



Britannia and her Carpets.

Cartouche from John Doharty's Plan of Kidderminster of 1753.

Image courtesy of: Birmingham Central Library

Name	Location	Date	Misc	Image
ABBAY LEIX	Abbey Leix, Co. Laois, formally Queens Co. Irish Midlands Eire. Situated on the main street in Abbey Leix.	1904-1912	Founded by the 5th Viscount Ivo Richard de Vesce the landlord of the area with technical assistance of Robert Fowler the 8th Earl of Ashbrook (see DURROW). Not upright looms but knotted using Ashbrook's methods. Made carpets for White Star Line eg. MV Titanic. Today popularly and wrongly identified as DONEGAL. Merged in 1909 to form Kildare Carpet Company. Further reading - <i>Hidden in the Pile</i> by Mairead Johnson	
AXMINSTER	Axminster, Devon, England	1755 established 1835 Transferred plant to Wilton and possibly Exeter.	Founded by Thomas Whitty. Axminster town had a flourishing wool trade at the time. Said to be inspired by the Fulham factory further information contact: Brenda Rose the current UK authority. http://thomaswhitty.co.uk/earlycarpets.html	

http://www.axminsterheritage.org/article_earlyaxminster.html

John BRIGHT Ltd.	Rochdale	Founded 1809 Made into Ltd 1887	" <i>Tapestry and Velvet Carpets and rug and hair carpets</i> " C.E.C. Tattershall
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BRINTONS	Founded at Chaddesley and Kidderminster. Presently at Stourport, and Kidderminster.	(1770 Cloth Mill ?)Carpets started in 1783 established 1819 moved to town centre 1856 New Factory constructed by Henry Brinton & Sons 1920 Handknotted ceased Continuing presently producing power looms carpets.
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Image courtesy Brintons

Founded 1783 by William Brinton. In 1836 there were 86 looms farmed out around Kidderminster prior to the new factory construction in 1856. Employed Christopher Dresser as head of design for a spell but were unable to sell his designs apparently he was sacked from employment. In the first quarter of 20th cent. Reginald Brinton who was said to be artistically aware gave technical advice and provided plant and assisted several small enterprises in England and Eire including the Kildare Carpet Company. Plant and looms from Mere (Wilton?) obtained in 1909. The company wove handknotted carpets up to 40 foot in width. Termed them as *Vigorna*. Woven in their 'A Shed' at the Kidderminster works in the town centre where their head office remains today The last reported carpet being commissioned for the Bristol Golf Club circa 1920 after which the production of hand made carpets ceased. information Beacon extract / Brinton archives Nov 2009. B/W image (circa 1901) courtesy of Brintons <http://www.brintons.net/>

CARLISLE	Cumbria, England	from late 19th cent?	Further reading -
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CANTERBURY Weavers	Kent, Engand	1896/9 -	Tattershall C. A History of British Carpets Started as small craft studio. 1901 had twenty looms - further reading ARTS & CRAFTS CARPETS by Malcom Haslam - assistance from Brintons (?)
John B. Champion & Sons	Dursley, Gloucestershire	1778	" `Dursley ` reversable wool (1907) " C.E.C. Tattershall
COOKE SONS & Co.Ltd	Spen Valley Carpet Works, Liversedge, Yorkshire	1795	" Brussels , Wilton,Kidderminster and Axminster " C.E.C. Tattershall nb 20th cent info
CROSSLEY	Halifax West Yorkshire, England		SEE HALIFAX BELOW
CUALA INDUSTRIES	Churchtown Dublin Eire	1908	Founded by Lily and Elizabeth Yeats (sisters of the poet W.B. Yeats) who split from Evelyn Gleeson at Dun Emer to begin Cuala Industries,(press 1904) before leaving Gleeson in 1908 to retain the Dun Emer brand. An embroidery workshop was established but the extent of carpet making - if any - is uncertain. http://www.dublincity.ie/story/yeats-sisters-and-cuala-press
DONEGAL - Annagry, Crolly, Gweedore , Kilcar	Co. Donegal, Eire	early 20th cent.	Essentially these were outpost satellites for the main factory at Killybegs -see below Through the intervention of the Congested District Board in 1905 it was proposed to build two other workshops in the Rosses area at Annagry and Crolly employing between 150-200 people. The received loan from the CDB was on the strength and success in Killybegs and it's smaller satellite at Kilcar. The depression that followed WW1 1914-18 and the new



republic 1917 may have been responsible for the closure of some of these. The newly formed Irish Republic attempted to reinvigorate production through their cultural agency in the 1920/1930s. Although from the writers opinion the output became mundane copying red Turkish Ushak caroets. The Kilcar site is near to Killybegs and has some of the original building remnants and masonry. It still operates as a wool weaving mill as *Donegal Weavers* but has no carpet production.

DONEGAL - Killybegs Co. Donegal, Eire

circa 1899 until recent present. Now a visitor center / museum after re-opening in 1999 in part of the old carpet factory.

Established 1898 by Alexander Morton a Scottish textile Manufacturer who modelled production on 'Turkey' carpets from Ushak in Western Turkey. Unlike the other workshops around Co. Donegal (see above) I, Killybegs remained viable partly because it had transport connections - by sea and rail. At its height Morton boasted a staff of 600 persons although that might have included employees from his country estate(s?) Notable early 20th century commissions from the work of artists and designers include C.F.A. Voysey, Walter Crane, Mackay Baillie Scott, and Jessie Newbery. The business supplied Liberties of London (see below) etc.The business at Killybegs went on to prosper in the 1950s and 1960s with a good output unlike its satellites. When it closed around 1987 some scraps were salvaged from the many records that were unfortunately destroyed.



			Some unsorted records remain at the visitor centre unfilled and unsorted. A handful of cartoons may be seen in the nearby restaurant / pub <i>Kitty Kellys</i> including some for London's Grosvenor Hotel. The very last commissions by Donegal Carpet Factory include The Music Room, Brighton Pavilion and Dublin Castle for the then Irish President Mary Robinson. This factory remained the last hand knotted manufacturer of carpets in Western Europe and to this day retains a loom of 42 feet. The business or Business name is presently up for sale. Anybody interested should contact Michael McDaid on + 353 74 9739810
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DUN EMER	Dundrum now South Dublin , Eire	1902 - circa 1960
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Dun Emer Guild founded by Lily and Elizabeth Yeats (sisters of the poet W.B. Yeats) and Evelyn Gleeson. Several crafts including carpets of Celtic design. The Yeats sisters later split from Gleeson and in 1908 began Cuala Industries, leaving Gleeson to retain the Dun Emer brand.



DURHAM / BARNARD CASTLE	Durham, England	Early 20th cent
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Further reading - *People & Patterns - the carpet weaving industry in 19th century Barnard Castle* published by the Friends of the Bowes Museum edited by Denis Coggins.

DURROW	Co. Laois, Formally Queens Co. Irish Midlands, Eire	1901 - 1903
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Founded by Robert Fowler the 8th Earl of Ashbrook (1836 - 1919). Patenter of the moveable latch hook carpet needle in 1903 (*Readicut / rughooking* Turkish knots). Transferred equipment

			and sold rights to Abbey-leix 1904. http://www.orient-rug.com/rwcr_pages/misc/cr_vagaries.html
EDINBURGH WEAVERS	Edinburgh , Scotland	1928 to present as Dovecot	Mostly tapestry and textile commissions but may have undertaken woven carpets. Received commissions from Marion Dorn amongst others. Famously losing the commission for Coventry Cathedral tapestry to France. Now Dovecot Studios
EXETER	Exeter district, Devon , England	1755 closed 1761 and then again 19th cent (?)	Claude Passavant brought Peter Parisot's Fulham equipment here in 1755. Possibly took looms from Axminster after its closure 1835 http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/inde/anderson/chap2.htm
FROME	Wiltshire, England	1756	William Jesser rivalled his more famous contemporaries at Exeter, Axminster and Moorefield
PADDINGTON (?) FULHAM Peter Parisot Pierre Polré	Paddington then Fulham, London	1749 then 1750 and 1753 to 1755	Established at Paddington 1749/50 (?) then moved to Fulham 1753 by French immigrants from Savonnerie Peter Parisot (?) / Pierre Polré / Louis Théu. Looms moved to Exeter c.1755 to establish there. Verified example of this production can be seen today at Barlow Room (State Dining Room) Clandon Park, Surrey (National Trust property open to public).contact Caroline Stone . Since the disastrous fire on 28 April 2015 it's now feared that this sole surviving piece has been lost http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=i3Od9bcGuS0C&pg=PA183&lpg=PA183&dq=Louis+Théu+carpet+1755&source=bl&ots=wjsfWuFjZR&sig=sD0sSqSoMP3Kkb0kiUEi8zOsP-U&hl=en&sa=X&ei

**GINZKEY,
MAFFERDS DORF**

Established Bohemia

19/20th cent (?)

**HALIFAX
(Various)**

Halifax, West Yorkshire
England

[=FskCT_PjBYiL8gPZ_fjE
AO&ved=0CB4O6AEwAA
#v=onepage&q=Louis%
20Th%C3%A9o%20carpet%201
755&f=false](https://www.google.com/search?q=Charles+Voysey+carpets&rlz=1C1GZKE9_CJ8849O6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=Louis%20Th%C3%A9o%20carpet%201755&f=false)

Makers of Charles
Voysey carpets

Info extract from
National Archives.

John Crossley, founder of Crossleys Carpets, was born in 1772. He became apprenticed to his uncle John Webster as a carpet weaver, and then went to work for a Mr William Currer at Luddenden. About 1800, he became manager of Job Lee's carpet factory in the Lower George Yard, Halifax. In 1802, John, together with his brother Thomas and James Travis took a lease on Dean Clough Mill. After 20 years the lease expired and the partnership was dissolved, John renewing the lease in his own name. The profit for the 20 years work was £1400 for each partner. In 1830, John Crossley bought out the only other carpet factory in Halifax, Messrs Abbott and Ellerton. John Crossley died in 1837, aged 64 at the time of his death 300 people were employed at Dean Clough. The business was carried on by 3 of his sons, John, Joseph, and Francis.

[http://www.nationalarch
ives.gov.uk/a2a/records
.aspx?cat=203-dc&cid=
0#0](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/records.aspx?cat=203-dc&cid=0#0)

See Transactions of the
Halifax Antiquarian
Society, 1950-1953, for

			articles by R.Bretton on the "Crossleys of Dean Clough"
HASLEMERE	Surrey, England	1890s -	Established Maude Egerton King/ Joseph King and Ethel Mary Blount / Godfery Blount 1904 Reginald Brinton (Kidderminster) helped install larger looms. - further reading: 1) ARTS & CRAFTS CARPETS by Malcom Haslam 2) The Lost Arts of Europe: The Haslemere Museum Collection of Peasant Art . edited David Crowley and Lou Taylor
KIDDERMINSTER (various)		1749 onward. 1920 Perhaps handknotting ceased with Brintons (?) Today various factories produce power loom goods only.	John Broom, then a leading stuff manufacturer. There are several versions of how he achieved this and it is difficult to prove any of them with a 100% certainty but all have more than a hint of industrial sabotage. He travelled to Brussels, Tournai, or Wilton and returned with both the plans for a new type of loom, the Brussels loom, and immigrant workers, settling them in the Mount Skipet area of the town. Whatever the truth of these stories, Pococke, a traveller, in 1751, noted that Kidderminster was now making carpets "the same as Wilton" Source: www.search.revolutionaryplayers.org.uk Further reading - Tattershall C. A History of British Carpets More information : The Carpet Museum Trust Archive Centre M C F Complex, 60 New Rd, Kidderminster DY10 1AQ, United Kingdom
KILDARE or NAAS	Naas Co. Kildare, Irish Midlands, Eire	1902/1904 - 1909/12	Kildare Carpet Factory founded by Fr. Gory and Stephen Brown. Originally entitled <i>The Naas Co-operative</i>

			<i>Home Industries Society</i> Lady Geraldine Mayo of Palmerston was instrumental in financing along with Brintons (Kidderminster) who also provided plant, technical advise and distribution / marketing to England. Amalgamated with Abbey Leix Carpet Factory 1909 led to the joint venture being known as <i>The Kildare Carpet Co.</i> Today popularly and wrongly identified as DONEGAL. Futher reading - Hidden in the Pile by Mairead Johnson.
KILMARNOCK	Scotland	1831	Shortlived venture
MOORFIELDS	City of London, England	1756 - 1806 (?)	Thomas Moore in Moorefields made commissions for Robert Adam John Soane etc http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/inde/anderson/chap2.htm
MORRIS & Co.	Hammersmith London then in 1881 Merton South London for manufacture of carpets	Co-founded as Morris, Marshal, Faulkner & Co. 1861 - 1875 continuing as Morris & Co 1875 - 1939/40	http://www.morrisociety.org http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morris %26 Co. http://www.wmgallery.org.uk
MORTLAKE	West London, England	1619 - 1703	Mortlake Tapestry workshop but may have produced carpets (?) Royal patronage, weavers brought from Flanders.
MOYARD	Co. Galway	No info	No info
OCM/ORIENTAL CARPET MANUFACTURERS	established Smyrna (Izmir) & Constantinople (Istanbul)	1906	Here as a major manufacturer worldwide. Their focus was in the orient but OCM may have produced domestically such was their reach..
OMEGA STUDIOS/Bloomsbury Group	London, England	1913 - 1919	Roger Fry co-founder insisted that the designs were produced anonymously, bearing

		only the Greek letter Ω (Omega) in a square. Vanessa Bell, Duncan Grant, Wyndham Lewis, Frederick Etchells, Henri Gaudier-Brzeska and Winifred Gill.
		http://www.courtauld.ac.uk/gallery/exhibitions/2009/omega/Bloomsbury2.shtml
ORAGE, Jean	Chelsea, London, England 1920s until 1930	Worked for William Morris from 1905 then in her final year behind the shop at Oxford Street London 1916 Merton Abbey having closed. Established her weaving studio in Chelsea until her retirement circa 1930 making mostly tapestries and textlies . Rugs recorded from 1928 -carpet making responsibilities were that of a ' wild' red haired Irish woman '. Wove rugs commissioned by McKnight Kaufer , Marion Dorn, Ronald Grieson. She dyed her own materials. ----- http://thecarpetindex.blogspot.com/ "She worked in London as a textile designer and like Bauhaus student produced her own textiles (Batik , flat weave rugs) or for others like Marion Dorn 1925-1928 ". Info - Jean Manuel de Noronha 2009.

PONTREMOLI	Praed Street, Paddington , London 1920s - 1950s	Known for hand embroidered carpets in the Berlin technique using gross point with petit point details . Knotted carpets probably not made (?) Instructed and gave lessons to upper class lady clients. Jacques Mereno Pontremoli (1886-1952) had emigrated from Turkey to London in 1910. Establishing a business as an importer and
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			dealer in carpets and tapestries he pioneered a revival in the English needlework tradition of handmade rugs and carpets. For these he drew not only on traditional Persian designs but a lighter, floral themed range that appealed to the mid-war modernist sensibilities. For these he employed the Royal College of Art artist and designer William S. Haines whose designs drew heavily on 16th and 17th century design and were executed in watercolour- before being translated into weave.
SHOTTERLY	Near Statford upon Avon, Warwickshire England	Early 20th cent	Established originally at Bushy, Hertfordshire as a weaving school Annie Bayley moved to The Thatched House , Shotterly. Lease taken over 1913 by Ethel Mairet (1872 - 1952) who had been a student. Producing carpets in 1918 Further reading see ARTS & CRAFTS CARPETS by Malcom Haslam
SOHO	London, England	17 and 18th cent(?)	Tapestry workshop/s but could have made carpets(?)
SHELDON	Barcheston, Stratford, England	Second half 16th cent.Sheldon Family	Tapestry workshop
TEMPLTONS	Glasgow, Scotland	Founded 1839 Sutherland & Caithness 1900 to 1914 (handknotting period)	Handknotting carpet workshops established at remote Sutherland & Caithness. (Machine made carpets made in Glasgow) Templetons Glasgow
TOMKINSON and ADAM	Kidderminster, England	see Kidderminster dates.	Makers of Charles

WHYTOCK	Later as Whytock & Reid (?)	1832	Voysey carpets. Still active as TOMKINSONS but only mechanised. Start of Henry Widnell Stewart Ltd. Later bought by Stodard. Wyhtock leased tapestry carpet loom to Crossley (info) "The History of British Carpets" by Bertram Jacobs (1968)
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WILTON or (ROYAL WILTON CARPET COMPANY)	Wilton, Salisbury with smaller subsidiary rural workshops in Mere, Dowton, Fordingbridge, Tisbury and briefly (?) Morgan's Vale. Other locations were involved with power looms. Southampton and Romsey.	Mill from 1655 and or 1698 then 1755 and re-established 1835 (for hand knotted carpets rather than Brussels type) 1935 Rural workshop closures / transfers begin. 1960 ceased.	www.wiltshiretouristguide.com/Articles/Article_28.asp Handknotted ceased 1957/1959/1960 Wiltshire Archives for Royal Wilton Factory Last carpet made at Wilton (Main Mill) for Guildford Cathedral 1959 installed 1960
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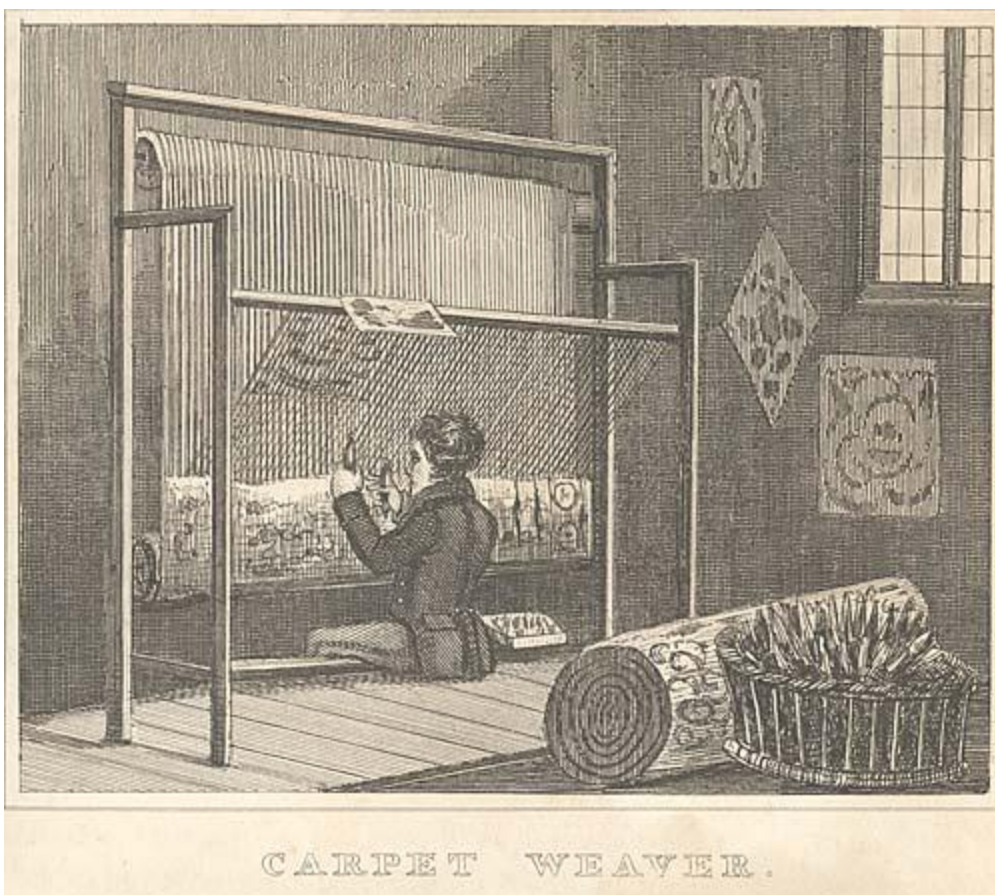
Continues today with power looms as Royal Wilton Carpet Co. at another location following two takeovers since 1960s and unsympathetic development to the historic Mill site

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a/results.aspx?tab=2&Page=1&ContentAllWords=2583&Repository=Wiltshire+and+Swindon+Archives>

WOODWARD GROSVENOR & Co. Ltd.	1790	Kidderminster, Worcester Cross
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ZIEGLER & Co	. Established in Iran 1883	Established Manchester, England early/mid 19th cent.	19th cent manufacturer and exporter of cotton goods and importers and commissioners of Persian carpets Also exporters of Opium from Iran to China.
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nb Also see the 1934 list of Manufacturers in the rear pages 178 - 182. Although it is not specifically dedicated to hand knotted manufactures
TATTERSHALL C.E.C. (ex V&A Museum carpet/textile Curator) A HISTORY OF BRITISH CARPETS published 1934 published by F. Lewis , Benfleet



Carpet Weaver. N Whittock et al, The Complete Book of Trades (London, Marshall and Co., 1837).

*The image shows the type of handloom for carpet making which was used before the advent of technological change and the factory system.
Image courtesy of: Birmingham Central Library*

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[Return to top of page](#)