

Trades House of Glasgow

James McLennan's Biography



By

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**Visitor of the Incorporation of Maltmen ~ 1890
Deacon Convener, Maltman 1893-94**



JAMES McLENNAN
1893-94

James McLennan Visitor of the Incorporation of Maltmen ~ 1890 Deacon Convener, Maltman 1893-94

James McLennan was born about 1838/9 in Coylton, Ayrshire. His father's name was Andrew McLennan, and his mother was called Isabella Brown. Andrew McLennan was born on 20 March 1804 in Dalmellington, Ayrshire and died on 31 January 1882 in Coylton, Ayrshire, when he was 77 years old. Andrew married Isabella Brown in Coylton, Ayrshire, on 12 February 1834 when he was 29 years old. Isabella Brown died on 14 March 1907 in Coylton, Ayrshire, when she was 93 years old.

It is likely that James McLennan got his interest in the wine and spirit trade from his father who was an Inn Keeper in Coylton in Ayrshire.

James was the youngest sibling in his family and he had the following brothers and sisters:

Isabella was born on 10 May 1840 in Coylton, Ayrshire, when James was 2 years old.

Elizabeth was born on 7 July 1842 in Coylton, Ayrshire, when James was 4 years old. His sister Elizabeth died on 13 December 1891 in Coylton, Ayrshire, when James was 53 years old.

William Brown was born on 28 May 1844 in Coylton, Ayrshire, when James was 6 years old.

Thomas was born on 12 December 1846 in Coylton, Ayrshire, when James was 8 years old. His brother Thomas died on 23 May 1870 when James was 32 years old.

Quintin was born on 19 March 1849 in Coylton, Ayrshire, when James was 10 years old.

John was born on 22 September 1851 in Coylton, Ayrshire, when James was 13 years old. His brother John died on 8 June 1864 when James was 26 years old.

Alexander was born on 7 November 1854 in Coylton, Ayrshire, when James was 16 years old.

James married his first wife Agnes Watt Logan on the 7th September 1865 at Wattfield Cottage, Miller Road Ayr, this was the home of 18-year-old Agnes who was listed as a spinster. James was a 27-year-old, Wine and Spirit merchant who at the time of his marriage was residing at 40 Fullarton Street, Ayr.

James and Agnes had their first child on 11 March 1866 when Agnes was 18 years of age and James McLennan was aged 27. Sadly, Agnes died of Typhus fever 17th November 1866

The 1841 census shows that James was staying with his parents and his sisters Margaret and Isabella at Millhead in the parish of Coylton, in Ayrshire.

The 1851 census shows James was staying in the town of Hillhead, in Ayrshire with his parents and two sisters and three brothers. James's father was listed as an Innkeeper & Superintendent of Road Labourers.

The 1861 census shows that James McLennan has now left home and was a lodger in 54 Houston Street, Govan, Glasgow, and he was employed as a Clerk at this time.

James McLennan married Agnes Watt Logan in Ayr, Ayrshire, on 7 September 1865 when he was 27 years old. Shortly after, they had a son who they called **Andrew** and he was born on 11 March 1866 in Tradeston, Glasgow.

Sadly, James and Agnes were not to have the joy of bringing up young Andrew together as Agnes passed away on 17 November 1866 at the age of 19. The cause of death was typhus fever which she had for 13 days. They had been married 1 year and 2 months. James was now in the sad position of having to bring up his son alone.

James McLennan married his second wife, Henrietta Bryce in Govan, Lanarkshire, on 24 December 1868 when he was 30 years old, and Henrietta was 23 years of age. They were married at Henrietta's home in 6 Hilton Terrace, Strathbungo and James had been residing at 68 Pollok Street, Glasgow. James was listed as a Commercial Traveller at the time of his marriage. He was still moving in the Wine and Trade circle as his father-in-law, James Bryce was a Wine and Spirit Merchant.

James and Henrietta would go on to have ten children as follows:

Just over a year after his marriage, James had a son who they called **James Bryce** and he was born on 26 December 1869 in Tradeston, Glasgow.

In 1871, James and Henrietta were residing in 68 Pollok Street, Tradeston with his two children Andrew and James. James was working as in the Wine and Spirit Trade.

A few years later James's first daughter **Isabella Brown** was born on 6 January 1872 in Tradeston, Glasgow.

His daughter **Flora Clark** was born on 17 June 1874 in Tradeston, Glasgow.

His daughter **Elizabeth Smith** was born in 1877 in Pollokshields, Renfrewshire.

His son Alexander Bryce was born on 8 November 1878 in Pollokshields, Glasgow, Lanarkshire.

His daughter **Jane Clark** was born on 5 December 1880 in Pollokshields, Renfrewshire.

His daughter **Henrietta Kirkpatrick** was born on 5 December 1880 in Pollokshields, Renfrewshire.

In 1881 James and Henrietta were staying at 88 Leslie Street, Tradeston, Glasgow along with their seven children. James was working as a Wholesale Wine & Spirit Merchant at the time of the 1881 census.

His daughter **Margaret Gemmel** was born in 1883 in Glasgow, Lanarkshire. His daughter Margaret Gemmel passed away on 6 March 1896 at the age of 13.

His son **William Brown** was born in 1885 in Glasgow, Lanarkshire.

His son **Quintin Brown** was born on 28 April 1886 in Glasgow, Lanarkshire.

His final child, **Jessie Mary** was born on 9th September 1889 in Colzium House, Kilsyth

By 1891 James had risen in the community as he was a Magistrate and a Spirit Merchant of Wholesale Wine and the family had moved to 20 S Crescent, Ardrossan. The eldest son Andrew was a Law Clerk – General; James was a Commercial Clerk

Death

James McLennan died on 7th February 1899 at the age of 60 years, the cause of death was acute pneumonia.

The Trades House met on 17th February 1899 and an obituary was given by the Deacon Convener as follows:

“The Deacon-Convener stated that he had felt it his duty as Convener to call this Special Meeting of the House at the earliest possible opportunity in consequence of the lamented death of Late Convener James McLennan, in order that the House might record the loss it has sustained in his untimely death and the deep sorrow the sad event has manifested throughout the Trades' House, the Incorporations, and the whole community of the city of Glasgow. To the last, Late Convener McLennan was not only a prominent but a most faithful member of this House.

He joined the Incorporation of Maltmen at the far hand on 7th February 1884 and was also connected with the Incorporations of Gardeners and Dyers. After being elected a Member of the Master Court of the Incorporation of Maltmen in 1887, he was chosen as Collector in 1888. He was first appointed a Representative of the Maltmen in the Trades' House in September 1889 and became Visitor of that Incorporation in September 1890. From this position he rose to be Collector of the Trades' House in 1892, and in 1893 obtained the highest honour which the House could bestow by his election as Deacon-Convener of the Trades of Glasgow.

While in the House he acted on all the important Committees, and was its representative on the Clyde Trust, Hutchesons' Hospital, The Royal Infirmary, St. Mungo's College, and other public bodies. His public work for the Municipality and the good of the City in general was well known. During a long period of years, besides attending closely to his private business, Late Convener McLennan took a very active interest in the work of the Town Council, being Senior Magistrate immediately before he became Deacon-Convener. He also devoted himself unweariedly to the benevolent objects of the Trades' House, the Incorporations, the Merchants' House, Hutchesons' Hospital, and many other charitable and educational institutions of the city in all of which he found congenial scope for the outpouring of his thoughtful and characteristic generosity. Always ready to help forward every good work, his public benefactions were wide and varied, while his private liberality, though unstinted, was quiet and unostentatious. We, in this House, being in constant association with him, truly feel that the very general and deep estimation in which he was held was not based so much on his wonderfully generous acts as on his rare combination of strong intellect and kind-hearted sympathy, qualities so much to be desired in our public representative men. Broadminded in all his dealings, he brought to the discussion of all affairs, sound practical common sense, maintained an independence of judgment, displayed a judicious expression of his opinions, and unobtrusively evinced that true geniality of nature which wins its way to every heart. In Late Convener McLennan we have lost an upright, manly citizen, a noble and generous friend, and one to whom we can point as an outstanding example to future Craftsmen of a liberal benefactor of the House and its Incorporations.

The Deacon-Convener then moved that the House record its deep sense of the loss sustained by all ranks of Burgesses of Glasgow through the death of Late Convener

McLennan, and its most sincere sympathy with his widow and family in their bereavement, and that an excerpt of this Minute be forwarded to Mrs. McLennan.

Collector White seconded the motion.

Late Convener Ramsey said that in their late friend they had an example of loyalty to the best interests of the Trades' House, and of that brotherhood of humanity of which probably they saw too little in the present generation. His kindness of heart shone forth with its greatest brilliancy when it was directed towards the assistance of the really necessitous. Never ostentatious, never demonstrative, there was no single case ever brought to his knowledge, but he gave it careful consideration, and administered the relief that was necessary. He was a wise adviser and a ready helper in every good work, and his name ought to be enshrined in their memories as one of the most liberal benefactors of the House.

After a few touching remarks from Late Visitor Robin, the motion was unanimously agreed to.

Owing to the death of late Convener McLennan it fell to the House to elect a Governor of Baillie's Institution to act in his place for the remainder of the term of his appointment. On the motion of Deacon-Convener Miller the meeting unanimously elected, and hereby nominate and appoint, Deacon John M. Wilkinson to be a Governor of Baillie's Institution (in room of Late Convener McLennan, deceased) to act from this date till 1st August 1902"

In 1933, Ex Deacon Convener Andrew McLennan along with other members of his family, offered the House a portrait of his father Ex Deacon Convener James McLennan. The portrait in oils had been presented to his late father when he was the senior Magistrate in the City.



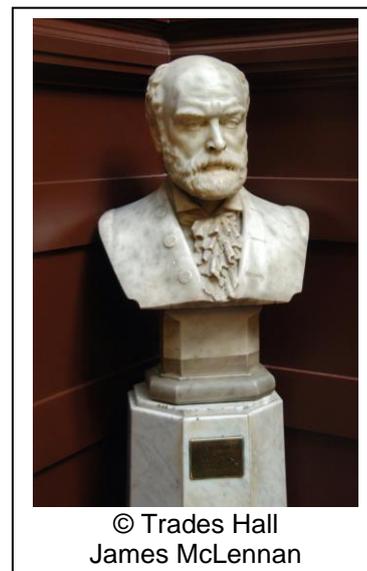
Ex-Convener James McLennan had been responsible for the saving of a part of the frontage of the old Athenaeum, of which Adam was the architect. He paid the cost of its removal and re-erection at the entrance to Glasgow Green. After standing there for more than twenty years its removal was thought necessary, and this work was done at the expense of the House. "The Adam Arch," as it is called, is now in the vicinity of Charlotte Street, where several Adam buildings once stood.

Convener James McLennan sat on the floor of the House, after passing through the Chair, until the time of his death in 1899. He had sat continuously from 1890.

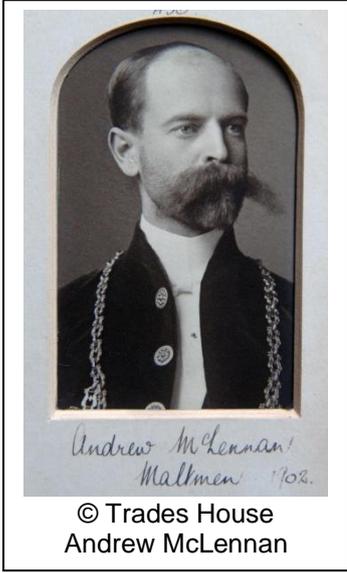
His eldest son, Mr. Andrew McLennan, who was Visitor of the Maltmen in 1902, passed through the Chair in 1909 to 1910. It was he who was

instrumental in persuading the House to institute the Matriculation Fee which has been the means of augmenting the guildry fines received from the Town Clerk and bringing in an extra sum of from £400 to £500 per annum from the Guild Brethren who enter the different Incorporated Trades.¹

The bust of Ex Deacon Convener James McLennan was presented to the Trades House by his son Ex-Deacon Convener Andrew McLennan (1909 to 1910), as a gift from himself and the other members of the family of the late James McLennan.



¹ Minutes of the Trades House, 7th November 1933.



The photograph to the left is that of Andrew McLennan, Visitor of the Maltmen 1909 to 1910. Andrew was the second oldest son of James McLennan.