



NEW LANARK  
World Heritage Site

As well as archive imagery, Shining Lives featured new footage of volunteer costumed interpreters from the local area enacting a female Millworker in the various stages of her life. The Millworker is shown recalling a moving poem, found in the New Lanark archive. The title of the poem is 'New Lanark Mills' and the author is William Bruce, no date is available on the poem documentation.

### NEW LANARK MILLS

How lovely is New Lanark clad with its wooded hills,  
And with its bonnie lassies who work hard in the mills:  
The place it is sae cosy and sheltered from the storm,  
And there are many pretty spots for the feasting eye to charm

There the River Clyde flows down between the stately hills,  
A noble and useful stream drives the toiling mills  
The water runs so clearly, and on a rushing tide,  
And Oh! It is a lovely place for anyone to bide.

I mind well the happy days when I was young,  
I used to run about the braes when woods with music rung  
And walk down by the river side to pu' the hips and slaes,  
Oh never in my life again shall be such happy days

I hear the school bell ringing which brings again to mind  
the sports we used to play at and friends that were so kind  
I hear the birds a-singing in yonder shady glen,  
Where lovers often meet and whisper words, ye ken.

There's no a place in Scotland that I like so well,  
For oh! They were the happy days when I was in the mill.  
I used to soom across the Clyde, an' whiles was near awa,  
New Lanark is as bonnie a place as ever that I saw.

But many changes have ta'en place since that happy time,  
Some friends have gone across the sea into a foreign clime,  
Some have risen in the world and some have fallen low,  
Then let us try and do our best wherever that we go

I wish the Spinning Company very much success,  
And many there noble efforts the toiling hunders bless,  
And come what may through calm or storm, through health or else through ills,

I'll ne'er forget the place I lo'e, New Lanark and its Mills.

WILLIAM BRUCE