

## WILLIAM SMITH of Coltness

William Smith was born in 1856, the son of John Smith and Margaret McLean of Huntfield farm near Biggar.

William Smith and Margaret Watson had 14 children.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Died</b>	<b>Birthplace</b>
William SMITH	19 Mar 1856	26 Apr 1938	Liberton, Lanark, Scotland
Margret (Watson)	1856	08 Sep 1913	Crossford, Lanark, Scotland
Janet SMITH	1876		Cambusnethan, Lanark, Scotland
Margret SMITH	1878		Cambusnethan, Lanark, Scotland
Ann SMITH	1880		Cambusnethan, Lanark, Scotland
John SMITH	1882		Cambusnethan, Lanark, Scotland
William SMITH	1884		Cambusnethan, Lanark, Scotland
Elizabeth SMITH	1886		Cambusnethan, Lanark, Scotland
James SMITH	1889		Cambusnethan, Lanark, Scotland
Jane SMITH	1890		Balliston, Lanark, Scotland
Thomas SMITH	1892		Cambusnethan, Lanark, Scotland
Catherine SMITH	1894		Cambusnethan, Lanark, Scotland
Barbara SMITH	22 Sep 1895		Cambusnethan, Lanark, Scotland
Nathaniel SMITH	15 May 1897		Cambusnethan, Lanark, Scotland
Marion SMITH	1899		Cambusnethan, Lanark, Scotland
Bernard S SMITH	1900		Cambusnethan, Lanark, Scotland

*(sources: 1881/1891/1901 Scottish Census reports)*



**The William Smith Family early 1896 – the baby is presumed to be Barbara**

William Smith's obituary below is copied from a newspaper clipping found in J.T.O. Hepburn's scrapbook. William died Apr 26, 1938.

### **Death of Mr. William Smith**

*After an illness which had confined him to the house for the past six months, Mr. William Smith, Coltness Estate, Wishaw, passed away on Tuesday evening. One of the best known agriculturalists in the district, Mr. Smith was in his 83rd year.*

*Born at Huntfield Farm, Biggar, which was tenanted by his father, Mr. Smith commenced farm work as a boy and was employed by various farms in the Upper Ward before he came to Cambusnethan, where he was married in 1875. In 1877 he was engaged as a ploughman by the late Mr. James Houldsworth of Coltness, and since then had been a faithful and efficient employee of the Coltness family. At the end of the war period he was appointed farm grieve and served in that capacity until his retirement a number of years ago. Although he was nominally on the retired list, Mr. Smith continued to assist in the work connected with the various farms on the Estate.*

*His notable connection with the Coltness Estate was recognized some seven years ago when he was presented with the long service certificate and the gold medal of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland. The inscription on the certificate is as follows: Awarded to William Smith for long and approved service of 54 years with the late James Houldsworth, J. H. Houldsworth and Captain J. F. H. Houldsworth of Coltness, on Coltness House Farm, Wishaw.*

*Since the year 1876 Mr Smith had been a member of the Cambusnethan Old Parish Church, of which at the time of his death he was Senior Elder. He sat under five ministers – the Rev. Dr. R. S. Hutton, Rev. John L. Rentoul, Rev. Gilbert A. Kennedy, Rev. J. A. Nicholls, and Rev. W. A. J. Gardiner. In addition to his work as an Elder, Mr Smith was a Sunday School teacher for over 30 years. He was keenly interested in all the work of the church and was a staunch supporter of the Temperance movement.*

*Quiet, modest and upright, Mr Smith was a man who gained the respect of all who came in contact with him, and his passing is deeply regretted.*

*The surviving members of his family are four sons and six daughters. One of his sons, Ben, is the well-known runner who is known throughout Scotland as a competitor at the various games.*

*The funeral takes place at the Cambusnethan Cemetery today (Friday).*

### **History of Coltness Estate and Coltness House**

The area was originally part of the extensive estates of the Sommervilles of Cambusnethan. Their lands, which stretched to the River Clyde were sold off to pay debts. Coltness was eventually purchased by Sir Walter Stewart in 1653. The 18th century economist James Denham-Stewart lived out his last years here. The estate remained with the Stewarts of Allanton and Coltness until 1840 when trustees sold it to the Houldsworths, a family of newly wealthy industrialists who lived in the imposing Coltness House until the 1950s. The mansion then became a residential school run by Barnardo's until the late 1970s when it was used briefly as a refugee resettlement centre for Vietnamese Boat People. The building lay empty for several years, was badly vandalised and severely damaged in a fire. It was eventually demolished in the early 1980s to make way for the Woodlandsgate estate built by Barratt Homes. The former stables of Coltness House were retained and converted to flats.

**1837: The Coltness Iron Company is established in Newmains by Henry Houldsworth.**

It was estimated that the 2,000 acre site at Newmains on Coltness Estate could produce 18,000 tons of coal and 1,000 tons of ironstone per acre. Henry Houldsworth had no difficulty, therefore, in attracting experienced labour from the iron works of Yorkshire as well as from Omoa and Wilsontown in Lanarkshire (see Scran [16]).

The Iron Company, needing coal, was also aware of the coal mines in Ireland. When coal was being mined in Shotts, Cleland and the surrounding areas, the Iron Company sent representatives over to Ireland to hire miners for the Scottish mines. This is a primary reason why so many Irish families came to Shotts, Omoa, etc. Many came from County Donegal, and the Castlecomer coal fields in what is now north County Kilkenny/ south County Laois.