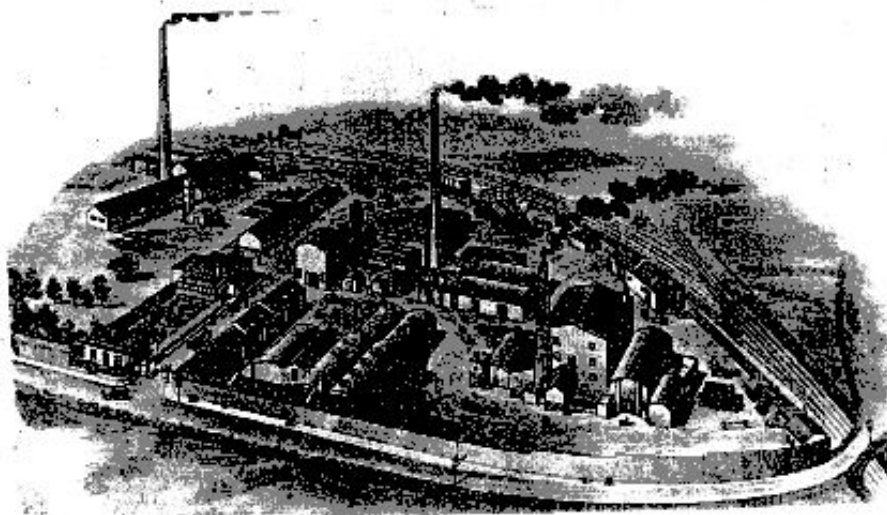


HISTORY § Ayrshire § ANTIQUITIES
NOTES § §
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HAWKHILL CHEMICAL WORKS, AYR.

The Hawkhill Chemical Works of W S Walker & Co.,
from *The "Borough" Guide to Ayr*, c.1913.

Contributions for the Spring 2000 issue of *Ayrshire Notes*, including information about the activities of Member Societies, should be sent before the end of January to Rob Close, 1 Craighbrae Cottages, Drongan, Ayr KA6 7EN, tel. 01292 590273.

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W G Walker & Co. (Ayr) Ltd.

A Company History to 1945

William Glassford Walker was born on the 16th February 1812 at Kilmaurs in Ayrshire, the son of John Walker and his wife Janet Glassford. John Walker was an agricultural labourer, born in the parish of Dreghorn in 1772/73: John married Janet Glassford on the 15th June 1808 at Riccarton. She had been born in Kilmarnock in 1783/84. In the 1851 Census of Scotland John and Janet Walker lived in the west end of Kilmaurs. Living with them in the house at that time were Mary Walker, houseworker, born at Todrigs; Margaret Walker, handsewer, born at Kilmaurs, and Alexander Walker, grandson and scholar, born at Torryanard.

William Glassford Walker was appointed manager of the Kilmarnock Gas Company in 1849. On 29th May 1822 a joint-stock company had been founded in Kilmarnock with the intention of supplying the town with gas. Funds were raised by selling £10 shares, which raised £1,730, and a gas works was erected in Park Street the following year. The early general meetings of the company were held in the town's Turf Inn. In 1846 W G Walker was appointed Collector for the company at a salary of £50. In 1849 he was promoted to Gas Works Manager, on a salary of £80. This was afterwards raised to £160. Alexander Hamilton was the company chairman. W G Walker lived at this time in Gas Cottage, Park Street.

During Walker's time as manager of the company, the business developed. In 1856 the gas company had 3022 customers, rising to 4799 by 1871. In 1849 the stock was fixed at £15,000. New shares were issued in 1851 at £15 each, to the amount of £3,650. In 1855 the gas company obtained its Act of Parliament and in 1859 the gas main was extended to Crookedholm. In 1868 it was agreed to erect a large gasometer, which was fully fitted up in 1869. On 10th December 1870 an agreement was drawn up between the gas company and the Police Commissioners of Kilmarnock, by which the company would be sold to the council. The price fixed was £40,500 - £36,000 in respect of paid-up capital and £4,500 in respect of borrowed money. This was equivalent to £38 per share of original stock, and £22 per share of new (1851) stock. There were 117 shareholders at this time. The company was formally transferred to the council on 14th June 1872. When Walker left the company that year, the manager's position was filled by Samuel Dalziel.

William's brother, Alexander Walker, became the manager of the Irvine Gas Works, which had been erected in 1827. His family were involved in the works for many years thereafter. His son, also Alexander, married Barbara Lochhead, by whom he had at least two children. Barbara died at Irvine on 4th April 1926. Alexander died in the following year, on 21st March 1927, at his home of Adelaide, next to the gasworks in Bank Street, Irvine. At that time he was noted as "gas manager - retired". Alexander and Barbara's son, John Lochhead Walker, died between the two, on 18th June 1926. He worked variously as a cashier with the Irvine Gas Co Ltd, and as a bank clerk with the

Union Bank of Scotland, at which time he resided at 178 Kenmure Street, Pollokshields. He left a wife, Grace Emily MacEwan. The other son, James Glassford Walker, was employed as a bank agent in Edinburgh.

W G Walker married Elizabeth Smith on 17th August 1849 at Kilmarnock. Their first son, John, was born in Kilmarnock just nine months later on the 12th May 1850. Mary Hendry Walker was born on 6th September 1852 at Kilmarnock, and died at Ayr on 19th June 1921. A second son, Hugh Smith Walker, was born in Kilmarnock on 21st March 1854. Margaret Smith Walker was born at Kilmarnock on 10th May 1860, and died at 20 Chalmers Road, Ayr, on 24th September 1925. Agnes Paton Walker was born at Kilmarnock on 7th June 1862 but seems to have died soon thereafter as a second Agnes Paton Walker was born at Kilmarnock on 31st December 1864.

When the Kilmarnock Gas-Light Company was sold into council ownership in 1872, W G Walker purchased the Chemical Works in Ayr which had been owned by the late Walter Stewart. The *Ayr Directory* for 1867-68 lists Walter Stewart as a "manufacturing chemist and agent for Townsend's Manures" at Burnside Chemical Works, Newton-on-Ayr. He is not listed in earlier directories. Walter Stewart lived at Thymefield Villa in Prestwick Road. W G Walker brought his family to Ayr where they lived at first in the Old Manse. He later lived in a house at 18 Midton Road, where he remained until his death. This house was never owned by Walker, but leased from Andrew Hunter, and then from Hunter's heirs.

The Burnside Chemical Works had been erected on the site of Burnside farm, named after the Half Mile Burn. The works had been erected some time after 1855, as they are not shown on the O.S. map of that date. The works were located in Oswald Road, east of the Glasgow and South-Western Railway, and straddled the burn. Walker operated Burnside Works for a few years, but due to increased business and a diversification the site soon proved to be too small. The Burnside Chemical Works were sold. The manufacture of fertilisers continued to take place there for many years thereafter. [Note: This fertiliser works was unconnected with that of Alexander Weir & Co., which in 1860 took over Miller's Foundry, and which was itself taken over by Daniel Wyllie & Co in 1880. Wyllie's was merged with S.A.I. in 1928]

W G Walker commenced tar distilling at a new chemical works erected on a greenfield site at West Sanquhar Road. This road was later renamed Somerset Road after the football and athletic ground known as Somerset Park. The new works had a tall chimney, constructed in 1878, which was to be the tallest stalk erected in Ayr at that time. The works were located south of the Glasgow and South-Western Railway's Ayr and Mauchline branch, and from Blackhouse Junction a siding was constructed into the grounds of the works. On passing through the works gate, this siding split into two lines before merging again and stopping at buffers. At the point where there were two lines, a crane was positioned so that it could lift loads from the waggons. The residual products of gas works were brought to the tar distillery, and after some lighter oils were removed the tar which was left was used in the manufacture of tar macadam. It was noted in 1927 that some of the experimental work carried out in this field in 1896 was still in an excellent state of

preservation. A report on the progress of building work at Hawkhill appeared in the *Ayr Advertiser* of 2nd August 1878:

New Chemical Works - A new chemical manufactory for Messrs W G Walker & Son, Burnside Chemical Works, Ayr, is at present in course of erection at Hawkhill, Ayr. The works, which are intended for the distillation of tar, are situated on a piece of ground about an acre and a half in extent, adjoining the Ayr and Mauchline Railway. A stalk 120 feet in height will be built for the purpose of carrying off the noxious fumes arising from the manufacture, and this, along with the other buildings, is being constructed of white brick. Mr Rowan, Irvine, is the contractor for the brick-laying.

W G Walker soon expanded, with depots being established in Ayr, Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow and Belfast. Ayr was still the head office of the company. Walker was a man of vision, and had his own railway siding constructed along which his own railway tankers could travel. Mastic asphalt roofing, flooring and tanking became the company's main activity. The bulk of asphalt was at this time manufactured at the Edinburgh depot.

In 1888 W G Walker & Sons leased a field belonging to them to the Ayr Football Club. This club, which had been formed in 1879 on the amalgamation of Ayr Thistle and Ayr Academicals, had previously played at Beresford Park, a ground which lay south of Burns Statue Square, and which has long been developed. On 13th April 1888 Ayr Football Club called a special general meeting to discuss the possibility of moving to a new park, as Beresford was usually taken over for the annual cattle show, leaving them homeless. Newton Park was one suggestion, but the winning proposal was the green field belonging to Walker's, located between South Sanquhar Road and the railway line. Although the grass was poor, it was felt that the site had potential, being close to a large population. A rent was agreed between Walker's and the club, and work commenced on forming a new ground. The original clubhouse and stand were transferred to Somerset Park, as it was named, and in the first match played there, Ayr beat Aston Villa by three goals to nil.

William Glassford Walker died suddenly on Saturday, 6th January 1894, at his home in Midton Road. He was in his 82nd year and had been in poor health for some considerable time, though it was not thought that he was so near death, having seemed to have been considerably better on the Friday than he had been for some time. His estate was confirmed on 30th March as having a value of £581 3s 6d. Confirmation was granted to his sons, John Walker and Hugh Smith Walker, and to Alexander Walker, Gas Manager at Irvine Gas Company. According to his obituarist in the *Ayr Advertiser* and *Kilmarnock Standard* "he was held in the highest respect" by the citizens of Kilmarnock, where he was well-known. He goes on to state that "Mr Walker was a typical business man, clear-headed and intelligent; he was always to be trusted, while his integrity and straight-forwardness were beyond dispute. Although never taking an active interest in public affairs, he was well versed in matters concerning the town [Ayr], and his opinions were always worth listening to. He has departed from our midst full of years and of honour, and his decease will be regretted by a large circle of friends".

In 1894 W G Walker & Co devised a new method of surfacing roads and pavements. This required tar to be laid over a base of virtually any material which left a surface which was strong and dust-free, a vast improvement over other road surfaces, and one which was much cheaper than other permanent surfaces. The tar macadam was put down in three lays - giving a period of time between each lay to allow the tar to "bind". The roadway into Walker's works was laid in the new method, and after several months' use showed no sign of wear and tear. A writer in the *Ayrshire Post* of 26th October 1894 records his opinions:

In the interests of the public, I paid a visit to the works of Messrs W G Walker & Sons, Hawkhill, on Wednesday afternoon, to inspect their new composition pavement, as applied to street paving. Like the discoverers of great medical remedies, the physician, if he has faith in his discovery, is not slow to experiment upon himself. In other words, he is pretty sure that it is all right, or he would try it first on one of his patients. In like manner, Messrs Walker, to demonstrate the particular utility of their new pavement, have had the roadway in front of the entrance to their extensive works laid with the new material, and after a trial of several months, and subjected to the severest traffic tests - loads of several tons making no impression thereon - it has to be pronounced, in the superlative degree, as most excellent. Its advantages of causeway, cement, asphalt, macadam, &c., are manifold. First and foremost, the cost is less than by any other system; there is comparatively no noise from traffic over it; there is no dust or mud - a desideratum; it is a humane invention, in that there is an absence of concussion, and at the same time it gives a sure footing for horses; it is easily cleansed, and can be washed as clean as a model dairy floor in a few minutes; it is not effected by weather, and does not take on the frost to the same extent as other pavements; it can be laid in less than no time. I could go on detailing its virtues for a couple of columns, but the foregoing may suffice to induce our Council Works Committee and other public bodies to consider the advisability of giving it a trial.

To begin with, the Town Council should encourage this home industry by laying Newmarket Street with this new pavement, and also the slopes at either end of the Auld Brig. The man who walks down the latter with any degree of confidence must have an accident policy in his breast - I should say, coat-tail pocket. Messrs Walker explained that in many cases it can with advantage be laid on the top of existing causeways. It just occurred to me that our Sandgate might be treated in this fashion. It is a pity that Messrs W G Walker & Sons are so near home. Had they boomed from London, Newcastle or Timbucktoo there would have been a scurry after this new pavement, and delegates would have been posted off to see its work. Truly a prophet is nothing in his own country.

The invention of "tar-macadam" is sometimes linked to the Ayrshire inventor, John Loudon Macadam (1756-1836), but this is erroneous. He did not use tar on his roads;

rather he invented a method of road construction using loose stones and gravel, arranged with a camber to deflect water from the surface. Macadamising was the recognised name for making roads to his specifications.

Other accounts state that the invention of “tar-macadam” was the brainchild of E Purnell Hooley. According to the story, Hooley was the County Surveyor of Nottinghamshire at the turn of the century. Whilst on a visit to the Denby Iron Works in Derbyshire in 1901 he noticed that a barrel of tar had burst and that the contents had seeped over a roadway comprised of slag from the furnaces. The area where the tar had spilled was hard-wearing and dust-free. Hooley decided to copy it, and set up his own company to produce tarred roads. The company was named Tar Macadam (Purnell Hooley’s Patent) Syndicate Limited, and a number of roads were laid in this manner. The company experienced financial difficulties early on, and had to be rescued. It was renamed Tarmac Limited and as such continues to this day.

In 1895 Walkers were invited to lay part of Gordon and Buchanan Streets in Glasgow with their new tar macadam method. This was keenly sought after in order to achieve a wider recognition for their new method, but the city fathers of Glasgow would not allow them to lay the tar in the three layers they had devised, and instead it was to be laid in as short a period as possible, and in a single layer. This led to some acrimonious correspondence between the council and the company, spilling over into the *Evening Citizen*. On the 26th November 1895 an article appeared in that paper under the title *The Tar Macadam a Failure*. In the report it was stated that Mr Whyte, Master of Works for the city, was antagonistic to the new paving. He even went on to say “that next to granite, wood has proved to be the best material for paving in Glasgow”. Messrs Walker were quick to respond, and a letter appeared in the *Citizen* of 2nd December 1895:

Tar Macadam. The Street Paving Problem in Glasgow. Sir - Our attention has been called to a paragraph in your issue of 26th inst., which we find contains statements not in accordance with the facts. In the case of Buchanan and Gordon Streets, which could not be closed against traffic unless between Saturday afternoon and Monday morning, we were compelled to depart from our usual method of laying our tar macadam composition for heavy traffic; while certain circumstances over which we had no control prevented us from completing the work satisfactorily at the time. Two attempts were made to remedy matters, but as the streets could not be closed for a few days they were unsuccessful. Further, we had difficulties to contend against which are apparently unavoidable in regard to city streets. A few days after it was laid Gordon Street was cut up by the Water Department, and Buchanan Street likewise passed through the same process by the Electric Lighting Department. These breakages, so soon after the composition was laid, certainly were very detrimental. The repairs referred to in your paragraph apply only to these breakages. Tar macadam may or may not be the solution of the street-paving problem, as you remarked in a leading article a few months ago; but our experience is that when it is laid by our usual method it has, next to granite, more resistance to

the Scotch system of horse-shoeing than wood. We must apologise for troubling you with this letter, but it is impossible to allow the paragraph in question to pass unchallenged. We are, &c., W G Walker & Sons, Hawkhill Chemical Works, Ayr. 29th November 1895.

The *Ayrshire Post* writer called at Hawkhill to find out Walkers' side of the story. He found that Mr Whyte had basically prejudged the success or otherwise of the tar macadam. He had been very slow in allowing Walkers a trial section of street, ultimately letting them lay a patch of Gordon and Buchanan Streets. However, he refused to allow them the same conditions as other paviors and insisted that all the work be done on a Saturday afternoon! He also advised Walkers that the depth of material on Gordon Street to the concrete foundation was four inches. This was discovered to be an error, and the depth was nearer six inches. Walkers, who had sent up sufficient composition to lay four inches, had to make do with the material they had ready. Thus, the roadway was not built to Walkers' usual specifications.

Nevertheless the *Post's* writer noted that Walkers had "laid their tar macadam paving in nearly every town of importance in Scotland, and repeated and extended orders prove the entire satisfaction it is giving. There are ample evidences that as a street paving it is at present without an equal". The writer also returned to Hawkhill and noted with satisfaction that "since I last had the privilege of inspecting it, some sixteen months since, there is not the least perceptible sign of wear. It is as good as when first laid down. Nay, I believe it is firmer and more consolidated". Walkers had in the intervening months made some improvements on their product, and developed a different method of top dressing the tar macadam. This gave the surface a skin which made it impervious to weather and abuse. This new method was tried out in the yard of Ayr Gas Works, and the *Post* journalist noted that, despite being subjected to heavy traffic and rough-shod horses, it showed no signs of failure.

The new road-surfacing business grew considerably, and many local towns commenced the re-surfacing of some of their main thoroughfares. Irvine Town Council considered laying 'Tar macadam composite pavements' in 1895. The first roads there to be covered in tarmacadam were laid in 1909.

On 29th December 1899 an application was made to Ayr Dean of Guild Court for planning permission to make additions to the Manager's House at Hawkhill Chemical Works. The warrant for this was issued on 11th January 1900, and the building was later known as 1 Somerset Road. On 24th March 1903 an application was lodged with the same Court for a cottage to be erected in Somerset Road for W G Walker & Sons, 'composition pavement manufacturers'. The architects for the cottages were J & H V Eaglesham and, though the plans were passed on 27th March 1903, the building was seemingly never erected.

Dachonite roofing was introduced around the beginning of the twentieth century. This consisted of "specially manufactured felts and bitumen compounds, superimposed in alternate layers in one, two or three coats according to circumstances, the whole being finished with a varnish and red blaes protective surface". It was used in resurfacing defective asphalt roofs, relaying metal roofs, flat roofs of garages and villas,

factories and other buildings, as well as for a vertical damp course. Dachonite met with “phenomenal success” and was used in all types of buildings, “from mansion house to country cot”. Walkers even offered a ten year guarantee on it.

At the beginning of the new century Walkers continued to grow. An advertisement from the *Ayr Directory* for 1909 lists much of their business. Included are Tar Macadam for roadways, footpaths, tennis courts, damp courses, &c. “Walker’s Sanitary Rockbuilding Composition” was produced for floors, as a vertical and horizontal damp course. “Limmer” rock asphalt was produced for roofs, floors, balconies, roadways, footpaths, &c. “Dachonite” roofing composition was supplied for flat roofs of all descriptions. The company also supplied compressed natural rock asphalt slabs, for street paving, with different thicknesses available according to traffic. The advertisement states with pride that Glasgow south side’s Gloucester Street “is paved with these slabs”.

Hugh Smith Walker lived at ‘Ernsee’, 29 Park Circus, Ayr. He married Elizabeth Robb, by whom he seems to have had only one child, Marjory Elizabeth Fiebig Walker. Marjory never married, and died in 1935 at Ayr. Hugh Walker died on 7th October 1919 at Ayr. His funeral was private, and no flowers were requested. Confirmation of his will was granted at Ayr on 13th January 1920 to Elizabeth Walker, his widow, and Marjory his daughter, who lived with them at Park Circus. John Dow Porteous, Rector at Knox Academy, Haddington, John Duncan, junior, CA, Glasgow, David Gibb Anderson, manager, Union Assurance Society, Edinburgh, and David Vass, chemical manufacturer, 10 Chalmers Road, Ayr, were the executors named in Hugh Walker’s will of 31st July 1917, and codicil of 3rd September 1917. The value of Hugh Walker’s estate was £2,642 11s. On his death both his widow and daughter moved to 21 Bellevue Road, Ayr, and the house in Park Circus was sold. Hugh’s widow, Elizabeth, died on 11th February 1928, leaving an estate of £1,890 13s 10d to her daughter.

In 1920 an application was placed before Ayr Dean of Guild Court for permission to erect a stable at Somerset Road for Messrs W G Walker. The warrant for this was issued on 21st May 1920. Larger alterations to Hawkhill Chemical Works, to the plans of William Cowie, were made in 1923. The plans for these were placed before Ayr Dean of Guild Court in December 1923. In 1927 the company produced a small leaflet entitled *Asphalte Tar Macadam & Dachonite Roofing* which was given out to prospective customers. This leaflet gave a short history of the use of tar and asphalt from Biblical times up to the 1920s. It notes that the ark constructed by Noah used tar for waterproofing, and that it was used in the construction of the Tower of Babel. Egyptians later used it in the construction of the pyramids, in embalming the dead, and in the creation of reservoirs. Many ancient cities used asphalt as a cement in construction work. In 1928 further alterations were made at Hawkhill for Walkers. The plans, designed by William Cowie, were submitted in February 1928, and the warrant issued on 2nd March 1928. By 1927 Walkers had a Glasgow office, at 120 Cuthelton Street in Parkhead, as well as an office in Edinburgh, at 44 Frederick Street.

John Walker lived at a house known as Windsor Villas, 27 Miller Road, Ayr. This street was actually the first roadway in Ayr to be laid with tarmacadam. He married Elizabeth Murdoch Donald, daughter of Robert Donald of Wellwood, Ayr, by whom he had

four children. The eldest, Robert Donald Walker, emigrated to Montreal. A second son, William Glassford Walker, was in business in Ceylon in 1930, and was later a Chartered Accountant in business in Rutland Square, Edinburgh. He later lived at 13 Barns Terrace, Ayr (1949). The third son, John Strathearn Walker, became a director of the firm of W G Walker & Sons. John Walker died some 21 months after his wife, at Miller Road, on 13th December 1930. This occurred after a long illness. In his 81st year, he was buried in Ayr's Holmston Cemetery. His will was confirmed at Ayr, the executors being James Thomson, John Strathearn Walker, John Duncan and his daughter, Jessie Davidson Walker. The value of his estate was £22,469 16s 1d.

The obituary of John Walker, which appeared in the *Ayr Advertiser* on 19th December, details some of his career:

A native of Kilmarnock, Mr Walker, as a young man, spent some time in Germany, and on returning he joined his father, the late W G Walker, who founded the business in Ayr of W G Walker & Sons, tar distillers and lamp black and vegetable black manufacturers. For a considerable number of years Mr John Walker travelled extensively in the firm's interests and at one time numbered among his business friends all the principal paint manufacturers of the older generation. About 38 years ago he was responsible, along with his brother, the late Mr Hugh S Walker - the two being then partners in the firm - for the introduction into Scotland of tar macadam as a paving for roadways. For this purpose he brought experts from Derbyshire, and his pioneer work in this direction led to important developments, the business of the firm as tar macadam and asphalt manufacturers growing to great proportions.

The *Advertiser* goes on to describe Walker as "a man of a quiet unassuming and kindly nature. He did not love the limelight, but although he took no part in public affairs he was keenly interested in the progress of Ayr, in which he had resided for close on 60 years. On more than one occasion he gifted ground to the Corporation for the purpose of carrying out road improvements in the Hawkhill district".

On the death of John Walker, the registered office of W G Walker & Sons was moved to 77 Cuthelton Street, Parkhead, Glasgow. The directors at this time were Wilfred G Sandeman, John Strathearn Walker, James Thomson and Thomas Brown. The Company Secretary, Arthur Alexander Wilson, later became another director - he was the nephew of Margaret Smith Walker and lived at 30 Robsland Avenue, Ayr. The Hawkhill Works were now classed as a branch office. The Secretary, Arthur Wilson, and James Thomson were based in Ayr, while John Strathearn (known as 'Jack') Walker was based in Glasgow, living at Strathearn, Percy Drive, Giffnock.

In 1936 John Strathearn Walker took over the 500 shares in W G Walker & Sons which had been owned by Jessie Davidson Walker. She was a spinster who lived at 13 Barns Terrace, Ayr, and who died on 10th October 1935 in Montreal. She was cremated and her ashes buried in her parents' grave in Holmston Cemetery. She left an estate of £4,650 12s 5d. John Strathearn Walker died on 27th February 1959, in Edinburgh. He had

lived latterly at 5 Churchhill in the city, and subsequently at 3 Belgrave Place. By his will, he left an estate of £5,672 10s 6d.

In 1938 ownership of the company changed somewhat, and a new registration was made in Edinburgh. The company name was changed to W G Walker & Co (Ayr) Ltd. Miss Walker's shares were bought over by the other partners, while Arthur Wilson sold his shares to James Thomson, Mrs Thomson, Thomas Brown, James McCrorie and Miss M R Brown. Notice of the change was reported in the *Ayrshire Post* of 23rd December 1938:

Amongst new companies registered in Edinburgh last week was the following:- W G Walker & Co (Ayr) Ltd, Hawkhill Works, Somerset Road, Ayr. Capital £10,000 in £1 shares, of which 5,500 are 5 per cent Cumulative Preference and 4,500 Ordinary. Private company to carry on business of tar macadam and asphalt contractors, road and haulage contractors, &c. Directors - James Thomson, contractor, 40 Carrick Road, Ayr; James Sanders McCrorie, contractor, 15 Hawkhill Avenue, Ayr; John Strathearn Walker, contractor, 60 St Bride's Road, Newlands, Glasgow; Thomas Brown, contractor, 6 St Leonard's Road, Ayr.

At the same time as the company was being reconstituted, some of the ground at Somerset Road was sold to the 'Wee Stampworks' across the road.

On the 14th April 1940 the chimney at the Hawkhill works was demolished. Although the chimney was originally part of Walker's chemical works, this part had been sold to Dickie's two years earlier. The *Ayrshire Post* of 19th April 1940 reports the passing of a local landmark:

Hawkhill Landmark Passes. When the tall chimney stalk in the Hawkhill Works was brought down by steeplejacks on Saturday afternoon one of the best known landmarks in the Hawkhill district disappeared for ever. The felling operation was carried out during the Ayr-Kilmarnock match and although the site of the chimney is within view of Somerset Park, few of the spectators saw the chimney fall. The chimney was built in 1878, and at that time was the highest in the town. The chimney stood on ground which was sold to the Scottish Stamping & Engineering Company some two years ago.

The *Post* of 26th April added a correction to this report - *This was an error. The new owners of the ground are Messrs James Dickie & Co (Drop Forgings) Ltd., Victoria Stamping Works, Ayr.* It is possible that few of the Ayr spectators witnessed the collapse of the chimney due to the fact that Ayr were beaten three goals to two by Kilmarnock!

Dane Love

A Newmilns Poisoning Case

In 1814 two men were confined to Ayr jail on capital charges, awaiting removal to Edinburgh for trial. One, a highway robber called John Worthington, felt confident of

acquittal and the other, William Paterson, envisaged a gloomier prospect. Paterson was a farmer in Braehead; he was not noted for marital fidelity and had taken up, as the saying goes, with a Marion Pringle in Newmilns, wife of a soldier serving abroad. His attachment was ardent, but flagrant in the view of the local community and the ecclesiastical authorities.

Equally reprehensible in the eyes of the townsfolk was Paterson's treatment of his wife. Soon after his entanglement with Mrs Pringle, his wife succumbed to a sudden and mysterious illness and after ten days struggle died on November 29th. Immediately rumours began to circulate that she had been poisoned, but her relatives suspected nothing improper and she was buried in Galston kirkyard three days later, their farm being in Galston parish.

At the interment, Paterson displayed every sign of grief. He attended church the following Sabbath and visited the grave, but by Monday night he was again calling on Marion Pringle, and when he was still there the following morning the house was surrounded by an angry crowd. The numbers of the outraged populace quickly increased, and in the *mêlée* Paterson was dragged from the house to the nearby river Irvine, the intention apparently to give him a ducking or worse.

He was saved by the burgh constable, who collared him and handed him over to the bailies. They in turn sent for two Justices of the Peace, Mr Nisbet of Sornhill and Mr Brown of Lanfine, who called in Dr Lyon, surgeon, and William Lambie, druggist, in Newmilns, and John Turner, surgeon in Darvel. The outcome was the issuing of a warrant by the J.Ps. to Dr Lyon, Dr Stewart of Kilmarnock and Dr Lindsay of Galston to exhume the corpse of Mrs Paterson that night, and to report the next morning. The immediate result was the arrest of William Paterson and his removal under escort to Ayr. The doctors had removed the stomach from the corpse, placed it in a suitable receptacle and, in the care of Dr Lindsay, it was dispatched the following day to Glasgow for analysis by a Dr Cleghorn.

On Saturday 10th December the Sheriff and Fiscal arrived from Ayr to examine several witnesses, and Paterson was committed for trial at the next sitting at Edinburgh. Meanwhile the townsfolk of Newmilns turned on Marion Pringle, mobbed her and subjected her to verbal abuse until they drove her from the town.

It was while in Ayr jail that Paterson was lodged with the whimsical robber packman, John Worthington, and found himself on the receiving end of his rough humour. He prophesied that he would go free while Paterson would end on the gallows. One of his little jokes was to point to an apparition of the deceased wife hovering behind Paterson, challenging him to turn and look at her if he dared.

Paterson was brought to trial before the High Court in Edinburgh, but a majority of the jury returned a verdict of not proven. The uninhibited judges of the time stated clearly that they would have voted with the minority, while there was, in the opinion of the Lord Justice Clerk, no doubt of his guilt. Paterson in exultant mood returned home in style in a chaise, only to have the still angry townspeople haul him from it, compelling him to escape by plunging across the river Irvine in spate. He sought help from the minister of Loudoun, the Rev Dr Archibald Lawrie, and made his way from there to his mother's house near Cumnock.

The indignant people of Newmilns, robbed of their prey, decided to have Paterson hung in effigy on the 17th March, the day he would have suffered if he had been condemned. On the appointed day a great assembly of people arrived from near and far to witness the mock-execution as if it were a real public hanging.

The event had been arranged to take place on an open space in front of a house in Greenholm, belonging to Paterson. Although the day was very wet the whole affair was conducted in a deliberate and solemn manner. Afterwards the effigy was cut down from the imitation gallows, packed in a box and sent to Dr Bell in Edinburgh. With it went a satirical note urging him to examine it carefully that he might improve his competence in dissection. It was generally believed that Dr Bell's evidence had swayed the jury in the case to its verdict of not proven.

As a footnote, the unlucky Worthington, found guilty on circumstantial evidence, was executed at Symington at Candlemas, 1815. His story is told in *Ayrshire Notes* 9 (Autumn 1995). With all his little tricks to frighten Paterson in Ayr prison, he had only gained the admission from him that he had not murdered his wife, but only "helped her awa'".

Braehead Farm, situated above Newmilns, and the scene of the crime, was subsequently renamed Mount Pleasant.

Sources:

A manuscript account, with additional information from "The Retrospect of an Artist's Life", by John Kelso Hunter, Kilmarnock, 1912, pp 74-75.

James Mair

Growth and Grace

The beginning of the nineteenth century is the obvious starting point for assessing the growth of the Roman Catholic religion in Ayr and district.

A survey taken in 1790 showed the number of Catholics on the Newton side of the river to be two, while on the Ayr side of the river there were none. With the arrival of the nineteenth century, however, there was an enormous influx of Irish immigrants into the district, chiefly as a result of the laying of the railway and the fast-growing demands of industry.

An organising hand was clearly needed for the Catholics; this help was supplied by a French priest, Abbé Francois Nicholas, a refugee from Lisieux in Normandy. He was ordained in 1788 when the French Revolution was making life difficult for many churchmen. Abbé Nicholas fled to England in 1792, then made his way north to Paisley, supporting himself by teaching and providing Sunday mass. In 1802 he moved to Ayr, doing pastoral work among a congregation of "poor Irish from whom I received hardly anything".

Ignoring the stipulation that their teachers had to be members of the Church of Scotland, the directors of Ayr Academy appointed the Roman Catholic priest as their

French master. The choice was a popular one, and his classes were in great demand to the extent that his fees provided a comfortable living. In 1810 Abbé Nicholas resigned his post at Ayr Academy and set himself up in Glasgow as a private tutor in French and Italian, but continued his pastoral work in Ayr among the mainly Irish congregation. Sadly the good priest died suddenly, in 1814, after a short illness.

From that date, until 1822, worship for Ayr's Catholics was a largely haphazard affair. Services were infrequent, priests being sent from Paisley if and when they could be spared. In 1822, the Roman Catholic congregation of Ayr received an enormous boost following the appointment of Father William Thomson as their local priest. Father Thomson was born in Aberdeenshire, and history was to repeat itself when nearly a century later, another priest born in the same district was to dominate the lives of Ayr Catholics.

Although located in Ayr, Father Thomson's charge - which he covered by horseback - extended from Stranraer in the south to Saltcoats in the north. During the four-year period from 1822 until 1826, when he was the only ordained priest in Ayrshire, he had neither church nor presbytery. He celebrated mass on a regular basis at the Hammermen's Hall in the Boar's Head Close in Ayr.

Always known as 'Mister', never 'Father', Thomson was a man of tremendous zeal and energy. He appealed to Catholics throughout Britain for funds to build his church. When sufficient money had been collected, he applied to Ayr Town Council for permission to build: the application was turned down on the grounds that there was "no ground for feuing to the extent that Mr Thomson specifies". However, any hostility to the Roman Catholics of Ayr that might have existed seems to have been short-lived. Permission was granted and, at the laying of the foundation stone of the Church, the Provost, Magistrates and gentlemen of Ayr were present, as well as office bearers of the local Masonic Lodges.¹ Located in John Street, the church was completed in 1827 and officially opened on June 10th. Dedicated to St Margaret, Queen of Scotland and wife of Malcolm Canmore, the church is built in a buttressed Gothic style. It was designed by James Dempster, an artist of promise, and influenced by the work of James Gillespie Graham. St Margaret's was the first post-Reformation Catholic Church to be built in Ayrshire and was described in the local press as "the most handsomest church in Ayr". Considering that a few years earlier the congregation was merely a handful of poor Irish, it was decidedly a courageous act to build a church to seat 650 parishioners.

Father Thomson continued to work for his parish and county. His faith and enthusiasm were such that inside ten years his congregation had grown to one thousand - eight hundred being from the Newton side of the river. He built a school in Elba Street for Catholic children, which opened in 1856. His long years of toil were, however, taking their toll. He retired in 1857 at the age of seventy-three and died two years later, having completed fifty-two years in the priesthood, the last thirty-five in Ayr. He is buried in the graveyard at the rear of St Margaret's Church. By the time of Father Thomson's death, further Catholic churches had been established in Kilmarnock, Dalry, Girvan, Muirkirk, Cumnock and Saltcoats.

In the 172 years since St Margaret's opened, there have been only eleven parish priests. The present incumbent, Father Patrick Keegans, was appointed in 1997 after the

sudden death of Father Martin McCluskey. However it is generally accepted that St Margaret's most influential priest this century has been Mgr Joseph McHardy. With thirty-three years' service behind him, he is second only to Father Thomson in long service to the parish. Like Father Thomson, Mgr McHardy was born in Aberdeenshire. After ordination, the Monsignor spent seven years as Professor of Classics at Blairs College, Aberdeen. He then moved south to Kirkcudbright, where he remained for twenty-seven years, his service broken only by the First World War. The Military Cross and the Freedom of Kirkcudbright were awarded to the Monsignor before his move to Ayr in 1932.

At an age when most men are thinking of retirement (he was fifty-nine at the time) the Monsignor took over the busy parish. During his period of office he pioneered the building of St Quivox Church in Prestwick, and the Church of the Good Shepherd at Dalmillig (later raised to Cathedral status) and, at the time of his death, was actively involved in the construction of St Paul's at Belmont. When he did retire at the age of ninety-two, he was the oldest practising priest in Scotland. Such was the respect he commanded that at his funeral around one hundred clerics attended, including six bishops.

Father William Thomson, a man of vision and determination, laid the foundation for the Catholic faith in Galloway, and St Margaret's in particular. His successors have built on that foundation. At present there are no fewer than fifty-one churches in the Galloway diocese, with another sixteen served from churches nearby. St Margaret's, where it all began, is undertaking a major refurbishment scheme to modernise their church. Costing over £500,000, it will take them forward into the twenty-first century.

Ayrshire Catholics are fortunate indeed to have had priests of the calibre of Father William Thomson and Monsignor Joseph McHardy.

George Wade

1. *Editor's note:* The granting of a site for the church in John Street should not be seen as indicative of any change of heart on the part of the Town Council, as John Street was outwith their jurisdiction. The feu superior in John Street was John Taylor of Blackhouse, who was likely to have put his own financial benefit before any religious feeling he may have had.

The Riot at Deans Mill A Disturbance in Maybole, 1831.

Direct action, it seems, is always with us. Genetically modified crops, new roads, the export of live beasts for slaughter, airport extensions, fox-hunting, the price of sheep: in recent times these and other issues have prompted people to attempt, by means of disruption and force of numbers, to succeed where legitimate avenues, if used at all, have failed. This article concerns an example of direct action in Ayrshire in the last century. The

focus of the agitation was the potato, that humble root vegetable whose introduction to Europe changed the face of society.

On 17th November 1831 the editor of the *Air Advertiser* shared with his readers his concern at the lawlessness which was evident in all parts of the country. There were riots and disturbances at Bristol, Preston, Coventry and other places. The occasion of the recent riot in Coventry was a reduction in wages, in response to which “the mob rose and destroyed the looms in a steam power factory, and afterwards reduced to ashes the building itself”. At the general election in May 1831 there had been riots in Ayr and elsewhere in Scotland. “Anarchy and confusion” could only be averted, argued the editor, by “speedily and effectually, carrying into a law the Reform Bill”, with or without the support of the Lords.

No less serious than the violence in Coventry, in proportion to the size of the town, was the action taken by the weavers in Maybole against the enterprise recently commenced by James Underwood (age 50). Underwood had for some time been producing potato flour in Girvan. In September 1831 he moved his operation to Maybole, contracting with James Hepburn (45) at Deans mill for the use of the “lower flat” of the mill and for power from his water wheel. Hepburn operated his woollen mill on the “upper flat”. According to the report in the *Air Advertiser* on 17th November 1831, the object of the transfer was to carry on the business more extensively. However one of the rioters, John Baird, was later quoted by special constable Andrew Baird [no relation] as having said: “they had put the miller away from Girvan, and would be damned but they would put him away from Maybole unless he gave up working”.

Underwood set up his grinding and sieving machinery in Hepburn’s mill, and began his operation in the first week of November. Within a few days Hepburn heard of some agitation in Maybole, and asked him to quit. Underwood said that the people of Maybole had not complained to him, but that “Hepburn had told him that some old women had determined to destroy the mill” and he did not take this seriously. But it was not simply a matter of old women. The attack on Deans mill was agreed in Maybole on the evening of Saturday 12th November. The next day being Sunday, the action was planned for Monday 14th; the perpetrators were prepared to destroy machinery but not on the Sabbath.

That Monday a large crowd gathered in the Kirklands of Maybole. Many of those present were weavers: of the 12 subsequently charged, 10 were weavers and one the son of a manufacturer residing in Weaver Vennal in Maybole. The gathering came to the attention of Walter Andrews (36), a writer (solicitor) in Maybole and procurator fiscal for the burgh. Since the Kirklands was outwith the jurisdiction of the burgh, he gave notice to the Justice of Peace Fiscal. Then Andrews, in the company of Andrew Baird (52), a merchant in Maybole and a special constable, and a Mr Brown not otherwise mentioned in accounts of the incident, went to observe the proceedings. The crowd surrounded Andrews, and a man whom he later learnt was John Baird acknowledged that the purpose of the meeting was to destroy the potato machinery at Deans mill. Andrews remonstrated with them, pointing out that the action they intended was both unlawful and dangerous, but Baird “damned himself” that they would do it. Another young man said that they might send out constables, but “they would do for them”. One might say that feelings were running high.

They proceeded to their work before constables could be raised. Many were armed with sticks and similar weapons, and some were carrying an effigy of a man, which was thrown into the mill stream at the end of the affair. However one of their number had sought something worse. Alexander Gibson (14) had earlier that morning called on Gilbert



McCrinkle at his farm of Thornbrock, situated on Piper's Hill above the mill. Gibson had asked to borrow a pistol, ostensibly for sport; McCrinkle told him that he had only his cavalry pistol and it was not for shooting at "birds or game". McCrinkle later thought that Gibson had mentioned that the machinery of the potato mill was to be wrecked that day.

From the 1st OS Ayrshire sheet 44. The rioters took the road past Fordhouse Mill. Note that there was no railway in 1831.

Thomas Aird (21) was at his usual employment, breaking stones in the street near Well Trees toll when, at about 1 o'clock, he saw the crowd. They did not carry on down the new road past the toll, but turned off by Allan's Hill on the old road leading to the mill. He followed but did not cross the mill burn. It was the evidence given by Aird, and by others who like him had observed from a safe distance, that formed the case against those accused.

Although, or perhaps because, the attack was expected, Andrew Hepburn was not at his mill or his nearby house, but was on business in Maybole. His son John (15), who said there had been a previous report about what was to be done, was there; also his daughter Janet, James Underwood and Underwood's employee, Helen Beaumont (45).

And so they arrived at Deans mill, crossing the burn by the wooden bridge. Some immediately surrounded James Underwood, who came out to meet them. Others entered the building. They told Underwood to stop his mill, which he did. They claimed that he was grinding from 8 to 10 bolls of potatoes every day, that he was paying 8s.6d. per boll, and that in consequence the price of potatoes in Maybole had risen one half penny a peck. In response Underwood said that he ground only one or two bolls a day, and that "instead of raising the market" he would sell them potatoes at 6s. a boll.¹ One of the men agreed that they would desist "until the matter was investigated".

But it was too late. While some made a ring around Underwood and told him their grievance, others had entered the mill and were already carrying out his machinery, which they proceed to break with sticks. Some of the crowd went and fetched Janet Hepburn from the house, to point out what belonged to her father, so that it could be spared. She saw them take a cylinder and two wheels of Underwood's outside and smash them to pieces with sticks and stones. They asked her for an axe, but she refused. Iron was carried off and some machinery was dumped in the burn.

Rankine Kennedy (20) named those he saw at the centre of the action, including William Milligan, Thomas Aird, Charles Fisher, John Craig and John Baird. He heard Underwood offer to sell potatoes at 6s. a boll and flour at 1d. a pound, but after that he heard someone shout "By Jasad pull her down" (many of the weavers were Irish). Then he saw a large grater brought out and a crowd smash it with sticks.

Later Andrew Hepburn, returning from his business in Maybole, met a large crowd coming from his mill, but he could not identify anyone. However his daughter Janet and son John both gave evidence against some of the mob.

Twelve men were charged with being part of the mob which had advanced upon Deans mill in a "riotous and tumultuous manner, to the terror and alarm of the lieges, and the disturbance of the public peace" and which did "in a violent, and illegal, and tumultuous manner, and upon the unlawful pretence that the business so carried on by James Underwood had a tendency to raise the price of potatoes, break in pieces and destroy the machinery" and associated acts. Five were also charged with absconding.

Thomas Aird labourer, Charles Fisher (22), James Neill (c.20) and John Craig (18) weavers, and Alexander Gibson, son of Mathew Gibson manufacturer, were incarcerated in the jail in Ayr on Monday 21st November. Gibson was released on 22nd November "having found caution". Thomas Griffin (12/13) joined those in jail on 5th December, William Muir (37) weaver on the 7th and John McCulloch (34) weaver on the 8th. The men who had absconded immediately after the incident were John Baird, James Smith, William Milligan, and John Morrison weavers, and Thomas Smith, occupation not recorded. No record has been found of their subsequent arrest and trial, at least in the period to 1840.

Witnesses were interviewed twice, because the Crown Counsel was dissatisfied with the first precognitions. He sent a note to Alexander Murdoch, the Procurator Fiscal at the County Buildings in Ayr, setting out his complaints. At the suggestion of Crown Counsel Thomas Aird, whom Murdoch had intended to charge, was pressed to become a witness against the others. Counsel desired more evidence to make out a case against Smith (though whether James or Thomas he did not say) and Milligan, who were identified as the bearers of the effigy, and against Baird, Griffin and Morrison, who were among the worst of the rioters.

At some point the six men in custody were transferred to the tollbooth in Edinburgh, but they were returned to Ayr on 18th February 1832, and were brought to trial at the Circuit Court there on 6th April. All pleaded guilty to mobbing and rioting, and a further charge of malicious damage was dropped. They were sentenced to 4 months imprisonment in Ayr, after which they were to be bound over for two years on surety of £10. Alexander Gibson, who was tried on the same day and who also pleaded guilty to the same charges, was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment (because he had been at liberty while the others had been in jail awaiting trial) and was bound over in the same terms.

Perhaps in the light of the judge Lord Meadowbank's remarks, as reported in the *Ayr Advertiser* on 12th April 1832 and reproduced here, the sentences were light:

“Lord Meadowbank said that mobbing and rioting was a crime of a most heinous nature, and must be repressed. Public property could have no security whatever if crimes of this description were to go unchecked and unpunished. The lower order seemed to be blindly prejudiced against this branch of manufacture. In place of lowering the price of the article, as they falsely supposed, such depredations, by destroying this most necessary article of food, raised the price of other produce, and prevented those concerned in such manufactures from giving employment to the industrious poor. Potatoes were a species of food which, unless converted into another form, could not be preserved for any period. This was a striking instance of the headstrong ignorance of the lower orders as to the consequences of their unlawful outrages. It only required to be pointed out, in order that any man of common intellect might see at once, that, by stopping the manufacture of any article of food, they raised the price of other commodities, and, this, brought misery on themselves and their neighbours. It is grievous to think that people will be so infatuated. This, however, is only one view of the case. Another and a not less important view is the eagerness with which this disposition for rioting spreads, and the vile contagion with which the ring-leaders infect others who are weak or ignorant enough to support them. The person who joins a mob which commits an outrage, although he uses no violence himself, is nevertheless as guilty of mobbing and rioting, in the eyes of the law, as if he had taken an actual part in its illegal proceedings. How often does it happen that the instigator of a mob escapes, while some ill-advised individual, who, perhaps, never lifted his arm to commit violence, is punished for the crime! The law on this point reads a strong

lesson to individuals, generally, to beware of listening to the advice of those, who, older in crime than themselves, would wish their aid in infringing upon the laws of their country. Were such meetings and riotings to be allowed to go unpunished, it is impossible to say where the violence would stop. When a riot is raised, and evil-disposed minds come in contact, the whole mass becomes corrupt - and resist the authority of the magistracy and the laws of the country - and pillage and murder are the too-frequent consequences. There were three things by which he would be swayed in the present instance. First, that one of the charges had been withdrawn, secondly, the certificates of good character, third, the term already served.”

Meanwhile James Underwood, who had seen his machinery and his livelihood destroyed, had taken an action before the sheriff against the “Clerk of Supply for behoof of the County”, for the losses he had sustained. The sheriff found that the county was liable in full, and that these together with the expenses amounted to £42.6s.4d. The commissioners were entitled to levy an assessment for this sum on all lands in the county, according to valued rent. However, taking into account the expense of making such a levy, and regarding the sum as “not very large”, the commissioners decided on 30th April 1832 to pay Underwood out of the rogue money.

Underwood’s damages were equivalent to about £4,000 today. An interesting comparison may be made with the annual income of a handloom weaver. Following a long period of decline, by the 1830s, handloom weavers such as those in Maybole were living in destitution. According to Smout, “[t]here were plenty struggling on family incomes of five shillings a week in the 1830s who in 1815 would have earned a full £1 for the same work”. £42.6s.4d. amounted to three or four times the annual income of handloom weavers’ families. The mobbing and rioting sprang from the desperation of men who, rightly or wrongly, believed that the potato mill was raising the price of the commodity which alone stood between their families and starvation.

‘Deans Mill’ still appears on OS maps, though I think none of the 1831 buildings remain; the topography has of course been much changed by the advent of the railway.

And what became of them, the seven convicted and the five who absconded? Well, the census returns for 1841, 1851 and so on are available on microfilm in the Carnegie Library: there is a starting point.

David McClure

1. In Scots dry measure, 16 pecks equal 1 boll. For wheat, peas, beans, meal etc, 1 Scots peck was approximately equal to 1 Imperial peck (2 gallons), and 1 boll was approximately equal to 4 bushels. For barley, oats and malt, 1 Scots peck was approximately equal to 1.5 Imperial pecks (3 gallons), and 1 boll was approximately equal to 6 bushels. There were also local variations. [*The Concise Scots Dictionary*, ed. Mairi Robinson (1987 ed.)].

The Accused

Name	Age	Occupation	Residing	
James Neill	about 20	weaver	near Ballony, or Mason Row near Ballony	convicted
Charles Fisher	22	weaver	Quarry Glen or Quarry Hill	convicted
John Craig	28	weaver	Boag	convicted
Thomas Griffin	12			convicted
William Muir	37	weaver	Old Toll of Welltrees of Maybole	convicted
John McCulloch	34	weaver	Kirkwinds of Maybole	convicted
Alexander Gibson	14		Weaver Vennal	convicted
John Baird		weaver	Weaver Vennal	absconded
James Smith		weaver	Maybole	absconded
William Milligan		weaver	Maybole	absconded
Thomas Smith			Welltrees of Maybole	absconded
John Morrison		weaver	Weaver Vennal	absconded

Sources:

1. AD14/32/317; indictment, precognitions, correspondence. National Archives of Scotland (West Register House).
2. JC12/41; records of the South Circuit 21/9/1830 to 14/4/1832; contains the convictions. National Archives of Scotland (West Register House).
3. *Ayr Advertiser* 17/11/1831, 24/11/1831, 12/4/1832. Carnegie Library, Ayr.
4. CO3/1/9; minute book of the Ayrshire Commissioners of Supply (p112, 30/4/1832). Ayrshire Archives.
5. B6/15/19-20; Ayr Burgh Register of Incarcerations, Arrestments and Loosings Thereof, 1830-1840. Carnegie Library, Ayr.
6. *New Statistical Account of Scotland*, Vol.V pp.348-380, Rev. George Gray, Maybole, September 1837.
7. T C Smout, *A History of the Scottish People, 1560-1830* (1969).
8. Note the recently published: Larry Zuckerman, *The Potato* (Macmillan 1999).

An 18th-Century Inventory of Kilhenzie Castle

Kilhenzie Castle, in the parish of Maybole, is one of the least-known of Ayrshire's many castles. As Davis notes, "this delectable little castle, dating from the 16th or 17th centuries and delightfully restored and altered in the mid-19th century, is little known and deserves greater appreciation".¹ The restoration appears to have been carried out in the 1850s for the Fergussons of Kilkerran. Paterson records that the earliest family associated with the property were the Bairds of Kilhenzie, from whom it seems to have been acquired by Alexander Kennedy of Craigoch, afterwards designated 'of Kilhenzie'. It remained in the family of Kennedy of Kilhenzie until 1766, when the heiress married John Shaw of Dalton.² In 1691 7 hearths are recorded "in Killinzie's own house".³

The following inventory, found in the records of the Commissary Court of Glasgow, was made following the death of John Kennedy of Kilhenzie, and given in March 1750 by his son and heir, Ensign Alexander Kennedy.⁴ It may be typical of the furnishing of a small Ayrshire laird's house of this period:-

- In the kitchen twenty nine plain and ten broth timber trenchers, ten big plates and two ashets all pewter weighing in whole eighty pound at sixpence per pound inde⁵ twenty four pound Scots
- Item, a big silver spoon and ten small ones weighing twenty eight ounces in whole Dutch weight at five shillings sterling per ounce inde eight four pound Scots
- Item, a jug and two salts of silver weighing twelve ounces Dutch weight at five shillings sterling per ounce inde thirty-six pound Scots
- Item, a shagreen case with twelve knives and forks silver hafted at forty four pound Scots
- Item, six breakfast knives silver hafted at four pound eight shilling Scots
- Item, ten table knives & forks bone hafted and six breakfast knives also bone-hafted at two pound eight shilling Scots
- Item, one big dish, two ashets and a dozen trenchers, all [leam]⁶ severall of them being cracked at three pound Scots
- Item, a pair [rases], dreeping pan & standard and four spectts at five pound Scots
- Item, a brander, a frying pan, a saucepan, ane old little brass pan and ane goblet pan of copper at four pound ten shilling Scots
- Item, four iron pots wheerof two little and two bigger at six pound Scots
- Item, three pair brass candlesticks at three pound Scots
- Item, two copper coffee pots, a brass coffee [], a brass pistoll and mortar, a timber pistoll and mortar all at ten pounds sixteen shilling Scots
- Item, a yealling oven at one pound sixteen shilling Scots
- Item, two basons, a flagon being a pint one and a choppin flagon all pewter at four pound Scots

- Item, a white iron drawer, a cran, a pair tongs, a fire shovell, a chaffer, a girdle, a chopping knife, a toasting iron, three smoothing irons, a footman ⁷ and []inter, a coal riddle and a [batzie] all at seven pound four shilling Scots
- Item, ane old grate, three crooks, one pair pot bowls, five timber cogues, two timber plates, ten horn spoons and a timber ladle at six pound one shilling Scots
- Item, a mortar stone for knocking bear, a timber miln and a beatle for beatling cloath at one pound Scots
- Item, in the milk house, a timber milk stoup, three basins, two milk crooks, two butter crocks, a milk sieve, a church & [staff], a pistoll dish and three cheese fats also at five pound six shilling Scots
- In the pantry, a meall barrel, a grote barrell, a salt barrell, six lead weights weighing two stone fifteen pound and a half and a weigh baulk and two [buckres] for weighing meall alls at six pound four shilling Scots
- In the brewhouse a fixed copper and fixed steel both old at sixty pounds Scots
- Item, four old hogsheads, a mashing vat, two mashers and a horn, four jugs and two little ones at sevens pounds twelve shilling Scot
- In the cellar ten dozen choppin bottles and six mutchkin bottles at six pound six shilling Scots
- Item, three barrells for salts and meall, and two barrells for herrings, ane little old rack, nine twenty pint casks all at seven pound eighteen shilling Scots
- In the laigh room, a four stouped bed, a feather bed, bolster and two pillows blue hangings, a bed cloath, ane old iron grate, a pair of tongs, a poker, [] & shovell, a little square table, four old chairs all at thirty one pound four shilling Scots
- In the laigh dining room, ane old iron grate, a pair of tongs, a poker and fire shovell, a big and little folding table both of plaintree and much worm-eaten, ane old tea-table, ane old easy chair, two old armchairs and six very old chairs, some whereof broken and ane old screen, all at twelve pound ten shilling Scots
- In the high dining room, ane iron grate, tongs, shovel and poker, two old folding tables of plaintree, eleven old kane chairs, most of them broken, at eight pound ten shilling Scots
- In the Green Room, a striped bed with green hangings, a feather bed, a bolster and two and two ⁸ pillows, green window hangings, a looking glass, a chest of half drawers, a cabinet or scritore, four old chairs, and a little square table in whole at seventy five pound eught shilling Scots

- In the Yellow Room, a grate, tongs, poker, a striped bed with yellow hangings, a feather bed, bolster and two pillows, a bed cloath, window hangings, a big looking glass, a little table and old big chair and six other chairs at sixty pound Scots
- In the Stripped Room, a bedstead with striped hangings, a feather bed, bolster and one pillow, a grate, tongs, poker and shovell, three rush-bottomed chairs, a little old table, a bed cloath, all at twenty one pound four shilling Scots
- In the High Blue Room, a bedstead with blue hangings, a bed cloath with feather bed, bolster and two pillows, a grate, tongs, poker and shovell, three old chairs covered with leather and a little looking glass, all at twenty one pound eighteen shilling Scots
- In the High Dining Room press, three glass decanters, three big drinking glasses, three pewter glasses and one glass server, a little frame for holding glasses with oil & mustard, [], and a table having five glasses in it at eight pound two shilling Scots
- In the Nursery two very old bedcloaths at two pound Scots.
- In the Laigh Dining Room press, six china cups and plats, five china coffee cups, five old silver tea spoons, two earthen tew pots and a milk dish, a china sugar box and six drinking glasses all at thirteen pound four shilling Scots.
- In the Stable a hock and mager with ane old bedstead for servants at four pound Scots.
- Item, sixteen pair half worn blankets and fifteen pair old blankets upon the whole beds and in the house at forty pound eight shilling Scots
- Item, a press within the closet of the Green Room, twelve dozen of naperly with nine table cloaths, eight pairs sheets, twenty-nine towells and twenty-three pillow[bers] all at one hundred and eighty pound five shillings Scots
- Item, ten table cloaths. three dozen and nine napkins, one dozen towells, eight [codwares], ten pair old sheets and six pairs old sheets for servants at forty five pound eighteen shilling Scots
- Item, the defunct's body cloaths and ane old silver watch at forty eight pound Scots
- Item, three chamber boxes with three loam water pots and two pewter ones at four pound two shilling Scots
- Item, a punch bowl, two loam washing basons both cracked, at one pound ten shilling Scots
- Item, a small weight baulk with scales, a four pound brass weight wanting some drops and broken in the hinges at three pound Scots
- Item, the defunct's library of which there is a particular inventory lodged in the hands of the clerk of court all at two hundred and sixteen pound Scots

Item, a small microscope, a pair of spectacles, a white iron ink stand dish and about two hundred nails at one pound sixteen shilling Scots

Item, a hand vice, a pair of compasses, a gemlot, three files, a small hand saw, ten old instruments for wrightwork such as furmars chisells, a pair old holster pistols and ane old plain all at three pound eighteen shilling Scots

Item, ane folding table, and old cloak bag and a pair vallees at two pound sixteen shilling Scots;

Item, two old arks one for meall and another for malt at eight pounds Scots

In the house at Maybole, four iron grates consisting of four cross ribbs in each at three pound Scots

Item, in said house, a striped bed and two tent beds with old hangings and ane old box bed at twenty pounds Scots

Item, in said house, ane old chest of drawers at nine pound Scots.

The inventory also details Kennedy's farm stock and farm implements, as well as money owing to him, mostly rent on the various farms which belonged to the estate, including 'Colhounstoun', now known as Kewnston.

Rob Close

1. Michael Davis, *Castles and Mansions of Ayrshire*, Ardrishaig, 1991, 297.
2. James Paterson, *History of the County of Ayr, vol II*, Paisley, 1852, 356-357.
3. Robert H J Urquhart and Rob Close, *The Hearth Tax for Ayrshire 1691*, Ayr, 1998, 17.
4. National Archives of Scotland, CC9/7/61, folios 13 to 19.
5. Latin, "from there".
6. One meaning of 'lame' 'leam', &c., is "earthenware, china". [*The Concise Scots Dictionary*, Mairi Robinson, ed., Aberdeen, 1987 edition, 355]
7. OED records one meaning as "a stand to support a kettle, &c., before the fire", first recorded in 1767.
8. So repeated in the original; presumably a clerical error.

Sweet Bargany House

How to achieve publication is a perennial problem for poets. Recently a major publisher discontinued its poetry list - to howls of protest. Little magazines, vanity publishing and the worldwide web are just some of the alternative avenues available to the aspiring poet. One such Ayrshire man in the nineteenth century seized the opportunity presented to him as enumerator for one of the districts of Dailly parish to preserve an example of his work for posterity. Thanks to the peculiar interests of a church headquartered in Salt Lake City, these verses can be read by anyone who requests the microfilm of the 1851 census.

Ivie Willet was the parochial schoolmaster. He was 49, came from Ochiltree, and lived with two Catherines - his mother, 86, and his sister, 43 - in a dwelling house and garden in the village. He owned the property. Whether extolling the beauties of the estate of the local laird was something he viewed as a good career move, or the expression of an artistic temperament, we cannot say, but we can imagine him showing the completed census return with pride to his mother and sister in his little house in Dailly.

See the lovely Lady Farm
Grove-encircl'd - what a charm!
Pastures rich with spangled flowers,
Tangled woods and Virgin bowers.

Lofty green hills circle round
Thrilling woods on Girvan's ground;
Birds and bees with mingled glees
Hover round these Linden trees.

Downwards to the garden gay
Beauties mix in every way,
Lady walks embower'd complete,
Girvan gliding at your feet.

Sweet Bargany House doth stand
On the Richest of the land,
Beautified with every grace
That can ornament a place.

Ivie Willet (1851); notes by David McClure

Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies

SWAP SHOP

Notice is given that the Federation's Swap Shop for 1999 will be held on Sunday 24th October 1999. The venue will be the new Ayrshire Archives office at Craigie, Ayr. It is also hoped to include a visit to the recently restored Craigie House. The event will begin at the Archives at 2 p.m. Members of the Federation will be sent details in due course, but, as with all events, the more the merrier. Further details from either Rob Close or Jo Happell.

Apart from the chance to look behind the scenes at the archives, the Swap Shop is a long established Federation event, which gives member societies a chance to meet with

one another, and to discuss items of mutual interest, exchange names of potential speakers, discuss visits, &c.

CONFERENCE 2000

The Federation committee has agreed that we should hold a conference in 2000. The venue will be the Walker Halls in Troon, and the date is Saturday 7th October 2000. The theme is to be transport and trade in the Clyde area, and we already have a number of speakers confirmed. All members of the Federation and of the AANHS are asked to note the date in their diaries, as we hope for a large attendance.

Further details and booking forms will be circulated next year.

BARBARA GRAHAM

At the AGM in Stewarton, the John Strawhorn Award for 1999 was presented to Barbara Graham of Kilmarnock. As well as running the careers advisory service at the University of Strathclyde, Barbara has always found time for a wide range of extra-mural interests. Although she is not currently involved in local history in Ayrshire, she is responsible for the establishment, and continuation on a sound footing, of the Kilmarnock and District History Group, of the Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies, and of the Ayrshire Sound Archive. Barbara has also authored or edited a number of important books on the history of Kilmarnock. She is a worthy recipient of the John Strawhorn Award.

Diary

- AANHS: Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. Meetings in Carnegie Library, Ayr, at 7.45 p.m.
- CSD: Catrine Sorn & District History Society. Meetings in A M Brown Institute, Catrine, at 7.30 p.m.
- DHS: Dundonald Historical Society. Meetings in Sheltered Housing, Dundonald, at 7.30 p.m.
- KCCS: Kyle and Carrick Civic Society. Meetings in Loudoun Hall, Ayr, at 7.30 p.m.
- KDHG: Kilmarnock & District History Group. Meetings in Kilmarnock College at 7.30 p.m.
- LDHS: Largs and District Historical Society. Meetings in Largs Museum at 7.30 p.m.
- L(MS): LDHS, Marine Section. Meetings in Largs Museum at 7.30 p.m.
- SHS: Stewarton Historical Society. Meetings in St Columba's Church Hall, Stewarton at 7.30 p.m.

September 1999

Thu 23rd CSD Guthrie Hutton Millenium Link - The Canals of Scotland

October 1999

Mon 4th	KCCS	Brian Park	Intervention, Conservation?
Mon 4th	SHS	J Forrester	World War One
Mon 4th	L(MS)	J M Baxter	The Underwater Beauty of St Kilda
Tue 5th	KDHG	John Burnett	Ayrshire Milk for the People of Glasgow
Thu 7th	AANHS	Shannon Fraser	Seeing and Believing: Monuments, Landscape and the Human Body in Neolithic Arran
Tue 12th	LDHS	Callum Brown	Oral History
Wed 13th	DHS	Hugh Anderson	Pens
Thu 14th	CSD		Living Memories Evening with Auchinleck Living Memories Group
Tue 19th	KDHG	Suzanne Gilbert	James Hogg the Ettrick Shepherd
Thu 28th	AANHS	Andrew Scott-Martin	Dean Castle Country Park
Thu 28th	CSD	J A Goodlad	Iceland: Land of Fire, Ice and Desert

November 1999

Mon 1st	SHS	Kevin Wilbraham	Ayrshire Archives
Mon 1st	KCCS	Fred Dinning	Energy and Environment: Challenges for the Future
Mon 1st	L(MS)	David McMillan	Hi-Speed Ferry Operation
Tue 2nd	KDHG	John Hume	Mills in Ayrshire
Wed 10th	DHS	Ken Andrew	North Ayrshire
Thu 11th	CSD	Members' Night	Catrine at War, and Other Dramatic Events
Thu 11th	AANHS	John Picken	The Dark Ages in Galloway
Tue 16th	KDHG	Simon Bennett	The Records of Andrew Barclay
Thu 25th	AANHS	Roland Paxton	The Kilmarnock & Troon Railway 1811-1846 and its Significance
Thu 25th	CSD	Alastair Hendry	House of Fail
Thu 25th	LDHS	Lord Glasgow	The Trials and Tribulations of Running a Country Park
Tue 30th	KDHG	George B Thomson	St Kilda: The Forgotten Islands

December 1999

Wed 1st	DHS	Stuart Little	Prestwick
Mon 6th	KCCS	Gavin Sprott	Kittochside
Mon 6th	SHS	Alastair Hendry	Ayrshire Witchcraft
Mon 6th	L(MS)	Members	More Hairy Tales
Thu 9th	AANHS	Eric Graham	Robert Arthur of Irvine: C18 Merchant Adventurer and Smuggler
Tue 14th	KDHG	Stuart J Wilson	World War II - a Members' Mementoes Night

January 2000

Mon 10th	SHS	Bruce Morgan	Conservation at the Dick Institute
Mon 10th	KCCS	Owen Dudley Edwards	Scottish Identity and the Scottish Culture
Mon 10th	L(MS)	Helen Drummond	Behind the Tall Ships
Tue 11th	KDHG	Bill McGregor	Single or Return: Bus and Coach Journeys of Yesteryear
Thu 13th	AANHS	Ken Andrew	South-west Scotland from the Air
Thu 13th	CSD	Jim and Tony Kleboe	Catrine's Forgotten Legacies
Tue 25th	KDHG	Murray Wilson	An Ayrshire Man in the American Civil War
Thu 27th	CSD	Angus Hogg	Birds of Morocco
Thu 27th	AANHS	Ian Ralston	Hillforts in Scotland and Beyond
Thu 27th	LDHS	Adam Jackson	Rescue Archaeology on the Euphrates River

February 2000

Mon 7th	KCCS	Rosemary Watt	The Burrell Collection
Mon 7th	SHS	Alex Young	Ayrshire Hangings
Mon 7th	L(MS)	J Gordon Law	The Royal Route ... and the Coll Firestation
Tue 8th	KDHG	Alma Topen	A Pint to be Proud of: History of Brewing in Scotland
Thu 10th	AANHS	Members	Short Papers
Thu 10th	CSD	Members' Evening	Local Burns Connections
Tue 22nd	KDHG	Margery McCulloch	Janet Schaw's Voyage to the West Indies 1774-76: The Journey Burns Didn't Make
Thu 24th	CSD	John Hall	A Burns Evening
Thu 24th	AANHS	Frances Wilkins	David Dunlop & Co., the Loans Smugglers

March 2000

Mon 6th	SHS	Ian Macdonald	David Dale and Stewarton
Mon 6th	KCCS	Caroline Kelly	Community Arts in East Ayrshire
Tue 7th	KDHG	Charles McKean	Decoding late C16 Scotland: The Maps of Timothy Pont
Wed 8th	DHS	Martin Bellamy	North Ayrshire Museum
Thu 9th	AANHS	Mike Callan	Forest, Ben and Glen
Tue 21st	KDHG	Brian Moffat	Healthcare in the Middle Ages: Pointers from the Unique Soutra Investigations
Thu 23rd	CSD	Tom McClatchie	Countryside Slide Show
Thu 30th	LDHS	A A M Duncan	William Wallace

April 2000

Mon 3rd	SHS		AGM and Social Evening
Mon 3rd	L(MS)	Bill Laing	No Ohms but More Watts
Wed 12th	DHS	John Barbour	Hospital Radio
Thu 13th	CSD	Rob Close	J & R S Ingram

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