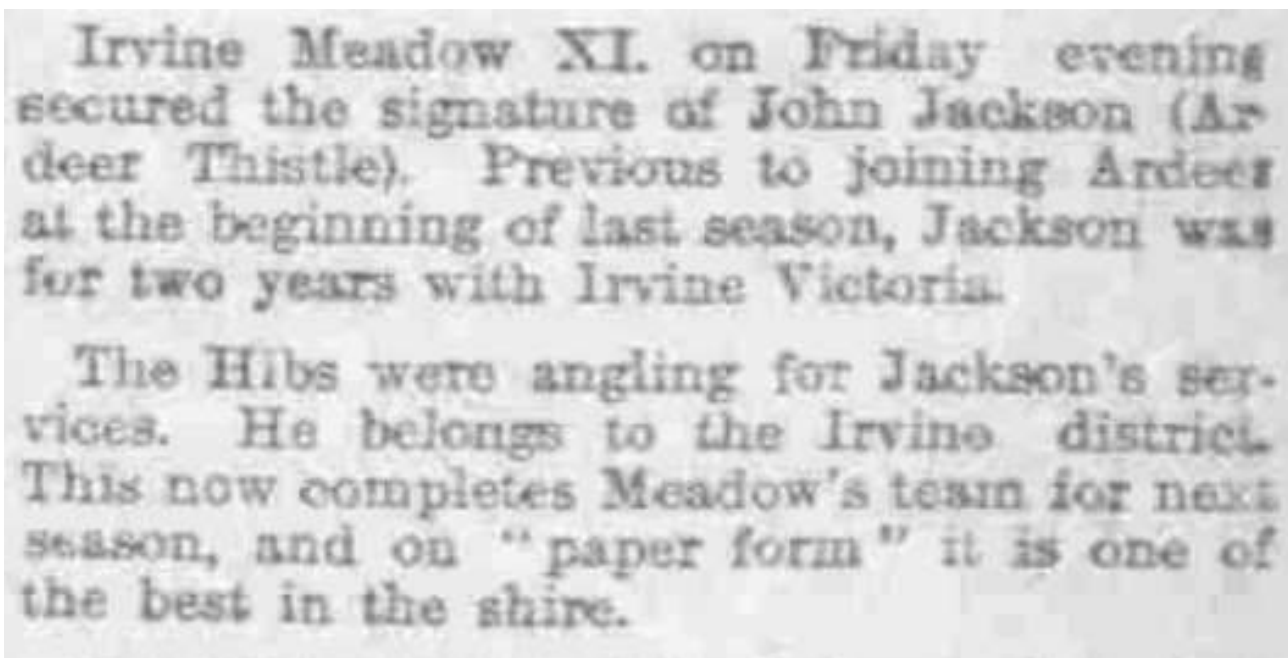


JOHN JACKSON – FOOTBALLER

Tony Hill, who runs the Leeds United History website on www.ozwhitelufc.net.au in Australia contacted George McGrattan who runs the www.ArdrossanFootballClubs.net website. He wanted information on a footballer called John Jackson who played for Leeds between 1913 and 1915. An extract from the enquiry is 'Many sources have accepted the dates of birth and death of the player as being for a John Bertram Jackson as 21 June 1893 at Dalry, Ayrshire and 8 August 1971 at Glasgow. There is no doubt that such a person existed, but, in our opinion, it was not the John Jackson of Clyde and Leeds City fame!'

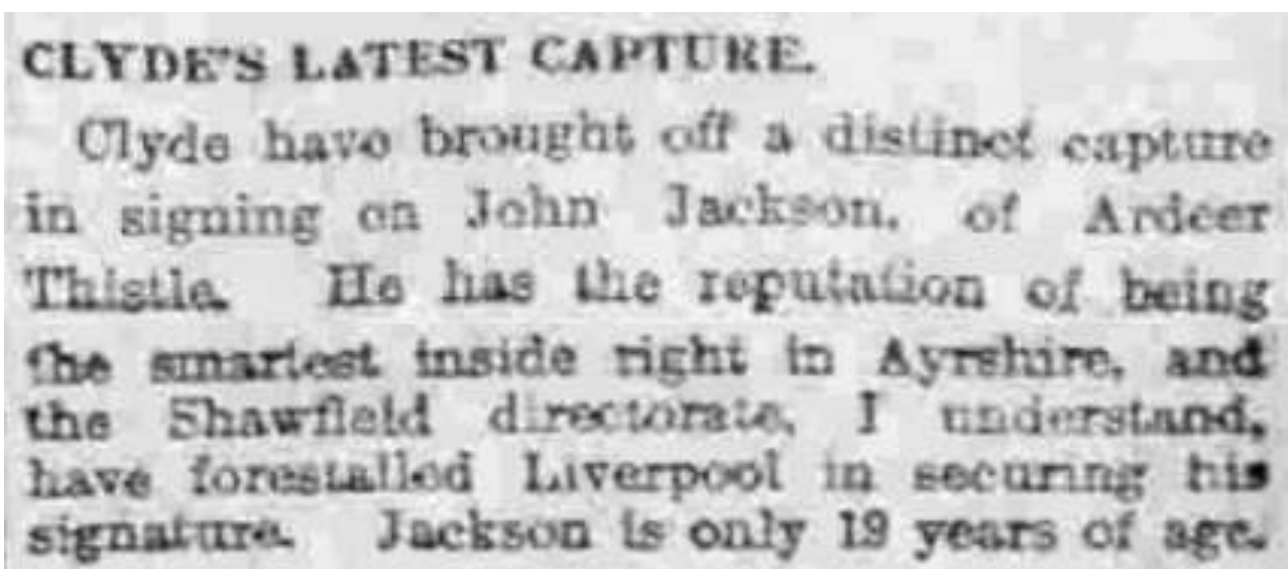
The name John Jackson was not one with which I was familiar so I did some internet research. I targeted a publication called The Scottish Referee, a football newspaper of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As well as featuring prominent senior clubs, it also reported on the lower ranks. I found the following five references to John Jackson.



Irvine Meadow XI. on Friday evening secured the signature of John Jackson (Ardeer Thistle). Previous to joining Ardeer at the beginning of last season, Jackson was for two years with Irvine Victoria.

The Hibs were angling for Jackson's services. He belongs to the Irvine district. This now completes Meadow's team for next season, and on "paper form" it is one of the best in the shire.

16 July 1909



CLYDE'S LATEST CAPTURE.

Clyde have brought off a distinct capture in signing on John Jackson, of Ardeer Thistle. He has the reputation of being the smartest inside right in Ayrshire, and the Shawfield directorate, I understand, have forestalled Liverpool in securing his signature. Jackson is only 19 years of age.

30 August 1909

The above extracts state that Jackson belonged to the Irvine area and was nineteen years old, implying birth around 1890. He could not have played many games for Irvine Meadow as he left six weeks after signing.

JOHN JACKSON.
 This clever inside forward has simply forced his way into the Clyde League team again, and on Saturday he exhibited dodging and placing of a high order. Last season he was in the running for honours, and with more experience should graduate to the select band of Internationalists. Jackson is a gritty inside forward, 'cute on the ball, and not afraid to give or take a charge. He was with Ardeer Thistle and Irvine Meadow Eleven, and it was from the ranks of the last-named that he signed for Shawfield. He has youth, pluck, and cleverness—three invaluable attributes—to commend him.

1 October 1910

John Jackson didn't exactly create a sensation for Leeds City last Saturday, but he played a quite serviceable game.

26 December 1913

Further affirmation of John Jackson's year and place of birth was found in the book Football League Players' Records 1888 to 1939. This lists the career records of all players who appeared in at least one match in the English Football League between the stated years. John was noted to have been born in Irvine in 1890, earned an international cap with the Scottish League and played for Clyde and Leeds City.

From	To	Apps	Goal
Jackson, John	IR		
b Irvine	1890		
Caps: SLge	1		
	Clyde		
1913	1914	Leeds City	54 10

Extract from the Football League Players Records book.

Given this useful information, I thought it would be easy to find his birth certificate on the Scotland's People website. Unfortunately, this proved to be unsuccessful.

I checked the census returns of 1891 and 1901 but could not find a John Jackson with the target attributes.

I was therefore surprised to find him in the 1911 census when he lived in Irvine with occupation Professional Football Player. The extract is shown below and there are more details on the next page.

John Jackson	7	Head	45	Coal Miner, Hewer ⁵⁰	21
Robert do		Wife	43	Professional Football Player	
John do		Son	22	Professional Football Player	
Wm. do		Son	10	Professional Football Player	

Extract from the 1911 Census of Irvine

NOTABLE TRANSFER.
JACKSON OF CLYDE.
FOR LEEDS CITY.



JOHN JACKSON.
 Yesterday afternoon representatives of the Leeds City club visited Glasgow and came to terms with the Clyde management for the transfer of John Jackson, a player who, during his sojourn at Shawfield, has proved a valuable man for the Bridgeton club.
 As a junior Jackson played with Ardeer Thistle, and more senior clubs than Clyde were interested in the clever forward before he decided to throw in his lot with the Glasgow Leaguers.
 His favourite position is inside right, but with Clyde he has been a handy man, occupying all positions forward, and occasionally assisting in the intermediate line.
 Jackson, whose only senior honour was v. the Irish League last season, will play for Leeds City to-morrow against Birmingham.

19 December 1913

10

10th Ward - Irvington

10th Ward - Irvington

10th Ward - Irvington

PERSONAL DESCRIPTION	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION		BIRTHPLACE	BIRTHDATE
	Industry or Service with which he is connected.	Working at home.		
1. <i>Paul Mass. Ber-</i>			<i>Leeds, England</i>	
2. <i>John</i>			<i>Leeds, England</i>	
3. <i>Paul Mass. Ber-</i>			<i>Leeds, England</i>	
4. <i>Professional Football Player</i>			<i>Leeds, England</i>	
5. <i>Professional Football Player</i>			<i>Leeds, England</i>	
6. <i>John</i>			<i>Leeds, England</i>	
7. <i>John</i>			<i>Leeds, England</i>	
8. <i>John</i>			<i>Leeds, England</i>	
9. <i>John</i>			<i>Leeds, England</i>	
10. <i>John</i>			<i>Leeds, England</i>	
11. <i>John</i>			<i>Leeds, England</i>	

In summary, it appears that the John Jackson who played for Leeds was not John Bertram Jackson born on 21 June 1893 at Dalry. It is disappointing that I cannot find his birth certificate but that might be due to inadequacy on my part.

Some of this information may have been known to Tony before his enquiry. Regardless, I hope that it is of use and helps in some way to answer his question.

George McGrattan

6 February 2019

10

10th Ward - Irvington

10th Ward - Irvington

10th Ward - Irvington

NAME, BIRTH DATE, and PLACE OF BIRTH	RELATIONS TO HEAD OF FAMILY	MARRIAGE	RELATIONS TO HEAD OF FAMILY	DAYS IN U.S.A.	PERIODS AS IN BARRINGS
1. <i>John</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
2. <i>John</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Married</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
3. <i>John</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
4. <i>John</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
5. <i>John</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
6. <i>John</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
7. <i>John</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
8. <i>John</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
9. <i>John</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
10. <i>John</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>
11. <i>John</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>100</i>

Extract from the 1911 Census of Irvine