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The Finnie Kettle: an Ayrshire curling trophy

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Cover illustration

The Finnie Kettle: see the article on p.16.

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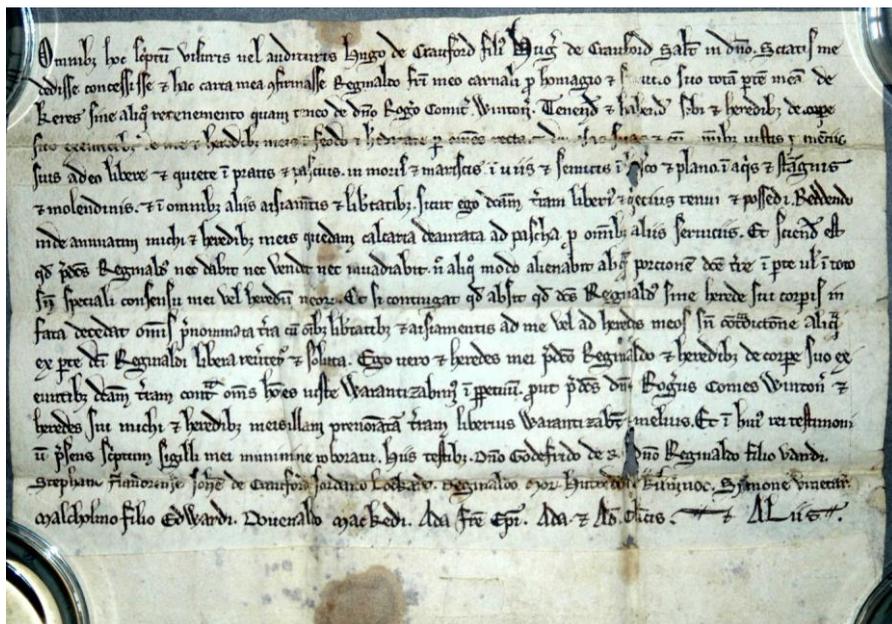
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A Charter of Keres

by Alex Maxwell Findlater

In 1930 The 4th Marquis of Bute bought a substantial part of the Loudoun archive. Within this archive are many charters relating to lands held by the Campbell Earls of Loudoun. Two¹ of these charters have already been published, LO/1/3 and LO/1/4, both of which are grants by Alan of Galloway to Hugh I de Craufurd, the one of the lands of Crosbie and the other of one third of the town of Stevenston, both in Cunningham. The Campbells of Loudoun were the successors of the Craufurds of Loudoun. The Craufurds had ended in two heiresses² who came of age during the wars of independence, probably in the later 1310s. These were Susanna and Alicia, daughters of Andrew de Craufurd. The elder, Susanna, married Duncan son of Sir Donald Campbell perhaps some time after 1310, while the younger had already married Sir Neil Campbell in about 1303. This paper is a transcription and discussion of LO/1/5, which is a grant by Hugh II de Craufurd to his brother Reginald of part of the lands of *Keres*’.



LO/1/5

Omnibus hoc scriptum visuris vel auditoris Hugo de Crauford filius Hugonis de Crauford salutem in domino: **Sciatis** me dedisse concessisse et hac carta mea confirmasse Reginaldo fratri meo carnali pro homagio et servicio^a suo totam partem

meam de Keres' sine aliquo retenemento quam teneo de domino Rogero Comite Winton'. **Tenendam** et habendam sibi et heredibus de corpore suo exeuntibus de me et heredibus meis in feodo et hereditate per omnes rectas divisas suas et cum omnibus justis et meneriis^b suis adeo libere et quiete in pratis et pascuis in moribus et mariscis in viis et semitis in bosco^c et plano in aquis et stangnis et molendinis et in omnibus aliis aisiamentis et libertatibus. Sicut ego dictam terram liberius et quiecius tenui et possedi. **Reddendo** inde annuatim michi et heredibus meis quedam calcaria deaurata ad pascha pro omnibus aliis serviciis. Et sciendum est quod predictus Reginaldus nec dabit nec vendet nec invadiabit, nec aliquo modo alienabit aliquam portionem dicte terre in parte vel in toto sine speciali consensu mei vel heredum meorum. Et si contingat quod absit quod dictus Reginaldus sine herede sui corporis in fata decedat omnis prenominata terra cum omnibus libertatibus et aisiamentis ad me vel ad heredes meos sine contradictione aliqua ex parte dicti Reginaldi libera revertetur et soluta. **Ego vero** et heredes mei predicto Reginaldo et heredibus de corpore suo exeuntibus dictam terram contra omnes homines juste warrantizabimus in perpetuum prout predictus dominus Rogerus Comes Wintonie et heredes sui michi et heredibus meis illam prenominatam terram liberius warrantizabit et melius. **Et in huius rei** testimonium presens scriptum sigilli mei munimine roboravi. Hiis testibus Dno Godefrido de R(os). Dno Reginaldo filio udardi. Stephano Flandrense Johanne de Crauford Jordano Lockardo. Reginaldo Mor. Huctredo de^d Kilmernoc. Symone vinetar'. malcholmo filio Edwardi. Dovenaldo mackedi. Ada fratre episcopi. Ada. et Ada clericis et^e Aliis.

HAND a regular, but not fine charter hand: bold text is for punctuation, and does not reflect the original

SOURCE Mount Stuart, Isle of Bute, Marquis of Bute's Muniments, LO/1/5

NOTES ^a supply *erv* ^b written *me'riis* ^c supply *bo*, obscured by the fold ^d supply *de*, which the fold obscures ^e long stroke to *et*.

Hugh son of Hugh de Crauford grants to Reginald de Crauford, his brother, that part of Keres' which he holds from Roger de Quincy, earl of Winchester. It is to be held by him and the heirs of his body, without any retention, with all rights, courts (*meneriis*, manors, here meaning manorial courts, I think), easements and liberties, for the *reddendo* of a gilt spur, to be presented at Easter. Reginald is forbidden to alienate or mortgage (*nec dabit nec vendet nec invadiabit*) the property without consent, and if Reginald should have no heirs, it shall revert to Hugh or his heirs. The date is argued below to be fairly soon after 1235.

The charter is in a standard form with a few unusual characteristics, *eg* the insistence on the inalienability of the land and the extensive noting of all the attributes of the land (freely and quietly, with all its rights and courts, in its fields and pastures, its moors (uncultivated land) and marshes, its roads and tracks, its wood and open land, its streams and standing waters and mills and in all other easements and liberties, as freely and quietly as I have held and possessed the said lands) and also in the extent to which the tailzie is recited.

Earlier charters of this lapd date from just before the death of Alan of Galloway in 1234, and one of these, a charter³ of William de Colville, confirms the donation of the land to Melrose Abbey by his father Thomas. This would seem to be associated with an agreement between Vaudey Abbey and Melrose, which is dated 1223. There is a common witness between the charter of William de Colville and our charter, Dovenald Mackedi. This may be for MacKenedi, but in neither charter is there a contraction mark over the 'e'. He was evidently of full age in 1223, so it is unlikely that our charter is dated towards the end, in 1264, of Roger de Quincy's life.

Earlier History of Keresban

Thomas de Colville, probably⁴ in 1202x06, granted⁵ in feu ferme for six merks a year, reduced to five merks in the second charter, to Vaudey Abbey in Lincolnshire *quartam partem Almelidun quod vocatur Keresban*, the quarter part of Almelidun, called Keresban⁶. *Keres* is clearly for *carse*, which is a flat piece of land near a river, while *-ban* is probably the Gaelic for *white*, which can also be used by analogy for empty or waste land, though here may refer to the white sheep grazing. The northern part of Kerse was in King's Kyle, within the barony of Martname, hence the distinction. The bounds are recited as between the Polenessan burn and the Polenescent burn, both of which flow to the south-west into the River Doon. The Polnessan is still marked on the map by that name and is a little south of Kerse Castle and Kerse Loch, and forms the parish boundary and also the ancient southern boundary of King's Kyle. The Polenescent seems to have changed its name more radically and is now represented as the Dunaskin Burn⁷. In 1223 the monks of Melrose came to an agreement with those of Vaudey that they would have the land of Keresban as the lands *tum propter defectum discipline, tum propter barbarice gentis insidias sibi minus esse utilem, et aliquo periculosam* (sometimes through difficulty of management, sometimes through the barbarous reivings of the people, was less useful and in any case dangerous.) Probably executed just before this agreement is a confirmation by William de Colville, as heir of his father Thomas in this land, in which he confirms his father's grant. Not later than 1233, the date of the royal confirmation, Alan of Galloway exchanged with Melrose the lands of Keresban for those of Lambremore, *ie* Lammermuir in Lauderdale. So perhaps the abbey's sheep were transported to the east of the kingdom, but probably replaced immediately by Craufurd sheep. One would expect that this was for the abbey's benefit, Lammermuir being closer to Melrose than Kerse, but it meant that this quarter part of Almelidun was now freely owned by Alan, and it must have been granted to the Craufurd of the day some time before Hugh II de Craufurd passed it to his brother Reginald.

In these transactions the lands are said to be in Galloway. It is not known precisely when the modern boundaries of Ayr were fixed, but within Galloway, Carrick was detached probably in 1197, when the earldom was created, and it was bounded to the north and east by the River Doon. So, if we look at the modern constituent parts of Ayrshire, Carrick was an earldom, Kyle Regis was the King's land, Kyle Stewart was the Steward's and Cunningham and Largs had been the land of the de Morvilles, which came to Alan of Galloway through his mother Helen de Morville, sole heiress of her brother William. As the conventio recites that Almelidun was in Galloway, it indicates that this was not part of Kyle

Regis. Almelidun as a name surely stands for Dalmellington, and if the quarter part called Keresban became the southern part of the barony of Martname, as indicated by the boulder clause, it would indeed be about the right size. This therefore suggests that in the mid 1200s the greater boundaries were not fixed as they are now. However we can see that Keres was in two parts, the one held by Hugh II de Craufurd from the Crown within what might be seen as his original holding of Martname, the other, the subject of his grant which survives, given to him as a separate holding soon after 1233, and subsequently held from Roger de Quincy.

The Barony of Martname

Martname as the name of a barony is now lost and the Ordnance Survey have adopted a strange spelling *Martnaham* which is not consistent with medieval spellings; the etymology has been suggested as probably from the small rodent, the *marten* or *pine-marten*, which is similar to a stoat, plus *-ham* although I wonder whether it may simply be *mere-toun-ham* referring to the loch. The name occurs frequently enough in charters of various lands within the barony for the bounds to be established. When I first came across the record of 1302/04⁸ of the farm of the barony of *Longemertenock*, the first record of the barony, I took it to be a strange spelling of Munnoch, which does have a loch, which had been granted to Hugh I de Craufurd in about 1225 by Alan of Galloway. However, it is evident from an Exchequer Roll⁹ entry, that Martname is in King's Kyle, *Vicecomes de Are respondit pro iij^mvj^lx M. (4660 merks) de firmis baronie de Martname jacentis in Kileregis*, and the boulder clause of the Colville charter of Keresban confirms this.

In particular there are two Great Seal charters¹⁰ from 1505 which bear on this, and a later group of charters¹¹ in the NAS. The lands in these charters indicate that the barony extended over both Coylton and Dalrymple parishes, excepting only the estate of Sundrum and the small area at the west of Dalrymple where the village and church of that name are located. Additionally there is the land of Keresban in Dalmellington, making a very substantial holding. In the thirteenth century we find Cathcarts, as successors to the Wallaces of Sundrum, and various Crawford families recorded with holdings further south in Dalmellington, so the influence of these families may well have been extensive even earlier.

I am grateful to Andrew Maclean of Mount Stuart Archives for permission to publish this charter. I am also grateful to Professor Geoffrey Barrow for help with the transcription and for more general advice. I should also thank Ian Crawford for general discussion of Martname, especially for locating the Exchequer Roll showing it definitely to be in Kyle Regis.

¹ Keith Stringer, *Periphery and Core: Alan of Galloway, in Medieval Scotland, Crown, Lordship and Community* (1993) ed Grant and Stringer

² Alex Maxwell Findlater, *Early Craufurd Lineage*, forthcoming.

³ Melrose Liber no 194

- 4 In the time before the death of Thomas de Colville in 1219, there were two Abbot of Melrose called William: Abbot William from 1202-1206 and Abbot William de Courcy in 1215/16. One of these was the principal witness to the first charter, no 192.
- 5 Melrose Liber, nos 192 & 193; William's confirmation no 194, Conventio between Melrose and Vaudey Abbeys, no 195, Excambation by Alan of Galloway no 227, Royal confirmation of same no 228, witnessed by William *electo Glasguense cancellario*, who can only be William of Bondington, Bishop of Glasgow 1232x33-1258, further confirmation no 229, which is dated at Selkirk, 4th August 19th year of the reign of Alexander II, *ie* 1233.
- 6 Perhaps originally written in French as *la quatrième part de dalmelidun*, then 'corrected' in the Latin translation.
- 7 Having written this, I was grateful to find it confirmed by parallel research by Michael Ansell in his illuminating paper, Carsphairn and Dalmelington Re-visited, in the Journal of Scottish Name Studies, Vol 2 (2008)
- 8 CDS ii, no 1608 on p 425
- 9 Libri Responsonum, anno 1523, p 605
- 10 RMS ii, no 2848, Keirmeyn, Arde (not identified), Constabil-land, Keirhill (probably by Keirmein), Benquhat, Dalnesking, Leyfanhill, Drumgrange, and no 2884, Barmuk, Dalharco, Over Crag (NI)
- 11 NAS, GD 25/8/1271a and GD 25/8/1273 for Raithill and Boigside (possibly near Drongan), GD 25/8/1279 for Geilston (probably Jelliston), Kessenton, Bogside, Moss and Muir of Martinhame, par Coylton, GD 86/725, the Mylnetoun with the mill lands and mill, parish of Coylton, barony of Martinhame (perhaps Mill o'Shiel; it cannot be Perclewan Mill, as that cannot be in Coylton), GD86/908, Bow, Bogside, Windyhill (on the map), Pettoch (near Drongan), 40s of Deuchrays called Newlands (as Duchrays Hill, near the Coyle, by Hillhead), Corsehille, Harriestoun, 7 ma of Minnihaigen and Rankinestoun (south of Drongan - not the modern village, but the farm on the Water of Coyle just south of it), from GD86/912, furth of the lands and barony of Martnaham, the lands of Boigsides, Pitock and Courtthorn, being part of the lands of Whithill, the lands of Windyhill, Martnahammill, Raithills, Barnhill, Lochhead (now Lochend), Martnahammains, Porthill, Little Boymanstoun, Bowboigside, Mickle Boymanstoun (north of the loch now Bowmanston), Liffinhill, Dalharco with mill and mill lands thereof, and Douniestoun, lying in the parishes of Coyletoun, Dalrymple and Dalmelington and sheriffdom of Ayr; the 40 shilling land of old extent of Duchrays called Newland, Corsehille and Harriestoun, comprehending Middlerig, Bridgend and Loanfoot, lying in the parish of Coyletoun and sheriffdom foresaid; the lands of Glenmuck, Dalpharson, Dalpharson-miln and the lands of Drumgrange in the parish of Dalmelington

We're all doomed: a contemporary dystopic view of the industrial revolution

by David Courtney McClure

*The minds of men were excited to new enterprises; a new genius, as it were, had descended upon the earth, and there was an erect and outlooking spirit abroad that was not to be satisfied with the taciturn regularity of ancient affairs.*¹

Introduction

In the east of Ayrshire new enterprises included Archibald Cochrane's tar kilns at Muirkirk, established in 1786, Claud Alexander's cotton works at Catrine, established in the same year, and the Muirkirk Iron Works, begun in 1787 and in production by 1789, and which contracted to purchase coke from Cochrane's British Tar Company. They were supported by work on roads and bridges, in hand in Ayrshire since 1767. In 1789 there was an act for a road from Glasgow, through Muirkirk, towards Sanquhar,² and one for a complementary road continuing south to England by way of Dumfries and Gretna, with provision for improvement of the road from Sanquhar through Kirkconnel towards Ayrshire.³

John Galt's optimistic characterisation of the changes, written some thirty years later, was not shared by all. There were consequences which disturbed those who appreciated 'the taciturn regularity of ancient affairs'. One such was John Robertson, minister of the parish of Kirkconnel, who saw at first hand the socio-economic effects of the new industries and their supporting infrastructure. In his contribution to the *Statistical Account of Scotland*, composed in 1791, he gave vent to his concerns in a footnote which spanned six pages.⁴

For Robertson the most important industries of agriculture and of woollen manufacture were left 'bare of hands' because the people, attracted by higher wages elsewhere, did not want to be servants and labourers. The decline of these two industries threatened the very fabric of society. Without the produce of agriculture the country would have to depend upon imports. The work was beneficial to the health of the population, resulting in men capable of undertaking the defence of the realm, and it beautified the countryside. Woollen manufacture supported the flocks of sheep maintained on the higher ground which abounded in the parish, and provided much healthier clothing than the lighter, 'foppish', material which the people were beginning to prefer (i.e. cotton), and which made them prone to disease. It added insult to injury that the landowners and tenant farmers were taxed, through statute labour and tolls, to pay for the very work upon the roads which deprived them of labour.

Furthermore, the higher wages were misspent. Rather than thinking of marriage and raising a family, or the support of elderly parents, or of the necessitous poor the people were

drawn to entertainments and the wearing of 'gaudy attire'. While the want of labourers attracted some from overseas, when employment could more usefully have been offered to destitute highlanders, who were instead led to emigrate.

Robertson expanded on these and other issues in his sincere, deeply-felt, rant against the evils of the new enterprises, and there will be found in his remarks many echoes of our concerns today. There follows his paragraph on improvements and disadvantages of the parish (pages 438-439) and his footnote (pages 439-444).

'Improvements and Disadvantages'

'Within these 20 years, agriculture has been carried on here to a much greater extent than formerly, by means of lime brought from a quarry, belonging to the Earl of Dumfries, about 5 miles from the center of this parish. At present, however, it seems to be much in decline. For most of the land capable of improvement has been limed, and will not so well admit of a repeated operation in that way, except where the soil is dry, and after a crop of turnips or potatoes. The struggle, too, with an unfriendly climate still subsists; though no doubt it might be greatly diminished by means of ditches, quick-set hedges, and broad belts of planted wood, at convenient distances, and in a proper direction; as it is usually observed that, under this kind of shelter, even the frost makes no impression, when, in exposed situation, juicy plants are quite blasted all around. Yet, effectual and valuable as this species of improvement would certainly be found, it is more than can be expected from tenants, whose leases extend no farther than 19 years; without an adequate allowance for the labour and expence, with which it would be attended. But the greatest discouragement of all is, the exorbitant advance upon the price of labour, particularly servants' wages, which in general are now tripled, beyond what they were within the above period: Especially, as this is connected with a nearly similar rise in the price of horses, husbandry utensils, artificers' work, and wearing apparel; to say nothing of imposts for revenue and roads, the rise of rents, and the expensive difference in the present stile of living [*footnote*].'

This is the footnote in full:

'All this must bear very hard upon the corn-farmer, and at last quite overpower all his efforts in the unequal conflict; considering too that the price of grain is at this day much the same that it was 20 or 30 years ago. Thus circumstanced, how can he but sink down under the incumbent weight of such a combination of discouragement from every quarter? And if he fall, how can the landed proprietor stand, or the necessitous poor live? For, supposing matters to go on in this train, the consequence is obvious: Agriculture must fall into decay, how far no one can tell; the country will turn wild and barren, will be defoliated [*sic*] and depopulated; grain become scarce, and rise in price beyond the reach of those who cannot work, or are not employed; and the kingdom at large be reduced to want and distress. What else is to be expected, when the very money, paid by the farmer and others, for statute labour and at toll-bars, is employed against him to augment his hardships, by being lavishly held out in tempting offers to his servants and labourers, to entice them from his work, and induce them to go to the making and repairing of the great roads; especially, when the mineries, founderies, and the like great works, above all the cotton manufactures, all around, particularly in the west have swept the country quite bare of hands, and seem as if they

could still keep it in the same situation? For not only servants and labourers, but likewise mechanics, of all sorts, are now relinquishing their respective occupations, and betaking themselves to different departments in the cotton manufacture, or are employed in hawking, or otherwise extending, the sale of its various articles all over the country. This general desertion of other employments, in favour of a particular branch of business, is so remarkable, and so very singular, that it may well be questioned, whether in any age or nation there has ever before occurred any thing like it. It is true, indeed, every kind of manufacture is in so far valuable, as it contributes to the extension of commerce, produces the conveniencies of life, furnishes employment to the labouring poor, and bids fair to be permanent; but it is rather unfortunate, when one sort happens to interfere with the interest of another; still more, when it detaches the public attention from others of equal or greater importance to the community, or proves a wasting drain to that proportion of manual labour, which is necessary to the very existence of those of a more interesting nature; such as, in the present case, agriculture, and the woollen manufacture, of all others the most important to this country. The superior importance of agriculture is obvious at first view. It produces a very great addition to the beauty and value of the county; rears a healthy race of men for its defence; secures plenty of provisions for its inhabitants; and prevents all that anxiety, distress, and calamity, that usually attend too much dependence on a foreign market. This last mentioned circumstance claims the most serious consideration, as nothing can be more vain than to amuse us with false comfort, by turning our attention to other countries for relief, in case of need, such as the present state of agriculture in Scotland seems too strongly to presage; because nothing can be more precarious, delusive, and dangerous to any people, especially in an insular situation, than such dependence.'

'Next to agriculture, the *woollen manufacture* justly demands a place, in the scale of national importance. Without wading into the depths of commercial and political discussion on the subject, or even noticing that partiality in favour of any staple commodity of our own country, which is so natural and allowable in itself, and due from every Briton; it is enough to observe, that wool the produce of the very spot where we live, is not liable to any of those disastrous or adverse accidents, which are so much connected with the importation of foreign materials, especially, at a great distance; and which may plunge the principal adventurer in disappointment and distress, and leave the operative manufacturer entirely idle, at a time too, when his need may be greatest, and he utterly unable to turn himself to any other employment. Nor is wool less beneficial to the weaver, than safe and encouraging to the manufacturer. Founded in nature, the celebrated old chemist's opinion will always be confirmed by experience, especially in northern climates, that wool, an animal production, is much more congenial and suitable to the human frame, than any vegetable material whatever, for the purpose of cloathing. For, in fact, it is much warmer and more substantial, than any of the usual exotic articles of apparel; and therefore much better adapted to promote perspiration, and prevent those sudden obstructions of it, from which proceed most of the maladies with which mankind are so much afflicted. In short, woollen cloth is the only proper wear for this cold climate; especially, to those who are employed in the labours of the field, or are any way exposed to the vicissitudes of the weather; at the same time that it is always at hand, more easily purchased, and in many respects far less expensive, than

those manifold variegated shreds of foppish finery that are just now, everywhere, so much in vogue.’

‘Hence it would seem not unnatural to suppose, that to the modern passion for this light flimsy, airy dress, so prevalent among all ranks, so unsuitable to the constitutions of all, and to the occupations and the funds of most, particularly of the poorer sort, may be ascribed no small share of the equally common prevalence of colds, fevers, rheumatisms, asthmas, consumptions, and perhaps too much of what is the worst disease of all, the *amor scleratus habendi*.⁵ This, too, is not a little stimulated by the usual attendant of gaudy attire, a violent predilection for expensive amusements, and the various haunts of levity, dissipation, and prodigality. To the rich themselves, habits of this sort are sufficiently pernicious; but to the inferior ranks of life they are big with mischief and ruin. For these habits enfeeble their powers, engross their attention, unfit them for the duties of their station, impair or extinguish the influence of those principles and qualities, that are necessary to conciliate favour, esteem and confidence, in any department of business, and destroy the means of supplying, nor merely the fantastical wants of their own creating, but even those that are much more natural, unavoidable, and interesting.’

‘To apply these remarks to the subject, from which we have a little digressed, in proportion as a taste for finery and profusion predominates, among those employed in service or rural labour, it must operate more than they may be aware, both to their own detriment, and that of society; particularly, as it tends to render them less attentive, obliging, and useful; to deter them from marriage, by wasting those funds, that might be a considerable aid in maintaining a family, when they should be married; to deprive them of an independent resource, in case of any unfortunate accident, or in the time of sickness, or under the frailties of old age; and to put it out of their power to exert and gratify the some of the best principles, and feelings of the human heart, by contributing to the relief and support of their aged parents, in similar circumstances of bodily infirmity, disease, and distress; in short, as it tends to annihilate all the advantages resulting from the raised price of their service and labour. That this is too often realised, needs rather to be regretted than proved; especially, in the case of females of the above denomination: in so much, that the cotton and silk manufacturers, and the venders of their goods, are generally supposed to be the only gainers, by the present high advance of wages. No matter, the illusion goes on; the woollen manufacture is almost annihilated; the farmer suffers, agriculture declines apace, some have reduced their tillage to one half, others to a third of its former extent, and others have given it up altogether. Should this course prevail, the probable consequences, as has been noticed, behove to be fatal to the country, which may God prevent. But in ordinary cases miracles are not to be expected. Means must occur to those whose province is to devise, and who have it in their power to administer the relief that is so much wanted. Only, in general, it would certainly be of no small service to the country, were the hint, given about 50 years ago by the amiable and elegant SHENSTONE, properly improved.⁶ Strongly impressed with what he then beheld, and presageful, as it would seem, of still worse to come, by the above absurd and ruinous system; his gentle but nobly zealous Muse could not refrain from venting her plaintive patriotic sorrow, in these and the like pathetic strains, which may now too well be resumed with redouble energy:’

Will no bright maid, by worth, by titles known,
 Give the rich growth of *British* hills to fame?
 And let her charms and her example own,
 That virtue's dress, and beauty's are the same?
 Will no fam'd chief support this generous maid?
 Once more the patriot's arduous path resume?
 And, comely from his native plains array'd,
 Speak future glory to the BRITISH LOOM?

‘To what is here suggested, with every advantage of poetical beauty and patriotic ardour, may be added, that every other aid should be given towards the revival of the woollen manufacture in Scotland. With respect to farmers, every tax or public impost, that bears hard upon them, or the labouring poor, should be removed or mitigated. Some method too, that may be judged consistent with equity and humanity, should be adopted, to supply the present scarcity of hands, a much more formidable evil than all the exorbitance of price for rural labour. Informed of our situation, transmarine strangers, many of them sufficiently exceptionable, have flocked hither, professedly in quest of employment, but very little to the advantage of the country. Much better, surely, would it have been, to have employed the military in making the great roads, which has often been done formerly; and to have allowed them proper wages for their work: Or, to have got a competent number of our own sober, temperate, hardy, countrymen from the North; by which means the spirit of emigration, in that quarter, would have been much abated; the business of great works, and every kind of manufacture carried on, without any detrimental interference with each other; and much of the inconvenience, attending the unrestrained influx, and the indiscriminate admission of unknown characters, prevented.’

‘That a measure, so obvious and easy in itself, and so directly tending to public utility, should have been so long and so much overlooked, is truly surprising, and perfectly unaccountable: I had almost said, *inexcusable*. At last, indeed, there occurred an incident, that served to excite the tender and generous sensibilities of human nature, into a powerful co-operation with the maxims of propriety, expediency, and sound policy, in favour of that part of the scheme just now suggested, which relates to our fellow citizens, the Highlanders. It was when a considerable body of that very valuable people were crowding to the Western shore, in order to emigrate to the other side of the Atlantic, in pursuit of that encouragement, which, because unnotified to them, they imagined was not to be found in their own country. From whatever cause, their situation at this time happened to be such, as to attract more than usual attention and compassion. Among those who beheld or heard of this moving scene, an eminent manufacturer, much to his honour, exerted and distinguished himself. This was MR DAVID DALE of Glasgow, said to be no less remarkable for his public and private virtues, than for enterprise and success in the line of his business, who took these poor intending emigrants under his care, and employed them in his works.⁷ On this occasion, too, a SOCIETY was instituted in Glasgow, for PREVENTING EMIGRATION. So striking an instance of judicious patriotic humanity, could hardly fail to be the subject of the warmest encomiums; but seems to have been too little regarded and improved, as an example for imitation; as no material alteration for the better has followed, with respect to the number of useful hands, in

most of the southern parts of the kingdom. To promote more effectually the beneficial purposes of the institution just now mentioned, or of others similar to it, would it not be proper, among other things, to publish in the newspapers, or transmit to every parish, a copy of the plan and regulations adopted?’

*Si quid novisti rectius istis,
Candidus imperti; si non, bis utere mecum.* (Horace).⁸

- ¹ John Galt, *Annals of the Parish*, 1821 (the extract is from Chapter XXIX, ‘Year 1788’, second paragraph).
- ² 29 Geo. 3 c.79: *An act for ... the road from the city of Glasgow ... to Muirkirk ... and from thence to the confines of the said county of Ayr, towards Sanquhar in the County of Dumfries ...*
- ³ 29 Geo. 3 c.87: *An act for repairing and widening the road from Grateney, by Annan, Dumfries, and Sanquhar ... to the confines of the county of Ayr ...*
- ⁴ *The Statistical Account of Scotland*, Vol. X, 1791, 433-460.
- ⁵ accursed love of possessing (Ovid).
- ⁶ William Shenstone, 1714-1763, English poet
- ⁷ Of course David Dale’s business was cotton manufacture.
- ⁸ If you can better these principles, tell me; if not, join me in following them.

The Story of “Braidley Eminent”

Ruth Tittensor, from Darvel, whose book on the Whitelee Plateau we reviewed in the last edition of *Ayrshire Notes*, has contributed the following poem, which we believe has never previously appeared in print. She writes; “Jim Leitch was born and brought up on Gateside farm, a farm on the very steep hillsides of the Glen Water, a few miles north of Darvel¹. During the Whitelee Forest Oral History Project in 2005 he contributed a recording of his knowledge and memories of farming on the Whitelee Plateau. He became so enthusiastic about the history of his local area, that he has since written and produced three booklets with much more information about Ayrshire farming during the twentieth century.

One day Jim was given a poem about Old Wull by his friend William Templeton who, with three brothers, was brought up on Low Carlingcraig during the 1960s. This poem, about Old Wull and his stallion Braidley Eminent, was written by John S. Gall, a poet about whom we have no further information.”

Jim Leitch continues the story:

“William Caulfield – Old Wull – farmed Braidley during the early 1920s. On the other side of the Glen Water, John Shearer farmed Longreen. Braidley Eminent was bought by Shearer – just a plain wee colt, but Old Wull’s knowledgeable eye could see a champion within that plain exterior. The two finalised a deal on the train coming home from Kilmarnock market one Friday. Old Wull was a real character, had a very dry sense of

humour, liked a dram, had an eye for a good horse and kept a Clydesdale stallion at stude. Braidley Eminent, the stallion, was the pride of his life.

After receiving a substantial offer, Old Wull sold Braidley, and bought a house in Newmilns: The Isles, in Darvel Road. It was on two levels, ground floor and cellar. The cellar was Braidley Eminent's stable where he stood at stud. During the seasons Old Wull walked him round the district covering mares as he went. A few years later Old Wull bought Low Carlingcraig.

I left school in 1940 and, staying at Gateside across the Mucks Burn from Low Carlingcraig, and got to know him well. One of my memories of Old Wull is of him sitting by the fire on his Darvel chair, feet on top of the fire guard, with one of his grandsons on his lap, and telling him stories about a big bear who lived in the glen. He must have seen that bear often for he told many stories about him."

The Braidley Cout

A wee bit cout tae Longgreen came
The Braidley Eminent was his name
For Jonie hidna owned it long
Before a temptin offer cam
The Braidley wife, when lookin oot,
She see's its guid, without a doot,
And telt her man tae gang and try
The wee bit cout for gtæe buy.
But Braidley kens them tae gie well
So ower he gaed, tae mak a deal.
He bade Longgreen, a temptin profit,
Three times mair's he payed for it.
So ae Friday comin aff the train
The wee bit coutie changed its hame.

Time rolls on, the show comes roon
A cout comes clampin through the toon
Making for the Lanfine Holm
Where the cattle tae be shown.
The class for this wee cout comes roon
And roon the ring the people throng
Strongly built and walking true
Sensation round the ring side grew
A stronger type than any there
The judges look it fair and square
The Clydesdale men's noo at fever heat
Wunners if Braidley's tae be beat
At last the tickets was ge'en oot
(First Prize) tae the Braidley cout.

After this it never stopped
Till all the medals it had got
Champion o the Clydesdale breed
So this at present ends my screed

John S. Gall

¹ As are all the farms subsequently referred to in the text and poem.

The Finnie Kettle

by David Courtney McClure

The Finnie Kettle is one of Ayrshire's oldest sporting trophies, first contended for in 1870 between the curlers of 14 parishes on the curling pond at Newfield, in the parish of Dundonald. Many changes have occurred since then: most curling has moved indoors; curlers slide rather than stand to deliver their stones; games are normally of 7 or 8 ends, rather than the 21 stipulated in the original rules; and the membership of participating clubs is drawn from an area far beyond the confines of the original parishes.. But there is still an annual competition for the Finnie Kettle.

In December 1869 the secretary of Dundonald Curling Club wrote to the secretaries of 13 other clubs, intimating the proposal of Mrs Finnie of Newfield to provide a trophy for a new competition. A copy of this letter, the text of which follows, has survived in the minute book of one of those clubs, Tarbolton.¹

Dundonald
Kilmarnock
Dec 23 1869

Dear Sir

Mrs Finnie of Newfield has signified her intention of giving as a Challenge cup a tea Kettle modelled as a curling stone, for competition between the curling clubs of the seven parishes nearest to Newfield in the North and the seven nearest to it in the South divisions of Ayrshire.

The several parishes and the rules of the game will be found in the fly sheet hereof. I beg you will consult the curlers in your parish, and intimate to me as soon as you can, if they are willing to join in the Competition, and approve of the rules of the game.

Yours truly -
Wm. Alexander Secy.
Dundd. Curling Club.

[Fly sheet]

Mrs Finnie's Challenge Cup

North	versus	South
Kilmarnock		Dundonald
Fenwick		Symington
Kilmaurs		Craigie
Stewarton		Riccarton
Kilwinning		Galston
Irvine		Tarbolton
Dreghorn		Monkton

Rules

1st The game shall be annually played on Newfield pond when ice will permit, by one rink from each of the above parishes drawn against each other when they meet on the ice.

2d The game will consist of twenty one ends; at the close of which, the scores will be reckoned up, and the division having the majority will be declared the successful one.

3d The highest winning rink in that division will be declared the winner of the cup, and will be entitled (by previous arrangement) to decide, which of the players shall be the custodien of the cup or contend at points for it.

4 Should the two divisions have an equality of shots then each rink must play an additional end to decide the match; and if two rinks in the successful division have an equality of shots, then these must play three ends against each other to decide which shall be the winner.

5 The Cup shall be annually returned to [blank] on the first of November where it shall remain till again played for.

On 28th December 1869 Tarbolton members selected the following rink by ballot to represent them in the new competition: John Shirlaw, Henry Dodd, Robert Meikle, and John Thomson. The match took place on Monday 14th February 1870, though the Tarbolton four were disappointed by the absence of their opposition, Kilmarnock, and had only some ends against another side from the south, Dreghorn, whose opposition was late. The North won on that occasion, and the honour of being the first named on the Kettle went to the Stewarton skip, J. McNaughton. Even this brief account in the Tarbolton minute book is remarkable, because in most years the record is limited to the essential business of the AGM, with little or no account of competitions.

The table of winners below has been compiled from the engraving on the Kettle. It shows that for the first 7 decades, the competition appeared to have been more off than on, dependent as it was on the freezing of the Newfield pond, though perhaps there were occasions when the match was played but the trophy was not engraved. The minute book of the Dundonald Curling Club may provide a fuller history.²

From the 1939-40 season, the match was transferred to the new Ayr Ice Rink in Beresford Terrace, which opened on Monday 13th March 1939. The ice pad accommodated seven sheets or rinks of curling, so there was no reduction in the number of clubs involved. However the number of ends played was reduced to fit the three-hour sessions available for curling. When this rink closed at the start of the 1970s, one or two matches were played outwith Ayr, possibly at the ice rink in Crossmyloof. The present ice rink in Limekiln Road opened in 1973, and this has been the venue for the Finnie Kettle match ever since, with six clubs representing the north and six the south.

Winning Skips and Clubs engraved on Finnie Kettle

1869-70	J. McNaughton	Stewarton	N
1870-71	W. Calderwood	Craigie	S
1871-72			
1872-73	A. Morton (Juniors)	Kilmarnock	N
1873-74			
1874-75	W. Wakelin	Symington	S
1875-76	M. Haggio (Townend)	Kilmarnock	N
1876-77			
1877-78			
1878-79	A. Wyllie	Stewarton	N
1879-80	G. Aird (Townend)	Kilmarnock	N
1880-81			
1881-82			
1882-83	T. Young	Stewarton	N
1883-84			
1884-85			
1885-86			
1886-78			
1887-88			
1888-89			
1889-90			
1890-91	W. Lindsay	Kilmaurs	N
1891-92			
1892-93	J. Howie	Tarbolton	S
1893-94			
1894-95	J. Gray	Tarbolton	S
1895-96			
1896-97	W. Howat	Monkton	S
1897-98			
1898-99	W. Lee	Galston	S
1899-00	Q. Johnstone (Union)	Kilmarnock	N
1900-01	J. Young	Stewarton	N
1901-02	Rev. J. C. Higgins	Tarbolton	S

1902-03	H. Cameron (Townend)	Kilmarnock	N
1903-04			
1904-05			
1905-06			
1906-07	J. Lochhead	Galston	S
1907-08			
1908-09			
1909-10	J. Hamilton	Kilmaurs	N
1910-11			
1911-12	T. C. Paterson	Irvine	N
1912-13			
1913-14			
1914-15			
1915-16			
1916-17			
1917-18	J. Kilpatrick	Craigie	S
1918-19			
1919-20			
1920-21			
1921-22			
1922-23			
1923-24			
1924-25			
1925-26			
1926-27			
1927-28	J. Lamont (Townend)	Kilmarnock	N
1928-29	R. Banks, Springside	Dreghorn	N
1929-30	R. Banks, Springside	Dreghorn	N
1930-31			
1931-32			
1932-33	Wm. Tyre	Dundonald (Scrap)	N
1933-34			
1934-35			
1935-36			
1936-37			
1937-38			
1938-39			
1939-40	J. G. Smith	Dundonald (Parish)	S
1940-41	J. G. Smith	Dundonald (Scrap)	N
1941-42	J. Beveridge	Stewarton	N
1942-43	A. Tannock	Dundonald (Scrap)	N
1943-44	J. Meikle	Montgreenan	N
1944-45	R. Howie	Montgreenan	N

1945-46	D. Caldwell	Dundonald (Scrap)	N
1946-47	W. Goldie	Dundonald (Parish)	S
1947-48	A. Anderson	Galston	S
1948-49	A. Anderson	Galston	S
1949-50	J. W. Mackie	Galston	S
1950-51	J. McFadzean	Riccarton (Parish)	S
1951-52	T. C. Reid	Montgreenan	N
1952-53	R. Howie	Irvine	N
1953-54	M. S. Howie	Dreghorn	N
1954-55	G. R. Morton	Fenwick	N
1955-56	D. Y. Caldwell	Dundonald (Parish)	S
1956-57	J. Miller	Fenwick	N
1957-8	R. Littlejohn	Kilmaurs	N
1958-59	C. Melville	Galston	S
1959-60			
1960-61	H. H. Fingland	Tarbolton	S
1961-62	J. Hunter	Monkton	S
1962-63	W. Spiers	Symington	S
1963-64	H. Fingland	Symington	S
1964-65	W. Tannock	Kilmaurs	N
1965-66	G. Parker	Dundonald (Scrap)	N
1966-67	G. Parker	Dundonald (Scrap)	N
1967-69	J. McFadzean	Riccarton (Parish)	S
1968-69	D. Hay	Tarbolton	S
1969-70	M. Steel	Galston	S
1970-71	G. Hamilton	Craigie	S
1971-72	J. Hodge	Monkton	S
1972-73	J. Thomson	Kilmarnock Townend	N
1973-74	J. S. Wilson	Stewarton Heather	N
1974-75	W. Bone	Galston	S
1975-76	J. S. Wilson	Stewarton Heather	N
1976-77	J. Smillie	Kilmarnock Townend	N
1977-78	J. Goldie	Kilmaurs	N
1978-79	W. Robertson	Galston	S
1979-80	J. McFadzean	Riccarton (Parish)	S
1980-81	H. B. Knox	Montgreenan	N
1981-82	J. J. Dykes	Dundonald (Parish)	S
1982-83	J. Neill	Craigie	S
1983-84	W. Morton	Craigie	S
1984-85	A. Gray	Galston	S
1985-86	A. Gray	Galston	S
1986-87	W. Miller	Montgreenan	N
1987-88	A. Gray	Galston	S

1988-89	C. Armour	Tarbolton	S
1989-90	J. G. Boswell	Galston	S
1990-91	J. McVay	Kilwinning	N
1991-92	J. Young	Dundonald (Scrap)	N
1992-93	R. Anderson	Galston	S
1993-94	J. McFadzean	Riccarton (Parish)	S
1994-95	R. McFadzean	Tarbolton	S
1995-96	Wm. T. Smillie	Craigie	S
1996-97	W. Farquhar	Riccarton (Parish)	S
1997-98	J. Evans	Kilmarnock Townend	N
1998-99	Wm. T. Smillie	Craigie	S
1999-00	G. Hamilton	Galston	S
2000-01	D. Strawhorn	Riccarton (Parish)	S
2001-02	G. Jack	Dundonald (Parish)	S
2002-03	J. Davers	Galston	S
2003-04	Wm. Kerr	Craigie	S
2004-05 ³	A. Prentice	Tarbolton	S

¹ National Archives of Scotland [NAS], GD1/822, Tarbolton Curling Club minute book.

² NAS, GD1/846/1. Dundonald Curling Club minute book.

³ At the time of going to press the results for the seasons 2005-06 to 2010-11 were unavailable.

Rob's Book Club: an occasional series

By Rob Close

There is very little to report on the book front this time. Neil Dickson's review of []'s *Scottish Imperialists* is published here as a separate piece (p.22), while the Federation's long-time friend John Burnett has contributed a further comment on David McConnell's *Rails to Turnberry*, which we reviewed in the last issue of *Ayrshire Notes* (p.23). A small plea, again, to all authors and publishers to remember the Federation, and *Ayrshire Notes*, when new books on Ayrshire's history are published. One book with Ayrshire links is *The Unlikely Secret Agent* by Ronnie Kasrils (SA Books, 2010, 97817700989090). In his book, Kasrils, who was a member of the ANC, and later Minister of Intelligence, tells of the courage of the woman who became his wife, Eleanor Logan, who died in 2009. Logan was born in Kilmarnock in 1936 into a family of railway engineers, but emigrated to South Africa at an early age. Her father became the manager of a book shop in Durban. In 1963 she was arrested by the South African police and threatened with torture and death unless she reveals Kasrils' whereabouts, but escapes such a fate by successfully feigning nervous

breakdown and mental instability. John le Carré has called this “a wonderful book about a courageous and extraordinary woman who was highly principled, yet endowed by nature with all the clandestine skills. Her exploits recall the heroism of the great SOE women agents of the Second World War, yet the values she fought for so intrepidly are still in the balance today. Ronnie Kasrils tells her story with humility and a pride that the reader can only share.”

As always, a few stray Ayrshire references. Two obituaries caught my eye., both with a fleeting Ayrshire connection. The Ulster-born blues singer Otilie Patterson, died on 20th June 2011 in a care home in Ayr, where she lived out her last years. Patterson, who sang with “a lusty clarity and innate grasp of the idioms that swept away any objections”¹ to the perception that only African-Americans could sing the blues, starred for many years with the Chris Barber Band, sharing the lead vocals with Lonnie Donegan. Patterson was born at Comber, County Down, in 1932: from 1959 to 1983 she was married to Chris Barber. Her surname suggests a connection with the Ulster-Scots diaspora, though her mother was Latvian.

The Irish landscape artist William Crozier, who died on 12th July 2011, had a distinctive, almost abstract style, which owed much to early contact with Colourists such as J.D. Fergusson, Peplow and Cadell, refracted through a life-long passion for Picasso. Crozier had mixed Irish and Scottish roots. His parents were from County Antrim, but by 1930, when Crozier was born, his father was working in the Govan shipyard of Alexander Stephen & Sons. “From the age of 12, the boy received a good education at Marr College, Troon, and made a lifelong friend in William Irvine, who from 1947 would accompany Crozier on explorations of the art of Paris, where on their first visit they camped out in a tented village intended for refugees”.² Crozier said that he felt more Irish than Scots, becoming an Irish citizen in 1973, with a home by Roaringwater Bay in West Cork.

¹ Peter Vacher, *Guardian*, 9th July 2011.

² Michael McNay, *Guardian*, 16th July 2011.

Book Reviews

Scottish Orientalists

Avril A. Powell’s *Scottish Orientalists and India: The Muir Brothers, Religion, Education and Empire* (Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer, 2010) is a study of two brothers, John Muir (1810-82) and William Muir (1819-1905), from a family which was prominent in Kilmarnock in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Claiming descent from the Mures of Rowallan, one member of the family was the Robert Muir who was Burns’s friend, correspondent and patron, and their great-uncle was the wealthy philanthropist Sir James Shaw, the Kilmarnock-born Lord Mayor of London, whose statue stood until the early twentieth century at Kilmarnock Cross in view of their grandfather’s shop. Their father had moved to Glasgow, where the boys were born, but he died when his sons were still children.

The Ayrshire family network supported them in their time of need, and John attended Irvine Academy from 1820-3 while William attended Kilmarnock Academy from c.1828-33. The boys then entered the service of the East India Company, and during the course of their careers John rose high in the civil service while William superseded him, becoming Lieutenant- Governor of the North-Western Provinces and received a knighthood. Both retired to Edinburgh where William—always the more ambitious one—became Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University. So far this might be no more unremarkable than that ‘impressive sight’—Scotsmen on the make. But what distinguished the Muirs was that in India they became expert in the classical languages of the sub-continent, John in Sanskrit and William in Arabic. The former’s *magnum opus* was his five-volume *Original Sanskrit Texts* (1858-70) which set out the history of the religions and institutions of India from its classical writings; William’s most celebrated work was his four-volume *Life of Mohomet* (1858-61) which was compiled from the original sources. They also were interested in Indian education, John serving as the Principal of the Sanskrit College in Benares and William, along with the noted Islamic scholar Saiyid Ahmad, in facilitating the formation of universities in the north-west.

John’s scholarship has worn the better, the Indian editor of a 1970s reprint judging it ‘the most sought after one among similar works in the field’. William had a more confrontational approach to Islam—earning him a place in Edward Said’s hall of infamy in his *Orientalism* (1978). As the subtitle of *Scottish Orientalists* indicates, Dr Powell is concerned to keep a number of balls in the air which she does with much impressive juggling. The Muirs started out as Presbyterian Evangelicals—their father’s minister was John Russel, ‘Black Russell’ of Burns fame—and William’s more confrontational approach undoubtedly had its source in his faith; John became a Broad Church Episcopalian, and his more conciliatory stance arose from the moderating course his faith took. But even William was not the Orientalist of Said’s portrayal, but cooperated on a personal level with Muslims and worked to deflate the more inflammatory post-Indian Munity rhetoric. The book’s main title refers to the thesis that there was a specifically ‘Scottish orientalism’, thus the influence of the Scottish Enlightenment on the men’s education and later writings is studied in detail. Dr Powell’s conclusion is that there were distinctive enduring Scottish elements in John’s thought in particular. For those Ayrshire historians who find the later concerns of the book remote from theirs, then the superb first chapter on the Kilmarnock background alone will repay study. At £65, the book is probably beyond most readers’ pockets, but happily Dr Powell has kindly donated a copy to the Burns Monument Centre archive where it may be consulted freely by all.

Neil Dickson

Rails to Turnberry

David McConnell and Stuart Rankin, *Rails to Turnberry and Heads of Ayr: the Maidens and Dunure Light Railway and the Butlin's Branch* (Usk: Oakwood Press, 2010). 304p. ISBN 978-0-85361-699-3. Pbk £19.95.

John Burnett, a long-standing friend of the Federation and its aims, has contributed this further review of Rails to Turnberry, reviewed in the last edition of Ayrshire Notes.

The principle of 'last in, first out' generally applies in railway history. The lines from Glasgow to Ayr (1840) and Ayr to Maybole (1856) and Girvan (1860) are still open, but the last branch line in Ayrshire, which went down the coast through Dunure, the Maidens and Turnberry to Girvan was opened in 1906 and closed to passenger traffic in 1930. Its purpose was unusual. As well as serving the farming and fishing communities, it gave access to the Glasgow and South Western Railway's luxury hotel at Turnberry, and its golf courses. They were the company's pride: the station staff at Paisley (Canal) station laid out a slogan on a line side embankment, using old bobbins from the thread mills: 'Playing golf is an education – go to Turnberry and finish it off.' Carriages were worked through from Glasgow, including in the summer of 1906 the G&SWR's only dining car, and later a Pullman coach made a brief appearance. The hotel was also served by connections to England, mostly via the G&SWR main line down Nithsdale, but on occasion via Stranraer. Goods services continued over the whole line until 1959, and between 1947 and 1969 passenger trains from distant places like Edinburgh and Newcastle converged on Butlin's holiday camp at Heads of Ayr.

The book under review is of interest both to railway enthusiasts and local historians. The first group will find it full of facts, more than 120 photographs, and many maps, plans and diagrams. It will relish the detail in which the planning of the line and its building, the passenger services, the signalling and locomotives, and the several closures of the line, are described. It is particularly interesting to have a chapter on the goods services, an aspect of railway history which has often been downplayed in the past.

The local historian may find the mass of detail daunting and following some of the material – on signalling, for example – needs an understanding of railway technology and operating methods. It is unfortunate that although there is a list of acknowledgments, there is no statement of the sources which have been used. One assumes that the book is primarily based on the holdings of the National Records of Scotland, the archive of the Glasgow and South Western Railway Association, and local newspapers. Were other archives consulted? What does the G&SWR Association hold? We should have been told.

Rails to Turnberry says, and implies, much about life on the Ayrshire coast. It repeatedly touches on the importance of the early potato trade, and gives good contextual information on the history of the Turnberry hotel and the use of the golf courses as airfield in the two world wars, and the implications for railway traffic.

The Oakwood Press has been publishing monographs, mostly on individual branch lines and small railway companies, since 1935, and it has a high reputation in its field. The present book is laid out clearly on good paper.

John Burnett

Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies

A.G.M.

The 2011 Annual General Meeting was held on Sunday 15th May 2011, at Craigenkillan House, Dalmellington. The 35 or so delegates were warmly welcomed to his home and estate by Mark Gibson, who also led an enthusiastic and informative tour of the gardens. We were able, also, to admire the tree planted in the gardens to mark the occasion of our visit. Mark's work in transforming the estate into a positive, forward-looking one, with strong links to the local communities, has been recognised by many national awards.

At the A.G.M. Kathryn Valentine demitted office, after three years as Chairman. We thank Kathryn for all her hard work and enthusiasm over these years, and are pleased that she will remain on the Committee. Our new Chairman is Dr Neil Dickson, who will be familiar to many as a speaker at our conferences, and as a contributor to these pages (as he is again this time). We welcome him to the chair, and look forward to working with him.

At the A.G.M. it was also agreed that the subscription rates for the Federation should be raised to £20 for Societies, and £15 for Individual members. These rates become effective in October 2011, and will be reflected in the Subscription Notices which will be sent to members with this edition of Ayrshire Notes. The decision has not been taken lightly, as we recognise that the increasing financial pressures on the Federation - postage costs, especially - are also borne by member societies. Subscriptions were last raised in 2000.

John Strawhorn Quaich

At the A.G.M., the John Strawhorn Quaich was awarded to Jean Aitchison, though she was unable to be present, and the actual handing-over was made later at her home in Prestwick.

Jean trained as a teacher, and her training took her to schools throughout Wigtownshire and Kirkcudbrightshire - at Palnackie she was amazed when all the pupils ran out of the school, only to be told it was fine - the boat was in! - and the pupils would be back. Jean retired in 1984, and continued her interest in and love of Scottish history with three years at night school in Glasgow, after which she embarked on an MPhil, supervised by Professor Ted Cowan. This led to her monograph, *Servants in Ayrshire 1750 - 1915*, published by the AANHS in 2001. It remains an extremely useful analysis of a significant part of Ayrshire's employment history, but is also easy to read, informative and well researched (a testament to Jean's meticulous research methods). The monograph led to Jean being asked to contribute a chapter, 'Scotland's Domestic Life', to *Scottish Life and Society, A Compendium of Scottish Ethnology* (Susan Storrier, editor, 2006).

Up until recent years, Jean was a regular weekly fixture at Ayrshire Archives, where she completed a vast number of cataloguing projects including over 400 vouchers and receipts relating to Maybole in the 17th Century, and records relating to Prestwick, including disputes between neighbours over the removal of cabbages, as well as the records of Ayr

County Council and Ayr Burgh Council, and the Blairquhan and Craufurdland collections. Her palaeography skills are second to none, and her knowledge of the context of the various records immense, and she is always willing to share her knowledge, and to help others, especially with suggestions as to where to look next. Jean is now 85, but her contribution to Ayrshire's history will remain, and continue to speak to her interests, passion and standard of research. She is a worthy recipient of the Quaich.

Global Citizens - Local Roots

In association with Glasgow Caledonian University, the Federation is co-hosting a conference in Kilmarnock Academy, Kilmarnock, on Saturday 24th September 2011. Kilmarnock Academy is the only school in Scotland to boast two Nobel laureates among its alumni - Alexander Fleming and John Boyd Orr - and this conference is designed to celebrate the work of these two men, and the role of the academy in their success. This is a free conference, chaired by Hugh Pennington, with lunch, as part of the university's outreach programme. Pre-booking is required, to assist with catering: email flemingboydorr@gmail.com

Swap Shop

The 2011 Swap Shop, the next item in the Federation's calendar, will be on Sunday, 9th October 2011, at 2 p.m. Details remain to be finalised, but we hope to include a separate flyer with this issue of Ayrshire Notes.

Winter Programme

This edition includes a dairy of winter meetings of many of our member societies. We thank those who have forwarded their programmes to us, and ask others to consider doing so in future years, as we want the diary to be as complete as possible.

Diary of Meetings of Historical Societies

- | | |
|-------|---|
| AA | Arran Antiquarians. Meetings in Brodick Public Hall, Brodick, at 2 p.m. |
| AANHS | Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society. Meetings in Carnegie Library, Ayr, at 7.45 p.m. |
| AFHS | Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies. Joint one-day conference with Glasgow Caledonian University. Kilmarnock Academy, Kilmarnock, from 10.00 a.m. |
| ASA | Alloway & Southern Ayrshire Family History Society. Meetings in Alloway Church Halls, Alloway, at 7.45 p.m. |
| BHS | Beith Historical Society. Meetings in Our Lady's Hall, Crummock Street, Beith at 8.00 p.m. (* 7.30 p.m.) |
| CHS | Cumbræ Historical Society. Meetings in Hiccups Lounge, Newton Bar, Millport at 7 p.m. |

- DHS Dundonald Historical Society. Meetings in Dundonald Castle Visitors Centre, Dundonald, at 7.30 p.m.
- EAFHS East Ayrshire Family History Society. Meetings in Gateway Centre, Foregate Square, Kilmarnock, at 7.30 p.m.
- FHS Joint Joint Meeting of Ayrshire Family History Societies. Portland Church Hall, South Beach, Troon, 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.
- Largs HH LDHS Hakon Hakonsson Lecture. In Vikingar!, Largs at 8 p.m.
- Largs Jt Joint meeting of LDHS and LNAFHS. In St Columba's Session House, Largs 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.
- LNAFHS Largs & North Ayrshire Family History Society. Meetings in Largs Library, Allanpark Street, Largs at 7.30 p.m.
- PHG Prestwick History Group. Meetings in 65 Club, Main Street, Prestwick KA9 1JN, at 7.30 p.m.
- SHS Stewarton & District Historical Society. Meetings in John Knox Church Hall, Stewarton, at 7.30 p.m.
- SWT Scottish Wildlife Trust: Ayrshire Members' Centre. Meetings in The Horizon Hotel, Esplanade, Ayr KA7 1DT, at 7.30 p.m.
- TAFHS Troon @ Ayrshire Family History Society. Meetings in Portland Church Hall, South Beach, Troon, at 7.30 p.m.
- WKCS West Kilbride Civic Society. Meetings in Community Centre, Corse Street, West Kilbride, at 7.30 p.m.

September 2011

Mon 5 th	SHS	John Smillie	Old Kilmarnock Memories
Wed 14 th	DHS	Valerie Reilly	Women and War - From Milicanas to Marines
Mon 19 th	AA	Jim Cassels	Birds in Archaeology
Tues 20 th	SWT	Mauvis Gore	The Ups and Downs of a Megaplanktivore: the Basking Shark
Tues 20 th	TAFHS	Alan Sorensen	Addicted to Amcestors
Tues 20 th	ASA	John Hume	Victorian Churches
Sat 24 th	AFHS	Various	Alexander Fleming and John Boyd Orr
Thurs 29 th	BHS	Ian Jamieson	Tbc

October 2011

Mon 3 rd	KCCS	Mel Houston	Conserving with the National Trust for Scotland
Mon 3 rd	SHS	Max Flemmich	Darvel Telephone Museum
Tues 4 th	KDHG	Barbara Graham	The 1715 Jacobite Uprising
Thurs 6 th	PHG	Marjorie Richardson	A Seven Month Tour of Italy with ENSA

Mon 10 th	CHS	Norma Cullen	The Way Forward for the Museum of the Cumbraes
Wed 12 th	DHS	Tom MacFarlane	History of Prestwick Airport
Thurs 13 th	EAFHS	Chris Paton	Irish Ancestors
Thurs 13 th	AANHS	Ted Cowan	Emigration from South West Scotland with reference to Canada
Mon 17 th	AA	Frances Dryburgh	Donations to Glasgow Museums
Tues 18 th	KDHG	David Gray	World War II - The Russian Convoys
Tues 18 th	ASA	Dougal McIntyre	An Ayrshire Shipbuilder
Tues 18 th	SWT	Graham Smith	Butterflies and Dragonflies of Knowetop Lochs
Tues 25 th	WKCS	Gwynne & George Donohoe	Pictures of West Kilbride
Thurs 27 th	BHS	tba	
Thurs 27 th	AANHS	Mrs D. Murray	The Work of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland

November 2011

Tues 1 st	KDHG	Charlotte Rostek	Dumfries House
Thurs 3 rd	PHG	Sally Lee	The Klondike Gold Rush 1898
Mon 7 th	KCCS	David Millar	The Work of a Conservation Architect
Mon 7 th	SHS	Sandra Liquorish	Fairlie House and Its Owners
Wed 9 th	DHS	Peter Clark	History of Lace Making
Thurs 10 th	AANHS	Andrew Jarrot	Forestry in Ayrshire
Thurs 10 th	EAFHS	Gordon Thomson	Ayrshire Railways
Mon 14 th	CHS	Tony Pollard	A New Look at the Battle of Culloden
Tues 15 th	ASA	John Steele	The Sinking of HMS <i>Dasher</i>
Tues 15 th	KDHG	Colin Barbour	From Von Braun to the Moon Landings
Tues 15 th	SWT	Joe Greenlees and Peter Livingston	Where the Wild Things Aren't
Mon 21 st	AA	Norma Davidson	Flanders Fields Revisited
Thurs 24 th	BHS	David B. Smith	The History of Curling
Thurs 24 th	AANHS	Christine Ewing	The Work of the Ayrshire Archives with reference to Estate papers
Tues 29 th	KDHG	John Steele	Finally Revealed - The Hidden Scandals of HMS <i>Dasher</i>
Tues 29 th	WKCS	Tom Barclay	The Dark Ages in Scotland

December 2011

Thurs 1 st	PHG	Sandra Liquorish	Fairlie House and its People
Mon 5 th	SHS	D Mullen	Robert Tannahill, Poet
Mon 5 th	KCCS	Susan O'Connor	The Ayr Townscape Heritage Initiative

Mon 12 th	CHS	Val Boa	Maritime Collections at the McLean Museum and Art Gallery, Greenock
Tues 13 th	KDHG	George Watson	Victoria to Viagra
Dec 14 th	DHS	David Johnstone	Policing - Past and Present
January 2012			
Mon 9 th	CHS	Members	Family Trees
Mon 9 th	SHS	Tom Barclay	Ayr and the Wine Trade
Mon 9 th	KCCS	Cameron Sharp	Eglinton Park
Thurs 12 th	EAFHS	John Steele	HMS <i>Dasher</i>
Tues 17 th	SWT	Jo Hillier	Wildlife Mitigation at Surface Coal Mines
Tues 17 th	TAFHS	Dane Love	Lost Ayrshire
Tues 17 th	ASA	Robert Foulkes	The Census - Past and Present
Tues 24 th	KDHG	John Burnett	Crowds in Nineteenth Century Ayrshire
Thurs 26 th	AANHS	Philip Robertson	Marine Archaeology in Scotland
Thurs 26 th	BHS*	Russell Smith	Burns Supper
Tues 31 st	WKCS	Tom Rees	The Kilwinning Dig
February 2012			
Thurs 2 nd	PHG	David W Rowan	A Postman in Prestwick
Mon 6 th	KCCS	Brian Shaw	The Ayrshire Rivers Trust
Mon 6 th	SHS	Gerald Cummings	History of Local Roads
Tues 7 th	KDHG	Dauvit Broun	New Light on Wallace and the Declaration of Arbroath
Wed 8 th	DHS	Ian Kennedy	Loans to Govan: The Life of a 19 th Century Policeman
Thurs 9 th	AANHS	Eric Graham	Updated aspects of the Sugar Plantocrats
Mon 13 th	CHS	Val Reilly	Coats of Paisley
Tues 21 st	TAFHS	Jim O'Neill	Fenwick Weavers
Tues 21 st	KDHG	Ian Mathieson	The Turning Point - Napoleon's Invasion of Russia, 1812
Tues 21 st	SWT	Bob Dawson	The Plight of the Bumblebee
Thurs 23 rd	AANHS	Charles McKean	Aspects of Architecture in Scotland
Thurs 23 rd	BHS	Roger Griffith	Spiers, Trees and Galls
Tues 28 th	WKCS	John Pelan	Future of the Civic Movement in Scotland
March 2012			
Thurs 1 st	PHG	Members	Pot Pourri
Mon 5 th	SHS	F Henderson	History of Dregghorn Parish
Mon 5 th	KCCS	Walter Kolon	Portencross Castle
Tues 6 th	KDHG	June Neilson	The Romans in Scotland
Thurs 8 th	EAFHS	Stuart Wilson	Kilmarnock Wartime Industries

Thurs 8 th	AANHS	Adrian Cox	Excavations at Crossraguel Abbey
Mon 12 th	CHS	Alastair Dunsmore	The City of Glasgow Police - 175 Years of History
Wed 14 th	DHS	Ian Macdonald	The Covenanters
Tues 20 th	FHS Joint	Bruce Durie	“The Golfers”
Tues 20 th	KDHG	Bill Fitzpatrick	The <i>Titanic</i> - The Beloved, The Damned and The Forgotten
Tues 20 th	SWT	Allan Bantick	Mammals and Birds of the Cairngorm National Park
Tues 27 th	WKCS	Robert Fergusson	Dalgarven Mill Museum
Thurs 29 th	BHS	Andrew Taylor	Tbc
April 2012			
Mon 2 nd	SHS	Donald Maclean	Alexander the Corrector
Thurs 5 th	PHG	Alisdair W R Cochrane	Monkton and Prestwick Churches
Wed 11 th	DHS	June Neilson	The Romans in North Britain
Thurs 12 th	EAFHS	John Stevenson	Tbc
Mon 16 th	CHS	Charles Woodward	Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park
Tues 17 th	SWT	Stuart Brabbs	Species Conservation in Riparian Areas
Thurs 26 th	BHS	Archie Comrie	tbc
May 2012			
Thurs 3 rd	PHG	Members	Blether of 2012
Thurs 10 th	EAFHS	John Smillie	Down Memory Lane
Mon 14 th	SHS	Graham Smith	Hope Street to Holywood

AANHS Publications

Publications of the Ayrshire Archaeological & Natural History Society (AANHS) are available from Ronald W. Brash MA, Publications Distribution Manager, 10 Robsland Avenue, Ayr KA7 2RW. Further information about the AANHS and its publications will be found on the society's website: www.aanhs.org.uk

36 Burns & the Sugar Plantocracy of Ayrshire (Graham) 124 pages	£6.00
35 The Masters of Ballantrae (Hunter) 30 pages	£4.00
34 The Loans Smugglers (Wilkins) 144 pages	£4.50
33 Dr John Taylor, Chartist: Ayrshire Revolutionary (Fraser) 112 pages	£4.00
32 Ayr and the Charter of William the Lion 1205 (Barrow) 20 pages	£1.00
31 Tattie Howkers: Irish Potato Workers in Ayrshire (Holmes) 192 pages	£4.50
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29 Vernacular Building in Ayrshire (Hume) 80 pages	£4.50
28 Historic Prestwick and its surroundings, 64 pages	£2.50
27 Ayrshire in the Age of Improvement (McClure) 192 pages	£4.00
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