

**A Brief History
of
William Leckie**

Born in about 1840 in Menstrie, Stirlingshire, Scotland

Died on 28 May 1904 in Alva, Stirlingshire, Scotland



A Brief History of William Leckie

Compiled and written by Franklin P. Mason II

William Leckie was born in about 1840 in Menstrie, Logie Parish,¹ Stirlingshire, Scotland. His parents were William Leckie, Sr. [born about 1804 in St. Ninians, Stirlingshire, Scotland] and Margaret Liddell [born 11 Mar 1798 in St. Ninians, Stirlingshire, Scotland.] His parents were married on 02 Dec 1827 in St. Ninians, Stirlingshire

William, Sr., and Margaret Leckie had eight children, as follows:

Margaret Leckie, b. 1829, St. Ninians, Stirlingshire, Scotland

James Leckie, b. 1830, St. Ninians, Stirlingshire, Scotland

Archibald Leckie, b. 1832, St. Ninians, Stirlingshire, Scotland

Anne Leckie, b. 1834, St. Ninians, Stirlingshire, Scotland

Marion Leckie, b. 01 June 1835, Tillicoultry, Clackmannanshire, Scotland

Elizabeth Leckie, b. 20 June 1837, Tillicoultry, Clackmannanshire, Scotland

William Leckie, b. 1840, Menstrie, Logie Parish, Stirlingshire, Scotland

Thomas Liddell Leckie, b. 1843, Alva, Stirlingshire,² Scotland

William Leckie, Sr., was a Woolen Hand Loom Weaver. He died in 1862 at age 58 years due to injuries sustained in an accident, when his cart turned over.

William Leckie (Jr.) was born in Menstrie but moved to Alva with his family when he was just a few months of age.

William Leckie (Jr.) married Janet Thomson [born in about 1847 in Stirling, Stirlingshire, Scotland] on 10 August 1865 at Stirling Manse³ in Stirling, Stirlingshire, Scotland.

William and Janet had 14 children, all of whom were born in Alva:

William Charles Leckie, b. 1866

Alexander Leckie, b. 1868 (fraternal twin)

Margaret Leckie, b. 1868 (fraternal twin)

James Leckie, b. 1870

Isabella Leckie, b. 1873

Charles Thomson Leckie, b. 1875

Archibald Leckie, b. 1877

John Taylor Leckie, b. 1879 (fraternal twin)

Thomas Liddell Leckie, b. 1879 (fraternal twin)

Robert Taylor Leckie, b. 1881

Peter Taylor Leckie, b. 1884 (fraternal twin)

Edward Quirk Leckie, b. 1884 (fraternal twin)

Alfred Hobbs Leckie, b. 1885

Edward Leckie, b. 1887

¹ Logie Parish is a parish of Stirlingshire, Clackmannanshire, and Perthshire, which contains most of the post town of Bridge of Allan, part of the royal burgh of Stirling, the villages of Causewayhead and Menstrie, and the hamlets of Blairlogie and Craigmill.

² As of 1891, Alva is in Clackmannanshire

³ A "manse" is the house occupied by a minister of a Presbyterian church.

During the Industrial Revolution (circa 1760 to 1830), Alva developed as a textile manufacturing center. The woolen mills were originally water-powered, powered by the water of Alva Burn. The mills produced textile products including tweed, woolen novelty fabrics, and mohair and woolen rugs. (Refer to the Appendix.)



Alva Burn

In fact, William Leckie owned and operated a woolen mill in Alva. The mill produced tartan scarves and other products for the American market until the advent of powered looms caused closure of the mill.

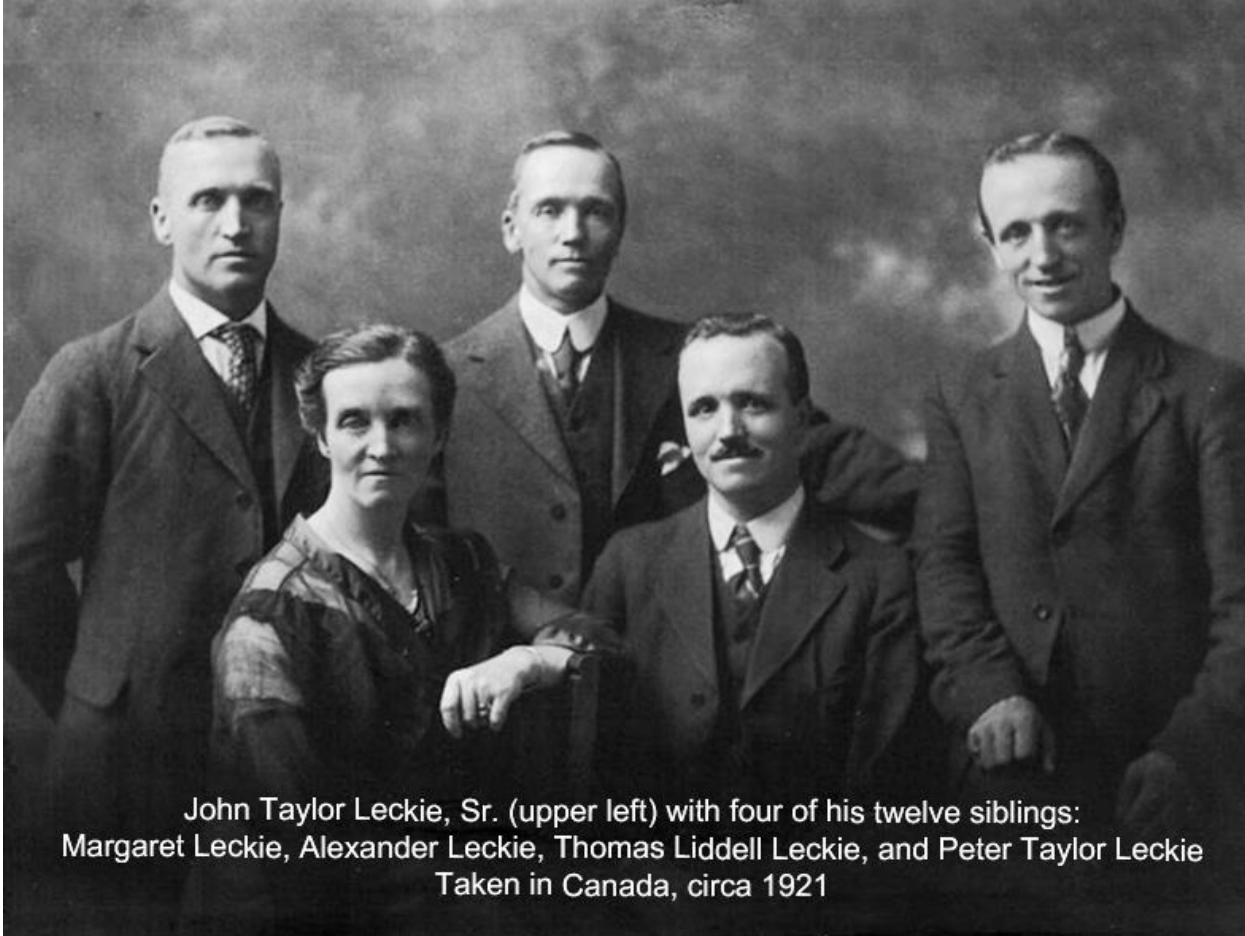
The following article was published in the Alloa Journal on 04 June 1904:

The Late Mr. Wm Leckie

There passed away on Saturday evening last a member of a family which has played a not inconsiderable part in the social and public life of Alva during the past 60 years. Mr. Wm Leckie to whom we refer was practically a native of our burgh. Born in Menstrie, he was brought to Alva by his parents when he was only a few months old in the year 1841. He was early sent to learn the trade of a weaver and afterwards a warper, in which capacity he distinguished himself, acting for many years as a foreman to the late John Drummond then one of the leading manufacturers. On leaving there he along with his brother (Mr. Archibald Leckie) started business on their own account, and for many years the firm enjoyed a very high reputation both for the quality and design of the goods they placed on the market, and it was only when there was absolutely no demand for the higher priced shawls and plaids that the firm were compelled to give up business. On his retiral, being still an active and energetic man, he entered the employment of Provost Arnot who, by the way, served his time as an apprentice weaver in the shop of John Drummond during the period the deceased acted as foreman. Possessed of a strong will and forceful means of expression, Mr. Wm Leckie made his influence felt in almost all matters of a public nature which came up from time to time, and this may be particularly said of the affairs of the Co-Operative Bazaar society for which he acted as chairman for several years, and also of all matters affecting the woollen industry. He leaves a widow and a grown family of eleven sons and one daughter. Much sympathy has been expressed on all hands for the family in their bereavement.

Several of William's children moved away from Scotland. For example, Alexander Leckie, Thomas Liddell Leckie, and Peter Taylor Leckie all moved to Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. And John Taylor Leckie moved to Cleveland, Ohio, USA.

The picture below shows the children who moved. This picture was taken in 1921 in Canada when John Taylor Leckie was visiting from the USA, Margaret Leckie was visiting from Scotland, and Alexander Leckie, Thomas Liddell Leckie, and Peter Taylor Leckie were all living in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.



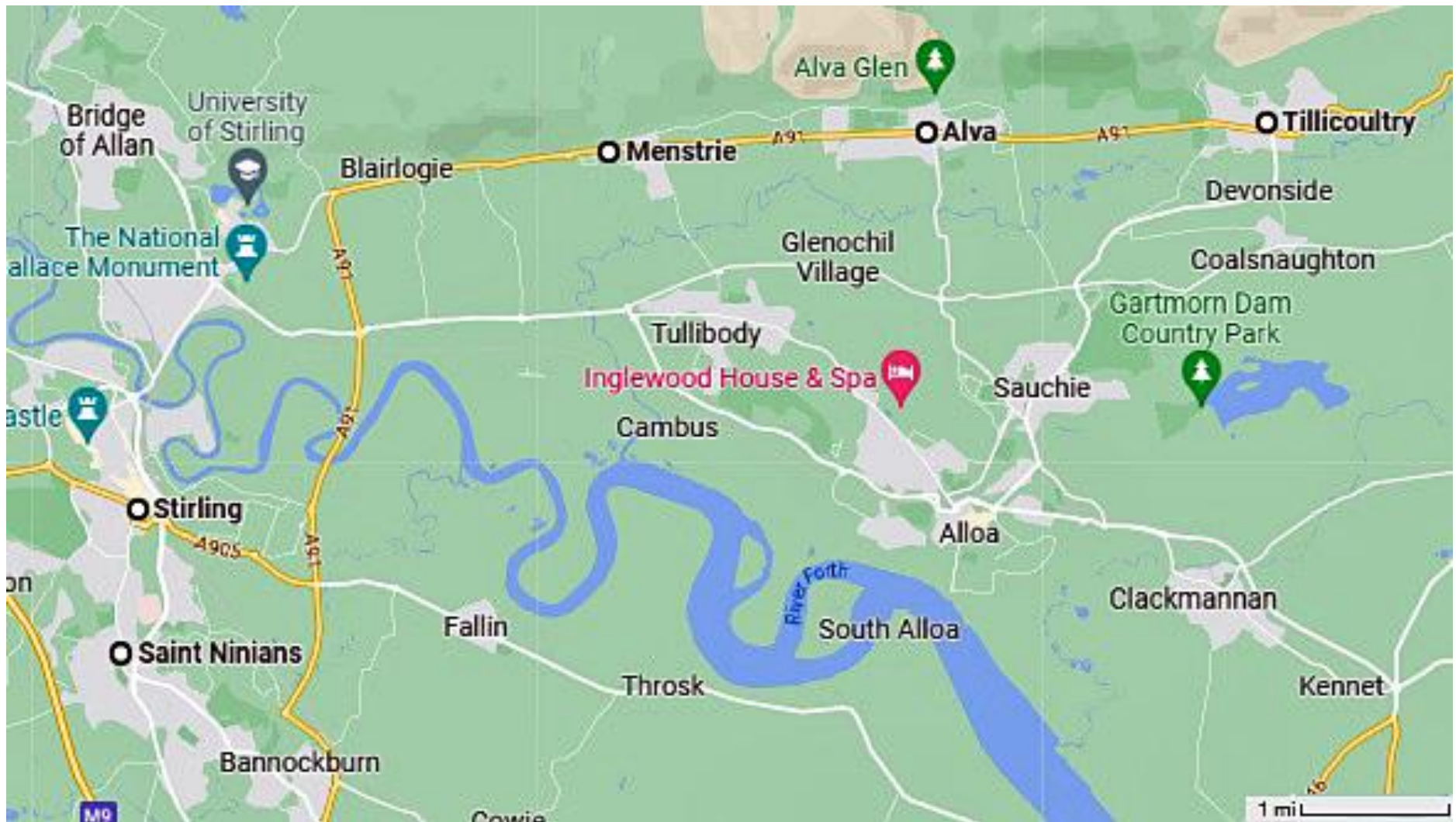
Except for his first few months, William Leckie lived his entire life in Alva.

William Leckie died on 28 May 1904 at 139 Stirling Street in Alva, Stirlingshire, Scotland. He is buried in the Alva Cemetery along with his wife, Janet Thompson Leckie, and four of their children: William Charles Leckie, Margaret Leckie Laing, Isabella Leckie, and Edward Leckie.



William Leckie and family grave marker in Alva Cemetery

Appendix



Map of the central Lowlands of Scotland, showing the location of many of the towns mentioned in this essay:
St. Ninians, Sterling, Menstrie, Alva, and Tillicoultry

William Leckis

in the 1841 Scotland Census

Detail Source

Name:	William Leckis [Leckie]
Age:	1
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1840
Gender:	Male
Where born:	Scotland
Civil parish:	Alva
County:	Stirlingshire
Address:	Toll Road East Of The Bridge
Parish Number:	470

Household Members (Name)	Age
William Leckis	35
Margaret Leckis	40
Margaret Leckis	12
James Leckis	11
Archibald Leckis	10
Annie Leckis	9
Marion Leckis	6
Elisabeth Leckis	4
William Leckis	1
John Mckinlay	15

1841 Scottish Census, showing William Leckie (mis-transcribed "Leckis") at age one year, with his parents and siblings, living in Alva at "Toll Road East of the Bridge"

William Leckie in the 1851 Scotland Census

Name:	William Leckie
Age:	11
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1840
Relationship:	Son
Father:	William Leckie
Mother:	Margaret Leckie
Gender:	Male
Where born:	Logie, Clackmannanshire
Parish Number:	470
Civil Parish:	Alva
Phillimore Ecclesiastical Parish Maps:	View related Ecclesiastical Parish
Town:	Alva
County:	Stirlingshire
Address:	Dalmore Row
Occupation:	Scholar
ED:	1
Page:	28
Household Schedule Number:	106
Line:	2
Roll:	CSSCT1851_98

Household Members:	Name	Age
	William Leckie	46
	Margaret Leckie	53
	Margaret Leckie	22
	James Leckie	21
	Archibald Leckie	19
	Anne Leckie	17
	Marion Leckie	15
	Elizabeth Leckie	13
	William Leckie	11
	Thomas Leckie	8
	Margaret Leckie	3 Mo
	James Neilson	59

1851 Scottish Census, showing William Leckie at age 11 years,
with his parents and siblings, living at "Dalmore Row"

William Leckie

in the 1861 Scotland Census

[Detail](#)

[Source](#)

Name: William Leckie
Age: 21
Estimated Birth Year: abt 1840
Relationship: Son
Father's Name: William Leckie
Mother's Name: Margaret Leckie
Gender: Male
Where born: Logie, Clackmannanshire
Registration Number: 470
Registration district: Alva
Civil parish: Alva
County: Stirlingshire
Address: Cholmely St
Occupation: Wool Weaver
ED: 2
Household schedule number: 204
Line: 20
Roll: CSSCT1861_63

Household Members (Name)	Age	Relationship
William Leckie	55	Head
Margaret Leckie	63	Wife
Ann Leckie	26	Daughter
William Leckie	21	Son
Thomas Leckie	18	Son
Margaret Thompson	10	Grandaughter (Granddaughter)
Elizabeth Dobbie	7	Grandaughter (Granddaughter)
Ann Graham	4	Grandaughter (Granddaughter)

1861 Scottish Census, showing William Leckie at age 21 years,
with his parents and siblings, living at "Cholmely Street"

William Lechie

in the 1871 Scotland Census

Detail Source

Name:	William Lechie
Age:	30
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1841
Relationship:	Head
Spouse's Name:	Janet Thomason
Gender:	Male
Where born:	Logie, clackmsh
Registration Number:	470
Registration district:	Alva
Civil parish:	Alva
County:	Stirlingshire
Address:	Crofts
Occupation:	Worker Warper
ED:	4
Household schedule number:	165
Line:	20
Roll:	CSSCT1871_81

Household Members (Name)	Age	Relationship
William Lechie	30	Head
Janet Thomason	24	Wife
William O Lechie	4	Son
Alexr Lechie	2	Grandson
Maggie Lechie	2	Grandaughter (Grandaughter)
James Lechie	3	Son
	Mo	

1871 Scottish Census, showing William Leckie (mis-transcribed "Lechie") at age 31 years, now the head of his own household, with his wife Janet Thomson and their children, living at "Crofts".⁴ Note that two of their children are incorrectly listed as grandchildren.

⁴ A croft is a small, rented farm, especially one in Scotland, comprising a plot of arable land attached to a house and with a right of pasturage held in common with other such farms.

William Leckie

in the 1881 Scotland Census

[Detail](#)

[Source](#)

Name: William Leckie
Age: 41
Estimated Birth Year: abt 1840
Relationship: Head
Spouse's Name: Janet Leckie
Gender: Male
Where born: Menstire, Clacksh
Registration Number: 470
Registration district: Alva
Civil parish: Alva
County: Stirlingshire
Address: 45 Johnstone St
Occupation: Woollen Weaver
ED: 3
Household schedule number: 169
Line: 25
Roll: cssct1881_131

Household Members (Name)	Age	Relationship
William Leckie	41	Head
Janet Leckie	34	Wife
William Leckie	14	Son
Alexander Leckie	12	Son
Maggie Leckie	12	Daughter
James Leckie	10	Son
Isabella Leckie	7	Daughter
Charles Leckie	5	Son
Archibald Leckie	3	Son
John T Leckie	1	Son
Thomas L Leckie	1	Son

1881 Scottish Census, showing William Leckie at age 41 years,
with his wife and children, living at "45 Johnstone Street"

William Leckie

in the 1891 Scotland Census

[Detail](#)

[Source](#)

Name: William Leckie
Age: 57
Estimated Birth Year: abt 1834
Relationship: Head
Spouse's Name: Janet Leckie
Gender: Male
Where born: Menstrie, Clackmannanshire
Registration Number: 470
Registration district: Alva
Civil parish: Alva
County: Stirlingshire
Address: George St
Occupation: Woolen Manufacturer
ED: 2
Household schedule number: 158
Line: 5
Roll: CSSCT1891_145

Household Members (Name)	Age	Relationship
William Leckie	57	Head
Janet Leckie	44	Wife
William C Leckie	24	Son
Alexander Leckie	22	Son
Maggie Leckie	22	Daur (Daughter)
James Leckie	20	Son
Isabel Leckie	17	Daur (Daughter)
Charles Leckie	15	Son
Archibald Leckie	13	Son
John Leckie	11	Son
Thomas Leckie	11	Son
Robt Leckie	9	Son
Peter Leckie	7	Son
Alfred Leckie	5	Son
Edward Leckie	3	Son

1891 Scottish Census, showing William Leckie at age 51 years,
with his wife and children, living at "George Street"

William Leckie

in the 1901 Scotland Census

Detail Source

Name:	William Leckie
Age:	61
Estimated Birth Year:	abt 1840
Relationship:	Head
Spouse's Name:	Janet Leckie
Gender:	Male
Where born:	Logie, stirlingshire
Registration Number:	465B
Registration district:	Alva
Civil parish:	Alva
County:	Clackmannanshire
Address:	28, Queen St Park Villa
Occupation:	Woolen Warper
ED:	5
Household schedule number:	205
Line:	15
Roll:	CSSCT1901_151

Household Members (Name)	Age	Relationship
William Leckie	61	Head
Janet Leckie	54	Wife
Margaret Leckie	32	Daur (Daughter)
John Leckie	21	Son
Robert Leckie	19	Son
Peter Leckie	16	Son
Alfred Leckie	15	Son
Edward Leckie	13	Son

1901 Scottish Census, showing William Leckie at age 61 years, with his wife and children, living at "28 Queen Street Park Villa"

Dates of Births and Baptisms from official records⁵

Name	Scottish Births and Baptisms 1564-1950: Alva, Stirlingshire	Scotland Church Records and Kirk Session Records, 1658-1919: St. Serf's Parish Church, Alva
William Charles Leckie	Born 12 Oct 1866	
Alexander Leckie (fraternal twin)	Born 05 Nov 1868	
Margaret Leckie (fraternal twin)	Born 05 Nov 1868	
James Leckie	Born 28 Dec 1870*	Baptized 28 Dec 1870*
Isabella Leckie	Born 12 Jul 1873	
Charles Thomson Leckie		Baptized 08 Sep 1875
Archibald Leckie		Baptized 03 Sep 1877
John Taylor Leckie, (fraternal twin)		
Thomas Liddell Leckie (fraternal twin)		Baptized 19 Sep 1879
Robert Taylor Leckie		Baptized 02 Aug 1881
Peter Taylor Leckie (fraternal twin)		Baptized 04 May 1884
Edward Quirk Leckie (fraternal twin)		Baptized 04 May 1884
Alfred Hobbs Leckie		
Edward Leckie		Baptized 02 Oct 1887

* Obvious conflict

⁵ From: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2HR-DBR6>

The following is abstracted from the article “The Industries of Scotland: Woollen Manufacturers” from the website: <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/industrial/industry9.htm>. This article must have originally been written about 1870 because the last date mentioned is 1867.

ALVA.—The inhabitants of Alva are almost entirely dependent on the woollen manufactures. The population was 1150 in 1821; 2216 in 1841; and 3282 in 1861; and the trade of the place has increased at a like rate. Blankets and serges were the only goods produced up till 1829, when the manufacture of shawls was introduced. There are nine spinning-mills in the village, employed on yarns for making shawls, tartan dress goods, tweeds, &c. The mills contain thirty-seven sets of carding-engines, driven by steam and waterpower. The number of persons employed is about 220. The amount of raw material put through in the course of a year is valued at about £123,000. Some of the yarn is used in the place, but the greater part of it goes to agents in Glasgow.

The weaving of shawls, handkerchiefs, plaids, and shirtings is the staple trade of the village, and gives employment to about 693 journeymen and 99 apprentices in the busy season, besides from 500 to 600 women who do the winding, twisting, and finishing. A number of young boys are also employed as drawers and twisters. Since shawls and tartans ceased to be fashionable articles of female attire, and since the closing of the ports of the United States [probably due to the American Civil War 1861-1865] to our manufactured goods, trade has been limited to a few months of the year; and that circumstance presses hard on those employed in the weaving business, who generally seek work during the winter months in Hawick, Selkirk, Galashiels, &c.

The value of the manufactured goods runs from about £200,000 to £250,000 annually. The chief market is Glasgow, but a considerable quantity also goes to Manchester, London, and some of the principal Irish towns.

At Menstrie—a small village two miles distant from Alva—there is a large factory known as Elmbank Mill, owned by Messrs. Drummond & Johnstone. It contains eight sets of carding-engines, driven by a steam-engine of ninety horsepower. The machinery is of the most recent construction. The raw material used annually is valued at about £33,000, and the goods manufactured at double that amount.



Family resemblance: Father (William Leckie 1840-1904); son (John Taylor Leckie 1879-1949), grandson (James Alexander Leckie 1917-1991)