

Some of my Juniper Green relatives

By Ian Downie



*The Kinleith Arms on Lanark Road in Juniper Green
run and probably owned by George and Ann Downie in the 1840s*

As far as I can make out, the Kinleith Arms is the same public house as the one which my grandfather George Downie ran and almost certainly owned. It is recorded elsewhere on this website at: <http://www.junipergreen300.com/census.html>

that the manager of the Kinleith Arms in 1861 was Ann Downie, George's wife.

I am not sure when the business started, but the first record I have is from the 1842/3 Edinburgh and Leith County Directory, when George is described as '*Downie, G., slater & innkeeper, Juniper green*'. In 1844 (November 20) he appeared in *The Scotsman*:

'Geo. Downie, publican, Juniper Green, was convicted of keeping his house open at unseasonable hours, and find 25s. and expenses.'

George died in 1846 and was buried at Currie on April 5 of that year, while his wife Ann (nee Robertson) continued to run the public house until her death in 1862.

In the 1871 Census, my grandfather, David Downie, was living at the public house with his family, but his occupation was given as Gardener; I assume that there was a manager in the public house. David was George and Ann's eldest son and I believe that the family owned the public house; he died in 1875 and his wife Helen Downie (nee Lawson) in 1886.

In the 1881 Census I found that the publican at the Lanark Road Public House was Peter C. Irvine born Stronsay, Orkney. This was the entry immediately before that for my family, and in between Ivy Cottage and Helen Cottage.

The Downie family still owned the premises in 1892, when The Scotsman recorded an application by William Mutter of Juniper Green for a public house licence change or extension, stating the owner of the premises to be George Downie, Proprietor of Ellengowan Paper Works, Milngavie. George was the eldest son of David Downie and Helen Lawson and his occupation shows the connection between Juniper Green and the paper industry. All the five sons of David Downie and Helen Lawson who survived to working age were employed in the paper industry, all as papermakers except my great grandfather David, who was a plumber, first in Colinton and then in Inveresk. David's brother in law, James Chalmers Spence, ran in the Powderhall Sprint under the name of J. Green after his birthplace.

The Downie family was not originally from Juniper Green; George and Ann married in Penicuik parish and had their first son David there, then two children baptized in Currie, their last child again being baptized in Penicuik.

I'm not sure if this is the same grocer's shop mentioned on the web page cited above but Ann's younger brother Alexander Robertson is listed in the 1851 Census as a Millwright and Cloth Merchant in Juniper green, then as a Merchant at the Grocer's Shop, High Street in 1861 and a General Merchant there in 1871. His wife had the unusual forename for a woman of Mitchell, her maiden surname being Stewart. Both Ann and Alexander were born in West Linton, Peeblesshire. Alexander died in 1880 and the business was continued by his son Alexander, then described as a Grocer and Wine Merchant. Mitchell died in 1885.

More information can be found by contacting me directly at ian.downie@tesco.net or by checking my website at <http://www.downieabz.org.uk>.