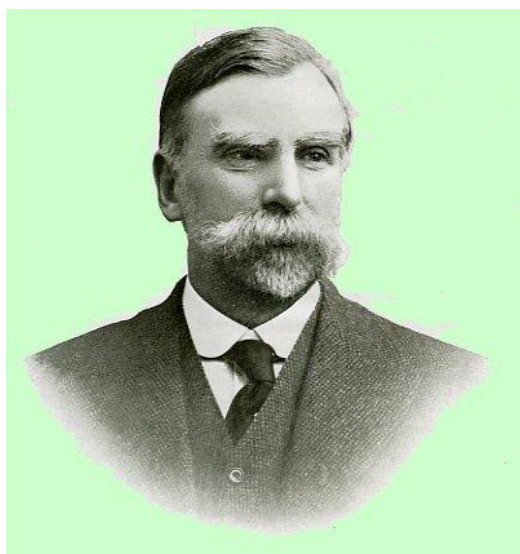


# James Dalrymple

(1859 – 1934)

## Manager of Glasgow Corporation Tramways

- 1859 Born at 3 Maskell Street, Chorlton on Medlock, Lancashire, 15<sup>th</sup> Sep.1859.  
Parents were [James Dalrymple](#), draper, and [Margaret Adams](#).  
Baptised : Greenheys United Presbyterian Church, Coupland Street, Hulme, 6<sup>th</sup> Nov.1859.
- 1861 Manchester Census : still living at 3 Maskell Street, Chorlton upon Medlock  
[James Dalrymple](#), age 34, born Manchester, travelling draper, with wife [Margaret](#), aged 34, born Scotland and son [James Dalrymple](#), age 1, born Manchester.
- 1871 Girthon Census at Boreland of Girthon  
[James Dalrymple](#), age 11, born England living with William Dalrymple, widower, age 72, born New Luce, Wigtownshire and William's son William, age 37, born England. They were both farmers.  
*James is recorded as a nephew of William senior, but we believe this must be an error, and he is really a grandson of William senior and nephew of William junior.*  
*We don't know why James came to live with his grandparents in Gatehouse, or what happened to his parents.*
- 1880 After receiving schooling at Girthon Parish School, James joined the Union Bank of Scotland in Gatehouse (*now the Bank of Fleet Hotel*). The bank manager was William Cairns, who seems to have recognised James' abilities and encouraged him to apply for work in one of the bank's Glasgow branches. James is believed to have moved to Glasgow about 1880 (aged c.20)
- 1881 Glasgow, Barony Census : 196 North Street  
[James Dalrymple](#), age 21, born England, bank clerk, lodging with the Stevenson family.
- 1881 James left the bank and moved to the office of the City Chamberlain of Glasgow.
- 1884 Transferred to the department of the City Accountant and Registrar .
- 1891 Glasgow, Barony Census : 7 Rupert Street  
James Dalrymple, aged 31, born England, mercantile clerk, lodging with the Annand family.
- 1891 James married Bessie G. McGowan at Kelvin, Glasgow.
- 1894 Glasgow Tramways were taken over by the City Corporation, and James Dalrymple was appointed accountant of this new department.
- 1901 Helensburgh Census : 96 West Clyde Street  
[James Dalrymple](#), 41, born England, chartered accountant, with wife Elizabeth G., age 37, born Glasgow + 2 daughters Agnes G.(8) and Margaret P. (5) both born Glasgow.
- 1902 Appointed Deputy General Manager of the Glasgow Tramways.
- 1904 Unanimously elected as General Manager of Glasgow Corporation Tramways.



It was not an easy job trying to please the public and follow his duty to the Corporation. There were about 5000 employees, over 700 tramcars, and more than 90 miles of routes - the largest tramway system in the United Kingdom.

During his tenure as general manager he expanded the number of tracks and improved services by adding roofs to open cars and introducing night services and as result increased the number of passengers.



- 1905 Invited to Chicago to advise local authorities on the management of a tram system.
- 1911 Glasgow Census : 3 Doune Gardens, house with 10 rooms. [James Dalrymple](#), 51, born England, Tramway Manager, Glasgow Corporation with wife Elizabeth G., 47 born Glasgow. James and

Elizabeth had been married for 19 years and had 6 children, all living. At the house were children Agnes G. (18), Margaret J. (15), James McG. (9), William B. (7), Hew A. (5) and Mary E. J. (3) who were all born in Glasgow + 2 servants (domestic servant and nurse)

## 1914 World War I

At the outbreak of war, James took a leading role in recruiting men for the Highland Light Infantry. On 7th September 1914 he led a march past of about 1000 men for the Lord Provost at the City Chambers to seek approval from the Corporation. They formed the 15th H.L.I. 1st Glasgow Tramway Battalion., nicknamed the 'Boozy First'



Many of the men lost their lives in the fighting. A war memorial was erected in the Glasgow Corporation Transport Head Office in Bath Street.

This was later moved to the Transport Museum at the Kelvin Hall but is now in the Riverside Museum.

There are also war memorials at various tramway depots throughout the city.

A new memorial was dedicated in 1996 at the Church of Authuille, France where the 32nd Division of the H.L.I. are honoured including the 15th Glasgow Tramway, 16th Glasgow Boys Brigade and the 17th Glasgow Commerce Division who all suffered heavy losses in the first Battle of the Somme on 1st July 1916.

Sgt. Maj. James McGarva from Gatehouse was one of the recruits. He enlisted on September 15th 1914. Although he was born in Borgue, his parents Alexander and Jemima (nee Bryden) lived in Gatehouse most of their married lives. James moved to Glasgow to be a tram driver. James was awarded a Military Medal in January 1917. He also received a Gatehouse & District Gold medal for valour in 1921 when the Gatehouse War Memorial was unveiled.

James Dalrymple's recruitment drive was so successful that nearly half of the staff - men from conductors to motormen - enlisted and very soon he had a shortage of workers on the trams. It was vitally important to keep the tramways running as shipyard and factory workers relied on them to get to work.

In 1915 Glasgow Corporation began to employ women as conductresses (818 obliged).





James Dalrymple was pleased with his new recruits saying that they were 'strong physically and knew what it was to do a day's work' and he declared them to be 'altogether satisfactory'  
[www.firstworldwarglasgow.co.uk](http://www.firstworldwarglasgow.co.uk)

Mrs Eliza Orr (left), was one of the first Glasgow conductresses. Most of the women were from working class families. Many were married and had young children and often a husband away at war but they still did a 51 hour working week. In 1916 women started to be employed as tramcar drivers.



- 1923** Glasgow Tramways took over the running of the Glasgow Subway. (*The Underground*)  
 At some point during his career he was awarded a C.B.E. (*Commander of British Empire*)
- 1926** James Dalrymple resigned from his post in controversial circumstances. He had an autocratic manner which caused friction with both Glasgow Councillors and his staff. He is believed to have run the tram in Sao Paulo for a period in later life. There are records of various trips that he and his wife Elizabeth made to South America in the late 1920s and also to New York and Bombay.

James continued to have an interest in Gatehouse and purchased all of the north side of Birtwhistle Street including the end houses West View and East View . He appears to have bought the properties from the estate of his sister Isabella McLean, after she and her husband Andrew had died. His mother Margaret and sister Margaret Dalrymple lived in Eastview for many years. James is named as owner of the Birtwhistle Street houses in Valuation Rolls dating from about 1910 until the 1930s. His sister Margaret was still living at Eastview in 1940/41.

- 1934** **James** suffered a fall at his home 3 Doune Gardens, on 28th June when he broke his collarbone. He was taken to a local nursing home where he died from his injuries on 1st July 1934.  
**He was buried in Girthon Cemetery, Gatehouse** on Wednesday 4th July.

*(Reports from Scotsman Newspaper)*



Probate was granted to his widow Elizabeth Gardner McGowan or Dalrymple on 18th September 1934. The estate was valued at £11,432 8s 4d.

#### **Girthon Headstone Inscription :**

Erected by Margaret Adams in memory of her husband **James Dalrymple** who died at Gatehouse 30<sup>th</sup> March 1910, aged 83 years. Also the erector **Margaret Adams** died 6<sup>th</sup> June 1916 in her 89<sup>th</sup> year. **Also their eldest son James Dalrymple C.B.E. of Glasgow died 1<sup>st</sup> July 1934 aged 74 years.** Also his wife Eliz. G. McGowan who died at Vancouver B.C. 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1945 aged 81 years. Also Margaret, daughter of the above died at Eastview, Gatehouse 19<sup>th</sup> March 1949 aged 86 years.