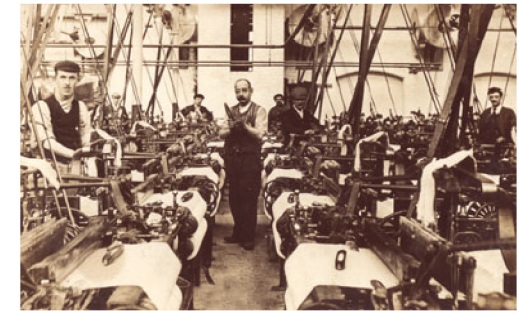


*JOHN MISKELLY - MARY MACALPINE*

It is believed that John and Mary came over to Carlisle with a family called Montgomery from Newtownards circa 1833/1834. Both families settled in Carlisle and appear to have taken up work in the weaving industry finding work in the cotton mills situated around the area. They may have worked in the mills or at home and after education the children initially followed them into that trade. John and Mary's family first appear in the 1841 census in Union Row in Carlisle. They then appear to have moved twice once to Eden Place, with James and William living next door, and then to their final home at No 2 Back Duke Street which was very near to Dixons cotton mill.

Ellen and James Montgomery Miskelly, we presume he was given that middle name as a link to the Montgomery family who must have been good friends with John and Mary. William, Agnes, John, Elizabeth and Mary were all born in Carlisle. John appears to have worked as a weaver all his life retiring sometime between 1871 and 1881. John dies in 1885 and Mary in 1889 both were buried in paupers graves with no markers in Carlisle cemetery. I have been to the cemetery and found the location of both graves and placed flowers and a simple cross in memory of them both.

No pictures from that time but below are a couple taken from the internet showing the life of cotton weavers around that time.



The magnificent Shaddon Mills was built by Peter Dixon's sons in 1836 for the spinning of Cotton. The Chimney at 305ft high was the 8th tallest chimney in the world and the mill was the largest cotton mill in the country. Such a large, seven story factory could not have been powered by water. Steam power was used from the beginning. Peter Dixon and Sons was to become a major industrial enterprise. Initially the weaving was carried out in workers' cottages. In 1840 Dixons employed 3,571 hand loom weavers, namely 2,389 in England, 599 in Scotland and 583 in Ireland. But then a large building adjacent to the factory was built and several hundred power looms were installed. Some weaving was still done as out-work until the 1860s. At their peak Dixons employed a labour force of 8,000.

John and Mary lived at No 2 Back Duke Street which was opposite the mill at the left hand side of the picture