield on March 17th, 1828, and this is suggestive that he might have been apprenticed in the city. John's sister Sarah married a Thomas Knowles of Liverpool in 1827; Knowles are a known family of Liverpool clockmakers of that period. One of John's (3) sons born in 1835 was christened John Earnshaw which suggests another connection with a famous family of makers.

Another brother Thomas, born in Carlisle on October, 29th, 1802, was also a clockmaker but as there is only one clock reported bearing his name, and that without place name. I do not know where he worked and for how long. He certainly was not in the partnership but may have been employed by his brothers and attempted to keep the business going after their untimely deaths.

The mystery of the Ivisons is how they became such good clockmakers, starting in a farmstead like Jerriestown. We shall probably never know the answer. They were fairly prolific makers of both clocks and watches. Three clocks and a watch have been reported as made by the Ivisons at Jerriestown. Of those reported of Carlisle probably twenty-eight long case clocks, a bracket and five watches were made by John Ivison (2), six clocks and a watch by Henry Ivison,

² * According to a descendent of this Spencer, his wife in England said he died in 1835, which is apparently the only information Penfold had in writing his book. But actually, in 1835, Spencer (a "drinking Quaker") abandoned his family in England without divorcing his wife and moved to Illinois, where he began another family. Many descendents from this line live in Texas, Arizona and Missouri, but mostly Texas. [Information from L. Kruse]

two clocks and a watch by John (3), and Spencer Ivison and one clock by Thomas Ivison. Two of the clocks made at Jerriestown are similar being typical mid and late 18th century in type with two trains, eight-day movements, brass arched dials with lunettes in the arches, calendars, but no seconds dial, one in a very tall oak and (page 44) mahogany case and another in an oak case. The third clock with square silvered dial is inscribed "Jon Ivison" without place name. It has a calendar, thirty-hour movement with false keyholes, all in square oak case. The watch from Jerriestown has "Jn. Ivison, Jeristown. 1508" on the plats, a verge in a silver case, hallmarked 1785 with "J.Ivison, Jeristown" and a scene painted on the enamel dial. It is a pleasing watch.

The clocks made in Carlisle showed more variation as they were made over some fifty years. Rather more than half have white dials, the white being arched and the brass being square. Several have "silvered" dials or chapter rings. The clocks of the Johns (2) and (3) are much more frequently found than those of Henry. Henry usually inscribed his with "H. Ivison. Carlisle" but the full Henry is recorded. All his had white dials and about half had seconds hands, calendars and moon indicators, the case being either oak or mahogany. One silver watch of Henry exists.

John (2)'s clocks are usually signed "J" or "Jon Ivison" or just "Ivison. Carlisle". White dials predominate but brass or silvered dials occur. Calendars are common, seconds hands and moons less so. Eight-day and thirty-hour movements occur in about equal numbers. In the arch a painting of flowers, or sporting scene is common. Cases are mainly of oak. Watches by John are relatively common, silver cased verges being the rule. A couple of clocks and one watch signed "J.& S.Ivison. Carlisle" have been noted. An unusual product for Cumberland is a Regency bracket clock by John Ivison sold at Sothebys in 1963. The clock inscribed "Thos. Ivison" without place name has a white arched dial, calendar, thirty-hour movement in oak and a mahogany case."

PART III

Notes on Glasgow, Scotland, Business Henry Ivison (b. 1786) Had But Lost

Below is a record found of the business Henry entered into with his inheritance and then lost most of what he had. Henry Ivison also refers to this business in his letter to his son.

[Henry's account]"When my grandfather died I got 1600 Lb Sterling, and would gladly have come to this country with that sum, but your mother's friends in Glasgow urged and urged me to go into business there, and in two years it was all lost except three or four hundred pounds."

[Daughter Jane's account]"My father went into business for himself with a partner named Playfair, but he did not play fair, and thro[-] his dishonesty and panic in business which occurred at that time, my father soon lost all except about \$6000 with which he came to the United States."

"Lanarkshire: Glasgow - Burgesses and Guild Brethren, 1751-1846 and 1811-1825

This is the rol of the parish of Portpatrick above twelve yeirs of age according to my knowleg and subt. be me Master John Calduell, minister throf this day of Oct 1684. M. J. Calduell.

This is the rol of the parish of Portpatrick above twelve yeirs of age according to my knowleg and subt. be me Master John Calduell, minister throf this day of Oct 1684. M. J. Calduell. 1817.

County: Lanarkshire

Country: Scotland

Ivison, Henry, weaver, one of the partners of Ivison and Playfair, manufacturers, 42 Brunswick Street, B. and G.B., by purchase 24 Nov 1817"

PART IV

See Autobiography of Jane Ivison Scott in Separate Document

PART V

The Old Ivison Jerriestown, Carlisle, Cumberland, England, Farm Today

The farm is now the site of a B&B operated out of the farmhouse built in 1793. Here is a blurb about the B&B should anyone be in the area:

“Beside Reivers cycle route. Aga cooked large breakfast. No age limits for children. Last arrival time 23.00. Working farm, lots to see. Only 2 miles from M6 at Carlisle. Warm and friendly welcome. Farmhouse dates from 1793 with comfortable spacious and homely bedrooms. On tourist route, A7 for Scotland. Good base for Hadrians Wall, Lakes and Gretna.

From M6, jct 44, take A7 tourist route to Edinburgh and Longtown. Go through Harker then Blackford. Pass Blackford church on left, see sign for B&B on right, only 500yds from church turning right off A7 onto farm road. Jerriestown farm is second property on right. Turn into farm yard.”

-- <http://www.roomcheck.co.uk> [This is a good website for travelers to the Cumberland Lake District, including Hadrian's Wall]

Additional information comes from a correspondent in England:

"1. I was, at first, puzzled because I was unable to locate Jerriestown on any map or glossary of the UK, even those having a large scale. Eventually, using the Internet, I found the telephone number of a Guest House named 'Jerriestown Farm' which offered overnight Bed and Breakfast accomodation. I therefore telephoned the proprietor to enquire where exactly it was located and why I could not find it on the map.

I then learned the unusual fact that in Cumbria, there are cases where just one or two houses are given the name of a town. Jerriestown is an example of this and the 'Town' actually comprises just two farms and nothing else!! Now I know why I spent more than two frustrating hours trying to find it!! I do sometimes feel that people are right when they think we English are a bit odd!

On the map, you will see a large arrow pointing to Blackford. Jerriestown is located less than half a mile above Blackford in a small lane (not shown on map) which turns off from the right side of the A.7 Roman built road which leads from Carlisle to Edinburgh.

As I expect you know, the concept of building the 74 mile long fortification was started in 81AD by Julius Agricola, but what is now known as Hadrian's Wall was built from 121AD onwards in greatly improved and strengthened form, by the Roman Emperor, Adrian. You will see on the map below, that the line of Hadrian's Wall runs from the West Coast through the main fortress town, Carlisle, and passes about four miles south of Blackford and Jerriestown and thence on to the east coast of northern England. In the 19th Century Jerriestown was in the Parish of Kirkclinton, but is today in the Parish of Westlinton. You will also see the town of Kirkclinton (note spelling) on the map just about 10 miles to the north-east of Blackford.

The actual political Border between England and Scotland passes just 10 miles to the north of Blackford and just above Longtown which is also on the A.7 Road. So much for the locations.

In the year 1136AD, the Scottish King David I (troublesome lot these Davids!) invaded Cumberland (and in 1138, Northumberland) and reached as far as Carlisle. Thus in 1136AD [means 1136] the area between to the north of Hadrian's Wall was ceded by King Stephen of England to Scotland. This arrangement lasted until 1157 when, under a peaceful agreement, the area was ceded back to England.

Thus, any person born in the area between Hadrian's Wall and the political Border between 1136AD and 1157AD would have been regarded as having been born in Scotland and they would have been Scots for their entire lives even though the area later reverted to England. So your friend was right in this belief [that anyone born in Jerriestown would have been Scottish-the Carlisle Assistant Archivist further clarified that when the Ivison's were there, it was definitely England].

2. The lady to whom I spoke at Jerriestown Farm was named Miss Fiona Anderson and having told about its location, mentioned that she had an interest in history. Then came the surprise - when she said that she had been told that Jerriestown Farm had once been occupied by a Clockmaker, but she did not know his name!!!!!! However, the Local History Librarian thought that it could be 'Ivison'. And this, I imagine, that is why you are enquiring about Jerriestown?"