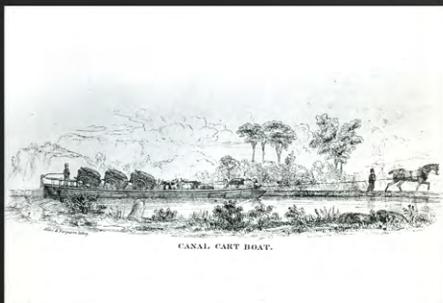


# KIRKINTILLOCH INDUSTRIES

## Agriculture

In the 19th century cart boats – a boat fitted for carrying carts - were used to take fresh produce including grain, meat, cheese, potatoes and livestock to market in Glasgow. Horses belonging to the canal company were employed at Glasgow to deliver the carts to their destinations in the morning and return them to the boat in the afternoon.



Horse-drawn Cart Boat



Slimon's mill interior

## Weaving

In the early 19th century there were nearly 2,000 handlooms in Kirkintilloch. "Lappet muslins" (muslins with raised floral decoration) was very much a speciality of Kirkintilloch. Later steam power looms were introduced and in 1867 James Slimon & Company opened a factory in Milton Road. There were 300 looms on the premises and over 200 girls employed producing shirting, skirting and zephyr (fine cotton fabric).

## Coalmining

The Forth and Clyde Canal was an important route for taking coal to markets in the west and the east. Railway lines were laid from the pits to the canal banks, where the coal would be "couped" into barges. From Meiklehill in Kirkintilloch coal was at first carted to the canal at Hillhead, and later by rail to the canal at Whitehill. Although a branch line was built from this railway to connect with the North British Railway at Back O' Loch, the "couper" on the canal continued to operate. In the early 20th century the "Jeannie Nelson" taking coal from Meiklehill to Glasgow was one of the very last coal boats on the canal.



Auchenreoch Colliery. Preparing a pit pony for descent

## Iron Founding

One of Kirkintilloch's most important industries was iron founding. There were four foundries in the town at different times – the Kirkintilloch Foundry, the Southbank Foundry, the Basin or Etna Foundry and the Lion Foundry. All were situated on the banks of the Forth and Clyde Canal, which allowed raw materials to be imported and finished castings to be exported conveniently.

## The Lion Foundry

The best known of Kirkintilloch's foundries was the Lion, set up in 1880 by Messrs James Jackson, James Brown and Robert Hudson. In the early days they hit financial difficulties resulting in changes to the management structure. In 1893 the firm was made into a limited company and when shares in the firm were offered to the public, many were bought by employees.



Aerial view Lion Foundry Works, September 1923

## Lion Foundry Products

In the early part of the 20th century the Lion rapidly gained a reputation for the manufacture of a wide range of the ornamental castings so much in vogue at the time – bandstands, fountains, shelters, canopies, verandahs, railings, gates, weather-vanes, finials and similar products. The Lion Foundry lasted over a hundred years but closed down at the end of 1984.



Lion Foundry Drawing of Bandstand Design No 24

## Red Telephone Boxes

Manufacture of the traditional "K6" type telephone kiosks began at the Lion Foundry during the mid 1930s. Production of the modern "K8" type of red kiosk commenced in 1967. Lion Foundry phone boxes can still be seen throughout the world.

