

## THE FIRST FAMILIES OF CAMPERDOWN

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When we read the history of cities, states and nations, those most often mentioned are the power people – mayors, governors, legislators, presidents, military generals. Those least often cited are those who were the pedestals to that power, the everyday folk who worked for a living or laid their lives on the line in battle. However, where would all those power brokers be without everyday people? This purpose of this article is to draw a sketch of those who did the day-to-day work for Camperdown

As this researcher has studied the founding and history of Camperdown Mills, the one constant was that the operatives of Camperdown produced a high quality product, providing many dividends for the stockholders.

The 1880 Federal Census of Greenville County provides the most complete list of Camperdown's earliest employees.

For those unfamiliar with the history of the Federal Census, a quick review will help. The first census was required, by act of Congress, in 1790. A census has been performed every 10 years since that time. In addition to determining the number of people living in the United States, the early census enumerations provided the federal and state governments the number of young men eligible for military or militia service.

With each succeeding census, the questions became more numerous and exacting. For example, the 1850 census was the first to list everyone in the household by name. Prior to that time, the head of household was named and the other household members, free and slave, were listed only by sex and age group.

By 1880, the census enumerators asked quite a few of inhabitants of each home – name, sex, race, age, marital status, relation of each person in the household to the head of the household, birthplace, birthplace of each parent, employment, whether children are in school and home ownership.

What did we learn through from this survey?

- Camperdown employed 265 people in 1880.
- The four youngest workers were age nine, the oldest age 64. Seven children were age 10, six were age 11, twenty were age 12, ten were age 13, fourteen were age 14, and ten were age 15. Therefore 71 were under the age of sixteen.
- Where the workers came from. As expected, most were born in South Carolina – 208. However, workers came from several other states and countries, including, North Carolina (28), Alabama (5), Georgia (4), New York (1) Ohio (1), Rhode Island (1), Connecticut (1), Mississippi (1), Massachusetts (1), Tennessee (2) Virginia (2), England (6), Canada (1), Ireland (1), and Scotland (1).
- Many of the workers, particularly the young women, boarded with local families.
- Race. While the vast majority of the operatives were Caucasian, it is interesting to note that thirteen operatives were African American and three were Mulatto. At least two of these men held more technical positions. One was an engineer and the other a

millwright. In order to streamline the article, only the non-Caucasians are identified by race.

Note: All names are presented exactly as spelled within the Census.

### **PENDLETON STREET**

Killingsworth, McGowen (42), born in S.C.

### **RAILROAD & CROFT STREETS**

Gossett, John (21) & Anna (27), born in S.C., married couple.

Brown, Samuel (51), African American, born in N.C. Brown, Simon (19), born in S.C., was the son of Samuel.

Cunningham, Yancey (26), born in S.C.

### **FALL STREET**

Petit, Sarah (19), Robert (13) & Matthew (10), children of Frances E. Petit, a widow. Sarah was born in Alabama, Robert & Matthew in S.C.

Caps, Sidney (33) & Laura (18), both born in S.C., boarded with Harriet Humphreys.

McMillan, Dougald (47), born in Scotland; Smith, Jeff (18) born in N.C., Smith, Frank (16), born in N.C., and McMillan, John (12) born in N.C., were in the same household. Jeff and Frank Smith were stepsons of Dougald. John McMillan was his son.

Britton, James C. (15), born in N.C., and Britton, Margaret (17), born in S.C., were children of James and Margaret Britton and lived at home.

Allen, Mary J. (23), born in New York, boarded with Geo. A. Prince.

Prince, Geo. A. (40), born in Rhode Island, engineer.

Turner, Florence, (10), born in S.C., was the daughter of Thomas and Nancy. Nancy was an invalid.

### **UNNAMED STREET 1**

Lanneau, Charles, (45), born in S.C., was the bookkeeper for Camperdown.

### **UNNAMED STREET 2**

Saxon, Turley (23) & Martha B. (13), born in S.C., were brother and sister.

Anderson, Anne E. (18), born in S.C., lived in Saxon household.

Wood, Mary Jane (18), born in Georgia, lived in Saxon household.

Boram, Martha J. (21), Nancy M. (17), Benjamine. P. (14), all born in S.C., were siblings and children of Elizabeth Boram, a widow.

### **UNNAMED STREET 3**

Wilcox, James (23), Julia (20) and Hattie (17), all born in S.C.

Speigle, William P. (15), Ellen A. (18), Sarah E. (16), Julia (12), and James E. (21), all born in N.C., were the children of Tempa S. Speigle, a widow. Parker, John E. (35) and Cornelia H. (23), both N.C. natives, lived with Cornelia's mother, Tempa S. Speigle.

Boling, Calvin, (34), born in S.C., and Charles (12), was his son.

Blackwell, Wm. Q. (41), Riley (15), Charles (14), and Augustus (12), all born in S.C.

Reynolds, Adolphus (23), Eliza (26), and Amelia (24). Adolphus was the son of Jane Reynolds who was head of household. Eliza was Adolphus' wife, and Amelia was the daughter of Jane. Hicks, Benj. F., (26), was the son in law of Jane Reynolds and also resided in her household.

Hicks, Joseph L. (23), Thomas V. (19), Bella (18) wife of Thomas V., and Van B. (16) were all born in S.C. Joseph, Thomas and Van were all sons of Mary A. Hicks, widow.

Fuller, Milly A. (33), Daniel M. (15), & Corry J. (11), all were born in S.C.

Ross, Andrew (36), William (13), and Flora (11), all born in S.C.

Copeland, John J. (18), Alice (16), Jackson (15), and Agnes (12), all born in S.C.

Smith, Elford (21) and Lou (22), husband and wife, born in S.C.

#### **UNNAMED STREET 4**

McCall, Robert (30), African American, born in S.C., and head of household.  
Brown, Mareon (55), Mulatto, born in S.C., was a millwright and head of household.  
Scruggs, Micajah, (29), S.C., clerk in cotton mill.  
Chandler, James (29), African American, born in S.C.

#### **UNNAMED STREET 5**

Shade, Amanda (18), and Lavinia (27), both S.C. natives, were daughters of Margaret Shade.

#### **UNNAMED STREET 6**

Potts, Mary E. (26), widow, born in S.C. Gibbs, Katy, (18), born in S.C., boarded with Mary Potts. Note: Mary E. Potts is listed as Mary Patts in the Census index.

#### **"VARIOUS CROSS STREETS UNNAMED"**

Vessey, Albert (29), born in Ohio.  
Blackwell, Wm. W. (49), Jasper (16), and John (13), all born in N.C.

#### **RIVER STREET**

Walker, Willie (11), born in Tennessee, Mary M. (18) born in Tennessee, Hattie E. (16) born in Alabama, and Mattie (13), born in Mississippi, siblings, and children of Isam and Martha Walker.  
Linnell, Philemon (28), born in Connecticut.  
Floyd, Henry J. W. (17), Mary F. (15), and Iapheny (12), siblings born in Alabama. Their parents were James F. and Jennett A. Floyd. Cargill, Ann (20), and Patterson (18), both born in Georgia and residing with the Floyd family. Reed, Thomas (20), born in N.C., also resided in the Floyd household.  
Tucker, Sarah A. (34), born in S.C., wife of Wm. P. Tucker, blacksmith.  
Tucker, Rosanna (12), born in S.C., and daughter of Sarah & William P. Tucker.

#### **FACTORY STREET**

Barnett, John (18), Hattie (18), husband and wife, Henrietta (23), Benjamin (12), Nancy (9), were children of Susan Barnett a widow. Knighton, Becka (26), also a widow and daughter of Susan Barnett, & Lou, female, (12) granddaughter of Susan, lived in her household. All were born in S.C.  
Haggarty, William (27), born in England, and his wife, Catherine (23), born in S.C.  
Williams, J. Wesley (22), born in N.C.  
Miller, Bud (12) and Martha (14), both born in S.C., were the children of Laura Miller, a widow and washerwoman, also born in S.C.  
Enorie, Robert S. (14), Lula J. (18) and Martha M. (10), all born in S.C., were children of James R. and Minerva Enorie. James listed his employment as "laborer."  
Ware, William (32) and Elanore (12), both born in N.C., father and daughter.  
James, John P. (15), and Rosa (13), both born in S.C., were children of Amanda James, who was listed as married and head of household. No husband was evident in the home.  
Gunnels, Oliver (27), and Sallie A. (25), husband and wife, both born in S.C.  
Keely, Harriett (38), and Coonie L. (12), her son, were born in S.C. Her husband, John, aged 57, was a farmer.  
Redmond, William (18), and Ellen (19), his wife, both born in S.C.  
Marshall, William (24), and Clarentine (22), his wife, both born in S.C.  
Knight, George W. (30) and Mary A. (25), his wife, both born in S.C.  
McGregory, William S. (35), John B. (13), Carrie P. (21), and Marie E. (11), all born in S.C. William was the father of John, Carrie & Marie.  
Barnes, Geo. W. (49), Frank (23), Martha J. (16), and Elizabeth (12), all born in S.C.  
Hitherly, Becca (18), born in S.C., boarded in the home of Geo. W. Barnes.  
Rawsbottom, Samuel (36), born in England, live with his wife, Sarah, and their four children. Corby, John (38), Ireland, and Slow, Thomas (36), England, boarded with them.  
White, Lizzie (25), and Charles (17), children of George and Eliza White were born in S.C. A niece, Amanda White (22), also born in S.C., and Mary Compton (23), no relation, boarded in the home.  
Donaldson, Frank (28), born in Virginia.

Hatcher, Augustus (23) and Wm. M. (18), both born in S.C.  
Hide, William (18), son of Martha, widow and head of household, husband of Ann (18), both born in S.C.  
Henderson, John T. (25), born in S.C. Painter, Katie (18) born in S.C., boarded with the Hendersons.  
Smith, Emma (19), John H. (23), Giles W. (13), Mary E. (11), Rosa (9), and Richard Gossett (16), all listed as children of John P. Smith, head of household. Note: The father did not work in the mill.  
Henson, Richard (18), Anna (16) and Susan (14), all born in S.C.  
Fuller, Daniel (64) born in S.C.  
Knight, John C. (30) born in S.C.  
Grant, Rufus (30), born in Georgia. Pearson, James (40), born in S.C., boarded with the Grant family.  
Gregory, John (47), born in England, was a spinner. His children, John (13), born in Canada, and Charlotte (26), born in England, were also employed in the factory.  
Land, Milton E. (12), William S. (11), and George Q. (9), all born in S.C., were the sons of Lawrence W. and Mary C. Land. Lawrence was a carpenter. The oldest son of the family, Oscar, attended school.  
Cooksey, Martha (21), Annanias (17), and Elias (14), all born in S.C., were the children of Francis A. Cooksey, widow.  
Kellet, Ellen (16), born in S.C. Resided with her sister, Lizzie Kellet, head of household.  
Vaughn, Mary (35), and her son, William (12) both born in S.C., resided with Mary's sister, Lizzie Kellet.  
Herbert, Nancy A. (22), daughter of Isaac Herbert, was born in S.C.  
Ward, Alice (16), daughter of Caroline Ward, was born in S.C.  
White, Mary (22), Manda (19), and Lucretia (14), were all born in S.C., and boarded with Caroline Ward.  
Smith, Lula (21), wife of George W. Smith, engineer, born in S.C. It is unclear if George worked at Camperdown.  
Duncan, Eliza, (19) and Jesse (15), siblings, both born in S.C., were two of four children of Rosa Duncan, widow.  
Goulden, Mary J. (27) and Margaret (21), daughters of Ana, head of household, both born in S.C.  
Soumerel, Emma (22), Ella (17), and Parmelee (14), all born in S.C., and were daughters of Owen and Jane Soumerel.

## **RIVERSIDE**

Wooten, Solomon (18), James (16), and Roberts (12), siblings, all born in S.C., children of Lizzie Wooten, a widow.  
LeFoy, Rufus (21), Perry (14) and Linda(10), all born in S.C.  
Hale, Louisa (29), Sallie (27), Martha (25), Marion P. (19), Elizabeth (18) and Thomas (15), all born in S.C.  
Morgan, Philip G. (18), and Hattie (16), both born in N.C., were children of Jonas and Nancy Morgan. Jonas was listed as a laborer. Wilson, Margaret (20), born in S.C., boarded with the Morgans.  
Petit, John (23), and Alice (20), both born in S.C., were husband and wife.  
Henderson, Major (21), Mildred (19), and Mabel (14), all born in S.C., were children of Nissa Henderson, a widow.  
Brooks, Benson (30), and Amanda (33), both born in S.C., were husband and wife.  
Smith, James E. (33), born in S.C., head of household.  
Smith, Martha (16), and Jones, Elmira (30), both born in S.C. were daughters of Cinda Smith. Elmira was married.  
Pike, Susan J. (21), and Amanda (18), both born in S.C., and daughter of Susannah Pike, widow, and head of household.

## **EAST SIDE MAIN**

Miller, Robt. A. (46), born in N.C., was a constable for the mill. His children, Jasper (15), Geo. R. (14), Mary J. (12), and Sarah A. (9), all born in N.C., worked in the mill as well.  
Royal, Joseph (40), born in England, boarded with Thos. McCarrol.  
Petit, George (25), and Jane (20), both born in S.C., were husband and wife.  
Heatherly, Emma (20), Vina (17), and Rebecca (21), all born in S.C., and daughters of Susanna. They boarded with Robert Miller, Camperdown constable.  
Reed, Louiza (18), and Emila (14), both born in S.C. and daughters of Elizabeth, widow.  
Hawkins, Ophelia (30), born in S.C. She was listed as married and head of household.  
Tucker, Phoebe (52), born in S.C., widowed, and head of household.

Merritt, Sallie (52), born in S.C., boarded with Phoebe Tucker.  
Holcomb, Elizabeth (30), born in S.C., boarded with Phoebe Tucker.  
Manly, John (19), born in S.C., was the son of Phoebe Tucker.

#### **WASHINGTON STREET**

Sanford, John A. (38), born in Massachusetts, was superintendent of the factory.

#### **AUGUSTA STREET**

Green, Martha (16), born in S.C., was the daughter of John N. and Mary L. Green. Simpson, Annie (16), born in S.C., no relation, boarded with the family.

Elkins, James B. (41), born in S.C., worked as an engineer at the factory.

Pressley, Jessie (45), African American, born in S.C.

Feaster, Joseph (50), African American, born in S.C.

Bomar, Henry (45), African American, born in S.C.

Kennedy, Charles (40), African American, born in S.C., lived with James B. Elkins, engineer.

Hammitt, Wm. H. (17), born in S.C., clerk in cotton factory.

Hammitt, Henry P. (50), born in S.C., president, cotton factory.

#### **BUNCOMBE STREET**

Williams, John (55), born in S.C.

#### **GOWER STREET**

Westfield, Theodore (23), born in S.C.

#### **BUCKNER STREET**

Bryan, Albert (35), born in S.C.

#### **ANDERSON STREET**

Allen, Henry (33), Mulatto, born in S.C., and was an engineer.

#### **JAIL STREET**

Heatherly, Vina (32), born in N.C., a single mom, she had a son named George A., age 2. She boarded with Jane Wilbanks who was African American.

#### **"STREET TO OLD CHURCH"**

Davis, Reuben (29), Mulatto, born in S.C.

#### **"SCATTERED AROUND COTTON FACTORY"**

Timmons, Ella (20), born in S.C., boarded with William Gastons.

Bayne, William (57), born in S.C., watchman at cotton mill. His children, Huldy (23), Mary (18), Julia (16), and Anna (13), were all born in S.C. and worked at the factory.

McCalla, Leroy (30), Mary (28), Elizabeth (14), Emma (12), and William (10), were all born in S.C.

Grice, William (14), Nancy (12), and Elijah (10), all born in S.C. were children of Ervine and Patience Grice.

Ryfield, Adaline (20), born in S.C., boarded with the Grice family. Elocks, Barbara (21), born in S.C., was also a member of the household. Her relation to the head of household was listed as "something other than a direct relationship. However, Neal Elock, not a Camperdown employee, was listed as a stepson of Ervine.

Wheat, William (26), Anna (26), Eddie (12), and Eddie L. (10), all born in S.C. Note: Eddie and Eddie L. are listed as son and stepson, respectively.