

**A Brief History
of
Mary Gibson**

Born on 29 December 1809 in Liberton, Midlothian, Scotland
Died on 25 March 1868 in Morton House, Liberton, Midlothian,
Scotland



Franklin P. Mason II

A Brief History of Mary Gibson

Compiled and written by Franklin P. Mason II

Mary Gibson was born on 29 December 1809 in Gilmerton, Liberton, Midlothian, Scotland. Her parents were Walter Gibson and Christina Taite. Her parents were married on 27 May 1806 in Canongate, Edinburgh, Midlothian.

Walter and Christian Gibson had the following children:

Mary Gibson, b. 29 December 1809 in Gilmerton, Liberton, Midlothian

William Gibson, b. 23 February 1812 in Newton, Midlothian

Walter Gibson, b. 22 May 1814 in Newton, Midlothian

Margaret Gibson, b. 12 May 1816 in Northfield, Duddingston,¹ Midlothian

Thomas Gibson, b. 02 September 1819 in Northfield, Duddingston, Midlothian

Jane Gibson, b. 29 February 1824² in Cauldcoats, Duddingston, Midlothian

At the time of his marriage, at age 28 years, Walter Gibson was a Laborer.

The Gibson family had lived in Edinburgh proper for (at least) several generations. And the men in the family had been tradesmen. However, shortly after his marriage, Walter moved to Gilmerton, about three miles, as the crow flies, southeast of Edinburgh. In 1809, Gilmerton was agricultural. Thus, it is likely that that is where he became a Ploughman, the occupation he would pursue for the rest of his working life.

As a child, Mary would have moved with her family from Gilmerton, to Newton, to Northfield, to Cauldcoats. Her youngest sibling was born in 1824, when Mary was 14 years of age.

As was the practice at that time, children left their families at about age 14 to begin to work on their own account. So it was that Mary went to work on Mortonhall Estate, Edinburgh,³ which is about four miles from Cauldcoats in Newton Parish.

While still on her own as a single woman, in 1837, at age 28 years, Mary had a child, Adam Gibson, out of wedlock.

At age 32, Mary Gibson married James Alexander on 18 Jun 1841 Liberton, Midlothian.

Mary and James Alexander had four children in addition to Adam, who James adopted as his own. Adam was born in Cauldcoats, Newton Parish. All of the other children were probably born on Mortonhall Estate.

Adam Gibson Alexander, b. 1837

Elizabeth Gibson Alexander, b. 1844

Christina Alexander, b. 1847

Mary Alexander, b. 1849

John Alexander, b. 1851

¹ <https://hiddenscotland.co/duddingston-village/>

² It is fun to note that Jane Gibson was born on Sunday the 29th of February in the Leap Year of 1824.

³ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mortonhall>

Mary Gibson and family were typical of many farm laborers of the mid-1800s. They live a hard life but, one hopes, full of love for each other and with friendship for their fellow workers.

George Watt, Mary Gibson's great, great grandson has written a touching account of Mary and of her times.

Mary Gibson Alexander died on 25 March 1868 of cancer at Morton House. She was 52 years of age.

See the Appendix for birth, marriage, census, and death records.

Appendix

21/01/1810 GIBSON, MARY (O.P.R. Births 693/00 0040 0501 LIBERTON (MIDLOTHIAN))

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Currie	June Daughter to John Currie and Catherine Robertson at Law'sbeck-hall, was born the 28 th January and baptized the 17 th Febry 1810 before these witnesses Robert Currie and Elizabeth Currie.
Young	Beatrix Young Nephew's Daughter to James Young at Riding Mill and Agnes Fisher in Rydershall was born 5 th Febry 1810 and baptized the 6 th April 1810 before James Fisher & John Balfour.
Refs	David son to David Refs and Janet Stevenson at Cart-hall was born the 30 th Nov ^r 1809 and baptized the 2 nd January 1810 before this witness Angus Refs.
Colliver	John and Hannah Twins Son and Daughter to David Colliver and Helen Stevenson at Gilmerton were born the 6 th Jan ^r and baptized the 9 th Febr 1810. before these witnesses David Colliver and John Stevenson.
Reid	Margaret Daughter to William Reid and Janet Miller at Todhills, was born the 28 th Dec ^r 1809 and baptized the 14 th Jan ^r 1810 before the Congregation of Newton.
Thomson	Elisabette Daughter to William Thomson and Elisabete Wilson, was born the 5 th Jan ^r and baptized the 12 th Febr 1810 before these witnesses William Thomson and David Dalgleish.
Gibson	Mary Daughter to Walter Gibson and Christian Tait at Gilmerton was born the 29 th Dec ^r 1809 and baptized the 21 st Jan ^r 1810 before the Congregation.
Wilson	Euphemia Daughter to John Wilson Private in the Aberdeenshire Militia lying in Edin ^g burgh, and Elisabete flow in Camus Bridge, was born the 16 th Jan ^r and baptized the 29 th Febr 1810. before these witnesses Widow Greig and Mrs Lynn.
Peterson	John Son to Charles Peterson and Christian Wood at Greenend, was born the 9 th Jan ^r and baptized the 2 nd Feb. 1810 before these witnesses Christian Macfarlane & Ann Macfarlane.
Baxter	Neilson Daughter to Robert Baxter and Margaret Baxter at Drum, was born the 27 th Jan ^r and baptized the 31 st Febr 1810. before these witnesses William Neilson and Walter Somerville.
Anderson	John Son to Samuel Anderson and Rachel Cray at Upper Liberton, was born the 28 th Jan ^r and baptized the 11 th Feb. 1810 before the Congregation.
Forrance	Margaret Daughter to Richard Forrance and Marguerit Buieth at Strathmill, was born the 25 th Jan ^r and baptized the 18 th Feb. 1810 before the Congregation.
Clark	Margaret Daughter to William Clark and Janet Little at

1809-12-29 Mary Gibson, daughter of Walter Gibson and Christian Tait, Birth/Baptism Record from Gilmerton, Liberton, Midlothian

1836 Lawson	Margaret, lawful daughter of Alexander Lawson, Collier Lomerside & Agnes Smith his spouse, was born on the 26 th October 1836, & baptised on the 20 th Nov ^r thereafter, in presence of the Congregation.	166
Gibson	Adam, illegitimate son of Mary Gibson daughter of Walter Gibson, Ploughman, Cauldcoats, was born on the 31 st July 1836, & baptised the 27 th Nov ^r thereafter, in presence of the Session, immediately after Divine Worship.	
Gordon	William, lawful son of John Gordon, Collier, Adamsraaf & Grace Moffat his spouse, was born on the 12 th Nov ^r 1836, & baptised the 4 th Dec ^r thereafter, in presence of the Congregation.	
Beveridge	John Samington, Beveridge, lawful son of William Beveridge, Collier, Adamsraaf, and Margaret Balhain, his spouse, was born on the 3 rd November 1836, & baptised the 11 th Dec ^r thereafter, in presence of the Congregation.	
Paxton	George, lawful son of James Paxton, Collier, New-craighall, Parish of Inveresk, & Annina Anderson his spouse, was born on the 1 st November 1836, & baptised the 11 th Dec ^r thereafter in presence of the Congregation.	
Bennet (16 th Aug ^r 1835)	William, lawful son of William Kennet, Door-keeper Sheriffhall, & Jane Drylie his spouse, was born on the 14 th August 1835, & baptised the 6 th September thereafter, in presence of the Congregation of Relief in Galheish.	
Johnstone	Margaret, lawful daughter of Thomas Johnstone, Collier, Redroa, & Janet Calderwood his spouse, was born on the 19 th November 1836, & baptised on the 25 th December, thereafter, in presence of the Congregation.	

1836-07-31 Adam Gibson, Illegitimate son of Mary Gibson, daughter of Walter Gibson, Ploughman Cauldcoats, Birth/Baptism Record from Newton Parish, Midlothian. Mary must have gone back to her parents' home to give birth to her child.

1				2		3		4	
PLACE	HOUSES	NAME and SURNAME, SEX and AGE, of each Person who abode in each House on the Night of 6th June.		OCCUPATION		WHERE BORN		If there be any children in the Family who are under 5 years of Age, give their Age, Sex, and whether they are illegitimate.	If there be any persons who are blind, deaf, or idiotic, give their Name, Sex, and Age.
		NAME and SURNAME	AGE	Male	Female	Of what Profession, Trade, Employment, or whether of Independent Means.	Male		
Parish of <i>Newton</i>									
<i>Bonkfield</i>		<i>Walter Darling</i>	<i>15</i>						
		<i>Johnnie de</i>	<i>8</i>						
		<i>Johnnie de</i>	<i>5</i>						
<i>do</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>William Gibson</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>Ag Lab</i>					
		<i>Thomas de</i>	<i>37</i>						
		<i>Thomas de</i>	<i>18</i>						
		<i>John de</i>	<i>8</i>						
		<i>John de</i>	<i>5</i>						
		<i>Grace de</i>	<i>2</i>						
<i>do</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Williamson</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>Ag Lab</i>					
		<i>David Thomson</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>Ag Lab</i>					
<i>do</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Charles Gibson</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Ag Lab</i>					
<i>do</i>		<i>Janet de</i>	<i>40</i>						
		<i>Janet de</i>	<i>10</i>						
<i>do</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Johnnie Hutch</i>	<i>60</i>						
<i>do</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Robert Dickson</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>Ag Lab</i>					
		<i>Margaret de</i>	<i>40</i>						
		<i>Robert de</i>	<i>15</i>						
		<i>Thomas de</i>	<i>10</i>						
		<i>John de</i>	<i>5</i>						
<i>do</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Mary Thomson</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Ag Lab</i>					
		<i>Robert de</i>	<i>25</i>						
		<i>Alexander de</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Ag Lab</i>					
		<i>John de</i>	<i>8</i>						
		<i>Robert de</i>	<i>80</i>						
TOTAL in Page 9	<i>6</i>					<i>10</i>	<i>15</i>		

1				2		3		4	
PLACE	HOUSES	NAME and SURNAME, SEX and AGE, of each Person who abode in each House on the Night of 6th June.		OCCUPATION		WHERE BORN		If there be any children in the Family who are under 5 years of Age, give their Age, Sex, and whether they are illegitimate.	If there be any persons who are blind, deaf, or idiotic, give their Name, Sex, and Age.
		NAME and SURNAME	AGE	Male	Female	Of what Profession, Trade, Employment, or whether of Independent Means.	Male		
Parish of <i>Newton</i>									
<i>do</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>David Thomson</i>	<i>45</i>			<i>Farmer</i>			
		<i>Margaret de</i>	<i>20</i>			<i>N</i>			
<i>do</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Christian Gibson</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>Ag Lab</i>					
		<i>Mary de</i>	<i>28</i>						
		<i>Thomas de</i>	<i>20</i>						
		<i>Adam de</i>	<i>4</i>						
<i>do</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Thomas Kerr</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>Ag Lab</i>					
		<i>John de</i>	<i>40</i>						
<i>do</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>William Thomson</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>Ag Lab</i>					
		<i>James de</i>	<i>27</i>						
		<i>John de</i>	<i>2</i>						
<i>do</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Robert Thomson</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Ag Lab</i>					
		<i>Margaret de</i>	<i>26</i>						
		<i>Robert de</i>	<i>2</i>						
		<i>Janet de</i>	<i>40</i>						
<i>do</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Thomas Green</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>Farmer</i>					
		<i>John de</i>	<i>25</i>						
		<i>John de</i>	<i>3</i>						
		<i>Margaret de</i>	<i>15</i>						
<i>do</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>John Thomson</i>	<i>77</i>	<i>Ag Lab</i>					
		<i>Janet de</i>	<i>73</i>						
		<i>David de</i>	<i>5</i>						
		<i>William Thomson</i>	<i>6</i>						
		<i>John de</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>Ag Lab</i>					
TOTAL in Page 10	<i>8</i>					<i>14</i>	<i>12</i>		

1841-06-06 Scottish Census, showing Christian (Taite) Gibson, age 50 years, living in Cauldcoats, Newton Parish, Midlothian with her children Mary, age 28 years, and Thomas, age 20 years, and her grandson Adam Gibson, age 4 years, son of Mary Gibson.

Note that the occupation of each of the adults is listed as "Ag Lab", agricultural laborer.

This census was taken on 06 June 1841.⁴

⁴ [https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/census-records/1841-census#:~:text=The%201841%20census%20was%20taken,and%20provosts%20\(for%20burghs\).](https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/guides/census-records/1841-census#:~:text=The%201841%20census%20was%20taken,and%20provosts%20(for%20burghs).)



Extract of an entry in an OLD PAROCHIAL REGISTER
Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Scotland) Act 1965, S.47

005087

Parish of **Liberton** County of **Edinburgh**

Liberton 18th June 1841 That James Alexander
Ploughman residing at Morton Mains and Mary Gibson
daughter of the late Walter Gibson Ploughman Caldcoats
Parish of Newton residing at Morton Mains till
Whitsunday last both in this Parish have entered
their names for proclamation in order to marriage
and being three times regularly proclaimed and no
objections offered they were married accordingly
before Witnesses

The above particulars are extracted from a Register of **Proclamations of Banns and Marriages**

Given under the Seal of the General Register Office, New Register House, Edinburgh on

18th June 1985

The above particulars incorporate any subsequent corrections or amendments to the original entry made with the authority of the Registrar General.

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681

1841-06-18 Mary Gibson, daughter of Walter Gibson, and James Alexander Marriage Record at Mortonhall Estate in Liberton, Midlothian.

Whitsunday falls on the seventh Sunday after Easter. In 1841, that was on the 30th of May. That means that Mary and her son Adam had time to leave Morton Mains and visit her mother in Newton (a distance of about 4 miles) just in time for the 1841 census, which was taken on June 6th.

James Alexander

in the 1851 Scotland Census

Name:	James Alexander																
Age:	39																
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1812																
Relationship:	Head																
Spouse:	Mary Alexander																
Gender:	Male																
Where born:	Colinton, Midlothian																
Parish Number:	693																
Civil Parish:	Liberton																
Phillimore Ecclesiastical Parish Maps:	View related Ecclesiastical Parish Maps																
County:	Midlothian																
Address:	Morton Village																
Occupation:	Gardener																
ED:	1																
Page:	2																
Household Schedule Number:	6																
Line:	12																
Roll:	CSSCT1851_190																
Household Members:	<table> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Age</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>James Alexander</td> <td>39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mary Alexander</td> <td>39</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adam Gibson</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christina Alexander</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mary Alexander</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Alexander</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Walter Gibson</td> <td>11</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Name	Age	James Alexander	39	Mary Alexander	39	Adam Gibson	14	Christina Alexander	5	Mary Alexander	3	John Alexander	1	Walter Gibson	11
Name	Age																
James Alexander	39																
Mary Alexander	39																
Adam Gibson	14																
Christina Alexander	5																
Mary Alexander	3																
John Alexander	1																
Walter Gibson	11																

1851 Scotland Census Record Mary Gibson. Apparently, Elizabeth, age 7, was not at home, although all the other children were. (See next page.) Note that the family lived in Morton Village not on the Mortonhall Estate. Walter Gibson was Mary's nephew. Note that Mary's son, Adam, is shown as "Adam Gibson" not "Adam Alexander".

Elizabeth Alexander

in the 1851 Scotland Census

Name:	Elizabeth Alexander						
Age:	7						
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1844						
Relationship:	Lodger						
Gender:	Female						
Where born:	Liberton, Midlothian						
Parish Number:	693						
Civil Parish:	Liberton						
Phillimore Ecclesiastical Parish Maps:	View related Ecclesiastical Parish Maps						
Town:	Morton						
County:	Midlothian						
Address:	Morton Village						
ED:	1						
Page:	3						
Household Schedule Number:	8						
Line:	6						
Roll:	CSSCT1851_190						
Household Members:	<table><thead><tr><th>Name</th><th>Age</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Jane Mc Kenzie</td><td>67</td></tr><tr><td>Elizabeth Alexander</td><td>7</td></tr></tbody></table>	Name	Age	Jane Mc Kenzie	67	Elizabeth Alexander	7
Name	Age						
Jane Mc Kenzie	67						
Elizabeth Alexander	7						

1851 Scotland Census Record Elizabeth Gibson Alexander. Elizabeth was not living at home, but she, too, was living in Morton Village. Jane McKenzie is listed as being 67 years of age (which was probably elderly at that time) and as a "Pauper". Perhaps the young girl, Elizabeth, was asked to live with Jane to help her.

Mary Alexander

in the 1861 Scotland Census

Detail Source

Name:	Mary Alexander
Age:	45
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1816
Relationship:	Wife
Spouse's Name:	James Alexander
Gender:	Female
Where born:	Liberton, county of edinr
Registration Number:	693
Registration district:	Liberton
Civil parish:	Liberton
County:	Midlothian
Address:	Morton Lodge
Occupation:	Gardners Wife
ED:	5
Household schedule number:	81
Line:	24
Roll:	CSSCT1861_132

<u>Household Members (Name)</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Relationship</u>
James Alexander	42	Head
Mary Alexander	45	Wife
Adam Alexander	24	Son
Christina Alexander	14	Daughter
Mary Alexander	12	Daughter
John Alexander	10	Son
Catherine Pollock	32	Servant

1861 Scotland Census Record Mary Gibson. Again, Elizabeth Gibson Alexander, age 17, was not at home. Catherine Pollock must have been a servant in the manor house.

Note that Mary's son, Adam, is now shown as "Adam Alexander".



1861-1965

Extract of an entry in a REGISTER of DEATHS

Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Scotland) Act 1965

005889

No	1 Name and surname Rank or profession and whether single, married or widowed	2 When and where died	3 Sex	4 Age	5 Name, surname and rank or profession of father Name and maiden surname of mother	6 Cause of death, duration of disease and medical attendant by whom certified	7 Signature and qualification of informant and residence, if out of the house in which the death occurred	8 When and where registered and signature of registrar
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20	Mary Alexander	1868 March Twenty-fifth 9h. 50m. P.M.	F.	52	Walter Gibson Plumber (Deceased)	Cancer of Rectum (16 months) As cert. by Mr. Peacock M.D.	James Alexander Liberton	1868 March 26 th Liberton
	Married to James Alexander Gardener	Morton House Bank of Liberton			Christina Gibson Mid. Fair (Deceased)			Thos Kelly Registrar

The above particulars are extracted from a Register of Deaths for the Parish of Liberton
in the County of Edinburgh of
Given under the Seal of the General Register Office, New Register House, Edinburgh, on 1st November 1984

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R. (D4)(C)
677

1868-03-25 Mary Gibson Death Certificate

James Alexander

in the 1871 Scotland Census

Detail Source

Name:	James Alexander
Age:	55
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1816
Relationship:	Head
Gender:	Male
Where born:	Colinton, Edinburghshire
Registration Number:	693
Registration district:	Liberton
Civil parish:	Liberton
County:	Midlothian
Address:	Police Station
Occupation:	Gardener Domestic Servt
ED:	5
Household schedule number:	86
Line:	2
Roll:	CSSCT1871_170

Household Members (Name)	Age	Relationship
James Alexander	55	Head
John Alexander	21	Son
Mary Alexander	22	Daughter

1871 Scottish Census Record. Mary Gibson had died in 1868. Thus, this census record shows only her husband and two of the children

James Alexander

in the 1881 Scotland Census

Detail Source

Name:	James Alexander
Age:	64
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1817
Relationship:	Head
Gender:	Male
Where born:	Colinton, Midlothian
Registration Number:	685/1
Registration district:	St George
Civil parish:	St George
County:	Midlothian
Address:	Blackford Cottage
Occupation:	Gardener Domestic Sev
ED:	4
Household schedule number:	2
Line:	10
Roll:	cssct1881_279

<u>Household Members (Name)</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Relationship</u>
James Alexander	64	Head
John Alexander	28	Son

1881 Scotland Census Record for James Alexander and his son John

James Alexander

in the 1891 Scotland Census

Detail Source

Name:	James Alexander
Age:	75
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1816
Relationship:	Head
Gender:	Male
Where born:	Colinton, Midlothian
Registration Number:	685/5
Registration district:	Newington
Civil parish:	Edinburgh St Cuthberts
County:	Midlothian
Address:	Blackford Avenue
Occupation:	Gardiner
ED:	117
Household schedule number:	94
Line:	11
Roll:	CSSCT1891_357

Household Members (Name)	Age	Relationship
James Alexander	75	Head
John Alexander	36	Son
Mary G Irvine	22	Grandaur

1891 Scotland Census Record James Alexander. Mary Gibson Irvine was James Alexander's granddaughter, daughter of William Irvine and Elizabeth Gibson Alaxander.