

Hawick Paraffin Oil Refinery

Chemist, John Wield, was born in 1837 in Annan, Dumfries, Scotland. He died in 1877. John was married to Christina Mary Turnbull. 18 years after James 'Paraffin' Young converted oil into paraffin, John set up an oil works here in Hawick in 1868 called Hawick Paraffin Oil Refinery. He too used shale oil to extract the paraffin. The oil works were located next to what is now the Thomson Bridge. His oil works lasted for one year before he went bankrupt and they were shut down in 1869. After the oil works were shut down the site was taken over by Hawick Gasworks. This company had been situated at the site since around 1831 when Wilton Mills were given a steam engine and a gasworks. John became the manager of Hawick Gasworks company.

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